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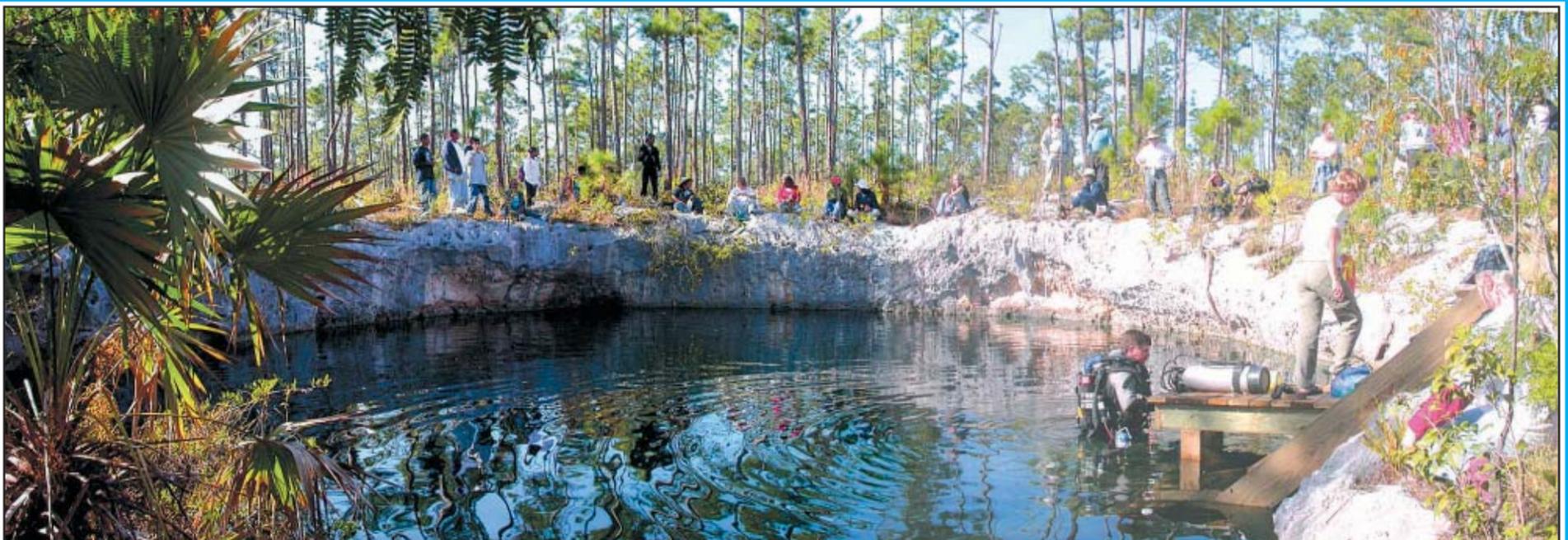
The Abaconian

Abaco's Most Complete Newspaper



VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2, JANUARY 15th, 2006

Sawmill Sink Yields Fossils Extinct Tortoise and Crocodile Skeletons Are Found



Sawmill Sink, a blue hole in south central Abaco, has produced skeletons of several extinct animals that once roamed Abaco. Complete skeletons of tortoises have been brought up and preserved for further testing along with skeletal remains of crocodiles, birds of prey and snakes. The first skeleton was discovered there by accident in April 2005 and diving since has produced bones of many species of animals, all in excellent

condition. Some will be sent to the States for carbon dating to ascertain the age of the bones and DNA testing to verify the species. Only a very small area of the blue hole has been explored. Diving there is very dangerous and requires sophisticated equipment and specially trained divers. Shown is a group watching a diver prepare for a dive. They are on a field trip as part of the Abaco Science Conference held on January 5-8.

By Lindsey Delaplaine

Fossils recovered last year in a blue hole in south Abaco were found to be extinct crocodile and tortoise skeletons not known previously to have inhabited this area. Scientists are very excited about this discovery which has opened a new win-

dow on Abaco's past. The discovery was highlighted at the second annual Science Alliance Conference held in Marsh Harbour on January 5-8. The conference brought together 21 scientists who made presentations on a variety of topics.

The Friends of the Environment's sec-

ond annual Science Alliance Conference was a success on a number of fronts: it was well attended, educational and a forum for connections between scientists in various disciplines be made.

One of the most exciting facets of the conference was the attendance of local

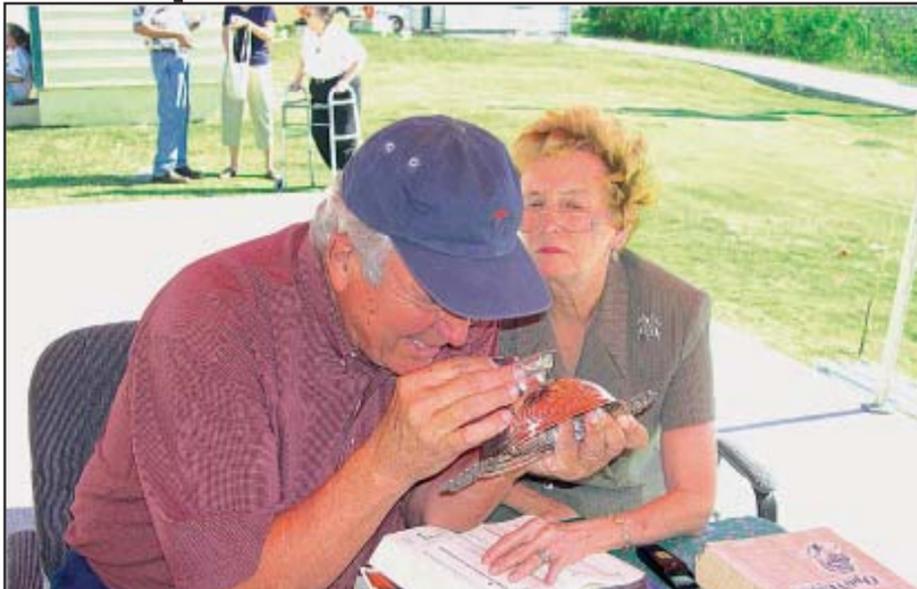
Abaco students. Thanks to support by the Royal Bank of Canada, Friends was able to invite local students and teachers to attend the conference for free. Several local schools took advantage of the offer

Please see **Sawmill** Page 2

Abaco Arts Festival

Abaco Beach Resort • January 27-29

Antique Show Drew Crowds



The Cherokee Roadshow was a first for Abaco. The show featured a display of antiques in the W.W. Sands Community Center and under a tent appraisals by experts of antiques brought by the public. Shown here are Mitty and Charles Courtoy, appraisers from Maggie Valley, North Carolina, who brought their reference books to assist in valuing antiques. They were joined by Mr. Derek Albury, who appraised antique clocks and watches, and Mr. Peter Bradley, who appraised antique jewelry. Games, competitions and a silent auction provided additional entertainment while booths offered games, food and drink. See page 16 for story.

Ambassador Rood Visited ECC



U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. John Rood, right, toured the Every Child Counts school in Marsh Harbour on January 6. The school works with children who have problems that keep them from attending regular classrooms. Showing him the school was Mrs. Lynn Major, founder and principal of the school. Please see story on page 22.

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Sawmill Sink Is Providing Information about Abaco's Past

Sawmill From Page 1

and over 100 students were able to attend. The event opened with a Cocktail Reception at the new Curly Tails Restaurant located at the Conch Inn. Minister of Health and Environmental Services, the Hon. Dr. Marcus Bethel, gave the welcome address. The bulk of the conference was held at New Visions Ministries, made possible with the support of Pastor Derek Benjamin. Kitty

Donnan, a former Board member of Friends, served as the moderator and did an excellent job keeping the event running on time. Friday's highlights included an opening visit from the US Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. John Rood, who supported the work of the conference and spoke to the importance of environmental awareness in assuring the future success of the Bahamas. Over 200 people were in attendance, the crowd a mix of local Bahamians, scientists, students and visitors.

The Hon. Dr. Marcus Bethel, Minister of Health and Environmental Services, gave the welcome address at the cocktail reception opening the Abaco Science Conference. He is shown here on the right giving a book by the BEST Commission to Michael Albury, President of Friends of the Environment which sponsored the conference. Dr. Bethel was looking forward to their studies which will assist government in establishing appropriate environmental policies.

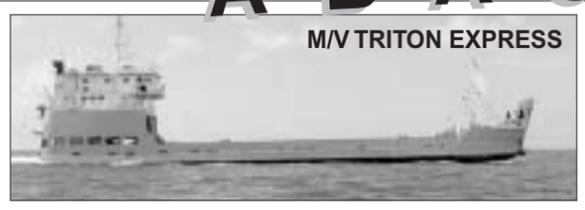


Fossil Is Found During Conference

This segment of the conference was introduced by Nancy Albury of Man-O-War, who has been a major player in the discovery and preservation of crocodile and tortoise skeletons that were found. Dr. Richard Franz of the University of Florida, who specializes in West Indian natural history,

has been involved with the identification of the species found there, continued the discussion. A blue hole in south Abaco was the site of a lumbering camp early in the 20th Century. Please see **Sawmill Sink** Page 4

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SEA VIEWS "LADY BUG LOFT"
 Overlooking Tahiti Beach is this two storey 3 bed 2 bath 1,600 sq. ft. island home. Wrap around deck, 2nd floor loft with Sea of Abaco views, central A/C and 1/2 acre lot. Private dock slip. \$920,000. #1975
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HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY
BEACHFRONT Loyalist 2 bed 1 bath cottage. Atlantic Ocean views, hardwood floors, screened-in porch with seaviews. Lush tropical 5,000 sq. ft. lot. The town of Hope Town is just steps away. Great rental history. \$690,000. #2967
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BAHAMA PALM SHORES
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LOTS & ACREAGE

HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY
BIG POINT - Beachfront property with 90 feet on the Atlantic Ocean, just south of a scenic rock cliff with oceanfront cave. US\$725,000. #2969 Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

WHITE SOUND - Ocean lot with 100 feet on the water x 300 feet deep. A beautiful waterfront building site, on the Atlantic Ocean, just steps away from the public dock and sandy beach. Excellent elevation. \$600,000 #2866. Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

BUTTONWOOD - High elevation 107' x 149' lot with Sea of Abaco views. \$183,000. #3000. Laurie Schreiner: 242.367.5046

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TILLOO BEACH SUBDIVISION - Beachfront lot 100'x190' with community dock \$248,000. #3120. Laurie Schreiner: 242.367.5046

MARSH HARBOUR
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PELICAN SHORES - Waterfront lot, 8,000 sq. ft., beautiful sea views. \$581,000. #2719

LITTLE HARBOUR
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BAHAMA PALM SHORES
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GUANA CAY
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Abaco's Past Is a Mystery

Sawmill Sink

From Page 2

ture. The site known as Sawmill Sink provided fresh water for the camp and water for the steam locomotive that hauled the lumber to the dock for shipping to Nassau, Cuba and the United States. It was also where much debris was dumped. There are many indications of a past settlement - foundations, stone paths and locomotive parts.

Thirteen years ago two crocodile skeletons were discovered in an underwater cave but were not preserved adequately and subsequently disintegrated. They were identified as being Cuban crocodiles, not the crocodile found in Florida today. By accident similar bones were discovered in Sawmill Sink last year.

Sawmill Sink is actually a blue hole, about 95 feet deep, that has a rock cone in the middle covered with organic debris. The first 30 feet is fresh water, salt water and a layer of hydro-sulfide. Divers have to go below this to access the cone. The bones are very well preserved, probably due to the lack of oxygen in the water in the lower part of the hole.

They have only begun to explore the sink and all the bones have come from a very small area, four square meters in a blue hole with a 500 foot circumference. So far the divers have recovered six tortoise shells, bones of at least eight crocodiles including an entire skull complete with lower jaw and teeth, an owl, a very large extinct raptorial bird, passerine birds, snake vertebra and

lizard jaws. They have retrieved seeds from one of the female tortoises which had presumably been its last meal and have retrieved white organic material which turned out to be crocodile excrement. Some of the animals are still found in our environment but many are extinct or are found only in other countries.

The tortoise skeletons are almost complete with skull, vertebra and all the small leg bones. They have gotten male female and juvenile tortoise shells. However, there are bones which they ex-

pected to find but so far are missing. These include bats, iguanas and hutias.

The group applied to the Bahamas government to take material to the States for carbon dating and for DNA testing and has recently been granted permission. This will tell how old the skeletons are and verify the precise relationship of these animals with others in the Caribbean.



Nancy Albury showed the fossilized shell of a tortoise that was found in the Sawmill Sink last year. It was very well preserved and included most of the vertebrae, skull and leg bones.



The U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas, Mr. John Rood, was at the opening ceremony of the Abaco Science Conference held in Marsh Harbour. He is shown here talking with Mrs. Anita Knowles, secretary of the Friends of the Environment that sponsored the conference. Mrs. Knowles was one of the principal organizers of the conference.

Diving Requires Special Equipment

Brian Kakuk, one of the divers who has

brought up many of the skeletons at Sawmill Sink, gave a presentation on the diffi-

Please see **Sawmill Sink** Page 9



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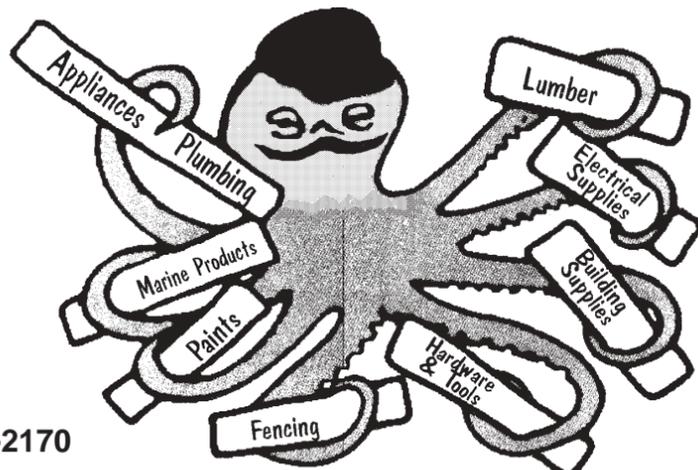
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Central Abaco News

Art Show Promises Variety

Abaco Beach Resort will be holding its Ninth Annual Abaco Arts Festival on January 27-29. The resort will host this unique event that features artists from the Caribbean, The Bahamas as well as a few artists from the United States. This event not only includes beautiful artwork, but a host of events as well. Enjoy a private welcome reception on Thursday, a Wine and Cheese Party on Friday as well as a Gala Dinner on Saturday evening for guests and artists to mingle and discuss art.

Other planned events include a scenic boat ride through the beautiful cays, a visit to Pete's Little Harbour Museum and Pete

Johnson's Sculpture workshop where guests will hear a talk about his sculptures. Ann Ray will speak at a clinic regarding her work with watercolors and how she portrays the beauty of the islands in her paintings.

Many different types of art will be represented at the art festival including

- Sculpture art and carved art
- Fabric art
- Jewelry art
- Stained glass art
- Ceramic art
- Photography art

Bringing in the New Year

By Mirella Santillo

The end of a new year is always accompanied by questions: what will the new year

bring? Will it be better or worse than the one ending?

These questions are often accompanied by feelings of uncertainty, wonder, unease or sometimes even fear of the future. So people deal with this transition in different ways. Some like to go to church to pray. Some see it as just another day and go to sleep at the usual time. Some put the unease out of their minds by celebrating either at home with friends or by joining a crowd, burying the past and welcoming the new dawn amidst a group of people with food, drinks, music and dance.

For the party goers, what did Marsh

Harbour offer on December 31st? All the bars and restaurants around the harbour had prepared for a crowd, from the Jib Room to Snappas, not forgetting Abaco Beach Resort on the east shore. All offered special menus, live music, party favors and even fireworks and Junkanoo.

There were choices for all. Price-wise, Jib Room offered the most economical menu at \$45 per person including a free glass of Champagne and music by A J the DJ. Steve Petersen said that they had a good dinner

Please see **Central**

Page 6



The Magnificent Seven will once again be performing in Marsh Harbour at the marquee at Abaco Beach Resort. They will be on Abaco on April 8 to sing their unique style of Country and Western music. Tickets will go on sale on March 1 for \$45 which will include a buffet dinner and the concert. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m.



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More Central Abaco News

Central *From Page 5*

crowd of approximately 100 people who stayed until 1:30 a.m.

Winding our way back around the harbour, we stopped at Abaco Beach Resort which offered an international buffet set up in the Pavilion. For \$125 the diner could eat Chinese, Italian, French and Bahamian dishes while being entertained by KB & Colin McDonald, and later dancing to the meringue rhythms of the Impact band till well after midnight. Mrs. Kevie Thomas mentioned that they catered for "over

130 people, locals and guests of the resort." Next on the way through town, echoes of Stone McEwan & Thunder's Bahamian songs drew the passers-by through the parking lot of the Conch Inn into the recently open Curly Tails Restaurant and Bar. A few local people were dancing. Diners were leaving after enjoying their \$65 meal as newcomers climbed the stairs to patronize the bar.

Out on the road again, one's ears were assailed by the mingling of the three bands from Sapodilly's, sitting at the bar or finishing a \$70 dinner that included a free glass of Champagne, while Full Force and Clint Sawyer played the night away. According to Mrs. Carol Sweeting, this year they catered more to a drinking crowd than diners.

Across the street at Mangoes, the diners had lingered after a four-choice, three-course dinner priced at \$60 to listen to Brown Tip's Rake and Scrape Band and take a turn at limbo or simply watch Desmond Cartwright clear less than a foot under the limbo bar. There was a happy atmosphere; everyone seemed to have a good time.

At Snappas, the celebrations had started with nine o'clock fire-

works followed by a bagpipe song while the newly rebuilt bar was slowly filling up. Only few partook of the \$75 set menu. However, as the New Year was brought in with another fireworks display over the harbour and Junkanoo parading in and out of the popular hang-out, the place was soon crowded with boisterous late comers entertained by Jarred Cooper and his band until the wee hours of the morning.

Wally's was closed, so owner Ms. Maureen Smith enjoyed the evening at Mangoes.

All the local eateries and bars seemed to

have had a fair share of customers that evening with no incidents reported. The party goers were well behaved and the New Year entered in a joyful but subdued atmosphere

Conch Crawl Reopens as Curly Tails

By Mirella Santillo

The restaurant at the Conch Inn, renamed *Curly Tails* opened in mid-December un-

Please see **Central** Page 7



Commonwealth Bank made a donation of \$600 to the Basketball Association of Abaco on December 2. Ms. Jacquelyn Estevez, Manager, is shown here presenting the check to Mr. Cay Mills.



On January 5th the Department of Urban Renewal distributed baby items, clothing, Pampers, shoes and blankets to six families from the Mud and four from Pigeon Peas which were donated from residents throughout the community. The Urban Renewal initiative which began in New Providence in 2002 has been in operation on Abaco since September 1st last year and addresses the needs of the country. Cpl. Remy Minnis and PC Kevin Ellis are the two officers shown.

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More Central Abaco News

Central *From Page 6*

der new management. It has been completely rebuilt after being extensively damaged by the hurricanes of 2004.

The Conch Inn has been a popular landmark in Marsh Harbour since the late 1960s when it was transformed from a vacation home to a restaurant and marina by then owner, Mr. Wally Smith. His daughter, Ms. Maureen Smith, owner/ manager of the popular *Wally's Restaurant*, remembers the time when she and her sister, Barbara, managed the bar/restaurant from 1968 to 1982. "The small resort included 30 boat slips and a bar and was called the Conch Crawl."

In 1974 the place was destroyed by a fire, and Mr. Smith used the occasion to enlarge the resort by buying the adjacent property which belonged to Capt. Leonard

Thompson as well as the land across the road comprising 20 acres and two cottages. The Captain's house was transformed into a restaurant which was subsequently to become *Mangoes*, and an informal bar was rebuilt where the present *Curly Tails* restaurant stands. Ten rooms were added and it was renamed the *Conch Inn*. The Smith family managed it until 1982 when they sold it to a partnership from Hong Kong, called *Ching Ling*, whose main shareholder was Mr. Jim Mosser. At that time the Conch Inn had grown to a 45-slip marina and included a ten-room motel and two rental cottages of two rooms each.

Mr. Mosser re-divided the resort by selling the restaurant to Bo and Libby Roberts, who called it *Mangoes*. He kept the land, the marina, the rooms and the bar. A few years later, in 1986, the group sold it to another partnership, whose principal partner

is the present owner, Mr. Michael Albury. Since that time the bar to which a small restaurant had been added, saw many changes.

At one point a deck with restaurant tables was added to the bar, then the bar was moved to the deck area. The inside bar room, which was more protected, became a dining room. After Hurricane Floyd, which completely flooded the resort, the deck was extended and the bar was rebuilt outside.

For the last 19 years many restaurant managers have leased the restaurant and bar. Mr. John Mosser, Jim Mosser's

brother, managed it in the 1980s until the business was sold to Mr. Albury, who then leased it to two partners, Kip Lacey and Michael Hinton. They left in 1996 and one of the employees, Ms. Louise Maury managed it for the owner until the end of 1997 when it became an Italian eatery, the *Bistro Mezzomare*, managed by Mrs. Maria Silvester. In 2003 Mr. Albury resumed management it until the end of the year when it was operated by Mr. Howard Messell. He gave it back its original name of *Conch Crawl*. With each different restaurant

Please see **Central** *Page 19*



Curly Tails, originally known as Conch Crawl, reopened in December featuring a two-story restaurant and bar and a large decked area used as an extension of the restaurant.

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The Editor Says . . . Science Conference - An Educational Opportunity



Over 30 scientists attended a weekend science conference in Marsh Harbour sponsored by Friends of the Environment. The well attended event gave scientists, who are studying different fields including geology, plants, animals and other features of Abaco, an opportunity to present a summary of their work to others studying Abaco, allowing diverse information to be better integrated into their studies.

Scientists often attend conferences which focus on their specialty, attended by others interested in that specialty. It is rare that their findings are presented to the community which their studies relate to or to researchers working in other disciplines within the same environment.

The scientists themselves enjoyed hearing from their diverse science-oriented colleagues about topics outside their field of interest but often containing information helpful to their specialized studies. They had opportunities to meet other scientists, exchange notes, ask questions and make plans for future exchange of relevant data.

This was the second conference of this type and Friends wants to continue with this event every other year. Twenty-one scientists summarized their findings in 30 minute presentations, accompanied by pictures, graphs and supporting data projected on a large screen behind the stage.

Peak attendance saw a little over 200 persons attending the Friday sessions. It was refreshing to see approximately 110 high school students and their teachers listening attentively to the presentations. The Saturday morning session saw a noticeable drop in students but there were still 20 - 30 who came on their off day to absorb the material.

The presenters sometimes focused on the students and invited them to participate with them in future projects as assistants and helpers. The students got valuable glimpses into scientific material and research far beyond the material they are exposed to in the classroom. Many of the students talked with the researchers during the coffee breaks and at lunch which was served in-house, maintaining the continuity of the event.

Three field trips let students and Abaco residents accompany the scientists and let their enthusiasm in the field show their love

for their chosen work. Abaco geology was featured in a trip to Little Harbour on Saturday afternoon. A second simultaneous trip to an inland "sink" or blue hole allowed the group to watch a diver don his re-breathing apparatus and drop out of sight beneath the water without any bubbles disturbing the water. He returned an hour later with another crocodile jaw bone.

Then an eleven-hour trip on Sunday to Hole-in-the-Wall and Cross Harbour took a substantial group which included students. Abaco's crumbling heritage light station was visited in the morning, including the distinctive geologic feature of "hole-in-the-wall." A researcher working with bats took the students and others into a cave inhabited by bats.

While in South Abaco the group went to Cross Harbour to see firsthand a railroad causeway dividing a coastal estuary which restricts marine development on the impounded side. Some of the students went into the water with the researcher to get an intimate glimpse of his work and methods.

The scientists were on hand during these expeditions to answer questions and give more information on the studies they were conducting. The exposure and insights these students received to the scientific community was priceless.

Our young people need to be exposed to broader ideas than those available in a classroom. They need many experiences so they

know there is more out there than their limited life at home, church and school that most are accustomed to. They need exposure so they can be motivated to follow interests that may have been sparked in them by their experiences. The science conference had much that was too technical for their comprehension but the exposure may create interest in a topic they can pursue.

The interaction between the students and the science event brings to mind a similar opportunity in two weeks for students with artistic abilities. The Art Festival at Abaco Beach Hotel on January 27 is an opportunity for art teachers and artistic students to visit the show and talk to artists using many different types of media: acrylics, oils, water colors, sculpture, fabric, photography and other art forms. The students will be able to make the connection between the artist, his work and the price tag on the art. This should be an eye-opener for some students and may cause some to rethink their career options.

Like the scientists, artists are generally willing to talk with students and offer encouragement to their potential ambitions. It is a wonderful opportunity for artistic students to expand their outlook and gain exposure to the world of art as a career.

To encourage art students and their teachers to attend, the management of the Abaco Beach Hotel has offered to feature an economical student lunch and to give lunch to

each high school art teacher who brings art students to the exhibit.

The high numbers of visitors to Abaco provides a steady source of customers for our many boutiques and art galleries. With a little help and encouragement, the better art students could begin getting pocket money for their work. As they gain experience, their work will become more desirable, giving the student a better price.

We would like to thank New Visions Ministry for assisting with the Science Alliance presentation. Their building is an ideal venue for a large group with their superb sound system coupled with a projector connected to a computer and seating for several hundred.

Royal Bank should be commended for assisting with the student attendance. Having students at the presentations was the frosting on the cake for the Friends organizers.

Finally, we want to thank Abaco Beach Hotel for their vision and encouragement to the high school art teachers and their students, hoping they will attend the show, interact with the artists and get a broader outlook for art.

When events like these present themselves locally, the educational system should recognize the value they can have on students and make every effort to send appropriate students.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks for Rescuing the Turtle

Dear Editor,

Friends of the Environment would to thank the residents of Green Turtle Cay for their part in rescuing the Loggerhead turtle that was captured on Christmas Eve in Whale Cay Channel.

When it was discovered that the captured turtle was tagged on its front flippers, the brothers that caught her, Dennis Roy Levarity and Willis Paul Levarity, contacted George Cross of Green Turtle. He, in turn, contacted Roy Boles, one of the owners of Black Sound Marina, who lives in Gainesville and has contacts with the University of Florida.

The turtle was released into the sea on December 29th. A local Green Turtle real estate agent, Mr. Chris Plummer, donated \$500 for the release of the turtle.

Based on the tag information, the University of Florida was able to discover that the Loggerhead was originally tagged while nesting at Juno Beach, Florida, on May 22, 2003. Upon release, the turtle weighed 253 pounds, its top shell was 36 inches wide, 40 inches long and the turtle had a 9 1/2 inch wide neck.

Thanks to all of the residents of Green Turtle Cay who took an interest in this turtle

and helped secure its release.

Sincerely,
Board of Friends of the Environment
We Love Our Potholes

Dear Editor:

Would you kindly print this letter to the Hon. Bradley Roberts

Attn: Ministry of Works. the Hon. Bradley Roberts

I would first of all like to thank the Ministry of Works for so cleverly and artistically outlining the beautiful roadway potholes that we have come to know and love. Furthermore, I would like to add a few suggestions:

First of all, I have noticed that after the beautiful neon pink spray paint had been applied, it does tend to fade after a few weeks, allowing our beautiful potholes to go unnoticed by our many locals and visitors.

Secondly, while I am a great lover of anything pink, I would like to suggest perhaps a neon blue or green, as it would compliment our waters (which we all hold very dear to our hearts just as we do our potholes.)

Thirdly, I would like to suggest investing in perhaps a glow-in-the-dark spray paint that would help us navigate our dear potholes during the many nights our electricity company feels we should be outside looking at the stars (without those nasty streetlights in the way) instead of inside reading, watching television, working or cooking for those of us with electric stoves. Finally, I would also like to thank the Ministry of Works for allowing my dream of becoming a professional stunt driver to become a reality. Every day I learn a new move on the road! In just a few weeks I have mastered swerving while barely missing the car in the next lane to stopping on very short notice as a giant pot hold looms in front of me. Finally, and most importantly, I have learned not to hit my head on the ceiling of my car when my mental navigation of our beautiful potholes fails, and I fall into a dark abyss of mud, water and roadside debris.

I would like again to thank the Ministry of Works for not allowing these beautiful creatures to go unnoticed, and I look forward to seeing if any of my suggestions go to good use!

Sincerely,
TAPPA (The Abaco Pothole Protection Association) and
BSDI (Bahama Stunt Drivers
Incorporated)

When Will We Have Justice?

Dear Editor:

Would you print the following letter.
Bernard Turner
Director of Public Prosecutions
Nassau

Dear Sir,
Is Justice Delayed - Justice Denied
It has been approximately four years since my sister, Sheila Walker-Curtis, was brutally murdered on the island of Grand Bahama where she lived at that time. Her husband, Arlington "Alton" Curtis, was tried and convicted on the alternate of manslaughter. Subsequently, he appealed to the Court of Appeal and was granted a retrial.

A new trial has been ordered since the appeal was heard and to date no new trial has begun. This month marks the fourth year that Sheila's family has had to live and re-live this tragedy. Why has there not been a date set for retrial? What kind of message is the Judicial System sending to our family? A life is still of intrinsic value. Or are you saying to the family-get over it.

Arlington Curtis has been released into the community and is carrying on with business as usual. Is it that the criminals are being treated like victims? If not, why is he allowed to leave the country?

Sheila's family has had no closure to this case simply because there has been the lame excuse that no judge was available or the defendant's lawyer was not ready to pro-

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More Letters to the Editor

Letters *From Page 8*

ceed. How is it that the defense seems to be determining trial date?

This matter needs to be resolved urgently, and I am requesting a quick response from your office.

Sincerely,
Sandy Edwards
CC: Print media

My Viewpoint on Politics

The Editor

I am writing a short letter to let people know how I feel about the PLP. I tell you the truth. It's a good party. I am really a PLP all the way from almost 14 year ago. This is all I know about. I sweep it clean and PLP did the job and kept it for years till the former Prime Minister passed away. He was a good man to me, them days. I was a police for 4 and a half years and local guard two terms. I tell you I am satisfied with our party and I would recommend it for years. We do have a good man, Perry G. Christie, who loves people This is a party name that people love. As far as I see FNM is finished now, might get four or five seats. PLP got FNM and by the help of God we are going to stay PLP.

This is a song I composed years ago. It still stands.

Onward, the people are going to the poll vote for PLP with heart, voice and soul. We are not divided but all one body. We vote PLP all the way to victory.

Evangelist Franklin Russell
Hope Town

Please Note Correction

The Editor,

I would be most grateful if you would print my response to Samuel D. Albury's

letter in your informative December 15 issue. Thank you.

Mr. Samuel D. Albury made an incorrect assumption based on his political persuasion, and in so doing mislead the reading public when he said that, and I quote, "another gentleman called the Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Perry Christie, an idiot and a jerk," end of quote.

The gentleman to whom he was referring was, I believe, Mr. Edison Key, a most honourable gentleman, and I can say, without fear of contradiction, that Mr. Key most definitely did not call the Prime Minister's name, NOT ONCE, and he certainly did not refer to him as an idiot.

I was at that same rally and the only person Mr. Key referred to was George Smith, whom he termed an idiot for maliciously lambasting him on national radio and disparaging his good name.

My advice to Mr. Albury (and others) who are so driven to expose truth is that perhaps, in future, they should check and re-check the fact before putting pen to paper. The truth is out there and can be easily established.

M Bible also says that you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.

Sincerely,
A Keen Observer

Thanks for Good Service

Dear Editor,

Having just returned stateside after my sixth visit to the Hope Town, I would like to thank several people who went out of their way to assist me and to make our family's visit to Abaco memorable.

Donna Burrows, Taxi 157, spent an hour with me at the Marsh Harbour airport helping me locate a missing piece of carry-on luggage we left in the West Palm

Beach airport. Thanks also to BahamaaAir for locating the missing luggage (our fault) and bringing it to Marsh Harbour the next day.

Special thanks to Jeff Key, Taxi 11, for picking up the missing bag and bringing it to Hope Town for me. Jeff would not accept any compensation for this special favor. This saved me \$45 for travel to the airport and back.

Abaco has much to offer the visitor — sun, beaches, diving, sailing, fishing and more. However, the most important thing for me is the fine people who so freely offer help and friendship to the stranger. This will keep us coming back to Abaco.

Best regards,
Tom Kelly and family
Suttons Bay, Michigan

Dump Is a Major Problem

Dear Editor,

My family and I reside in Central Pines Subdivision which borders the Central Abaco dump. I would like to plea for help with the dump situation and ask that any and all concerned would give their all to rectify the growing problem that is the Marsh Harbour dump. This site looks horrible when viewed from the road, not to mention the debris which litters every road leading from town to the gate (this presumably flies off the back of trucks).

I am writing to express my concern for the health and welfare of the residents of Central Abaco. The nearest house in Central Pines is just a few hundred feet from the dump. Daily the dump is being burned, whether intentionally or

unintentionally. Lately the smoke from the dump has made living in Central Pines unbearable, and we are forced to take refuge inside with the windows closed.

We have already had one serious fire when the burning dump fire jumped the highway and burned through the subdivision endangering homes and lives.

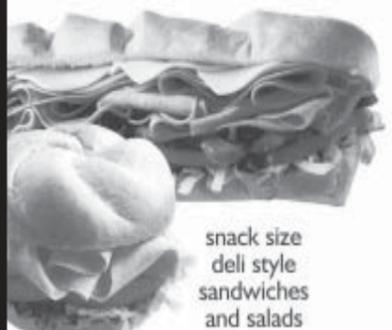
I believe my children should have the right to grow up breathing clean air and playing outside. I cry out for help for the long awaited relocation of the dump, and I beg that those who are in power, in whatever capacity, would evaluate the options and find a solution to the problem in short order.

Sincerely,
A concerned resident of Central Pines Subdivision

Sawmill Sink *From Page 4*

culties of diving in the blue hole. Because of the need to keep the sediment from being disturbed, divers use a closed circuit re-breather which does not produce bubbles. Although the re-breather equipment allows the diver to stay down many hours longer, it is very elaborate and expensive. Its use requires special training and requires high maintenance after each use. The re-breather scrubs the carbon dioxide from the used air so it can be recycled. Diving is difficult because of the darkness under the hydro-sulfide layer and from the clouds of fine silt.

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News of the Cays

Green Turtle Cay Clean Up Campaign

By Sandy Skees

A post-Junkanoo clean-up of New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay, was carried out on January 7th, 2006. It was organized by Sandy Skees, a Reef Relief docent at the Captain Roland Roberts House Environmental Center in New Plymouth along with volunteers Julia LaRoche, Teresa Parrish, David and Joan Goldstein, Teacher Maria Schrack and 24 students from Amy Roberts Primary School. Everyone gathered at 1 p.m. at the Captain Roland Roberts House and divided into teams. Student intern Julia LaRoche had marked the trash bags with the team names to keep track of the team

that gathered the most litter. Teams of four students each competed to see which group could collect the most trash. The teams set out from the top of the hill near the Amy Roberts School at about 1:30 p.m. and descended down through the town of New Plymouth, covering most of the major areas right up to the cargo dock. Julia La Roche, Maria Schreck and Sandy Skees supervised the teams. Julia had hidden four pieces of trash marked with *Congratulations! You Have Won Treasure!* along the way.

"The students really enjoyed the competition and worked like crazy to pick up litter and find the "treasure" until 2:30 when time was up and we called them back to the house for refreshments," noted Ms. Skees.



A 253-pound loggerhead turtle was caught in Whale Cay Channel

separated for recycling, and the Nassau Grouper team was declared the winner. But actually, everyone in the community won that day, thanks to a cleaner environment as a result of the clean-up! Special thanks to Sid's Grocery for providing the refreshments.

The Captain Roland Roberts House Environmental Center in New Plymouth is operated by Reef Relief, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting coral reefs. To learn more about coral reefs, visit this free facility located in a historically restored

Please see **Cays**

Page 11



The Reef Relief organization on Green Turtle Cay sponsored a clean-up afternoon on January 7 to pick up litter after the Junkanoo rush. Twenty bags of trash were collected and aluminum cans were separated for recycling. Some of the students who picked up are shown here.

"When we returned to the Captain Roberts House Environmental Center, volunteers David and Joan Goldstein had lemonade, cookies, brownies, apples, pretzels and chips waiting for the clean-up teams. After we washed our hands and had our treats, the kids piled up their bags and the adult "judges" went around and decided on the winning team. We gave out the team prize and the "treasure prizes" and all decided it was a really worthwhile day."

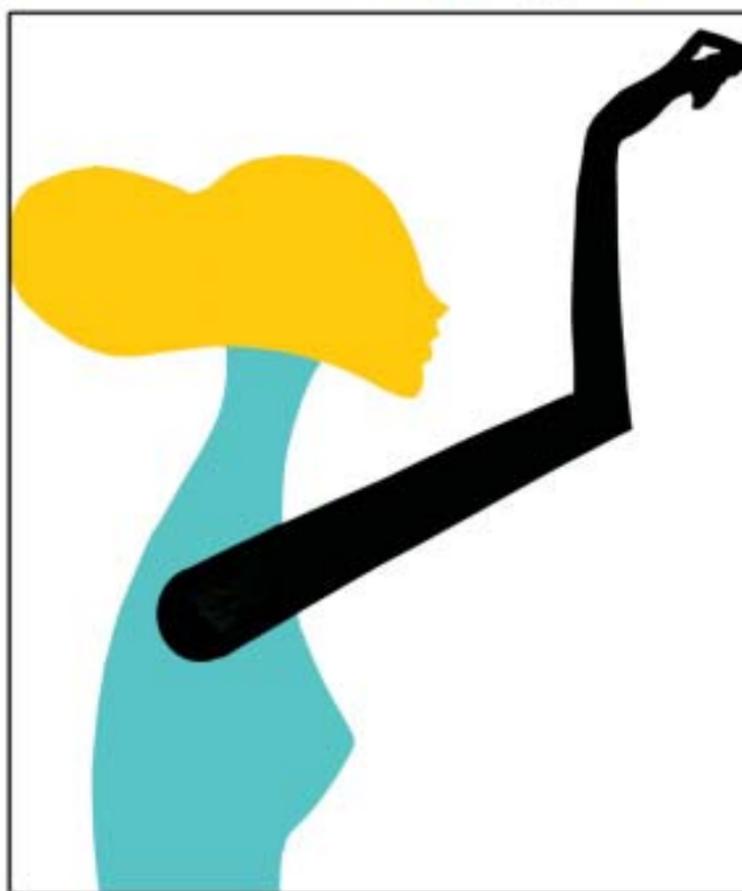
Twenty large bags of trash were collected, the aluminum cans were



A 253-pound loggerhead turtle was released back into the ocean after being kept in Green Turtle Cay for several days. The female turtle had been tagged by the University of Florida in 2003. To keep it from being killed Chris Plummer paid \$500 for it to have it released.

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More News of the Cays

Cays From Page 10

circa 1840's Bahamas home that is open Monday through Saturday. For more information, go to www.reefrelief.org or call (242)365-4014.

Turtle Is Returned to Its Habitat

By Mirella Santillo

Green Turtle Cay native, Dennis Levarity caught a 253-pound loggerhead turtle on December 24. Gathered on the dock, fishermen and curious residents were ready for the slaughter when they discovered that the turtle was tagged. The tag referred the animal to marine biologists from the University of Gainesville, Florida, and promised

a reward to the finder.

When town people contacted the biologists at the university, they asked that the turtle be kept for a few days until they could come and re-tag it.

While waiting for its fate to be decided, the turtle was kept near the dock in a large tub, barely wide enough for it to turn around because of its large size. Mr. Levarity said that in the meantime, the animal was being fed fish.

The scientists from Gainesville could not come immediately. However, a local resident of Green Turtle Cay, Mr. Christopher Plummer, paid \$500 for the turtle so it could be released. Mr. Levarity also received the \$100 reward. On December 29th the turtle was returned to the sea.

Hope Town

First Hope Town Chili Cookoff a Success

By Lindsey Delaplaine

The Hope Town Volunteer Fire and Rescue's first annual Chili Cookoff was a smashing success with the chili sold out only an hour after the event started.

Jarrett Park was full on December 27th as the crowd moved from booth to booth tasting the offerings of the chili entrants. But the event featured more than chili. All of the chili contestants had their own theme, many complete with theme music. The chili and entertainment made for a winning recipe and a good time was had by all.

Judges Arnold Hall, Peggy Thompson, Patti Toler, and Patrick Stewart had their work cut out for the selecting a winner. They chose the Harbour Rats, the collective name for the Hope Town Harbour cruisers, led by Jim and Faye Mack, as the winners. The Hope Town Harbour Lodge's entry was second and the Abaco Inn was third. The winners all donated their cash prizes back to the Hope Town Volunteer

Fire and Rescue.

The crowd agreed with the judges and voted the Harbour Rats the People's Choice Award. Raffle tickets were also on sale for a drawing to be held on February 25th.

Event organizer Justin Noice was pleased with the outcome and is already planning for next year. The hope is for the event to grow each year, both in the number of competitors and in the diversity and heat of the chili.

Catamarans Dominate

Boxing Day Race

By Lindsey Delaplaine

Ten boats registered for the Hope Town Sailing Club's Boxing Day race. Although the sun was shining, two boats dropped out once they left the Hope Town Harbour and found 20 knots of wind out on the race course.

Of the eight boats that started another two, *Firelight* and the *Abaco Rage*, had to drop out during the race due to ripped sails in winds that was as high as 28 knots. A third boat dropped out after a collision on the course. The Race Committee actually

Please see **Cays**

Page 14



Hope Town held its first Chili Cookoff on December 26. It was so successful that all the chili was gone in an hour. It was a fund raising event for the Hope Town Volunteer Fire and Rescue to help in building a new fire house. Shown here is one of the competing teams.

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Lot #6 \$770,000 UNDER CONTRACT

JACKS JUNGLE - Lubbers Quarters Cay consists of 2 parcels, waterfront lot over 1/2 acre \$240,000, and interior lot over 1 acre \$120,000. Deeded dock slips for each lot included.

Lubbers Quarters lots #113 & #115 Interior lots with easy access to public dockage, utilities in place, ideal location for island style cottages. Each lot priced at **\$59,500.**



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Greg Roberts

More News of the Cays

Cays From Page 11

shortened the race course due to the worsening conditions.

The *Abaco Rage* was in the hunt for first when a hole in the main sail started to turn into a rip in the mainsail. There was a scramble as the crew, out on the pries, rushed to get back in the boat before being thrown into the icy water. Not everyone was quick enough; Sean Thompson took a brief swim before being picked back up by *The Rage*, under the capable hand of Skipper Jeff Gale.

Mothra, a Lagoon 37 Catamaran, captained by Bradford Gunn, won the

Bowen White trophy. *Windsprite*, a 30-foot Main Cat, captained by local sailor Ron Engle, took second. *Salty Dog*, a 22-foot Marhsall Cat boat, captained by Peter Shaddk, came third. Fourth was Mike Houghton on *Sunshine*, a Manta 42 Catamaran. Fifth place went to Uncle Bob on the Florida Yacht Charter's boat, *Challenger*, a Hunter 46.

Rage Fish Fry Fun

By Lindsey Delaplaine

Known for putting the "fun" back in fund raiser, the *Abaco Rage* kept the crowd well fed during their Fish Fry. Conch salad, crawfish salad, fried fish, Mac and Cheese,

and Peas N' Rice went quickly, as did the gin and coconut water, a regatta staple. The crowd in Jarrett Park moved to the music as they stood in line for their food and drinks.

Held on December 28th, the crew of the John Bull-sponsored *Abaco Rage* was out in full force for the fund raiser. Everywhere

you looked they were hard at work behind the scenes, trying to raise money for the upcoming 2006 Regatta season.

The first Regatta in which *The Rage* will compete is the George Town Races held April 24th through the 29th. The Long Is-

Please see **Cays**

Page 15



The *Abaco Rage* attempted to sail in the H. Bowen White Trophy Race on December 28th but winds of 28 knots ripped its mainsail.



The first day of sailing school for Hope Town youth on January 7 was too blustery for them to be out sailing. Their class was held at the Club House where they learned about rigging and safety. The classes are being offered by the Hope Town Sailing Club.

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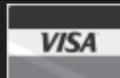
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More News of the Cays

Cays From Page 14

land Regatta is not long after, June 1st through the 5th.

Serious about making 2006 a successful season, *The Rage* crew was out for practice during the Hope Town Sailing Club's Boxing Day race. They were in contention for first until they had to quit due to a ripped mainsail.

Although *The Rage* won a few races last year, they hope to improve upon their record and bring at least four trophies back to Hope Town.

First Sailing Class Is a Success

By Sue Holloway

The first Hope Town Junior Sailing classes were held on January 7th. Reporting for class were 26 eager students, 10 volunteers, and Head Instructor Matt McCoy.

Hope Town's Junior Sailors are Laura Albury, Christopher Albury, Luke Albury, Natasha Albury, Noah Albury, Tristan Albury, Aly Boyce, James Boyce, Erinlee Hull, Jacob Hull, James Hull, Jeffrey Hull, Maxson Joseph, Ashton Kemp, Eli Lowe,

Stony Lowe, Nicole Maltarp, Eric Mermard, Danielle Moss, Ben Patterson, Erin Patterson, Bronson Roberts, Lance Roberts, Dylan Thompson, Shannon Thompson and Candace Trembley.

Matt gave the students an overview of the program, and an introduction to sailing terminology. He reminded them of the best clothing to wear while sailing and items to bring with them each week. The students were issued their brand new life jackets provided by the Stafford Patterson family along with Junior Sailing Program T-shirts, books, decals, and carrying bags.

Volunteers for the first class were Monica Cook, Jeff Gale, Ann Gooding, Paul Gooding, Sue Holloway, Jim Mack, Doug Moody, Jane Patterson, Stafford Patterson and Bob Rogers.

Due to the strong cold front, boat orientation and rigging exercises were held in the Gazebo of the Clubhouse. One of the Optimist dinghies was brought inside so that the junior sailors could learn the parts of the boat, practice rigging and de-rigging and folding the sail.

Junior sailing classes will be held each

Saturday during the winter and spring months. This program is organized by members of the Hope Town community and

the Hope Town Sailing Club with lots of help from the parents of the junior sailors and cruising sailors.



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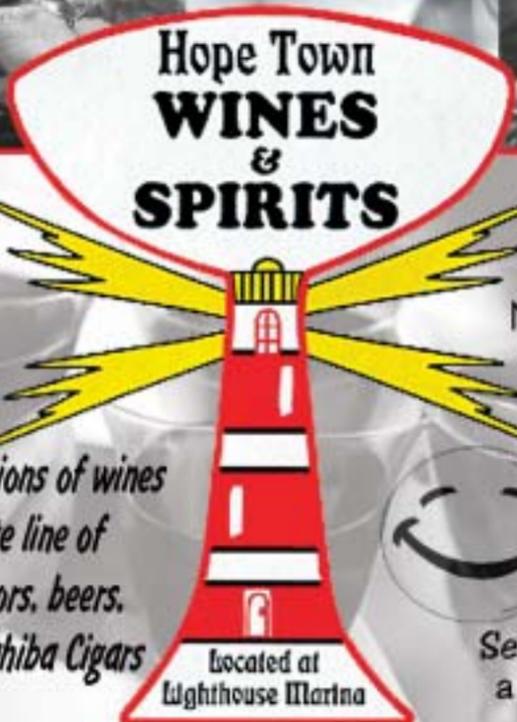
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South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound Antiques Roadshow

By Jennifer Hudson

Are you one of the many who enjoys watching *The Antiques Roadshow* on the Public Broadcasting Station? If so, I hope you managed to get to Cherokee's own delightful version of the show. Whether you are a seasoned watcher and avid antiques collector or just interested in an enjoyable day out, Cherokee was the place to be between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on December 29. Despite the fact that this was a working day a large number of people managed to attend, many cradling small delicate treasures concealed

in little bags while others struggled with much heavier loads in large cardboard boxes. Many grandparents, great-grandparents, great aunts and uncles would, I am sure, have been delighted to see items they had passed down to younger family members being lovingly and excitedly brought to the show for appraisal.

On hand to appraise the items were Peter Bradley, gemologist; Derek Albury, specialist in old watches and clocks; and two general appraisers from North Carolina, Mitty and Charles Courtoy, who ran an antique business in Florida and the surrounding areas for 25 years before retiring to North Carolina. Mitty and Charles attempted to appraise items in all categories

aided by a large selection of antique reference books they had brought with them to assist in identification. It was a difficult task for Mitty and Charles to try to appraise such a large variety of items ranging from old bottles and postage stamps to fine Limoges china, but they said that though it is impossible to be an antique dealer in all types of antiques, they were doing their best. (On the television Antiques Roadshow each appraiser is a specialist in one particular line of antiques.) Though their task was a difficult one, Mitty and Charles said that they were thoroughly enjoying it and happy to be there.

Some of the very interesting and unusual items brought for appraisal included one lady's grandmother's pocket watch with the key to wind it which,

though a little rusty, was valued at \$1000 giving her a pleasant surprise; a megalodon (prehistoric) shark tooth which Colin Albury dis-

covered whilst diving in Exuma and which was valued between \$500 and \$1500; an antique emerald ring valued at 4 to \$5,000 and an 1864 Majolica Minton vase described as very valuable and worth hundreds of dollars. Also, an Oriental ginger jar, an intricately carved whalebone paper knife, tiny brass Punch and Judy snuffbox and a Tiffany clock

handed down from someone's grandmother and valued at \$10,000. While some were busy having their items appraised at the appraisal tables set up outside, others were enjoying the exhibition of some of Cherokee's local antiques and treasured keepsakes inside the W.W. Sands Community Center. It was very interesting to see the array of items people had kept stored away in their attics. There were swords, sewing machines, coins, linens, china, kitchen utensils, a variety of old clocks, toaster, goose irons and coal irons. Three very unusual mystery items from days gone by had many people puzzling over them trying to win the "Guess what it is" competition. For those who were unable to stay



Patrick Bethel



Many games and competitions entertained the crowd at the Antique Roadshow held in Cherokee Sound on December 29. Shown here is Patrick Bethel helping Candace Key on stilts. Mr. Bethel was honoured at the event for his contributions to his home town of Cherokee Sound and the country. Mrs. Key is principal of the Hope Town School.

Please see **South**

Page 17

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More South Abaco News

South

From Page 16

long enough to hear the secrets revealed, one was a Victorian wick trimmer for a kerosene lamp and the other was a spade for Stilton cheese

Patrick Bethel told stories of growing up in Cherokee and was later presented with a plaque by Mr Hartis Pinder, another boyhood resident of Cherokee, in recognition of his considerable service to the settlement throughout the years.

Adding to the atmosphere were a maypole dance and old time games and competitions reminiscent of bygone years. Young Terrance Albury from Cherokee, who has an amazing pair of lungs, won the "Shouting for mama" contest with an ear splitting yell which almost knocked people back against the wall. A few children were able to master the old time art of walking on

stilts. Plenty of authentic island food was an added attraction along with arts and crafts for sale and the day was brought to an exciting close by the Spring City Rockers Junkanoo group.

The Ministry of Tourism, Abaco office, assisted the people of Cherokee with the organisation of this event which was six months in the planning. The committee is hoping to arouse people's awareness of old items which they may be hoarding away as they are at the stage of locating items such as old family heirlooms, newspapers and other items for the future creation of a museum. Friends of the Environment is interested in setting up a Historical Register that it hopes will keep a recorded history of resources here on Abaco. The Department of Antiquities, Monuments and Museums is hoping to eventually establish a museum

not only on Abaco but throughout the entire Bahamian chain with a rotating inventory so that each island's displays will eventually be seen on all the islands of the Bahamas. People will be able to register items with Monuments and Antiquities by taking a picture and sending it to the department along with appropriate information.

This is the first time such an event has been held on Abaco and the organising committee was very pleased with the turnout and how much people seemed to be enjoying the day. Proceeds from the event will aid the Cherokee Primary

School's new window fund as well as a general repairs fund. A silent auction also boosted the funds for this very worthy cause.

It was a delightful, fun-filled day and the people of Cherokee wish to thank all those who brought antiques or helped in any way towards its success.

Little Harbour

Pete's Pub & Gallery hosted a fund raising birthday party on December 10th for the Snappas crew and more than a

Please see **South**

Page 18

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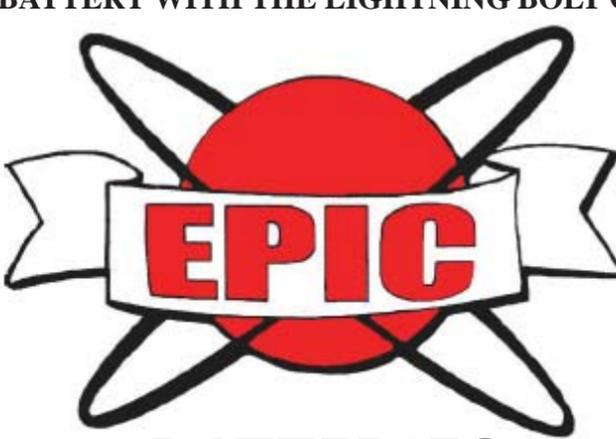
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More South Abaco News

South *From Page 17*

few friends at the Pub in Little Harbour. Lil Bill, Drayton Pilcher, Adam

Lawrence, Greg Johnston and the lovelies, Leigh Davis and Tania Duncombe celebrated their birthdays and more importantly raised funds for our



A birthday party at Pete's Pub and Gallery on January 10 raised money for the Cherokee Sound Primary School. Here a group of party-goers are showing the art work that was auctioned along with several pies.

local Cherokee Primary School. Feast, Boogie and Bid was the name of the game. Camille and Marsha donated their Saturday and baked five pies for auction. The Pub donated the pie ingredients. Jeep Byers donated a beautiful framed print of his Neptune. Pete Johnston donated two gold pieces and three bronze sculptures. Ms. Duncombe conducted the bidding while the bidders dug deep in their pockets. Bidding for the first three pies started at \$30 each and went to \$125 for Jeep Byers, Adam Lawrence and Clint Adderly. Dave and Lenore Mulock of Little Harbour made a generous donation and were rewarded with a pie.

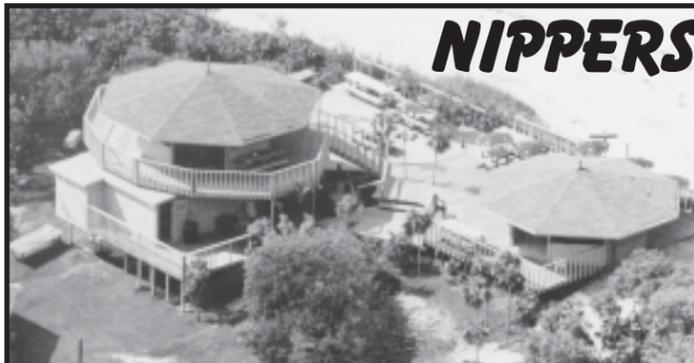
Ms. Camille Lowe's pies are delicious for dessert or throwing. Coconut Cream Pie, Banana Cream, Pumpkin, Key Lime and Chocolate are her specialties. They are available by order. In fact, a portion

of every pie ordered throughout the year is added to the Cherokee School Fund. Please call or email to order ahead of time, 477-5487 or pete@petespub.com.

Otherwise, don't miss Pete's 12th annual 50th Birthday Party on January 28th. Don't forget your wallet. The Pie and Art Auction will be held on the deck. These funds will again go to the Cherokee school and to Katrina victims who still need our help.

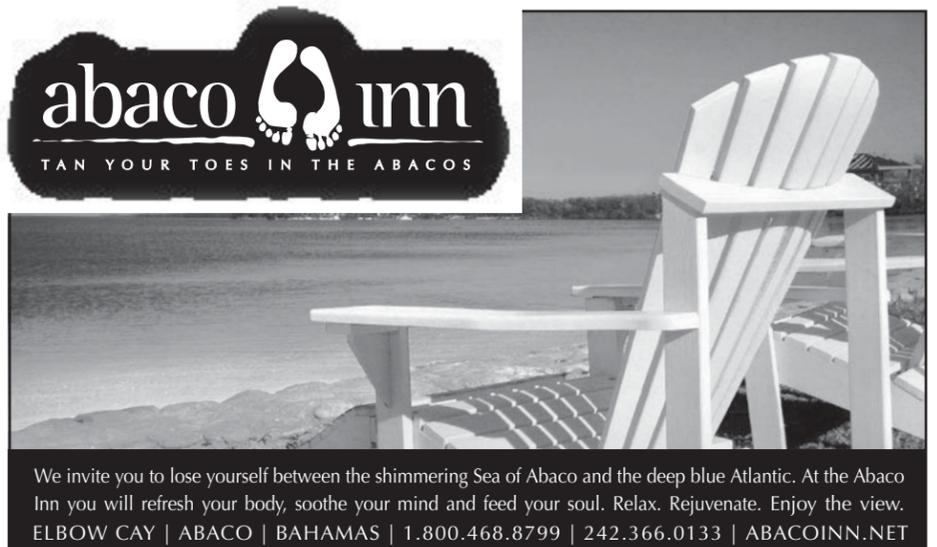
Peter Johnston and his fund raising crew have raised almost \$10,000 in the past year. We graciously thank and truly appreciate the generous nature of our community.

In other news, our 366-3503 phone is down. Please call and leave a message on our cell phone 477-5487. E-mail is really our most reliable form of communication, pete@petespub.com



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More Central Abaco News

Central *From Page 7*

owner, the menu changed from simple bar food to Continental to Bahamian to Italian, then back to Bahamian.

As of December 8 new managers, Alistair and Harriet McDonald, have opened the restaurant and renamed it *Curly Tails*. Again, thanks to Hurricane Frances this time, extensive renovations took place before their taking over.

The restaurant is now a two-story building. The deck was filled in and that eating area is now tiled and enclosed and has a small serving bar for the downstairs diners. A huge bar occupies all of the upstairs which offers a magnificent view of the harbour.

As an introduction, *Curly Tails* offered a special Boxing Day buffet on December 27th from 8:30 a.m. till late after-

noon. For \$ 25 the starving customers could eat their fill of tasty Bahamian and Caribbean food such as stew fish, fried chicken, Teriyaki pork, fried plantains, coconut saffron rice, sauteed vegetables, guava duff, banana cake and more, prepared under the supervision of Chef Keshlah Smith. In the afternoon, the diners enjoyed Bahamian music, played by Stone McEwan and Thunder. The popular band performed for New Year's Eve and starting on Valentine Day will perform every weekend thereafter.

Curly Tails is bright and airy, tastefully decorated in light colors and has a style of its own. The touch of owner/artist, Harriet McDonald, can be felt throughout. Large curly tailed lizards, cut from steel drums and brightly colored, adorn several walls. The downstairs dining room displays paintings of her artist

sister, Colette. Small wooden condiment trays sit on the table reminiscent of a Japanese style. The whole atmosphere is islandy and exotic. *Curly Tails* is open six and half days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for breakfast, Noon to 3 p.m. for lunch and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. for dinner, except on Mondays when it closes at 3 p.m.

The menu offers Bahamian dishes as well as ethnic fares such as pizza and Teriyaki chicken for lunch, calamari, sushi, lobster bisque for appetizers, Thai spice crusted snapper, egg plant lasagna, lamb Massala or filet mignon with

Bearnaise sauce for dinner.

With its outstanding location and its revamped looks, *Curly Tails* should become the new in-place to eat.

Everyone Enjoyed Family Fun Day

By Portia Jonsson

On December 30th Mr. Gary Sawyer hosted families and children from North to South Abaco to an all day family fun day at the Spring City Park. The festivities began around 1 p.m. and continued

Please see **Central** Page 21

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Bahamahost Holds Graduation

By Jennifer Hudson

Forty-eight new Bahamahost graduates received their certificates at a ceremony held on December 13th in the Parish Hall of Saint John the Baptist Anglican Church in Marsh Harbour, placing them among the many others who have also achieved this honour over the past years. Graduates for the entire year were honoured during this ceremony; the 21st session having been held in May, the 22nd session in August and the 23rd session in November.

Three persons, one from each session, were presented with special awards in recognition of their unique qualities of leadership. They were Indira Edwards, Jeffrey Key and Glender Knowles. While some of the graduates are full-time employees with the Ministry of Tourism, the majority represented the Royal Bahamas Police Force, Bahamas Telecommunications Company, public service drivers, airlines, Port Department, hotel employees as well as various other segments of the community. Lecturers came from all walks of life and covered such subjects as civics, customs and immigration, first aid, culture, tourism, geography and history.

Ms. Agatha Marcelle, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism, stated in her keynote address that she would

like to see Abaco as a model of exceptional service for The Bahamas. She told the graduates; " Abaco is expanding and improving, providing new investments and opportunities so you cannot be what you were yesterday. When an attitude exceeds abilities then the impossible becomes possible and all you need to do it, is to want to do it. Tourists bring in money and you must give good service."

Ms. Jeritzan Outten, Director of Tourism for Abaco, reiterated Ms Marcelle's message and encouraged the graduates to shine as the best who have ever graduated reminding them; "Our country is depending on you."

A graduate from each session spoke of their experiences with the Bahamas host program. Glenda Knowles remembered being plunged into ten days of intense knowledge, describing it as; "A journey into self-awareness; the first day of the rest of my life." Yvette Nixon praised the enthusiastic and very informative lecturers for providing a program which every Bahamian would do well to take advantage of while Jexel Tinker implored all graduates to provide service in the Bahamas which is fit for kings, queens, princes and princesses.

The graduates, smartly and colourfully dressed in Androsia fabric shirts, received their certificates from Dr Valerie Carpenter and Mrs Sherry Collie, Managers of Industry Training. Following the presentations the graduates proudly recited their mission statement and joined in the singing

of 'This land is our land'.

Master of Ceremonies for the occasion was Mr Don Cornish, District Manager, Bahamas Tourist Office in Florida and opening and closing prayers were offered by Bishop Anthony Campbell, President of the Abaco Christian Council.



The graduation for three sessions of the Bahamahost program was held in Marsh Harbour on December 13. The Bahamahost program was developed by the Ministry of Tourism to give its participants a broad background of Bahamian knowledge and is designed for everyone involved directly with our visitors.



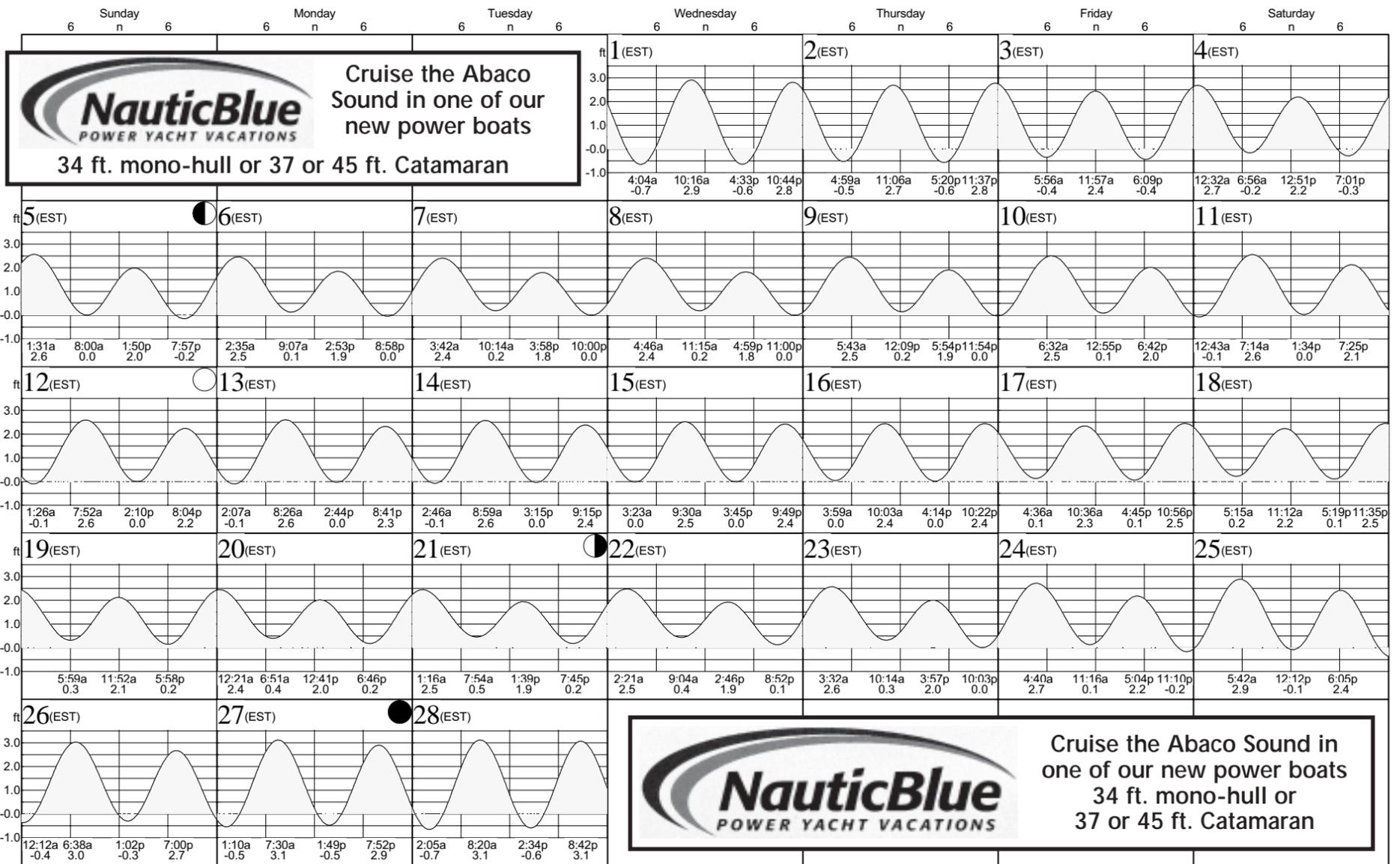
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Tide - North Bar Channel February 2006

Average Tides
Mean Range: 2.6 ft
MHWS: 3.1 ft
Mean Tide: 1.4 ft

Monthly High & Low
High February 28, 8:20a 3.1 ft
Low February 28, 2:05a -0.7 ft



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Central From Page 19

into the night ending around 9 p.m. Children of all ages enjoyed games like the wheel-barrel and egg and spoon races, Christmas gifts and bouncing castle which provided hours of entertainment. Throughout the day many lucky winners won prizes such as a DVD player, 19-inch color tele-

vision and stereo system which were raffled off.

Ham and turkey with all the fixings were served along with hamburgers and hotdogs for the kids.

The fun day was well attended, enjoyed by all and a great way for everyone to come together to celebrate the festive time of the year.



The wheelbarrel race was just one of the many games played by the girls and boys at the Family Fun Day at Spring City Park on December 30th. The first and second place winners received prizes. The FUn Day was sponsored by Gary Sawyer of Man-O-War.

Seminar Will Discuss Abaco's Medical Services

By Robert Wilson, Publicity Chairman
Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club

Accessing healthcare services while visiting Abaco will be the subject of a seminar to be held at the marquee at Boat Harbour Marina on February 15th. The seminar is open to land-based visitors as well as visiting yachtsmen.

The purpose of the seminar is to bring public attention to the available medical

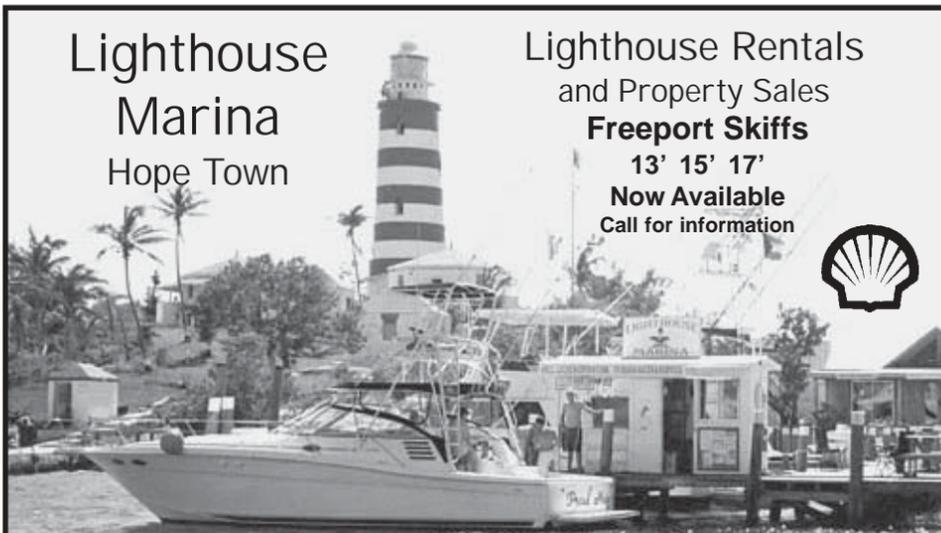
resources and services and how to access those services while on Abaco. The event is being sponsored by the Royal Marsh Harbour Yacht Club, the Marsh Harbour Marina and Yacht Club, Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour, the Ministry of Tourism and The Abaconian newspaper.

Interested parties should mark their calendars now. Additional announcements will be forthcoming.

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US Ambassador Visits Every Child Counts

By Jennifer Hudson

The students of Every Child Counts School were delighted when, on January 6, the American Ambassador, Mr John Rood, visited them. He was conducted on a tour of the school by Principal, Mrs Lynn Major, who showed him each class in session. Whilst the younger students were a little shy, the older students were very forthcoming and enjoyed interacting with him. Mrs. Major assured him that the little ones were not usually that quiet and Ms. Melanie's class of four year olds obliged him with a *Touch* song and *ABC* song in which he happily joined, delighting the little ones. Emily, a dear little girl with Down's Syndrome, gave him so many hugs it made his day.

Mr Rood told the children that he loves coming to Marsh Harbour whenever he can and said that he had heard about the school from U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, who spoke very highly of the school and asked him to come by. His message to all the children was, "Reading is a gift to you to open up the door to the world." He encouraged all the children to read as much as possible telling them that he himself loves to read. In Nassau he goes to schools every week and reads to the students; his favourite book to read to them is the story of Martin Luther King.

The older classes sat attentively in their desks while Mr. Rood spoke to them and then invited questions. There was a great rapport between the Ambassador and the students as he answered their questions such as "How long have you been here?" "What do you do?" "Is your house bigger than the White House?" "Did you ever meet President Bush?" "What did you do for fun?"

A group of older boys was in the kitchen helping to dry dishes under the guidance of their very patient teacher Mrs. Davies, who teaches other life skills such as cleaning and cooking. These young men greatly enjoyed having their photograph taken with Mr

Rood, who told them that his wife is still trying to teach him those same skills.

The oldest students in Mr. Mars class confidently introduced themselves and then presented Mr. Rood with a gift of cards designed by a student at the school and information about the school.

Mr. Rood expressed admiration for the dedication of the teachers and the excellent work they are doing with the children whom he found to be very impressive and well behaved with an enthusiasm for learning. He noted the school's need of financial assistance and vowed to try and help via private donors.

After touring the facility, Mr. Rood was taken to see the new classroom block now under construction. This is to be a two-storey building which will house three classrooms as the school is not able to accept any additional students until more classroom space is available. The commencement of construction on this new block was made possible by a very sizeable donation from a benefactor of the school who wishes to remain anonymous and a donation from a gentleman and his wife who also toured the facility along with Mr. Rood. Principal, Mrs. Major, says that she is relying on faith for funds to complete the building.

Michael Adams and his wife, Anyes, two American artists who arrived to take up residence in Guana Cay two months ago, enjoyed observing the students towards whose education they have donated money and stated that their desire is to make a difference on Abaco by contributing as much as they can. They selected the Every Child Counts School as they had heard such good things about its work with these special young people. Mr. Adams offered to assist any students who show talent and are especially interested in painting or pottery. Mr. Mars stated that there are, in fact, several students who show artistic talent and one student who is currently an intern with

sculptor Donny Woods.

In a brief press interview after his visit Mr Rood highlighted some of his embassy's achievements during his tenure such as work with hurricane relief, narcotics, immigration and HIV aids and stressed his goal of trying

to build an atmosphere of mutual respect between our two countries since The Bahamas and United States share many common values which he is trying to build upon. He reiterated his emphasis on reading initiatives of which he has been an advocate all his life. "Without literacy," he said, "one is doomed to a life of labour but literacy will open doors to any job."

Mr. Rood is concerned about the instability in Haiti and the large number of Haitians fleeing their country. He felt that there

was much room for cooperation between The Bahamas and the United States in finding ways to stem the problem. These would probably include assistance to help secure stability in Haiti and improve the economic situation there.



Ambassador Rood spoke to the students in each classroom of Every Child Counts emphasizing the importance of reading. He and the Embassy staff visit classrooms in Nassau regularly reading to the students there.

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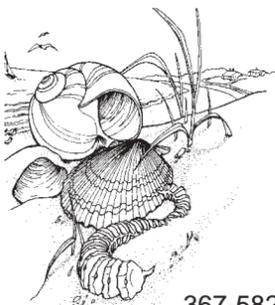
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Island-wide Abaco Listings		Man-O-War	
Abaco Vacations +	800-633-9197	Island Home Rentals +	8 hse 365-6048
Bahamas Vacations +	800-462-2426	Schooner's Landing	5 condos 365-6072
Abaco Bound +	242-367-5576	Marsh Harbour area	
Casuarina Point		Abaco Beach Resort	82 rms 367-2158
Different of Abaco	8 rm 20 cott 366-2150	Abaco Real Estate +	6 hse 367-2719
Cherokee		Alesia's	3 rms 367-4460
Lee Pinder +	3 hse 366-2053	Ambassador Inn	6 rms 367-2022
Grand Cay		Bustick Bight Resort	8 rms 367-3980
Rosie's Place	352-5458	Conch Inn	9 rms 367-4000
Green Turtle Cay		D's Guest House	6 rms 3 367-3980
Island Properties +	34 hse 365-4047	Great Abaco Club +	12 hse 367-4151
New Plymouth Inn	9 rm 365-4161	Island Breezes Motel	8 rms 367-3776
Ocean Blue Properties +	30 365-4636	Lofty Fig Villas	6 eff 367-2681
Roberts Cottages	3 cott 365-4105	Pelican Beach Villas	6 cott 367-3600
Guana Cay		Regattas (Prev. Abaco Towns)	32 eff 367-2227
Dolphin Bch Resort	4 rm 10 cott. 365-5137	Moore's Island	
Donna Sands +	12 hse 365-5195	Moore's Is Bonefish Camp	8 rm 366-6334
Guana Beach Resort	6 units 365-5133	Sandy Point	
Guana Seaside	8 rm 7 cott 365-5106	Oeisha's Resort	366-4139
Harbour View Haven	365-5028	Pete & Gay's Resort	14 rm 366-4119
Ocean Frontier	519-389-4846	Rickmon's Bonefishing	10 rm 366-4477
Sea Shore Villas	365-5028	Spanish Cay	
Hope Town		Spanish Cay Resort	18 rm 6 hse 365-0083
Abaco Inn	22 rm 366-0133	Treasure Cay	
Club Soleil	6 rm 1 cott 366-0003	Bahama Beach Club	365-8500
Crystal Villas	6 villas 321-783-4576	Banyan Beach Resort	21 rm 365-8111
Elbow Cay Prop +	53 hse 366-0035	Island Dreams +	45 hse 365-8507
Hope T Harb Lodge	25 rm 366 0095	Treasure Cay Resort	95 rms 365-8801
Hope T Hideaways +	63 hse 366-0224	Wood Cay	
Hope T Villas +	3 hse 366-0030	Tangelo Hotel	19 rm 3 villa 365-2222
Lighthouse Rentals	4 cott 366-0154	Web Sites with Abaco Information	
Sea Gull Cottages +	3 hse 366--0266	http://www.abaconian.com	
Sea Spray Resort	5 villas 366-0065	http://www.abacoinet.com	
Tanny Key +	43 hse 366-0053	http://www.abacoinfo.com	
Turtle Hill	4 villas 366-0557	http://www.abacos.com	
Lubbers Quarters		http://www.go-abacos.com	
Sea Level Cottages	4 hse 366-3121	http://www.oii.net	
		http://www.bahamas.com	

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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

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

Taxi Cab Fares for one or two passengers	
Plus extra for each passenger above two	
Between Marsh Harbour Airport and:	
Ferry Dock or Murphy Town to Ammons Dr	\$12 + \$3
Bristol Cellers thru A. Beach Hotel or Gov't dock thru Dundas Town	\$10 + \$3
Dove Plaza, Stop Light or Sawyer's Market	\$10 + \$2
Gov't Clinic thru Western Auto	\$6 + \$2
Gov. freight dock through Dundas Town	\$10 + \$3
Murphy Town to Shell Sta	\$14 + \$4
Pelican Shores to Frankie Russel house	\$14 + \$4
Eastern Shores to Peas & Rice house	\$14 + \$4
Beyond Russell house or Peas & Rice house	\$16 + \$5
Great Cistern	\$20 + \$5
Spring City	\$15 + \$5
Snake Cay	\$35 + \$10
Treasure Cay	\$60 + \$10
Casuarina Point	\$60 + \$10
Treasure Cay Airport or Bah Palm Shores	\$70 + \$10
Little Harbour or Cherokee	\$80 + \$10
Crossing Rocks	\$100 + \$10
Sandy Point	\$135 + \$10
Between Marsh Harbour Ferry and:	
Ab Beach Hotel thru Wally's & Eastern Shore	\$2 each
Jib Room	\$3 each
Solomon's Super Center	\$5 + \$3
Stop Light, Dove Plaza, Gov't dock	\$6 + \$3
Government Freight Dock	\$7 + \$3
Gov. Clinic, W. Auto or Nat. Insurance	\$9 + \$3
Mother Merle restaurant	\$10 + \$3
Waiting time \$20 per hour, \$10 per half hour	
Children under three - free • Uncaged pets - as people	
Luggage \$.50 each over four, Surf boards \$3.00 ea.	
Between Treasure Cay Airport and: Effective July 2004	
Treasure Cay Resort	\$18 + \$5
Madeira Park	\$12 + \$4
Green Turtle Cay ferry dock	\$6 + \$4
Moxy	\$16 + \$5
Bahamas Star farm	\$20 + \$5
Sand Banks	\$22 + \$5
Joe's Creek	\$40 + \$6
Black Wood	\$16 + \$5
Fire Road & Cooper's Town	\$35 + \$5
Cedar Harbour	\$50 + \$5
Wood Cay	\$55 + \$5
Mount Hope	\$60 + \$5
Fox Town	\$65 + \$5
Crown Haven	\$70 + \$5
Marsh Harbour Airport	\$70 + \$10
T Cay Hotel to Marsh Harbour	\$60 + \$10
T 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

Points of Interest	
Albert Lowe Museum	Green Turtle Cay
Capt Roland Roberts House, reef exhibits	Green Turtle Cay
Memorial Sculpture Garden	Green Turtle Cay
Wyannie Malone Historical Museum	Hope Town
Elbow Cay Light Station	Hope Town
Walk to & swim on Mermaid Reef off M Harbour Pelican Shore	
Drive to & swim in Blue Hole off Treasure Cay farm road	

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 B, Ft. Laud	367-2095
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 Calypso - Fort Lauderdale	367-0140
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	
Abaco Island Tours • Marsh Harbour	367-2936
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town	366-0024
Excursion boat • Froggies • Hope Town	366-0431

Ferry Schedule Departure times shown • Daily unless noted

Albury's Ferry Service • Ph 367-3147 or 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 • Phone 365-4166, 4128, 4151 • VHF Ch 16						
Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport						
8 am	9	11	12:15	1:30	3	4:30
Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay						
8:30 am	10:30	11:30	1:30	2:30	3:30	4:30 5
One way adult \$7 (Children \$3) • Round trip \$12 Extra to some destinations						

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

Pinder's Ferry Service Between Abaco & Grand Bahama -	
Crown Haven, Abaco to McLean's Town, Grand Bah. -Daily 7:00 am & 2:30 pm	
McLean's Town to Crown Haven - Daily 8:30 am & 4:30 pm	
Fare \$45 OW / \$90 RT • Children half fare • Call Abaco 365-2356 for information	
Bus between Freeport and McLean's Town • Rental automobiles at both terminals.	
Bahamas Ferries Sandy Point to Nassau under 4 Hr. Call Sandy Point 366-4119	
Wednesday, Friday & Sunday • Lv Sandy Point for Nassau • Adults \$90 RT, \$50 OW	
Islander Express - Bus - M Harbour & Sandy Point -call 366-4444 or 457-9958	
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The Great Abaco Express Marsh Harbour bus to N Abaco • Call 367-2165	
Lv Marsh H. 5 am & 12:30 pm, connect with ferry to Grand Bahama & bus to Freeport	
Lv Crown Haven 9:30 am & 5:30 pm bringing ferry passengers to Marsh Harbour	
From Freeport take cruise ship to Ft. Lauderdale or ferry to West Palm Beach	

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
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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

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 Marina	150 F 365-8250
Man-O-War	
Man-O-War Marina	26 F 365-6008
Marsh Harbour	
Boat Harbour Marina	183 F 367-2736
Conch Inn	75 F 367-4000
Harbour View Marina	36 F 367-2182
Marsh Harbour Marina	52 F 367 2700
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

Bonefish Guides	
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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
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Ricky Burrows 366-4233	North Abaco
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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

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Everyone reads The Abaconian
Please bring errors & corrections to our attention
Rev 11 Dec 05

Restaurant Guide	
Prices \$ Low, \$\$ Moderate, \$\$\$ Upper	
(Based on dinner entree range)	
+ Picnic tables & restroom only † Provides ride from town	
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
Mother Merle's	\$\$
Hope Town	
Abaco Inn	\$\$\$ 366-0133
Cap'n Jacks	\$ 366-0247
Harbour's Edge	\$\$ 366-0087
H T Harbour Lodge	\$\$\$ 366-0095
Munchies	\$ + 366-0423
Sea Spray	\$ † 366-0065
Man-O-War	
Pavilion	\$ 365-6185
Hibiscus	365-6380
Island Treats Snack Bar	365-6501
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
Plymouth Rock Cafe	365-4234
Rooster's Rest	\$\$ 365-4066
Sundowners	Open Nights Only
Wrecking Tree Restaurant	
Harbour Cafe (ferry dock)	\$ + 365-8635
Sandy Point	
Big J's	\$ 366-4020
Nancy's	
Oeishas	366-4139
Pete & Gays	\$\$\$ 366-4119
Seaside Inn	\$\$\$ 366-4120
Rickmon Bonefish Lodge	366-4477



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The Abaconian

SECTION B



VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2, JANUARY 15th, 2006

Holidays Were Highlighted by Junkanoo

Green Turtle Cay's Annual Rush Draws Crowds

Dump May Stay Until Fall

Noxious fumes and smoke from the Central Abaco dump were a constant irritant to Central Pines residents over the three weeks of the Christmas holidays. This was the main topic for those homeowners who met on January 10 at the Central Abaco Primary School for their monthly meeting. Trash fires are burned at the dump most days, and there was no escape from the thick acrid smoke.

Complaints to various authorities were unsuccessful as each person in authority pointed to someone else. The final discouraging word was that the dump may remain there until late fall or winter.

Ms. Green of Environmental Health thought the new solid waste landfill might be operational by August while Mr. Cubel Davis, Chief Councillor for Central Abaco, thought December was a more likely date.

Central Pines residents were unanimous in wanting the fires stopped to eliminate the smoke. They felt let down by government which built the subdivision across

Please see **Dump** Page 17



January 1st is the traditional day for the Green Turtle Cay Junkanoo Group to perform on the streets of New Plymouth. This year the parade was on January 2, the official holiday. Their colorful costumes were glittering in the bright sunlight as the parade is held mid-afternoon. The event annually attracts hundreds of visitors to the small community. The narrow streets and picket fences keep the dancers and observers tightly packed in. The costumes of the dancers were particularly artistic and elaborate this year attesting to many hours of work to create them. Their group included many younger dancers and music makers.

Annual Bird Count Is Taken

By Mirella Santillo

As early as 6 a.m. on December 14th a group of dedicated bird watchers met at the "Y," one of the entrances of the Abaco National Park, forty miles south of Marsh Harbour, to perform the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count for Abaco. This year, because the count fell on a week day, there were only four teams, about 12 people all together, each armed with binoculars and one telescope per group, ready to spend a day in the wilderness, not only to record the number of birds, but in the hope sight-

ing a rare species.

The weather could not have been more perfect, mild and sunny, very comfortable for a day of driving and walking in the forest. It must have been also perfect for the birds, for plenty of them were sighted including many loud parrots and such rarity as a shy Key West Quail-Dove that took off in front of us in a flash of rufus.

After covering their designated areas

Please see **Bird Count** Page 8

Central Abaco Held Junkanoo Competition



Central Abaco rang with the sound of cowbells and drums as the rush of four Junaknoo groups competed for first place. This costume is a stinging insect, the theme of the Spring City Stingers.

By Mirella Santillo

Four groups participated in the December 26th Junkanoo Parade in Marsh Harbour: The Spring City Rockers, the Spring City Stingers, the Dundas Town Supreme Dancers and the Murphy Town Mo-town Shockers. The Green Turtle Cay Rockers cancelled as the event was too close to their annual New Year's Day Parade. For the second year in a row, the first place went to the Spring City

Rockers. Second place went to the Spring City Stingers, third went to the Supreme Dancers and the last, to the Mo-Town Shockers

In spite of a very cold temperature that evening, a large crowd had assembled in front of Dove Plaza as early as 7 p.m., clad in sweat shirts and par-

Please see **Junkanoo** Page 14

Developer Tells His Story



Abaco realtor Anne Albury of Treasure Cay, Deputy Chairman of the Abaco Chapter of the Bahamas Real Estate Association, presented Capt. Leonard Thompson with a plaque acknowledging his contribution to the early development of Abaco. Capt. Thompson addressed the group, detailing the history of the Treasure Cay Resort. See story on page 2.

BREA Hears from Early Abaco Developer

On December 14th the Abaco Chapter of the Bahamas Real Estate Association held a Christmas luncheon in Treasure Cay at the Spinnaker Restaurant. The meeting was well attended and the guest speaker was Capt. Leonard Thompson who was introduced by Anne Albury, Deputy Chairman of the Association.

The setting and speaker were quite appropriate as Capt. Leonard (or Cap as he is fondly known by many) was the original developer of Treasure Cay. Mrs. Albury established the history by referring to the data from Prof. Steve Dodge, who indicates the original name to be Lovel Island, then Sand Banks and now Treasure Cay.

The 1783 landing place and first settlement of the Loyalists is actually near the

north end of Treasure Cay Beach and is known as Carleton. Capt. Leonard in less than a half hour gave a very informative presentation on his first sighting of Sand Banks during a flight in 1945 and his dream of developing it.

He had many obstacles including financial and political when he started bringing his dream to reality in the late 1950s.

Eventually he moved from Treasure Cay but not before creating a subdivision and resort including a hotel, marina and golf course.

This gentleman, now in his eighties, has so many memories of the "good old days." He served his country during the war as a pilot, was involved in commercial aviation in the Bahamas, served as a Member of Parliament, the developer Treasure Cay,

then the Great Abaco Beach Hotel and Boat Harbour Marina, now Abaco Beach Resort. All of this and he was always a family man with his wife Mary by his side with their six children.

The group was intrigued to hear of his experience as a Bahamian developer and applauded him on his drive and determination when he had to work against many odds.

Capt. Leonard was presented with a certificate from the Abaco chapter of BREA which read as follows: The Abaco Chapter

of the Bahamas Real Estate Association hereby recognizes and salutes Captain Leonard M. Thompson as a Bahamian son for his vision in planning and developing the Resort Subdivision of Treasure Cay as well as his numerous contributions through the years in serving his country, especially his beloved Abaco and its people.

The wording sums it up but to learn more about this Bahamian Legend we highly recommend reading the autobiography of Captain Leonard.



This 1963 aerial view of Treasure Cay shows the hotel, dredged channel and marina area. The original hotel burned in December 1960, shortly before it was scheduled to open. This is the second hotel to be built on the site.

Alert Resident Leads to Burglar Arrest

A resident of Treasure Cay did not realize that his crime would be noticed by a very observant person. He broke into a house in Treasure Cay and stole the keys to the owner's vehicle. He was taking the vehicle each night, returning it later that night which he did at least three times. However, another resident of Treasure Cay noticed new tire tracks on the ground

each morning and reported it to the police. The man was arrested around 8:30 p.m. on October 13 as he was leaving Treasure Cay in the vehicle. He pled guilty to his crime in Magistrate's Court in Marsh Harbour and was sentenced to 15 month in Fox Hill. He arrived in Nassau to begin his prison time just five days after his arrest.



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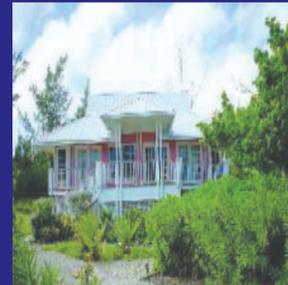
TREASURE CAY

BEACHFRONT "CASA BELLA" Luxury 3 bed 3.5 bath home bordering white sand & crystal blue water. Professionally decorated 5,200 sq. ft. of living space with 12 foot ceilings. Marble floors, granite countertops and more. US\$3,100,000. #2640
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WATERFRONT "HUNKALOO" Beautiful waterfront property consists of 2 br: 2 ba home & a 1 br 1 ba guest house. Tropical island foliage. Two plus acres that is Sea to Sea with protected docking on the Sea of Abaco. \$995,000. #2724
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HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY

WATER VIEWS "CLOUD NINE" Fractional ownership of 2 bed 2 bath cottage with lovely open floor plan. Located on Hope Town Point & two minute walk to beautiful white sand beach. \$225,000. #2427
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TREASURE CAY

BEACHFRONT "SEAGRAPES" Beautiful residence with awesome ocean views. Professionally decorated featuring 3 bedrooms 3.5 baths, open concept kitchen, dining & living rooms - ideal for entertaining. \$3,500,000. #2887
Stan Sawyer: 242.477.5821



TILLOO CAY

WATERFRONT "TILLOO DREAM" Two parcels, 1 acre on the Sea of Abaco, & 1/3 acre with a 1 bed 1 bath cottage which has a spacious deck & access to the Atlantic Ocean with a shared dock. \$597,000. #2723
Laurie Schreiner: 242.367.5046



BIMINI

WATERFRONT "BIMINI BAY" Beachfront and brand new 3 bed 2 bath designer furnished home in resort community. Includes 60' private dock slip. US\$1,890,000. #3086
Virginia Damianos, 242.359.0145



TREASURE CAY

WATER VIEWS "CROSSWINDS" Four bed 3 bath 2,800 sq. ft. family home and apartment. Located in multi-millionaire neighbour-hood. Family room, 2 central A/C's, 2 generators, 2 fresh water wells and garden. \$820,000. #2516
Stan Sawyer: 242.477.5821



TREASURE CAY

BEACHFRONT "SANDY SHORES" Beautifully laid out 3 bed 2.5 bath family home. This two storey home features an elevator and spacious living areas. Enjoy panoramic 360 degree views and serene ambience. \$1,700,000. #2934
Stan Sawyer: 242.477.5821



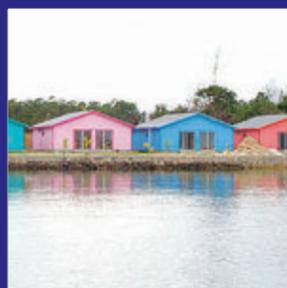
TREASURE CAY

BEACHFRONT "CASTLE ROCK" Nestled amid palm trees and tropical foliage is this 4 bed 4 bath home with heated fresh water swimming pool. Panoramic vistas at this world famous location. Excellent rental history. US\$1,550,000. #3029
Stan Sawyer: 242.477.5821



TREASURE CAY

SEA VIEWS "HILLTOP ESTATES" Hilltop 3 bed 2 bath home located 60 feet above sea level with scenic views. The five acre property features hundreds of fruit bearing trees, hillside cottage and double carport. \$650,000. #2115
Stan Sawyer: 242.477.5821



TREASURE CAY

WATERFRONT Prime development. Ten acre property with 460 feet waterfront, including a 120 foot beach. Four 2 bed 2 bath fully equipped cottages. Development potential as a marina, resort or fishing lodge. Price upon request. #2407
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TREASURE CAY

NEAR THE BEACH "CARIBE" With just a 3 minute walk to fabulous Treasure Cay beach, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features landscaped property and a spacious master bedroom. \$215,000. #2841
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TREASURE CAY

NEAR THE BEACH "HOME SWEET HOME" is a spacious 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with almost 1/2 an acre of backyard privacy. Fully furnished & in Turnkey condition with central A/C, heating, & ceiling fans. \$350,000. #3032
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TREASURE CAY

NEAR THE BEACH "RUBY'S LOVE" Comfortable 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath family home 5 minutes from Treasure Cay's world famous white powder sandy beach. Needs some TLC but is fully furnished. \$205,000. #3028
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GREEN TURTLE CAY

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Real Estate News

Paradise Announces New Abaco Realtor

Paradise Real Estate Limited is proud to announce the newest member of our real estate family in Marsh Harbour, Ms. Donna Darville. Donna has enjoyed a diverse back-



ground of work experience, excelling in the insurance industry as an assistant underwriter and further with a leading re-

tailer. She was promoted to Store Manager and relocated to Marsh Harbour where she consistently grew the company's bottom line year after year. Her commitment to excellence and customer service, as well as her experience in real estate sales and rentals, has led her to become a welcomed part of the Paradise Real Estate team. Her warm and friendly personality, coupled with her commitment to customer satisfaction will continue to be an asset to the Bahamas real estate industry. To enjoy a truly rewarding real estate experience, whether buying, selling or renting, contact Donna at the Paradise Real Estate Marsh Harbour office at 242-367-SOLD (7653) or at donna@paradisebahamas.com.

Damianos Represents Prestigious Firm

In July Damianos Realty was awarded exclusive master franchise rights for the Sotheby's International Realty brand for the Bahamas. The

company has five offices in The Bahamas.

George Damianos and Virginia Damianos-Premock, owners of the firm, will operate four offices as Damianos Sotheby's International Realty, and a fifth office as Lyford Cay Properties Sotheby's International Realty.

"Joining the Sotheby's International Realty network allows us to take our client service to an even higher level," Mr. Damianos said. "In addition to the prestigious name, we can provide greater global exposure for our Bahamian property listings, thus securing the best possible value for our clients.. Being connected to such a strong and powerful real estate network is a tremendous benefit to our firm and, most importantly, to our clients. The properties listed by these offices will be marketed to a worldwide audience."

The firm was established in 1945 and specializes in the finest luxury properties the Bahamas has to offer, including waterfront estates, beach front condominiums, private islands and vacation homes.

Damianos Sotheby's International Realty has three offices in the Family Islands - Marsh Harbour and Hope Town on Abaco and one on Eleuthera.

Damianos vice president Virginia Damianos-Premock said, "A common misconception is that Sotheby's International Realty brokerages handle only multi-million dollar properties. However, the mission of Sotheby's International Realty is to provide unparalleled knowledge and service to all clients, regardless of price range."

One of Damianos's top agents is Kerry Sullivan, Estate Agent, in Hope Town. Kerry Sullivan is recognized as the outstanding specialist for Hope Town and Elbow Cay.



Kerry joined Damianos Sotheby's International Realty in 2002 and has consistently held her status as a top

producer among her company and colleagues.

While attending university in Canada, Kerry's love for music and talent as a singer led her to perform internationally which

helped to finance her through college. After graduation Kerry worked in sales and marketing for a Canadian company, moving on to become an account executive, then an advertising representative for print in conjunction with a Canada firm.

In 1997 Kerry made a life altering decision by accepting a position in sales and marketing with a local internet company. A year later she met her future husband, Todd Cash, President of Abaco Construction Ltd. Todd's sharing of knowledge in the construction industry has been extremely valuable and a contributor to Kerry's overall success as a top producing realtor.

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#2175

**Tamarind Hill
White Sound**



\$1,200,000

Incredible hilltop home named for the ancient Tamarind tree that stands proudly surrounded by the breezy wraparound verandah. Beautiful, fully furnished 2 bed 2 bath home with one bedroom apartment and one acre of land in very private Lucayos Subdivision. Awesome view of the Sea of Abaco. Community dock steps away.

#1849

Buttonwood



\$143,000

This lovely, elevated lot overlooks the Sea of Abaco and is located in the quiet Buttonwood subdivision. Only a 10 minute walk to the settlement of White Sound and the beach, this lot is an excellent spot to build a cottage or rental home surrounded by native foliage. The community dock is just down the hill from the property.

#2136

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



\$868,000

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

#2205

Long Beach



\$89,000

Breathtaking views await you once you are standing upon this lovely 10,000 square foot hill top property in Long Beach. Lot # 370 is a corner lot with great elevation and views of the open Atlantic Ocean. Nestled in a quiet neighbourhood about 30 minutes south of Marsh Harbour with quality neighbours to entertain once you build your dream home.

#2168

**Beautiful Wooded Lot
Elbow Cay**



\$144,000

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

#1852

**'West Wind'
Buttonwood**



\$1,500,000

Beautiful home overlooking the Sea of Abaco. Private dock permit already approved. Ideal family hideaway w/ private water access. 2 of the 4 beds have private quarters & baths. Ideal for entertaining, there is a bar set into the living room & a cosy fireplace to enjoy on those cooler tropical evenings. Wraparound decks are the perfect spot to enjoy the ocean view.

#2172

Bahama Palm Shores



\$156,000

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

NEW LISTING!

#2221

Long Beach



\$549,900

Gorgeous, 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath secluded home situated beachfront on the shores of Long Beach, minutes from Marsh Harbour. This picture book 2 story beach house is newly constructed, never lived in - move in and decorate to your own taste. Excellent construction - Hardy panel siding and hurricane resistant windows.

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School News

National Debate Declares a Winner

By Samantha Evans

On January 5th the National Debate for the Abaco District was held at the Learning Resources Center. The two schools competing for the chance to represent Abaco in Nassau were Forest Heights Academy and S.C. Bootle High School. The topic being debated was *Should school uniforms be abolished?*

The debate got underway with a bang as S.C. Bootle presented as the opposing team. Some of the reasons given for schools wearing uniforms were: economical for parents, keeps schools safe by being able to identify students, limits choices for students and teaches them discipline.

Forest Heights quickly sought to squash the opposition by presenting their reasons for abolishing uniforms. Some reasons given were: they are hideous, they make some students look like prisoners (stripes),

they take away the freedom of choice and they do not consider the attire of other religious beliefs (ie. Muslims, Rastas).

The rebuttal was fierce as each team realized the need to solidify its victory. However, only one school could win. S.C. Bootle ended up winning the debate with 1079 points. Forest Heights was close behind with 1029 points.

The coordinator for this event was Mrs. Felamease Sawyer from the Department of Education, Marsh Harbour Office who praised the students for a job well done. She thanked the coaches for taking up the challenge and preparing the students. She encouraged S.C. Bootle to begin preparing for the National Debate in Nassau where they will go up against Cat Island. She stressed to them that we can not let Cat Island win again. Abaco must bring the victory home this time. Considering the talent in the room, S.C. Bootle has a good chance to win. The debate will be held in Nassau on January 20th, 2006.

Both schools were critiqued by the four judges who gave individual as well as group strengths and weaknesses. The students received certificates at the end of the debate.

Abaco Central High Students Attend Science Alliance Conference

By Mirella Santillo

A group of students from Abaco Central High School attended the three day Science Alliance Conference sponsored by Friends of the Environment from January 6th to January 9th. Thirty-five students attended the classroom session on Friday, while

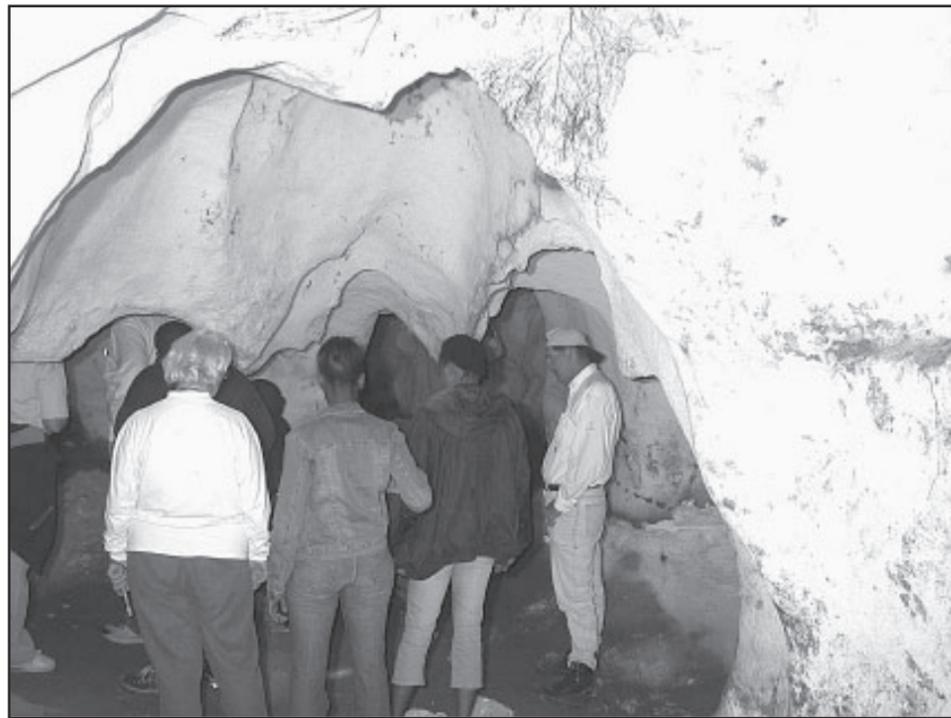
about half of them showed up for the Saturday lectures and the following field trips, which also took place on Sunday.

Accompanied by Ms. Michelle Bailey, head of the science department on Saturday and by Mrs. Janet Wedgewood, a chemistry teacher, on Sunday, the group discovered parts of Abaco that they had not seen before.

Four 11th graders, Matthew Wedgewood, Jonathan Simms, Andre

Please see **School**

Page 8



Abaco Central High School students went on field trips during the Abaco Science Conference and enjoyed participating in the activities. They saw Abaco parrots, visited caves, saw bats, went to Hole-in-the-Wall, saw a fossilized crocodile skull recovered from a blue hole and explored a creek blocked by a causeway. Here the group is in a cave at Hole-in-the-Wall.



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Yellowwood hillside 1208 - Hillside lot with great views of Cherokee and the mainland beaches and ocean looking south and views of Winding Bay.



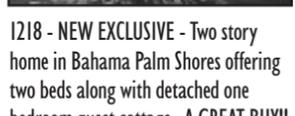
Guana Beach House 1117 - two bedroom beach house on beautiful beach perched on high dune. Great views. Excellent rental



Yellowwood oceanfront 1221 - 0,000+ square foot oceanfront lot with spectacular views of Watching Bay. Over 120' of oceanfront



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Man-O-War-#5439- 2/bed/bath island home. 1,280s q.ft. Features generator, tool shed, wrap around covered porch. Partially furnished and awaiting its new owner-\$399,000-Call Mailin



Green Turtle Cay-#5532-Beach house on Bita Bay features 2beds/2bath and panoramic views of the turquoise ocean. Ideal spot for great snorkeling just off shore. Central A/C, fully equipped kitchen, water maker and more. Great rental history-Call Chris



Orchid Bay-#5428- Gorgeous bay front lot available in Orchid Bay. Over 1/2 acre, and runs more than 100' on the Sea of Abaco. Picturesque views of the sea and surrounding cays. Best of both worlds-dockage and beach access. 705,000-Call Mailin



Manjack Cay- 10 acres of property with beautiful beachfront at both ends. Protected anchorage on west side. Close to Green Turtle Cay. Great development property -\$2,000,000-Call one of our agents today!



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



Marsh Harbour- #5464- 2bed/ 2 bath home situate in Sweeting's Village, a fast growing neighbourhood. Furnished, central A/C, hobby room and outside patio space. \$250,000-Call Mailin



Green Turtle Cay-#5347 - this island dream is a rare find for the discerning yachtsman who's looking for privacy and all the amenities the island has to offer. 2 bed/2bath home also has a private dock and dredged channel. Offered at \$2,300,000.00-Call Chris



Man-O-War Cay # 5509 3 bed/3bath, two story home. Short distance to the Atlantic Ocean. Features an upstairs loft, 17.5 KW generator, several outdoor patios, basement, manicured lawn. \$750,000.00-Call Mailin



Man-O-War Cay-#5451-Two cottages, both with 2beds/2baths located on 16,000 sq. ft. of waterfront property. Features 60,000 gallon rain water cistern, generator house and 15KW generator. Endless views of the Atlantic Ocean. Great vacation getaway. Post card pretty view. \$1,100,000.00-Call one of our agents.



Yellowwood-#5484-Large waterfront lot available. Comprising 37,368 sq.ft of property, this parcel commands endless ocean views and runs 184' on the Atlantic. Great lot for your dream ocean front home. Close to The Abaco Club on Winding Bay and only minutes from Cherokee Sound-\$275,000-Call Mailin



Lubbers-#0350 -vacant lot in Abaco Ocean Club is available. This lot comprises 10,125 sq.ft. , and is a great building lot. Quiet, and peaceful surroundings. Don't delay -\$70,000-Call Mailin



Long Beach- #5520- Long Beach is a peaceful 40 minute drive from Marsh Harbour. Lot 115 is a corner lot and 1/4 acre in size. All lots have access to a beautiful powder white beach. \$55,000.00-Call Mailin



Yellowwood-#5492-Vacant property features elevations and views of Cherokee Sound. This 33,690 sq.ft. lot is in a great location for a home.. Close proximity to Cherokee Sound and Little Harbour-\$82,000-Call Mailin



Leisure Lee-PRICE REDUCED #5366- 3 bed, 2-bath home in quiet neighborhood. 1,600 sq.ft. living space, extensive wrap around screened in porch and central A/C. All lots have beach access. \$325,000.00 - Call Mailin



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 - Call Mailin



Yellowwood-#5263-2B/2B cottage newly built. on large lot -100' x 150'. Features a laundry room, outside patios, and a hobby room.central A/C, and all appliances are included. Close to Cherokee Sound. A MUST SEE!-\$219,000 -Call Mailin



Where will you stretch
 Your hammock?

Abaco Participated in Audubon Bird Count

Bird Count

From Page 1

ranging from northeast of the Y, south-east to Hole-in-the-Wall, south to The Crossing and west to Sandy Point, the four teams met back at the starting point at 4 p.m. to drive together to Sandy Point, where the counts were tallied and officially recorded while enjoying drinks and a well deserved dinner of lobster, fish or chicken at Nancy's. There in the sunset, many more birds were seen: seagulls, cormorant and turnstones, not part of the count, but a graceful sight against the bright Abaco sunset. All together 87 different species were recorded and a total of 2,250 birds were sighted in the National Park on December 14th.

"Far and away, the most successful count ever recorded on Abaco," com-

mented Dr. Bracey, who is anxious to have more local birders become involved.

The bird watchers had come from many different places to participate in the event. Some came from faraway places: from Maryland Mr. Niles Primrose, a frequent visitor to Little Harbour, who has a degree on water fowl study and used to conduct the Audubon count in Maryland; from Atlanta, Georgia., Mr. Bruce Hallett, a noted bird photographer, who is in the process of releasing a book *Birds of The Bahamas*; from Inglewood, Florida, Mr. and Mrs. Duch, new to the Abaco project who will also participate in the Freeport and Nassau counts; Mr. Tony White, on the Bahamas National Trust Board of Directors and author of *A birder's guide to The Bahamas*; Mr. Lionel Levine, Ms. Denny Moore and Mr. Paul Dean who all came from Nassau.

Locally we had the company of Dr. Elwood Bracey from Treasure Cay, the Chairman of this year's Abaco bird count, and Mr. and Mrs. Ball from Little Harbour.

One of the participants, Mr. Paul Dean, is one of The Bahamas' most noted birder, (he was the first to spot the Kirtland's Warbler on Abaco). He offers bird watching tours in Nassau and trained several individuals in bird watching on Inagua, Andros and Abaco in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, to have them conduct guided tours on these islands. He hopes that one day young people will become more interested in that profession so they can share the richness of their country's environments with many visitors.

Most of the watchers were flying the following morning to Freeport for the Grand Bahama count which was to take place on December 16th, then on to Nassau on Saturday, for the New Providence count which took place on Sunday the 18th.

School

From Page 6

Singh, Juan Armbrister, and seven 12th graders, Javal Thompson, who studies bio- physics and chemistry, Thomassina Stuart, who wants to be a teacher, Samantha Pinder, a future law student, Belinda Jacob, hoping to become a nurse, Andra Johnson, interested in law and twins Lunique and Lathera Lightbourn, all roughed it up in the back of pick up trucks for the trip to Sawmill Sink on Saturday and Hole-in-the-Wall the following day. They walked to the lighthouse, made their way down the narrow path overgrown with gnarled sea grapes to the cliff that held the blue hole and went down the ladder leading to the caves in hope of seeing a bat colony.

Most of them were not prepared for the surprise discovery of another crocodile fossil at the Sawmill Sink and for all except for Lathera who was awed by the Hole-in-the-Wall, witnessing the recovery of the fossil, was the highlight of the field trip.

On the way to the lighthouse, the convoy of trucks carrying the participants passed through several flocks of parrots, screeching and eating pine cones, unaware of the enthralled spectators inspecting them through binoculars or trying to take photographs. For some of the young people, it was the first time they had ever seen a Bahama parrot.

Even though hardly any of them are interested in botany, paleontology or ornithology, all agree that they had a good time and were happy they went.



The bird counters ended the day at Nancy's Restaurant in Sandy Point. Dr. Bracey from Treasure Cay was one of the organizers and is seen here in the foreground tallying up the sightings. Sitting across from him are Bob and Allison Ball from Little Harbour.

Civic Organizations

Kiwanis Club of Great Abaco

Tuesday, 7 p.m., weekly at Mackerel's Restaurant, Dundas Town, 367-5932

Pilot Club of Abaco

Third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Central Abaco Primary, Dundas Town, 367-3457

Pilot Club of South Abaco

Last Thursday, monthly, J.A. Pinder School, Sandy Point, 366-4001

Rotary Club of Abaco

Tuesdays, 6 p.m., weekly at Anglers Restuarant, Abaco Beach Resort



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MARSH HARBOUR - BY AIRPORT ROUND-ABOUT

Business Owners Look Back

By Jennifer Hudson

Now that the "busyness" of the Christmas season is over, merchants, hoteliers and airlines have time to look back over the fruits of the season. All of the major airlines and charter companies contacted had recorded large amount of traffic during the Christmas season and extending well into the New Year with all flights coming in full. American Airlines was fully booked until after January 9, 2006.

Some passengers travelling to Abaco on Christmas Day experienced delays owing to the extremely bad weather that day. One of Continental Airlines flights came in late as the plane was unable to land for some time owing to the torrential rain. One American Airlines flight, on arrival at Marsh Harbour from Miami, was unable to land at all and had to return to Miami with its passengers. Bahamasair was unaffected since it is the

policy of that airline not to fly on Christmas Day.

Vintage Props and Jets felt that this Christmas they were busier even than last year with six flights a day over the Christmas season with their 19 seater coming in twice a day in addition to all their nine-seater flights. Yellow Air Taxi had eight flights in on Boxing Day and at least three on all other days and felt that they had also been busier this year than last. Abaco Air reported laying on several charter flights in addition to their regular scheduled flights while Cherokee Air stated that they had been "busier than busy."

Hotel owners did not record full occupancy over Christmas but were expecting a large influx of guests in time for the New Year. Abaco Inn, Hope Town Harbour Lodge and the Great Abaco Beach Hotel were all expecting full occupancy for New Year. Mr. John

Neophytou, general manager of the Abaco Beach Hotel, remarked that last year his hotel experienced a higher occupancy over Christmas due to the large number of insurance adjusters who were still resident there dealing with the aftermath of Hurricanes Jeanne and Francis. This Christmas, however, he felt that there were less tourists on Abaco in general since the majority of our tourists come from Florida and many areas of Florida were still trying to regroup after

the ravages of Hurricane Wilma.

Some of the gift shops both in Marsh Harbour and Hope Town reported a drop in business over Christmas this year but expected things to pick up after Christmas as a greater influx of tourists for New Years has been the trend for quite some time. It certainly promised to be a happy and successful New Year for all involved in the business of tourism by the arrivals already evident in the days following Christmas.

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"Casuarina Beach House"

(Ref #350) Fabulous 2 storey 6 bedroom, 5.5 bath, fully furnished, plus efficiency, pool, 80' beach frontage, recently renovated \$2,300,000.

"Beachfront Vacant Lot"

(Ref #462) 1.82 acre cleared lot with 144' of prime beach frontage, located on prestigious Ocean Blvd, all utilities available, limited beach lots available in this area. Price \$1,550,000.

"Harbour's Edge"

(Ref #191) 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,500 s/f harbour front home, 90' of bulkhead for dock with 8+/- depth, waterfront views though large glass doors, open kitchen, interior decor includes hand painted tropical mural, 2 car garage, 1/3 acre lot with privacy walls, Mediterranean style pool, fully furnished. Price: \$1,265,000.

"Four Bedroom Mariner's Cove"

(Ref #454) Luxurious fully furnished 4 bedroom, 3 bath two level waterfront condominium overlooking both Treasure Cay Marina and poolside. Large kitchen for entertaining, master suite overlooks marina with sitting area and balcony. Price \$485,000.

"Brigantine Beach Condo"

(Ref #369) 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath bath townhouse with ocean views just steps from the beach, furnished, rental history \$458,000.

"Canal Lot on Brigantine Bay"

(Ref #321) Oversized, cleared, 130' canal frontage, deep water \$365,000.

"Two Bedroom Mariner's Cove"

(Ref #454) 2 bedroom, 1 bath fully furnished, two level poolside unit within view of Treasure Cay Marina and just a 5 minute walk from the Treasure Cay Beach. Can be combined with listing #455 to make a 3 bed/2bath with open living area. Price \$317,900.

"One Bedroom Mariner's Cove"

(Ref #455) 1 bed, 1 bath fully furnished ground floor poolside unit. Mariner's Cove offers pool, tennis courts, laundry facilities, on site management, good rental potential. Price \$200,000.

"Canal Lot Package"

(Ref #396) Two adjoining canal lots sold together as a package for a total of 20,000 +/- sq. ft. on Galleon Bay Drive and 168'+ of bulkhead, cleared, possible ocean views \$275,000 each or \$540,000.

"Residential Inland Lot"

(Ref #442) Choice residential lot on paved Flamingo Drive, located just one block from Ocean Blvd. 10,000 s/f & 80' on the road. All utilities are available at the property boundary, including TV & DSL. Price \$45,000.

LEISURE LEE:

"Rock's Cleft"

(Ref #466) Fully furnished, topsider home, 3 bedroom, 3 bath with 2,600 s/f on 2 levels located on peninsula with 360 degree waterfront views, canal front dockage for 100'+ yacht, boat ramp, lots of amenities includes vehicle and boat. Price: \$986,000.

LITTLE HARBOUR:

"Waterfront Property"

(Ref #347) 2.2 acres, sea to sea, total 280' water frontage, ideal for boat dockage in protected Little Harbour, large natural cave. \$910,000.

NORTH ABACO:

"Waterfront Lot"

(Ref #431) Large waterfront lot includes 20,000+ sq.ft with 110 ft of waterfront on the Sea of Abaco. Deep water access, views of Spanish Cay just 3 miles south of Coopers Town. All utilities accessible. \$114,500. **REDUCED**

BAHAMA PALM SHORES:

"Beach Front Parcel"

(Ref #337) Spacious 17,129 sq. ft., 124 foot sandy beach frontage on Atlantic Ocean, Spectacular ocean views \$299,000.

TURTLE ROCKS:

"Turtle's Rock"

(Ref #361) 3 bedroom 2.5 bath beach front home built in 2000 on 1.18 acres with 102' on the beach, very private area, fully furnished. \$755,000.

GUANA CAY:

"Two Commercial Lots"

(Ref#368) 2 adjoining lots, harbour front road location, across from the public dock, total frontage 161 feet, \$245,000 each.

BUSTICK BIGHT:

"Waterfront Acreage"

(Ref#381) 2.73 acres, featuring 900'+ of water front on protected Bustick Bight, located just 6 miles north of Marsh Harbour, open zoning, ideal location \$425,000.

SPLIT ROCK:

"Waterfront Parcels"

(Ref#299) Large waterfront lot(s) in new "Split Rocks" subdivision. This prime property consists of 1.39 acres and features over 100 feet of frontage on the beautiful Sea of Abaco. Call for pricing.

MARSH HARBOUR:

"Great Abaco Club Canal Lot"

(Ref#440) Choice cleared lot ready for construction in highly desirable gated community, dockage potential for 55' vessel plus 26' runabout, location provides great rental home possibilities and use of all resort amenities. Limited number of lots available in this community! Price - \$499,000.

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#9297: Bordering the Sea of Abaco with the Atlantic Ocean to the east, this expansive parcel boasts 77 fabulous acres, including high elevations, a pond, dense native coppice, numerous coconut palm trees and pristine white sand beaches. **Serious inquiries only, please.**

TREASURE CAY



#9601. Building site situated in Anchorage Estates, the perfect location for a small multi-family project. Located adjacent to the round-about, this 14,000 sq.ft. lot is zoned multi-family and could be developed for a small boutique style resort. **\$69,500.**

REDUCED!

BAHAMA PALM SHORES



#8928. Secluded 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Located directly across the lane from Eight Mile Bay and its gorgeous beach. Rooftop deck enjoys some of the best views in the area. Room to expand and put your personal touch to this promising home. **\$422,000**

BAHAMA PALM SHORES



#9939. Lovely wooded home site located in the secluded community of Bahama Palm Shores. The site is situated within 300 ft of the gorgeous 8 Mile Bay and its sugar sand beach! Build up for views and breeze. Priced to sell! **\$38,000.**

UNDER CONTRACT!

DUNDAS TOWN



#9092: Modern triplex with efficiency apartment. Well-built, solid concrete construction, tile floors. Spacious back yard. Convenient to Government Primary school and all amenities. Nice quiet cul-de-sac location. Fully furnished, this won't last long! **\$285,000.**

REDUCED!

LEISURE LEE



#9770: Leisure Lee. Lovely, oversized wooded home site containing 18,204 sq. ft. Inland location, road-to-road site with possible views of canal system and the Sea of Abaco if buyer "builds up". A greenway borders one boundary making the site secluded and private. **\$68,500.**

GREENLAND BAY



#9510: Greenland Bay. Gorgeous, unspoiled beach front, dazzling white sand, rolling grassland interior. Parcels encompass 100 to 200 feet on the beach, depth of +/-300'. 30 miles south of Marsh Harbour. Only one parcel may be sold in each instance; the entire acreage is not offered a whole. Starting at **\$120,000.**

MURPHY TOWN



#9323. Just built and never lived in! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, nicely detailed with arched interior doorways, tile and modern fully equipped kitchen. The perfect starter home for a young family. Near Government high school and all conveniences of town living. **\$150,000.**

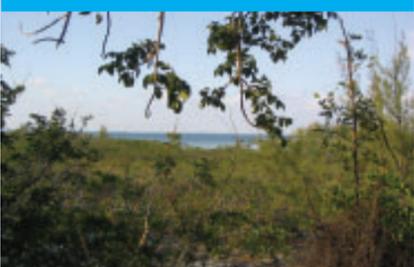
EASTERN SHORES



#9486: Rare homesite located on the secluded peninsula of Eastern Shores. Property runs sea-to-sea, 70' on the protected "Creek", western boundary runs 120', eastern boundary 133'. **Serious inquiries only, please.**

UNDER CONTRACT!

BAHAMA CORAL ISLAND



#9492. Lovely homesite in secluded Bahama Coral island; just 10 minutes north of Marsh Harbour. Elevated and just across from natural wildlife area and 5 minutes to the secluded beach area. Great views if "built up"! Buy now for the future! **\$21,000.**

SWEETINGS VILLAGE



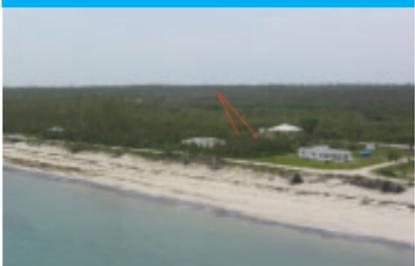
#9073. NEW! Almost new! Nicely elevated cottage overlooks the Sea of Abaco and catches every tropical breeze. Two bedrooms, 2 baths, hobby room, laundry nook, home is wired for generator power. Tiled living areas, carpeted bedrooms. Sturdy cement construction, tongue and groove ceilings. The perfect first home or retirement cottage! Move in condition! **\$230,000.**

BAHAMA CORAL ISLAND



#9935. Lovely home site of approximately 10,000 sq.ft with high elevation and views of the sea on the west of Abaco and the South side. Conveniently located just 3 miles north of Marsh Harbour. **\$35,000.**

BAHAMA PALM SHORES



#3646: Two nice side-by-side home sites just 300 feet from Eight Mile Bay Beach. Good elevation, cleared and ready to build. Buy both for a generous building envelope and 'build up' for Atlantic Ocean views and breezes. **\$41,000 each.**

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Police Crime Report

A woman living in the Mud was arrested on December 12 and later released on bail for keeping an unlicensed shop. Confiscated were 15 cases of sodas, eight cases of Sonda juice, 10 cases of Mystic beverage, three cases of Gatorade, eight boxes of Roma detergent and two large bags of clothing and shoes.

Six young men were arrested for gambling in a public place just before midnight on December 22. Three of the men were from Dundas Town, two were from Marsh Harbour and one was from Nassau.

A resident of Moore's Island had his house broken into during the night of December 22. Stolen were four cartons of cigarettes, one bottle of Compari, one bottle of Mr. Boston and a package of meat.

A Cooper's Town man was arrested on December 24 for using abusive language the previous day.

At sundown on December 23 an Isuzu Rodeo SUV ran off the highway outside Sandy Point near the airstrip. Dead at the scene were Chantell Reckley and Maxine Swain, both of Dundas Town. The driver and her four-year-old daughter were treated

in the Sandy Point clinic, then air-lifted to Nassau for further treatment. A four-year-old girl was treated and released.

The Marsh Harbour Service Station was broken into during the night of December 24 or the next day. Stolen was a \$60 toolbox.

A resident of Hard Bargain, Moore's Island, was hit in the head by a beer bottle during a fight at a local bar about 10 pm on December 26.

A Murphy Town man was arrested on December 27 for shop breaking, stealing and receiving when found at a local bar there with \$2850 worth of amplifiers, speakers and other sound equipment. The items had been reported stolen on December 4.

A woman living in the Mud reported being beaten about her body with a hammer by her boyfriend who came home drunk about 9 p.m. on December 27. Her boyfriend was arrested about noon the next day.

A resident of Pigeon Peas in Marsh Harbour was shot at while in the Sea Grape area of the Mud. This happened about 8:30 p.m. on January 2 by someone he identified.

Customs Auctioned Unclaimed Goods

By Jennifer Hudson

On December 12 more than 200 people gathered at the Port Authority for an auction of unclaimed goods being held by the Customs Department. According to the Customs Management Act, goods remaining unclaimed over a three-month period are eligible for auction. Normally these auctions are held once a year rather than every three months in order to allow people ample time to clear their merchandise. This, however, was the first such auction in Abaco for many years. It was an open auction which allowed the right to retain a reserve price or to reject all bids. The auctioneer is always appointed by the Minister of Finance.

Monies raised are used to pay Customs charges including duty, stamp tax and storage charges. Once these charges have been covered, shipping companies have

the right to file a claim on any residue. Beyond that owners can apply, though by this time there is not usually much left.

Prior to the auction, a list of items is prepared at Customs and brokers are invited to view the lists with the right to clear any merchandise right up until the night before the auction. A large variety of goods was auctioned including 15 used cars, two boats, trailers, appliances, furniture, paint, auto parts, lumber, building materials, used engines, a bicycle, a satellite dish and even a Jacuzzi and two dental chairs.

There was much excitement at this very competitive auction at which 99 percent of the merchandise was sold. People went home very happy with some extremely good buys and are already asking when the next auction will be.

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Business News

By Portia Jonsson

Marsh Harbour continues to consolidate its status as the commercial center of Abaco as more and more retail outlets and businesses open. The latest are Kids Will Be Kids Daycare, Gas Suppliers Limited and High Profile Beauty Salon.

As the population of Abaco continues to grow so does the demand for more schools, learning centers and daycare facilities. **Kids Will Be Kids Daycare** has opened its doors to help meet the need. Located behind the Memorial Plaza in the white and green trimmed house, the center cares for children ages 5 months to 4 years and after-schoolers ages 5 to 6. Kids Will Be Kids is fully air-conditioned with a fenced in playground and large playroom for children

to enjoy toys, games and books.

Rates are \$5 hourly, \$20 daily, \$80 weekly (Monday through Friday) and \$10 for after school care (3 p.m.-5 p.m.) This daycare has been the dream of Ms. Alanna Thompson for a long time seeing a need to accommodate working parents and mothers who need to run errands. For more information and an application form please call Alanna at 367-2583.

High Profile Beauty Salon located in the B&L Plaza and owned and operated by International Stylist and Certified Cosmetologist and Barber, Ms. Malissa Parker, opened for business on November 10th last year. Ms. Parker, a hometown girl from Fox Town, has been a stylist for 15 years having worked in Orlando, Bermuda and Nassau as a Se-

nior and VIP Stylist. High Profile's main focus is hair care and specializes in relaxers, treatments, highlights, cuts, pin-ups, finger waves, braiding and pony-tails using the complete line of Mizani products, specially formulated for women of color. Salon hours are Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Earlier and later appointments are available and appointments are preferable but walk-ins are welcomed. Give them a call today at 367-0377.

Located on East Bay Street next to Wally's Restaurant is **Gas Suppliers Limited** specializing in propane gas sales, installation and the repair of stoves and grills. Business hours are Monday - Friday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Saturday 9

a.m.- 2 p.m. Gas Suppliers, managed by Mr. Justin Kemp with over 17 years in this field, carries gas tanks in standard sizes, 20 pound and 100 pound, and provides service and delivery, free of charge, to North Abaco. Telephone them at 367-0382 or fax 367-0383.

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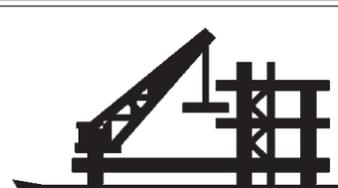
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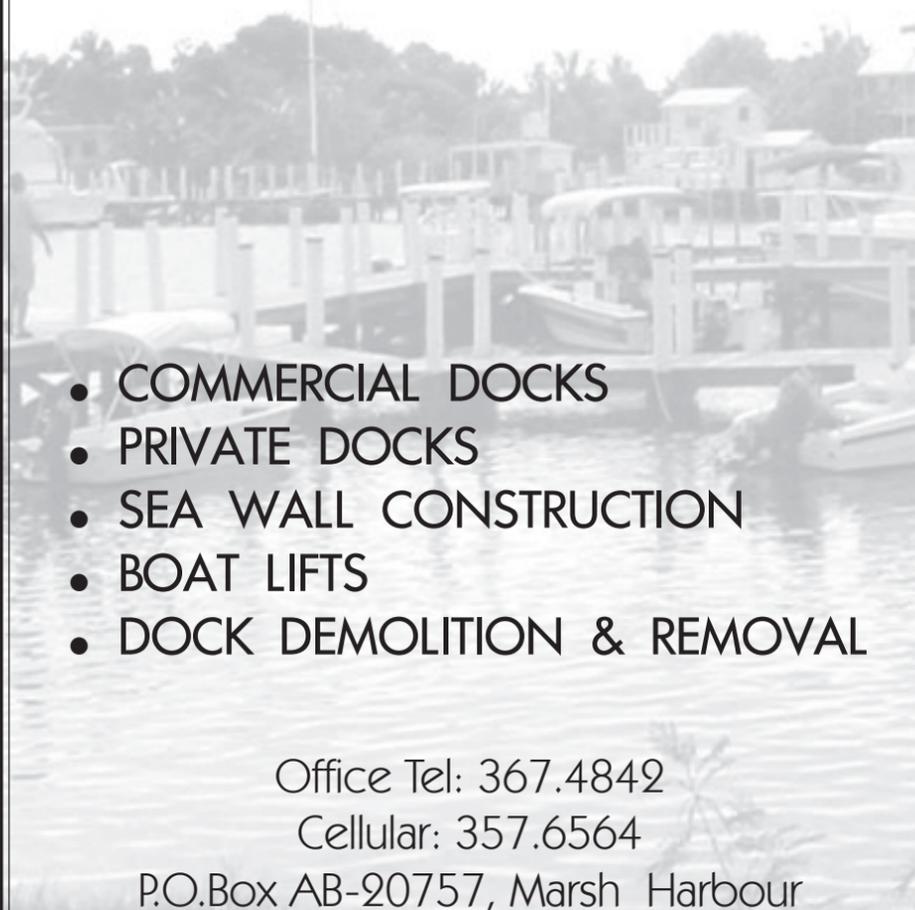


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Junkanoo Pleases the Crowds

Junkanoo *From Page 1*

kas. Some gathered around the fires that had been lit to tighten the drums heads while the participants were getting ready.

They waited patiently until 8:30 for the new group from Spring City, the Stingers, to initiate the show. The Stingers, led by Roger Delancy and Charles Taylor, broke from the Spring City Rockers in October to form their own group.

Mr. Delancy explained that he had been one of the founders of the Spring City Rockers. He thought it was time now to go on his own, follow his inspiration

and get recognition for his creativity. On that night they comprised approximately 20 people of all ages wearing bright costumes representing animals with stingers. The very intricate and colorful banner was composed of bees and bumble bees on flowers, illustrating the theme of *Just a Sting* followed by men dressed in scorpion and crab costumes dotted of huge stingers.

Other participants danced around, flapping large wings. They took their time rushing on Don MacKay Boulevard and put on quite a good performance.

The Spring City Rockers followed with an amusement castle as their banner, an-

nouncing the theme *Everyone have fun tonight*. Seventeen dancers dressed in playing cards, and others illustrating fun activities paraded on the street, backed up by a 31 member band. Cowbells, drums and horns blasted music and rhythm as they made their way along the street where they went on playing. They would not have stopped playing if it was not time for the Supreme Dancers to make their appearance.

The Dundas Town group had chosen *Christianity* as their theme. The banner in blue and white, represented a Bible under a large cross, open to a scripture about the death of Christ.

Rushers wore hats resembling bishops' tiaras. The small group put on a good show. Very young children were part of the group, even a six-year-old drummer, Julius Thompson, who gave it his best.

Last came the acclaimed group from Murphy Town, the Mo-Town Shockers. Their music could be heard resounding from one end of the street to the other. They played various popular songs to the rhythm of Junkanoo. Their musical per-

formance was impressive, unfortunately downplayed by the lack of costumes. The only pasted item was the banner, showing an assortment of fish. *Fish of the Sea* was the theme.

It was finally time for the four judges, Ms. Joyce Riviere, Ms. Barbara Johnson, Mr. Cyril Bethel and Mr. Roy Adams to render their verdict.

Mr. William Anthony Davis, leader of the Junkanoo Committee, commented. "There was a slight improvement on participation over last year. It was an OK performance," he said. With organization and timeliness it will be improved." He mentioned to possibly having "to penalized the late comers to keep the parade within the scheduled time."

He is hoping that a conclave of the committee members at the beginning of 2006 will help motivate the participants into starting their preparation at an earlier date.



Central Abaco residents and visitors look forward to the annual rush of Junkanoo groups during the holiday period. This is part of the Spring City Rockers' group which had the theme Everyone Have Fun Tonight.

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Obituaries of Family and Friends

Chandell Isabell Antionette Reckely, 22, of Marsh Harbour died in an automobile accident on December 23. Her funeral service was held on December 31 at the Dundas Town Church of God with Bishop Anthony Campbell officiating assisted by Pastor Jerry Cornish. Interment was in the public cemetery in Marsh Harbour.

She is survived by her mother Lovely; father Bradley; sister Cornelia; brother Anwar; adopted sister Elizabeth; grandfathers George Reckley and George Russell; step-grandmothers Barbara and Patrice; nieces Shawnelia, Lannekka and Chelsea; nephews K'Nahj, Chelshanno and Rahshad; adopted niece Brittany; adopted nephew Uriel Jr; aunts Dianna, Miquelle, Gretal, Nadine, Jackie, Martha, Rosemary, Pleasant, Donna, Bridget, Kim, Julie and Precious; uncles Joel, Wayne, Gilbert, Kevin, Randy, Willie, Dave, Brian, Wilfred, Micheal and Aaron; sister-in-law Lakeisha; brother-in-law Orlando; god parents Alice Smith, Iris Henschell and Beulah Rutherford; god children Max Nesbit Jr, Neko Jones, Sheena Thervil; cousins Wayne, Dwayne, Danielle, Keran, Ariel, Rashad, Joel Jr, Javon, Jaiden, Latoya, Henry Jr, Henderrique, Vanessa, Marlon, Cordell, Daniella, Joseph, Juliean, Blake, Chase, Davonte, Willlicia, Munchie, Vashati, Brandysa, Brenika and BJ; many grand

aunts and uncles; and many other relatives and friends.

Maxine Sarel Archer Swain, 18 years of Dundas Town, passed away on December 23 in an automobile accident. Her funeral was held on Jan 11 at the Dundas Town Church of God. Pastor Samuel Cornish officiated assisted by Pastor A.B. Lewis. Interment was in the Murphy Town Cemetery.

She is survived by her father Cyril Archer; brothers Perez, Renaldo, Carl, Alex and Oscar; sisters Lisa and Renee; daughters Jessica and Lawanya; grandparents Bradford and Firstina Swain; great-grandparents Sam and Leonnah Rolle; aunts Sandra, Leonnah, Gaylean, Sharon, Edith, Lashawn, Patrice, Yvette and Judy; uncles Kevin, Carlos, Ronald, Terrance Kipling, Gregon, Jeffrey and Dirk; sisters-in-law Brenda and Marva Archer; godparents Lelan and Sheila Simms, Carmen and Ema; cousins Bruno, Stacey, Quincy, Veronica, Carlos Jr., Kadesha, Joshua, Nathan, Ryan, Lavardo, Vashti, Jennifer, Warren, Shaquilla, Valincia, Keatra, K-shawn, Ajen, Ronald Jr., Samantha, Reiko, Laterah, Bianca, Thomas, Dirk Jr., Tenia, Tamara, Davannah, Shogar, Oniesha, Shannon, Eustace, Wendell, Kode, Kiano, Alecia and Gabriel; nieces; nephews; grandaunts; granduncles; and many other relatives and

friends.

The funeral for **Baby Omarion Marco Davis**, 7 weeks of Crossing Rock was held on January 7th at the Crossing Rock Cemetery. Rev. Napoleon Roberts officiated assisted by Rev. Mervin Burrows.

He is survived by his mother Opal Russell; father Marco Davis; brother Marco Davis Jr.; grandparents Brenda Russell, Joan Bethel and Marcus Davis; great-grandmother Viola Parker; aunts Opal Dawkins, Joyclin, and Judymae Russell, Vangy Williams, Talmeta Russell and Robyn Smith; uncles Omal, Geon, Kirklin, Willie, Roscoe, Peter and Albert Russell Sr., Theophilus Williams, Mario and Marius Davis, Daniel Berber Jr., and Mario Coakley; cousins Thelisa, Terran and

Vanique Williams, Albert Jr., Aljavon, Richae, Roesha and Tamia Russell, Neoshie Mckinney, Elsie Bain and Mario Coakley Jr.; grandaunts; granduncles; and many other relatives and friends.

Correction

We regret that we had the wrong name for the second-home owner who passed away on Man-O-War. He was Charles "Todd" Robinson Lee. We apologize to the family.

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Kudos Korner

By Nancy Russell

For this issue I want to give special thanks to a wife, mother, grandmother, business owner, Town Committee Chairman and Deputy Chief Councillor: Yvonne Key. Even with all of the above mentioned responsibilities, Yvonne finds time to give. She is up very early every morning to drive around the Marsh Harbour area to see what some of the town's needs are and what progress has been made on jobs underway.



Yvonne would love for more residents of Marsh Harbour to join the Adopt-a-Highway program, meaning the

person or business who adopts a roadway would plant plants, keep the highway clean, the grass mowed and be responsible for a good looking roadway. Government can't do it all. Nor can one person. If anyone is interested, contact Yvonne at 367-2243 between 6 and 7 a.m.; she will be most grateful for any help. Yvonne has shown her dedication and concern for the town - just look around and see.

This is not easy for her. But she decided to do it, and she will follow it through and see that it will continue. Her devotion to this work is endless, time consuming and a constant work in progress. How she has time for family, business and friends is beyond me, but she does.

For her devotion to this beautification project, she has earned this Kudos Award. For many jobs well done with more to come, we thank you for caring and for your unselfish concern for the people of Marsh Harbour.

Yvonne decided nine years ago to dedicate herself to the beautification of the Marsh Harbour town area. She started at the airport round-about which looks so wonderful now for all visitors and locals alike who go by that way. Most of the visitors who come to Abaco come from the airport and the round-about is one of the first sights they see. Yvonne is a master extraordinaire at organizing these projects, getting businesses to donate supplies and government to pay its share for clean-up and new plantings. For instance, the mulch for the airport round-about is donated by Standard Hardware twice a year for new plantings. The Rotary Club will plant and clean up the new round-about on Crockett Drive. Mr. Randy Key has adapted the Queen Elizabeth Drive roadway and will maintain the plants, keep the grass cut and pick up garbage that collects along the sides of the road.

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Improving the Morale of Teachers

By Samantha V. Evans

An observant principal can see when the energy level in a teacher has lessened by noticing the changes in his attitude and by the lack of love for the job. Hence, the spunk has got up and gone!

At this point, a one-on-one with that teacher is in order, and if handled properly, can make a world of difference in the teacher's attitude. This lets the teacher know that the principal is concerned about him personally and about his contribution to the school.

The principal can remind the teacher that even though the work load may be heavy and the stress level high, that educating the children is still our number one priority. If the teacher is burnt out, the principal can refer him to a support group for counseling (and support) or assign him to a mentor (a master teacher) to help him through this difficult period.

To reduce teaching effectiveness amongst

staff, a principal can put a few simple practices in place:

1) Give teachers a forum to voice their concerns, state their problems and make recommendations for the betterment of the school.

2) Take teachers concerns seriously and act upon them immediately.

3) Be an inspiration to teachers by offering words of encouragement and praise for a job well done.

4) Be an example to the teachers by first loving what you do and express it outwardly. Be enthusiastic! Have finesse! Enjoy your work!

5) Encourage creativity in the classroom.

Once there is a strong and effective leadership team in place who cares about the well-being as well of the productivity of the staff, you will find that teachers will be more committed to the school and ensure that the students who pass through their doors learn.

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Dump *From Page 1*

the highway from the dump but made no provision for moving the dump in a timely manner. They were dismayed that no one was prepared to give answers on the dump situation.

Other concerns related to Cable Bahamas' refusal to provide cable service to residents until a large enough number of homes are there for this service.

Residents are working with the Town Planning Board to ensure that no more triplexes and larger units are constructed as the deed restrictions allow only duplexes and then only in some areas. One resident thought that there was provision

for commercial property for convenience stores and the like but was unclear where this might be.

Packs of dogs are a growing problem with one person counting 45 dogs running loose. An effort will be made to contact the volunteer animal control groups in the area for help.

The final complaint was about the utility companies digging up the roads but not repairing them when they finished making their connections.

Plans were discussed for a major fund raising event this spring, perhaps on Easter Monday, as the association needs money for various projects in the subdivision.

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Getting Children Interested in Reading

By Portia Jonsson

The importance of literacy has long been recognized: it underpins all educational achievement and is central to economic advance; it helps develop human potential and raises self-esteem.

In a world of television, computers and video games, getting kids to enjoy reading may seem impossible. But as parents, we can interest youngsters in all that books offer if we choose the right ones – and read with our children.

You do not have to have a house overflowing with books to give your children this kind of experience. The Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay Community Libraries are home to an abundance of books, plus many other valuable resources. One of the most exciting areas in the library is the children's section, which offers a wide variety of children's books and magazines. Keep in mind too, that a visit to the library can help enrich your life as an adult. Whether you are seeking information or just a "good read", the library has a lot to offer. Several other communities have libraries with children's books.

Helping our children to enjoy reading is one of the most important things we can do as a parent and well worth the investment

of our time and energy. Kids will learn reading skills in school, but often they come to associate reading with work, not pleasure. As a result, they lose their desire to read. And it is that desire – the curiosity and interest – that is the cornerstone to using reading and related skills successfully. By far the most effective way to encourage our children to love books and reading is to read aloud to them, and the earlier we start, the better. Even a baby of a few months can see pictures, listen to your voice and turn cardboard pages. Make this time together a special time when we hold our kids and share the pleasure of a story without the distractions of television or telephones. You may be surprised to find that a well-written children's book is often as big a delight to you as it is to the kids.

And do not stop taking the time to read aloud once your children have learned to read for themselves. At this stage, encourage them to read to you some of the time. This shared enjoyment will continue to strengthen your children's interest and appreciation.

Simply having books, magazines, and newspapers around your home will help children to view them as part of daily life. And your example of reading frequently and

enjoying it will reinforce that view.

While your children are still very small, it is a good idea to start a home library for them, even if it is just a shelf or two. How you handle books will eventually influence how your kids treat them. Children imitate, so if they see that you enjoy reading and treat book gently and with respect, it is likely that they will do the same.

If your children are school-aged, keep in mind that the school library is an excellent source for a wide variety of materials. Encourage your kids to bring home books from their school library for pleasure as well as for their studies.

It is never too late to try to get children to catch the reading bug. Two rules for getting kids to read: Early and Often.

Terminal Needs Through Lane



All lanes are blocked in this photo taken at the Marsh Harbour International Airport. The right hand lane should remain open for traffic going to the two fixed base operators located beyond the terminal.

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Marsh H. Forms Improvement Board

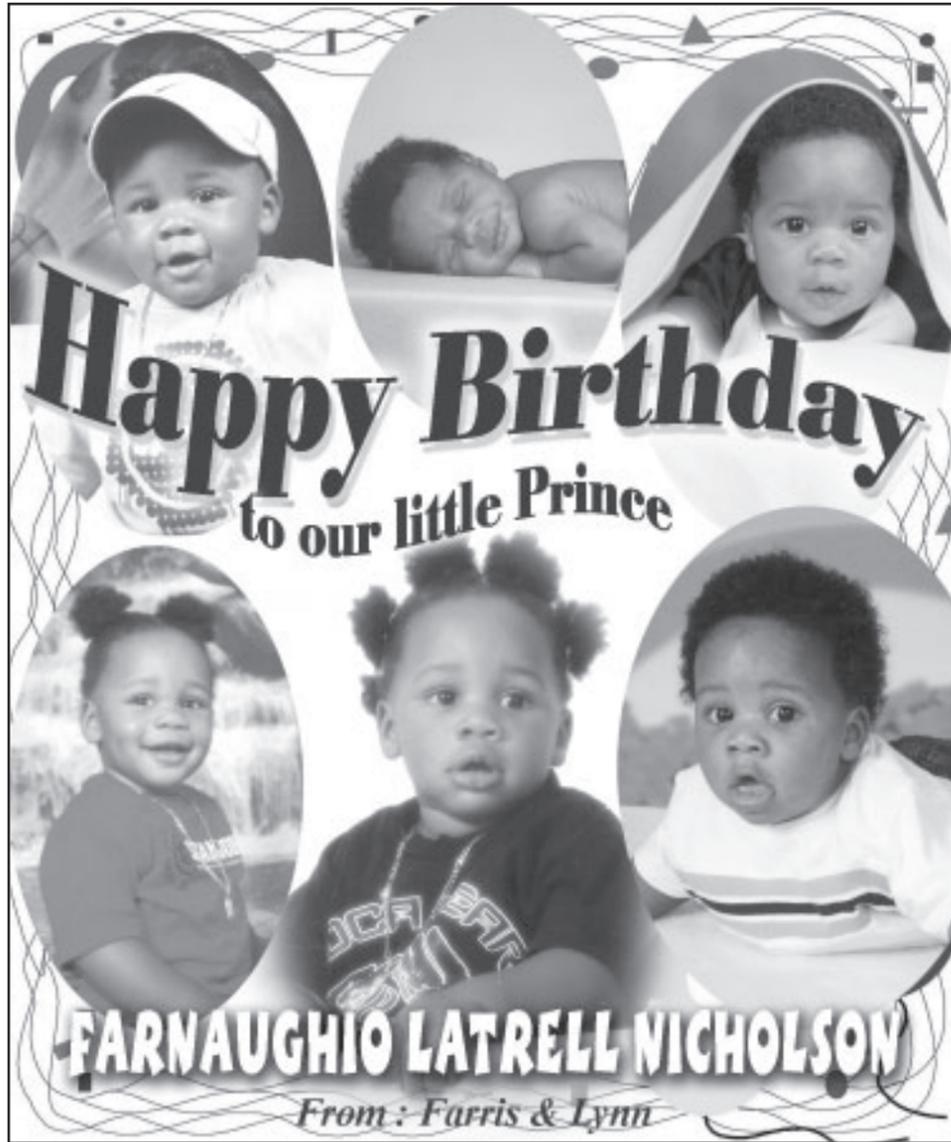
A management board has been formed in Marsh Harbour to take care of community needs and work on projects that will improve the town which are outside the scope of Local Government. Several towns on Abaco have had management boards which have taken on projects that the town needed. Sandy Point's board has

worked for quite a few years raising money to build a hurricane shelter and community center which is now completed and has been used. Hope Town and Man-O-War have had community committees for many years that have done clean up and repairs after hurricanes and have kept the communities clean. Road signs,

plantings, a ramp at a medical clinic, road repairs and other improvements have been part of their projects.

Marsh Harbour is following the examples of other communities in raising money by assessing rental units a fee for garbage collection. All

rentals, whether weekly or monthly, are considered businesses and therefore do not come under the mandated residential garbage collection provided by Local Government. This has been quite successful in other communities and will mean that Marsh Harbour will have the funds to further enhance the town.



The Administrator's Office
Marsh Harbour, Abaco
7th November, 2005

FORMATION OF MARSH HARBOUR MANAGEMENT BOARD

For years now, the volume of household garbage and its collection in the Marsh Harbour City and suburbs has become very challenging to manage due to short falls in the annual budgetary estimates. The collection, site management and having to assume additional responsibility for the disposal of solid waste from all the surrounding cays has further exacerbated the problem.

In order to arrest this spiraling challenge at the behest of the office of the Administrator, the Marsh Harbour/ Spring City Town Committee has agreed to and formed the captioned.

Additionally, the expansion of the district through the opening of new sub divisions, present landscaping and verges managerial problems. Therefore, according to Regulations enacted by the Central Government, the garbage collection service that has been provided for all the Local Government Districts in the Family Islands was amended. It is stipulated that all businesses must make private arrangements to have their household garbage collected. To that end, all second homeowners, both Bahamian and foreign, who rent their homes, villas, or cottages are considered business operators and will no longer have their household refuse collected as it has been in the past. However, in order for it to be continually collected, you must pay for the service in advance. The yearly fee of \$300 per rental home, villa, or cottage should be paid by cheque and made payable to the Marsh Harbour Management Board and mailed to Post Office Box AB 20049, Marsh Harbour.

Please note, if a second homeowner who rents his/her home does not pay the required fee of \$300, effective 1 January, 2006, it will be assumed that the homeowner does not require the community garbage collection service provided and will have made private arrangements to have the household garbage collected.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and contribution!

Yours sincerely,
Revis K. Rolle, J.P.
Senior Island Administrator

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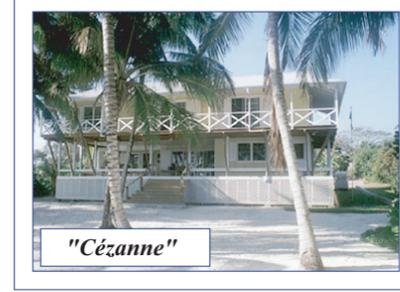
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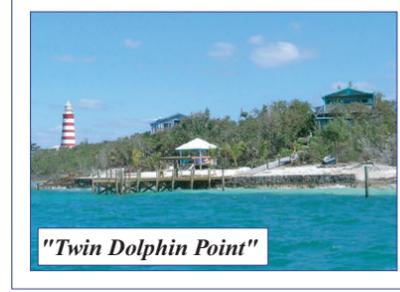
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Elbow Cay - Dorros Cove - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,500 sq.ft residence with 2 bedroom, 1 bath - 1,100 sq.ft guest house. Southeastern point of island. Swimming Pool - Private boat slip. Superb ocean and cay views. Furnished - # AB112 - NEW LISTING \$1,750,000.



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Great Guana Cay -Dolphin Beach Estates - 4 Bedroom, 4 bath, 2,100 sq.ft. home. 670 sq.ft of raised decks . Sited on one half acre. Central Air Great Ocean and Sea of Abaco Views. Beach and Dock Access. Furnished. #AS11731 - NEW LISTING - \$838,000.



"Summer Camp"

Scotland Cay - "Summer Camp"- 300' of prime Ocean Beachfront. 2 Bedroom & Bunkroom, 2 Bath 1,300 sq.ft. home on two levels. Guest Cottage, "Playhouse" with Bar. Covered and open decks. Fabulous ocean views. #AB160 - \$2,315,000.



"Samahab"

Scotland Cay - 162' of Sea of Abaco Frontage. 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath 2,150 sq.ft. home on two levels with Central A/C, 360 sq.ft. Shop, 260 sq.ft. Bar, 1,137 sq.ft. of covered and open decks. Fabulous views. Private Dock . #AB158 - \$1,545,000.



"Casa Bueno"

Scotland Cay - 124' of of Atlantic Ocean Beach-front. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1,470 sq.ft. home with Central A/C. Over, 2,000 sq.ft. of covered and open patios and decks. 19,000 gals fresh water. Fabulous Ocean views. #AB161 - \$1,100,000.



"Jaffa"

Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - Unique 3 bedroom, 3 bath home - 2,800 sq.ft. Living Space on 3 levels. Upper Level Decks - Superb Views. On 2 Lots - totalling 10,180 sq.ft. Swimming Pool. 100' of Private dockage. #AB149 - \$1,750,000



NEW LISTING

"Cragamo"

Man-O-War Cay - 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 1,536 sq.ft. home, 440 sq.ft of covered verandah. set on a 6,469 sq.ft. parcel in the northwest-central area of the Man-O-War Settlement Auxiliary Generator, Fully furnished and equipped. #MW1001XH - NEW LISTING \$575,000.



NEW LISTING

"Junkanoo Splash"

Great Guana Cay - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,150 sq.ft residence and 760 sq.ft. of covered porch on upper floor, 1 bedroom 1 bath, 490 sq.ft apartment on ground floor plus large workshop. Great Ocean Views. near settlement - # AS10689 - NEW LISTING \$635,000.



"Hope Town Apartments"

Elbow Cay - White Sound - 7 Unit Apartment Building, Total of 3,800 sq.ft. - Four 1 bedroom, 1 bath units and three 2 bedroom, 1 bath units. All fully Furnished - Central A/C- Laundry Building- Excellent Rental History # AB156 - \$925,000.



"Watch Hill"

Great Guana Cay - 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1,686 sq.ft. Beach-Front Home - 725 sq.ft. of Decks. Over 1/4 Acre with 80 of ocean front. Fabulous views. Deeded access to semi-private dock. Beautifully Furnished. Great Rental History. #AB142 - \$1,380,000



"Bay Lodge"

Green Turtle Cay - Coco Bay, 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, 2,300 sq.ft. Water-front Home 4,800 sq.ft. of Decks. - Recently completely Renovated. Over 1/4 Acre with 100' of bay front. Fabulous views. Private dock with dredged channel. #AB140 - \$1,725,000

Scotland Cay - "Green Door" - 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 1,815 sq.ft. home. 630 sq.ft of covered and open decks. Sited on two lots for a total of 1.04 Acres. Central Air, 2 Golf Carts. Auxiliary Generator Great Ocean Views. Fully Furnished #AB162 - \$635,000.

☆ VACANT LAND ☆

- ★ **Marsh Harbour - Great Abaco Club - Canal Front Building Site - 5,207 sq. ft. dockage for 55 'Vessel and 25' runabout - #AB5187 - NEW LISTING - \$545,000.**
- ★ **Sea of Abaco - "Carrington Cay" - 300' from the Abaco mainland, near Leisure Lee - 1.4 acres. Excellent elevation. - #AB5147 \$375,000.**