October set for North Abaco by-election

Following the former Prime Minister’s, the Right Honourable Hubert Ingraham, official resignation on August 31, the Governor General has 60 days to issue a writ for an election to fill the vacant seat. According to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, the North Abaco by-election will be held sometime in October. There are four candidates contesting the seat.

Greg Gomez is running as the Free National Movement candidate. There has been heavy campaigning by him and prominent FNM members over the previous month. The late Charles Maynard, who was the FNM Chairman, was on Abaco campaigning for Gomez when he tragically suffered a fatal heart attack. The Deputy FNM leader, Loretta Butler-Turner, and Leader, Dr. Hubert Minnis, have made constant trips to North Abaco in preparation for the election.

Renardo Curry, the Progressive Liberal Party’s candidate, ran against Ingraham and lost during the May 7 election. Christie is expected to make appeals to North Abaco constituents based on the fact his party is now the one that is in power. Mr. Curry has also maintained a hectic campaign schedule in hopes of winning the seat on his second attempt.

Two third party candidates, S. Ali McIntosh for the Bahamas Constitution Party and Cay Mills as an Independent, are both anticipating a close race and have made connections within the community.

Minister of Financial Services tours Abaco manufacturers

Serious potholes number in the dozens. The largest are several feet across and are up to half a foot deep.

Residents grow more and more weary of dodging potholes on Central Abaco’s main roads – Don MacKay Blvd. and Elizabetht Drive which joins into Bay Street – as after every rain shower the size and quantity of holes to avoid.

During a drive through of these roads on September 12, significant (more than twelve inches wide and at least one inch deep) potholes numbered close to 100 and several areas had large clusters that required vehicles to slow significantly or switch lanes to avoid. Both are dangerous maneuvers when in rush hour traffic.

There were a few potholes that measured between three to six inches deep with the deepest pothole located just south of Quality Star Service Station on Don MacKay Blvd. The largest pothole in terms of area is at the junction of Sweeting Village and

Multiplying potholes causing grief

By Timothy Roberts

With an October election looming the candidates ratchet up their campaigning. With stops all over North Abaco, all the candidates are looking to take the seat which has been won by the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham eight consecutive times. Above and left: FNM candidate Greg Gomez addresses a crowd in Green Turtle Cay during his meet and greet. Above and right: PLP candidate Renardo Curry gathered with supporters at Treasure Cay beach on September 8.

Min. Pinder toured several Abaco manufacturers during the month of September to better understand the needs of the business community. He explained some changes being made to customs that should incentivize these businesses and help during a tough economy. See page 2.

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With a view to better support and encourage manufacturers in Abaco and The Bahamas, Minister of Financial Services, the Hon. Ryan Pinder, brought welcome news to producers that the Industries Encouragement and the Tariff Acts have been amended and that they will be setting up a standards bureau.

Mr. Pinder visited a variety of local manufacturers and producers on September 10 including Albury Brother’s Boat Builders, Albury’s Sail Shop, Abaco Big Bird and Abaco Neem, in order to get “an understanding of the concerns and also the opportunities that exist for these local manufacturers.”

“The end goal is to provide the necessary incentives for the success of the various businesses; to get an awareness of the types of manufacturing and industrial activity in The Bahamas and specifically here in Abaco... and how, from a policy maker’s point of view, we can work with them for their success,” he said.

He noted that the process of amending the Industries Encouragement Act and the Tariff Act to reinstate perpetual duty free exemptions for manufacturers is now complete and that the Customs Department has confirmed that they have received the changes and are operating under that change. Now producers can once again import their products on a duty free basis.

Mr. Pinder also spoke of working toward World Trade Organization compliance by establishing a standards bureau and standards regulations.

What this allows us to do is classify standards for different products; such as in the context of chicken at Abaco Big Bird. Chicken in the country has no standards prescribed by local law which puts a premium producer like Abaco Big Bird at a disadvantage because of market dumping of inferior products.

“Me” it’s something that is important first for the consumer but also for the producer.”

Having a standards bureau would open up the doors for export as well as expand domestic linkages, he said. “Certain hotels might only buy a certified grade of chicken for their patrons because they have to ensure a certain standard.”

Mr. Pinder said that having a standards bureau and certifications could open up different opportunities for local producers both domestically and internationally in the context of trade. “So we’re very excited about progressing with the standards bureau, in fact part of the [International Development Bank’s] trade loan we just signed has a component for financing a standards bureau and we’re committed to that process and completing it.”

As a result of his visit he will be identifying what incentive legislation each producer should be under. He noted that Albury Brothers is operating under the wrong tariff regime which is uncooperative with the scale of business they are doing.

He said he will be working hand-in-hand to ensure they are under the Industries Encouragement Act regime, ensuring “smoother operation for their business and give them the surety they need.” Mr. Pinder said “We want to see Albury Brothers once again be a solely Bahamian run and operated business.”

He said they are seeking to provide manufacturers with the policy and cooperation from the government’s point of view so that they have a predictable way of doing business and ultimately succeed.
South Abaco

New Administrator for South Abaco introduced

By Jennifer Hudson

Joshua Smith arrived to take up the office of Administrator for South Abaco on July 15 having previously enjoyed two years and eight months as Island Administrator for Crooked Island. “Abaco is larger and there are more people than Crooked Island so there is obviously more work to do but I have been warmly welcomed by the friendly people here and I’m enjoying it very much and looking forward to serving the people of South Abaco,” stated Administrator Smith.

Mr. Smith’s first posting as an Administrator was in 2009 to Crooked Island. This followed a six-month period of training in Nassau and then some time working alongside the Administrator in West Grand Bahama. Mr. Smith is no stranger to Abaco since during his many years of work with the Ministry of Works and later as Chief Estate Officer for the Ministry of Education he frequently travelled to Abaco to inspect schools. He was also responsible for the building of schools, one of which was Man O War Cay School in the early 90s.

Mr. Smith’s jurisdiction covers a wide area as he is responsible for all of the settlements of South Abaco which include Sandy Point, Crossing Rocks, Bahama Palm Shores, Casuarina Point, Cherokee Sound and Moores Island. He was introduced to local government council members for South Abaco by former Administrator Benja-min Pinder during a meeting in Sandy Point soon after his arrival as he will be working closely with these government officials.

“I am trying to find out what the people really want, give them guidance and also bring my thoughts and ideas to them. The next stage will be to write to Central Government to see what funds can be allotted for the necessary projects,” stated Mr. Smith.

“The first projects I have identified that need immediate work are the docks in South Abaco. Where the mail boat arrives is in great need of something done quickly before anything happens. It is my job to see that whatever is needed gets done.” Other projects he has identified as needing immediate work are road patching and the cleaning up of certain areas.

“I am responsible for seeing that the Government’s rules and regulations are carried out. There are times when the job is very demanding. Sometimes dealing with people can be difficult but I try to meet, discuss and work with everyone as well as I possibly can. So far everything has gone very well,” declared Mr. Smith.

“My job is a challenge and I will do it to the best of my ability.” During an earlier interview when he was first introduced to the people of South Abaco at the farewell appreciation dinner for former Administrator Benja-min Pinder, Mr. Smith stated that he believes in listening to people and offered an open invitation for persons to come and talk with him to work things out. “I am sure we can accomplish great things together. I cannot replace Mr. Pinder who is an icon but let us do all we can to move South Abaco to the next level.”

In any spare time he gets after his administrative work is done, Mr. Smith loves woodworking. He is a carpenter by profession having studied construction science and technology at college. Using these skills he served as project manager for government for several years before becoming an Island Administrator.

Above: Administrator for South Abaco, Joshua Smith, speaking at a recent function for school children. Mr. Smith took up his position on July 15 along with two other new administrators. Mr. Smith replaced the long-serving Benjamin Pinder.

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*With approved credit. Some stipulations may apply. Three winners total per month, eligible to win with minimum purchase of $500.

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Murder suspects still being sought

Mr. Curry is appealing to anyone with information on these two individuals to call the station. “All information will be kept in the strictest of confidence. Persons can even contact me personally at 367-2594.”

Road and Don MacKay where at its widest it measured about five and a half feet and is over seven feet long.

At a recent Central Abaco District Council meeting at the end of August members discussed the problems with road maintenance and that the Ministry of Works in Marsh Harbour had been lacking the necessary patch material to repair these holes, only receiving two pallets of patch from Nassau in July.

About $1,700 worth of patch mate-
rial, paid for by the Marsh Harbour Town Committee, was supposed to have been made available to the Ministry of Works; however, repairs have yet to be carried out.

In the past several weeks there have been a large number of days with some rainfall which makes it difficult to keep up with the maintenance. But the situation, as far as many locals are concerned, is dire and needs to be addressed right away.

Community Health Fair to promote healthy lifestyle choices

By Canishka Alexander

Plans for the Department of Public Health’s Community Health Fair are tak-
ing shape and another meeting was held on September 11 for further discussions. The event, which will be held under the theme: “Let’s Get Well Abaco” is scheduled for October 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the BAIC Farmers Market.

Once again, Shanishka Bain-Cam-
bridge led the discussion and was joined by Head Nurse Maxine Brown and R/N Shavone Breenen and Wendy Sands of the Marsh Harbour Government Clinic; Kendy Anderson from the Abaco Tourist Office; Ismael Morley from the Dept. of Youth, Sports and Culture; and Nadia Russ-
sell-Lewis from the Dept. of Public Health in Fox Town.

All government clinics on Abaco have teamed up for this initiative.

Bain-Cambridge explained that the health fair was organized to provide Aba-
conians with information that can assist them with healthy lifestyle choices for themselves and their families.

Included in the services and activities planned for that day are health screenings; demonstrations on backyard gardening, healthy food preparation and presentations by the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Dept. and Abaco Cancer Society. There will be an Emergency Medical Services Station; a Health Education/Social Wellbeing Spea-
kers Corner; Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNDC) Health/Nutrition Unit; a Junior and Senior Healthy Chef Competi-
tion. Fitness and fun activities along with food and entertainment will also be pro-
vided.

Breenen, CNDC coordinator at the Marsh Harbour Clinic, added that the health fair allows them to target people with chronic diseases that they are not aware of simply because they may visit private doctors.

“The information we will be giv-
ing out will be focusing a lot on helping
BEC appoints new acting manager

By Canishka Alexander

Toni Seymour became the new acting manager for BEC’s Abaco Operations on August 6, and although surprised by the appointment, she expressed that she is looking forward to the challenge. It is a notable and historic move on Seymour’s part, as a female has never held such a position on the Family Islands before.

She explained that the position for manager was advertised internally and externally, and after completing an interview, she was selected for the position. So far, Seymour admitted that she has been overwhelmed by the support received from her colleagues, and she is hopeful that she can live up to their expectations.

As acting manager, Seymour said that her first initiative will be to fulfill training needs and build morale among the 70 staff members. She also intends to maintain an open relationship with consumers while educating them on their plans to improve BEC.

“I am never one to duck the public,” Seymour assured.

Before being hired at BEC four years ago, she was employed at Bahamasair and Caterpillar, and her degree in mechanical and aeronautical engineering has helped her to be analytically inclined and well-organized. Additionally, being stationed at the construction site of BEC's Wilson City Plant greatly prepared her for this new role, organizing a position on the Family Islands before.

A number of matters were heard by Magistrate Ancella Evans-Williams at Magistrate Court #1 on September 10. The first matter involved Charles Bodie Jr. who faced two counts of break-ins and stealing and receiving. Bodie Jr. was arrested in Dundas Town on September 8 and interrogated by detectives at the Marsh Harbour Police Station. A search of his residence also yielded a collection of stolen items from Lofty Fig Inn and Boy Meets Girl Boutique. Bodie Jr. pled not guilty to all charges.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor Perkins Collier requested that Bodie Jr. be fitted with an electronic monitoring device or ankle bracelet. Bodie Jr. was granted $10,000 bail. Magistrate Evans-Williams also told the accused that he must remain at his residence after work hours and to check in at the Marsh Harbour Police Station twice a week. His trial date is set for December 6.

Detective Sergeant 2377 Christopher Farquharson, head of the Central Detective Unit on Abaco, said he was pleased that they have caught the person they believe to be responsible for the majority of increased break-ins in Marsh Harbour lately. Also appearing before the Magistrate’s Court for arraignment was Drayson Forbes, who was charged with possession of dangerous drugs with intent to supply. Forbes was alleged to have 1,352 grams of Indian hemp on July 16. Although he pled not guilty to the charges, Magistrate Evans-Williams told him that the court had no jurisdiction to grant him bail. His trial was set for October 25.

However, Forbes’ lawyer argued that he was ailing health after he was shot in July and sustained damage to his small intestine. His attorney – Ms. Rolle – asked that her client’s case be handled as one of exceptional circumstances. Nevertheless, Forbes was remanded to Her Majesty’s Prison where it was noted that he would require medical assistance.

Dept. Sgt. Farquharson thanked all officers on Abaco and Nassau for their assistance in bringing this particular matter to a close.

Blood drive scheduled for September

A blood drive is being organized for Abaco on the dates of September 28 and 29. The “Blood Mobile” will be brought up to Abaco from Nassau along with technicians to draw blood. The site for the blood drive will be at Maxwell’s Supermarket in Marsh Harbour. People will be able to donate from 10:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday.

Sponsored by The Rotary Club of Abaco, President Dwayne Wallace expressed that he hopes this event is successful and can become an annual event. Blood reserves in The Bahamas are notoriously low meaning many life performing procedures cannot be completed in a timely manner. Blood drives, such as the one planned for September 28 and 29, replenish supplies and save lives.

The Red Cross has several recommendations for successful blood donation. A good night’s sleep before hand coupled with drinking an extra sixteen ounces of water beforehand are both important. Avoiding fatty foods before the donation can also improve the chances for donating viable blood. There are certain restrictions to donating blood, such as high blood pressure or poor health, which will be covered by the technicians when you visit.

This will be a general blood drive. All persons are encouraged to attend and donate regardless of blood type.

Central Abaco

Two Abaco men arraigned at Magistrate Court One

By Canishka Alexander

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From the Editor's Desk // Brother's Keeper

I recently attended a meeting the police held with the public. A lot of business owners were present and many were not very encouraged with the outlook of crime on our island. Many of them have witnessed the growth of Abaco, if you will call it growth, from a carefree environment to a city where many business owners have to be on edge when locking up evenings. It really was discouraging hearing the frustration, confusion and, in some cases, resignation that was being expressed. The room was full of people, myself included, who were not quite sure what to do. Abacoanians have a fighting spirit, but it is hard to fight against something as intangible as "crime." Crime only makes itself vulnerable to discovery when it is in the open.

And that's the tricky bit.

The officers that night did their best to inform us, the public, about their different initiatives and steps we could take to prepare for increasing amounts of crime. And I truly believe many of them are putting in their best effort. Sleepless nights and consistent threats of danger must take its toll. It's no secret that they need more resources, which if Nassau truly believed that Abaco is worth investing in then they would find those resources. And it's also no secret that better lines of communication can be established.

So I listened quietly and took notes like a good reporter. But I couldn't shake the feeling that something more could be done: that we, together, could do something more. It did not sit well with me and the faces I saw in that room told me they felt the same thing. Citizens stockpiling guns is not the answer. But neither is it a reasonable assumption that sitting back and expecting the patrol cars making their rounds will completely protect us.

So let's find a middle ground. First, we can use technology to better protect ourselves. A Facebook group has been created, called Abaco Crime Watch, whose purpose is to be a community message board that anyone can post to. Hopefully we can keep track of suspicious activities in our communities and warn neighborhoods across the island.

If you know about a string of attempted burglaries in Spring City you can post and anyone connected to the group can see that this activity has taken place. Your neighbors in Marsh Harbour, Duds Town and elsewhere can see that and be on alert. Abaco Crime Watch is also intended to be a tool for the police to keep citizens informed.

Obviously this is not a perfect system. And many, many people are not connected on Facebook. But this is intended to be a first step in perhaps a more thorough and comprehensive system. Abacoanians can keep each other informed. The key is talking to each other and listening.

I have a second suggestion for my fellow business owners and managers. The risks accompanying your position, such as being a target and late night shop closings, are becoming more and more real. We should realize this problem and work together to create a web of prevention. A network should be established among business owners and employees in each town where, if you feel threatened in any position, such as being a target and late night shop closings, are becoming more and more real. We should realize this problem and work together to create a web of prevention. A network should be established among business owners and employees in each town where, if you feel threatened in any way or know you’ll be closing up later than usual, you have a network of contacts who will be willing to meet you at your place of work. There is safety in numbers and most criminals will not attempt to risk it.

I volunteer myself now as a Crime Watch Contact in Marsh Harbour. My number is 577-2723.

It is my sincere hope that small networks can build across Abaco to prevent crime in this manner. Watching out for each other. Being our brother’s keeper. This is how we push back the fear of crime.

The next steps aren’t crystal clear to me. But I know unless we venture to take steps we will be outrun by those who learned to walk in the dark.

Upcoming Events

• September 15: Heineken Tasting at Hope Town Inn & Marina
• September 20: Hope Town Police Town Meeting
• September 26: Abaco Business Outlook
• September 28 & 29: Blood Drive at Maxwell’s Supermarket
• September 29: Snappas’ 80s Party
• September 29: Candace Key’s Retirement Party at Hope Town Harbour Lodge
• October 7: North Abaco By-Election
• October 4: Parenting with Purpose Seminar at Christian Counseling Centre
• October 6: Abaco Cancer SocietyStride for Life
• October 27: “Let’s Get Well Abaco” Health Fair
• November 3: Kayak Challenge

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And THANKS for reading.
Distasteful experience at an Abaco hotel and rental property

Dear Editor;

On Friday August 25th six days into a weeklong stay at a hotel and rental property in the Marsh Harbour area with in-laws who were visiting, I decided to take the boys down to the pool for a swim. After being in the pool for a few minutes, we were rudely approached by a female who owns one of the units, asking what room we were staying in. Not paying any attention to this woman’s abrasive approach, I GRACIOUSLY gave her the room number thinking that would be the end of that. She continued to go on about this being a private pool as if we didn’t belong there or as if we were incapable of reading the signs around the pool that clearly says “private pool for owners and GUESTS only.” She proceeded up the stairs with her dog saying that she pays four thousand dollars for something, opened up her door, went on the phone and called someone. After she left within minutes a gentleman whom I presume works for the property came to the pool asking what room we were in. This same gentleman saw my son in the pool a few days earlier and was told what room we were in.

Maybe it was my dreadlocks, my facial hair or perhaps the blackness of my skin that made this woman approach me and my family in such fashion, but whatever her issues were, I told the gentleman that as a guest of this property I did not appreciate the way in which my kids and I were approached. As he continued to try and justify this woman’s behavior, not having any appetite for being pacified or appeased I asked if this was policy to approach every guest swimming in the pool or just black, dreadlocked guests. I later found out that this woman also runs or works at the office.

Words cannot express the distaste and anger I felt towards this woman and would like to say to her that if she is a Bahamian, she should be ashamed of her disgraceful attitude. If she is not a Bahamian that attitude is not welcomed, unacceptable and you need to go back to whence you came with your dog and learn some manners.

This Bahamian can care less about your money, your profession, your perceived social status or colour of your skin. Rude, Nasty, Distasteful or Insinuating behavior towards me or my family will not be tolerated from ANYONE!

Omar Sherrieff Edmund McKenzie
Bahamian!!

Driving Conditions

Dear Editor,

Over the past few months, I have observed our already poor roads deteriorate into outright dangerous roads. While pot holes have always been an issue here on our beautiful island, I feel as if the problem is growing out of control. It is not just the nuisance of feeling a few bumps on the way to work, but the fact that commuters are having to drive either on the wrong side of the road or on the shoulder to avoid becoming a victim of a sink hole. I was in a situation this morning where on the way to work I was unable to avoid a pothole due to oncoming traffic. I was shocked at the impact that I and my car endured after plowing directly into, and luckily out of, this HUGE pothole.

I propose that we petition our government to stay on top of this problem. Not only for our sake but for the driving force of this economy: the tourists. We can sit back and watch as our fellow Bahamians suffer the consequences of our visitors choosing other more developed vacation destinations or we can stand up and advocate for our livelihood. I challenge the Abaconian as a fair judge to implement the measurement on a yearly basis by a scientific standard the depth and diameter of the potholes on our roads. We can use it as an indicator of our government’s performance and hold them accountable to it. I say we call it the Abaco Pothole Index (API).

Thank you for your time,
Robert Key II
Central Abaco

**Beauties at Brunch series honours five Abaco women**

By Canishka Alexander

On August 5, Cia Monet’s Beauties at Brunch series was held under the distinguished patronage of Astrid Stratton at the Great Abaco Beach Resort to honour several prominent women on Abaco. In celebration of 50 years of the Women Suffrage Movement, Stratton was honoured along with Anna Albury; First Lady Carmen Cornish; Wynsome Ferguson; and Quitel Charlton.

Stratton was recognized as the first Bahamian female pilot. First Lady Carmen Cornish was honoured for her work in the ministry whereas Wynsome Ferguson was recognized for her work in the Tourism sector. Quitel Charlton was commended for being an intelligent and well-rounded role model in the community.

Meanwhile, Ann Albury was acknowledged for her academic achievements and for overcoming the odds as a young, blind female. Former Miss Bahamas Richa Sands sang a song in tribute to the honourees.

The event was organized by Patricia Chatti of Cia Monet, which is an online clothing store that features designer brands. She explained that the honourees were nominated via an online poll. Earlier this year, Dr. Sandra Dean-Patterson was honoured in New Providence while Geneva Rutherford received her honours in Grand Bahama.

"Upon doing research, I realized that we have many women in The Bahamas who have gone unnoticed and gone above and beyond duties in terms of community building," Chatti explained. "I wanted to do something to be able to celebrate these women, so I created this series for the purpose of creating an awareness and also [for] celebrating the great women of The Bahamas."

Before the event began on Abaco, patrons were invited to have their photos taken by professional photographer Demetrius Francis by the media wall at the entrance of the pavilion. As brunch was served, the fashion extravaganza began with the lively Phyllis Garraway as moderator.

Abaco models strutted on the runway in fashionable, vibrant clothing suited for the casual or business environment as well as beachwear, men’s and children’s attire.

Following its Abaco visit, the Beauties at Brunch series will return to the capital on October 14 for a grand finale. At that time, three Bahamasair female captains...
will be honoured along with four other women.

“...Beauties at Brunch thing is more than beauty and it’s more than food – it’s about trying to teach young girls about their value and their worth from as early as we can,” Chatti shared. “We’re born females, we’re going to die females, but what happens in the middles is what we’re trying to achieve.”

Next year, Chatti said they plan to visit Exuma, Long Island and Cat Island with the Beauties at Brunch series. She appealed to corporate sponsors to come on board in advance to support the worthy cause. Also in attendance was Italia Williams of I-Candy Make Up Line. Ten percent of the proceeds from the event were donated to Lovely Reckley’s “Feed the Service You Deserve. People You Can Trust.

“Honouring great women in The Bahamas goes beyond Nassau; there’s nothing like honouring people in the place where they are from,” Chatti concluded.

On August 30 members of the Royal Bahamas Police Force met with concerned members of the public in the old court house in Dove Plaza. The Business Town Meeting, as it was called, was organized to address certain initiatives of Urban Renewal 2.0 and to answer questions from business owners and community members regarding the increase in criminal activity.

Present that evening were members of the Marsh Harbour Police Force, including superintendent Noel Curry and Urban Renewal Project Coordinator for Abaco, W/Sgt 2483 Jocelyn Smith. Detectives from New Providence were also present at the meeting and gave remarks.

Tips were offered to the public. Tips included maintaining a well-lit perimeter with his hands? Does he talk with a limp? Does he stutter? Does he talk with his hands?” He explained that “people are creatures of habit,” and small details around your home or business and paying close, but discreet, attention to details can be enough to lead police to culprits.

“We do what we do for the love of our country,” Supt. Curry said referring to his officers.

Another meeting is scheduled for next month.

A question and answer session with the crowd followed the presentations. Concerns were raised about the legality of certain non-lethal weapons, such as tasers. It was made clear that these, and any item that can be used to deal harm to another person, are considered “prohibited weapons.” Included in this definition of “prohibited weapon” was bringing registered hunting rifles to a place of work as a form of protection.

“We’re not monsters,” the officers said in reference to themselves and the court system. “Obviously we look at mitigating circumstances in situations of self-defense.” Continuing on, however, it was made clear that in most circumstances resisting or countering with force is not preferable. “Arming yourself isn’t the solution,” they concluded.

Some closing points were made. “We’ve beefed up the night patrol,” Supt. Curry explained. The public, especially business owners, were encouraged to form watch groups and avoid falling into predictable habits that watchful criminals could capitalize on.

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Another meeting is scheduled for next month.
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Green Turtle Cay hosts FNM top brass for Gomez’s meet and greet

On Saturday, September 8 the Free National Movement’s (FNM) North Abaco candidate, Greg Gomez, held a meet and greet on Green Turtle Cay. Mr. Gomez was joined by high ranking members from the FNM, including Leader Dr. Hubert Minnis and Deputy Leader Loretta Butler-Turner, on that day. The party also made a presentation and donation to the Amy Roberts All Age School.

A clear, warm Saturday encouraged many in the community to attend the event which was held at the tennis courts. Grilled food and cold drinks were provided for free to those who came to listen and meet the candidate. Green Turtle Cay is one of the larger voting blocs in the North Abaco constituency and a critical campaigning point.

Also active on Green Turtle Cay that day was the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) who had set up a counter-gathering at the Wrecking Tree Restaurant and Bar. The Hon. Ryan Pinder, Minister of Financial Services and the man in charge of the PLP’s Green Turtle Cay campaigning, was present with yellow-clad supporters. Mr. Pinder wanted to be clear that the supporters gathered that day at the Wrecking Tree Bar were not to be outdone, the Hon. Ryan Pinder gathered a group of Green Turtle PLP supporters to the Wrecking Tree Bar and Restaurant.
were all Green Turtle Cay voters unlike, he said, the crowd gathered across the street. The PLP candidate for North Abaco is Renardo Curry.

FNM supporters, along with Dept. Leader Loreta Butler-Turner, had started gathering at the tennis courts that morning, but Mr. Gomez and his entourage arrived in Green Turtle shortly before 1:00 p.m. The candidate was greeted enthusiastically by his supporters.

After Mr. Gomez and Dr. Minnis briefly shook hands with supporters at the crowded ferry dock they made their way to the tennis courts to prepare for lunch. Before several brief speeches were made by the candidate and the party leaders they consulted with many in the crowd to get a feel as for what was important to the constituents. The sea wall was a topic of particular interest to citizens of the island community.

When asked about the two larger scale projects for North Abaco, the proposed bridge and port, Dr. Minnis explained that they were, to his knowledge, still on the docket. He continued on to make the point that if elected Gomez would continue to fight for these projects as well as other needs for North Abaco and Mr. Curry would, in Dr. Minnis’ opinion, stay along party lines and presumably try and fight against the projects. However, Dr. Minnis remained confident the projects would go ahead as planned.

Mr. Gomez was introduced as the first speaker. He exclaimed that it was a great day to be in Green Turtle Cay “among my extended family.” He announced his intentions to make a donation to Amy Roberts All Age School later that same day. He continued, denouncing the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie’s comment regarding Abaco as “having had your fair share.” He promised to fight to make sure “your children will have land and property. We are going to fight.”

Dept. Leader Loreta Butler-Turner stood before the crowd after Mr. Gomez. She applauded Mr. Gomez saying he was a “product of Abaco.” She continued on the same thread as Mr. Gomez saying she did not want to give the PLP “an opportunity to take Abaco backwards.” She also praised the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham as being “the greatest PM this country has ever had.”

Dr. Minnis was last to address the crowd before the official donation to the school. “Abaco has always been all together,” he said, “and this is not the time for separation. You rescued The Bahamas in [the 1992 election] and you will again be the catalyst.”

Dr. Minnis stressed that each vote is important. He closed by saying that “though [the FNM] may be small in number, Greg Gomez and the FNM will fight for your roads, subdivision and infrastructure.”

Green Turtle Club holds staff appreciation party

By Kelsi Farrington

On September 3, the Green Turtle Club on Green Turtle Cay held an awards ceremony for its hardworking and long-served staff. Twenty staff members that night received awards for their service ranging from ten to forty years.

The successful hotel and marina has been a popular tourist destination for over 50 years. The event was held at Bluff House Beach Hotel, the cay’s other hotel, and ensured a night off from work for all the staff at the Club. With honorable guests and speakers including Min. Ryan Pinder, the Club’s owner, Adam Showell and representing the Ministry of Tourism, Ms. Outten, the night doubled as a farewell to its General Manager, Lynn Johnson.

Lynn, who began work at the Green Turtle Club 32 years ago, rose from front desk to her most recent position as General Manager.

Lynn will be leaving behind a significant gap in the hearts and minds of returning guests and coworkers alike. Some of whom, like Linda McIntosh, she worked with since she started. The crowd, which consisted of employees (new and old) and their families, gathered not just to celebrate the veterans, but to also spend time with Lynn Johnson being honoured with a gift from the Min. of Tourism for her many years of service. Left to Right: Kendy Anderson, Abaco’s head of Tourism Wynsome Ferguson, Lynn Johnson and Norther Bahamas Head of Tourism Jeritzen Outten.
The Cays

Party From Page 15

a gradually developed and well branched second family. There were glimpses at every table of teary eyes as the owner Adam Showell and assistant manager, Molly McIntosh, presented Lynn with leaving gifts and well wishes on her move to Atlanta, Georgia.

There were also cheers as Adam, who was assisted Min. Pinder, presented individual awards to workers such as Erklin McIntosh and Raymond Lowe who have dedicated over 40 years of continuing service. It is staff like them and the Club’s fleet of cleaning ladies who have not just given up their time, but who have worked hard to keep it at its best.

There were awards presented to the kitchen staff, waitresses and bar staff like Debbie Symonette, all characters you couldn’t imagine the hotel without. All who have not just become part of the Club, they have also shared many laughs and created unforgettable memories.

With the ‘Number One Band in the Nation’, The Gully Roosters, performing their lively tracks after the buffet and awards, the ceremony provided the perfect chance for some staff to let loose on the dance floor and enjoy an evening that also commenced the hotel’s annual closure until next month.

North Abaco

PLP holds meet and greet in Treasure Cay

By Timothy Roberts

Renardo Curry, the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) candidate for North Abaco, held a ‘meet and greet’ at Treasure Cay Public Beach on Saturday, September 8, where guests were able to enjoy an evening of music, food and drink while meeting some members of parliament including the Deputy Prime Minister, Philip ‘Brave’ Davis.

The Deputy Prime Minister told eager party-goers that “the government belongs to you because the PLP believes in you”, and to “vote with the same enthusiasm and energy you are showing tonight for Renardo Curry.”

Mr. Curry said that his campaign is about “unity and progress” and his vision is to see everyone come together in the North. “Our vision is to improve the lives of all the people.”

“We want to show them that we are about unity and bringing the people together starting here in Treasure Cay and moving throughout the north.”

He said that he sees Treasure Cay as the center of the economic improvement that he wants to see for North Abaco and that “Treasure Cay has always been one of those places that carried North Abaco when it comes to revenue and we want to see change in the whole of North Abaco.”

He said that he believes Treasure Cay and Green Turtle Cay – the two economic centers of North Abaco – have a great model that’s already in place that can be built upon and that there is hope that there will soon be a buyer for Walker’s Cay and the tourism that they once enjoyed in that area.

Ingredients

Chicken breast, Salt, Pepper, Swiss Cheese, Minced Rosemary, Lime Juice, Butter, Om Grown Greens Baby Sunflower Greens

Method

Preheat oven 350°. Butterfly chicken breast. Season to taste with salt, pepper and lime juice. Lay chicken flat and layer with Swiss cheese and rosemary, then roll.

Coat a hot skillet with olive oil and sear the chicken roulade all around until skin gets a golden brown crust. Place the chicken roulade on a foil sheet with 1/4 tsp of butter and wrap. Finish in a 350° oven for 15 minutes.

In a hot skillet coat with olive oil and toss sunflower greens until tender. Season to taste with salt and cracked pepper and ENJOY!

In a bed of Wilted Baby Sunflower Greens

Flava Culinary Service & Om Grown Greens

Tel: 366-0722

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PLP holds meet and greet in Treasure Cay

PLP supporters gathered at Treasure Cay Beach for a meet and greet with candidate Renardo Curry. Deputy Leader Phillip “Brave” Davis was also present that evening. The party capped off a day of campaigning that included distributing school supplies.

Above: PLP supporters gathered at Treasure Cay Beach for a meet and greet with candidate Renardo Curry. Deputy Leader Phillip ‘Brave’ Davis was also present that evening. The party capped off a day of campaigning that included distributing school supplies.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FEE CHANGES

To Our Valued Customers:

On September 1, 2012 the following changes will take effect.

- Interest on Security Deposits will no longer be accrued and customer accounts will not be credited.
- A $25 Reconnection Fee will be assessed for all normal reconnections.
- A $100 reconnection fee will be assessed when the use of a bucket truck is required.

To avoid service interruption, BEC reminds its customers to keep up to date with electricity bill payments.

Customers should also ensure that electricity meters are ALWAYS accessible.
Local Government

Central Abaco District Council

By Timothy Roberts
August 30, 2012

The Central Abaco District Council voted to forward their favor of a boat storage facility to be located in the area of Snake Cay as they conducted business during their meeting on August 30.

Council members reviewed and discussed an application that is before the Foreign Investment Board (FIB) for Bahamas Boat Storage, a sailboat storage yard to be located at Snake Cay. The applicants said they had received approval of their plans by insurance companies as a hurricane safe design and would allow boats to remain in Abaco throughout the hurricane season. The project, a joint venture between a foreign investor and a Bahamian, was agreed to by the council at a reduced scale. The project would not interfere with locals’ enjoyment of the area. Council member Deshawn Simms informed the council that he purchased three lawn mowers for $307 each for the maintenance of the field in Murphy Town near Central Abaco High School. The fields were all mowed and ready for the opening of school the following week. He also expressed concern about the bush between Central Abaco Primary School and the adjacent field behind it. He said it posed safety problems as there are holes and caves in the bush and it was discovered earlier this year that a Haitian was living in a cave in the bush. The council discussed clearing the area with a bulldozer and making it usable by the school. Road conditions were discussed as recent rain activities have increased the pot-hole population. A council member said that the Ministry of Works reported that after months of being out of it the received only two pallets from Nassau in July. Mr. Cornish informed the council that the Marsh Harbour Town Committee had purchased $1700 worth of patch from Bahamas Hot Mix in July. Island Administrator Preston Cunningham said that he would speak to them and have it released to the Ministry of Works to patch the roads on Central Abaco.

Central Abaco Town Planning

By Timothy Roberts

The Central Abaco Town Planning Board met on September 10 to review plans and applications dealing with residential and multi-dwelling homes, fences and storage sheds among other matters. The board reviewed nearly twenty applications worth a value of almost $2.4 million and approved all but one that required further information. The board also discussed an electronic gate that was built bisecting a road in the Marsh Harbour area. It was noted that they had received no application for the construction of the gate nor had they received the signatures of homeowners beyond the gate stating their approval for it. Several members will visit the gate and discuss the matter with the person(s) responsible.

Hope Town principal retiring after thirty years of tireless service

Candace Key, former Principal of Hope Town Primary School, is retired. After thirty years of tireless service to the children and community of not only Hope Town, but Abaco as a whole, Ms. Key will leave behind a school that is above and beyond what its limited resources would otherwise dictate. With a sense of duty and compassion to her school children that extends well beyond their time in the old red and white school building, Ms. Key will leave behind an indelible mark.

Most recently the school became the first government school in the Caribbean to receive the Green Flag Eco-School Award. But Ms. Key’s accomplishments and efforts at the school go much further back.

To celebrate Ms. Key’s efforts and career, the school’s Parent Teacher Association is organizing a luncheon. The luncheon will be held at the Hope Town Harbour Lodge on September 29 and everyone is invited. A $25 ticket for lunch can be purchased. If you would like to give a toast in Ms. Key’s honour, or have pictures and memories that you would like to share, please contact: Pleasant Higgins: 366-0797 pleasbhiggins@yahoo.com, or Lindsey McCoy: 366-0822 lindseyontheboat@yahoo.com.

The Abaconian

By Candace Key

After thirty years of tireless service to the students of Hope Town Primary School, Ms. Key is retiring. She is a compassionate, tireless service provider for the children of Hope Town and beyond and we wish her well in her future endeavors. The Abaconian will publish an article on Ms. Key’s retirement in the coming weeks.

The Cays

“Like” The Abaconian on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for news updates and info.
**Housebreaking**
*(Suspect arrested)*

At 7:45pm on 7th September, 2012, a 32 year old female of Spring City, Abaco, reported that sometime between 7:45am and 7:30pm on 7th September, 2012, some unknown person/s broke into her residence through a rear door and stole her 32" Shape T.V. out of her bedroom. She suspects a male known to her from Spring City. Police action requested.

**Suspect Arrested**

Officers of the Central Detective Unit Abaco arrested the suspect of Spring City, Abaco, reference to this matter. Investigation continues.

**Assault & Threats of Death**
*(Under Investigation)*

At 4:40pm on 7th September, 2012, a 21 year old female of Spring City, Abaco, reported that on 4th September, 2012, at 7:30am while at her residence in Spring City she was choked by her husband who also threatened to kill her.

Police action requested.

**Housebreaking & Stealing**
*(Suspect arrested)*

At 4:25pm on 6th July, 2012, a 38 year old male of Murphy Town, Abaco, reported that sometime between 5:30am and 4:00pm on 6th September, 2012, some unknown person/s broke and entered his residence through a front northern door. The culprit/s searched and stole his gold and silver Rolex watch, a black watch, one silver bracelet valued and two gold rings. Police action requested.

**Suspect arrested**

On 8th September, 2012, Officers of the Central Detective Unit Abaco arrested two suspects of Dundas Town and Central Pines, Abaco, reference to this matter. Investigation continues.

**Threats of Death**
*(Under Investigation)*

At 9:00am on 6th September, 2012, a 45 year old male of The Pigeon Peas, Abaco reported that sometime around 6:30pm on 5th September, 2012, two Haitian males known to him came to him in the Pigeon Peas and threatened to kill him. Police action requested. Investigation continues.

**Assaulting a Police Officer**
*(Arrest)*

On Sunday 9th September 2012 P/C 146 Rolle, Officers of the M.H.P.S. came into the with a 20 year old male of Murphy Town under arrest reference to Assaulting a Police Officer, Resisting Arrest, Obscene Language & Disorderly Behaviour. Officers reported arresting him at 4:55pm on the same date.

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**Assault & Causing Damage**
*(Suspect arrested)*

On Saturday 8th September 2012 at 1900hrs a 47 year old female of Dundas Town, Abaco, reported to the Marsh Harbour Police Station that about 1754hrs on 8/9/12 while at her residence she was slapped in the face by her ex-boyfriend, whom appeared to be intoxicated. The suspect also damaged several windows at the complainant’s apartment; estimate cost of damage was unknown at the time. Officers of the M.H.P.S. visited the scene and viewed the damages. Investigations are being continued into this matter.

**Suspect Arrested**

On Saturday 8th September 2012 at 2010hrs, Officers of the M.H.P.S. arrested and cautioned the suspect 49 year old male of Archer’s Boulevard, Dundas Town, Abaco, while at his residence reference to these matters. Investigations continue.
can be revitalized.

“We have to get the mindset of the people to think about owning business and not just working for the government,” he said adding that it’s going to take a lot of working to change the mindset of the people.

“This is a reminder that we are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. They are looking for change and that’s why a good number of young people here tonight. 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Remembering the Robert Fulton

The Robert Fulton and dock at Snake Cay.

Originally printed in Destination Abaco Summer 2012. Reprinted with permission.

Submitted By Dave Ralph

Do you wonder why the picture of a river steamer from New York is in a publication about Abaco? The boat is the Robert Fulton, a day-excursion boat that plied the Hudson River in New York during the first half of the nineteenth century. What’s the connection with Abaco?

Abaco residents older than 50 years will remember the changes that this boat brought when it arrived on Abaco in November 1959. They will remember trips to the Fulton for groceries in the mammoth company store. Today it would not rate the mammoth designation, but in the early 1960s it was huge, the biggest store anywhere outside Nassau. The Fulton was the headquarters of Owens-Illinois, the company that had the lumbering operation on Abaco in the 1960s.

The Fulton was built in 1909 as a steamer on the New York's Hudson River taking as many as 4,000 passengers on day excursions between New York City and Albany, but it was sent to the scrap yard in 1954.

The 345-foot Robert Fulton was rescued from the scrap yard in 1956 and converted into a floating center to support the pulpwood operation with its U.S. employees and dependents.

The main deck had the two items our residents remember - the general store and the medical clinic. Can you imagine the comparison of a store covering much of the bottom deck with chill boxes and freezers compared to tiny local stores that were without refrigeration. The store was of great benefit to all the communities of Central Abaco.

The company had several hundred employees along with their dependents living in relatively remote areas with no modern stores so the company store was a necessity. It provided groceries of all sorts, fresh and frozen meats, dairy products, fresh vegetables and the normal assortment of canned and dry groceries. But the inventory also included notions, fabric and clothing, hair and skin products, patent medicines, and some furniture, all the basic items a family required. This was the first time that fresh milk and ice cream were available on Abaco.

However, for all the assortment, customers never knew exactly what was in stock. They stood along a 150-foot-long counter looking through a chain link fence down the aisles where the food and other merchandise were located.

Inside the fence clerks served the customers, one clerk with one customer until the customer was done. Customers did their best to look down the aisles and guess what was there. When finished, items were put on the conveyor belt under the counter and off you went to the cashier to wait for your groceries to arrive. Perhaps this store made the biggest impact to daily life in Central Abaco. Area shopkeepers came either by car or boat to get fresh milk, ice cream and other food products that required freezers and coolers for shipping. Until the Fulton arrived, local shops depended on the weekly mailboat from Nassau which had minimal capacity for frozen and refrigerated food. Most meat products sold locally at that time were typically corned, salted or dried. Pickled pig’s feet, salt pork and similarly preserved products were also common.

The arrival of the store upset the local kerosene market to the benefit of all. Local shopkeepers ordered it in drums from Nassau and dispensed it with a hand pump it into various containers brought by customers. It sold locally for three and sixpence a gallon or 49 cents. It was a messy process as the drums usually leaked on the ship and through town as the drums were rolled from the dock to a shop.

The Fulton store installed two 10,000 gallon tanks, one for kerosene and one for gasoline sales which were filled by the Shell tanker. Kerosene was a prime fuel in the lumber villages for cooking and lighting. The company paid 12 cents a gallon for kerosene and sold it for 18 cents. However, retail at 18 cents was far below the cost in the drums and the mail boat was happy to be out of the kerosene business.

The other major benefit that Owens Illinois provided Abaco was the clinic. It was tiny by today’s standards but was quite complete including two small rooms with beds for overnight emergencies. With the clinic came a doctor, Ejnar Gottlieb, the

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The Robert Fulton could not be moved but had to be destroyed as required by government. The boat was first burned, then the steel sections were cut apart and trucked into the woods. The hole at the dock was filled, leaving no trace. Her last trip was in 2011 when scrap metal dealers found her remains and sent them off for recycling.

It was an intriguing piece of Abaco’s past that my wife and I lived on.
Work is for people who don’t know how to fish!
Enjoy Life, while Insurance Management works for you.
By Samantha Evans

Hundreds of teachers gathered at New Vision Ministries for the Back to School Service and Symposium under the theme: “Excellence for all... Yes we say so!” The service began at 10 a.m. as teachers and educators anxiously awaited the proclamation for the school year by the superintendent and guest speaker. Dr. Lenora Black brought the welcome and stated the purpose for the service.

Dr. Black began by saying that even though challenges have been faced, the success of the district has been many. These successes serve as an indication of what is possible when all put their collective geniuses together. She welcomed the new and returning educators back for an excellent school year. She introduced the new administrators to the district as well as the newly promoted ones.

She thanked Candice Cay and Austin Mills for their committed service to excellence. She thanked those who were redeployed for serving the district with distinction. She appealed to all educators to work hard and to propel further as they continue to pursue excellence. She encouraged communities, businesses, parents and others to partner with the schools in the

Educators attend Back to School Service and Symposium

New Vision Ministries in marsh harbour was the site of this year’s educators’ symposium. Experts and officials addressed the large crowd, comprised mostly educators, to bring them up to date on new rules and initiatives that will affect them in the upcoming academic year. Dr. Lenora Black, District Supt. of Education, encouraged all teachers to pursue excellence and to build on the successes of previous years.
community where they do business. She further encouraged them not to do business as usual because they will have to live with the future they create.

The keynote address was delivered by teacher, and Senior Assistant of Abaco Central High School, Ethlene McIntosh who spoke on the topic of excellence. She referenced God’s creation of the world which was done with excellence and the Biblical story of Daniel. She spoke of the latter in regards to his excellent work habits, his ethical principles, teachable spirit

and his overall commitment to operating with a spirit of excellence. Ms. McIntosh continued with her analogy. Even when Daniel’s colleagues tried to kill him, she explained, he did not compromise his excellence. She told the educators that if they are to survive the high global development they too must operate in a spirit of excellence. Too many people are asking for raises but do not produce a full day’s work, come to work late and use political connections to get ahead.

She proclaimed that it is time that we say no to favours from politicians and say that if you are going to promote me then do it because I have the training and skills, am a team player and can help the organization grow. She told the educators to not be like K.B.’s popular song about civil servants, but to rather become people of excellence. To attain excellence she gave the educators eight points to remember: they want to be excellent, establish excellent thoughts, put the past behind them or it will rob them of a worthwhile life, set high goals, keep building their skills, be around the best, guard their tongue, and seek divine guidance. She then left teachers and administrators with some additional food for thought in the form of questions.

Once Ms. McIntosh was finished, Bishop Terrance Strachan of Life

Above: Senior Island Administrator Preston Cunningham, South Abaco Administrator Joshua Smith and District Supt. of Education Dr. Lenora Black in the audience at the Educators’ Symposium.
Abaco student attends summer program in Minnesota

By Canishka Alexander

Perkell Collie, an 11th grade student of Cyber Learning Center, was the only Bahamian student to attend St. Cloud State University’s Advanced Program in Technology and Science in Minnesota this summer. However, she was joined by a delegation of students from countries like Greece and Africa for the three-week residential program offered from July 15 to August 3 to 10th and 11th grade students interested in technology, science, mathematics or engineering.

Tuition, academic fees, books and room and board were all provided.

According to the university’s website, the focus of the program was to provide “scientific research for students from historically underrepresented groups and expose them to career options in technology.” It also allowed students to meet positive role models in those fields.

In fulfillment of one of the requirements, Perkell was enlisted into the program by Cyber Principal Sharon Greene based on Perkell’s high science aptitude. During the program, Perkell was also enrolled in the university’s web design and computer studies program.

When Perkell graduates next year, she has decided to attend St. Cloud where she will qualify for a partial scholarship, and after completing her studies there she will move on to the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Robert Johnson of St. Cloud’s Ethnic Studies Department plans to visit Abaco with his wife Nurse Practitioner Icephine Johnson soon to promote the free advanced summer program and St. Cloud State University to Abaco students.

Horizons Academy has new location and big plans for the future

By Samantha Evans

Horizons Academy has started its second year as a private school. Owner, Simonne Mullings, stated that they had a great first year but it was very challenging. However, she knows that this is a venture that she needs to take as she is fulfilling a need for students who otherwise would not succeed at getting an education.

She stated that her school has small classes which are excellent for students who have difficulty thriving in a regular school setting. Additionally, her school gives one-on-one instruction which some parents just prefer for their children. To aid this, they have moved to a new location in Dundas Town to the Old Friendship Tabernacle Church building.

To date, the school has fifteen students enrolled in the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. school program and several others for the evening institute. The latter is for those students who did not finish school for those who could not make it in a regular school setting but want to earn their high school diploma. Now that her husband, Fyador Mullings, works for the school full time he has plans to offer classes in computer information systems and web design. The school has also partnered with a California school to offer high school diplomas catered towards those who are technologically inclined.

Ms. Mullings is excited about the possibilities this will open for her school. Persons interested in obtaining their high school diploma can call the school at 225-1853.
School & Youth News

S.C. Bootle’s previous year’s highlights

Submitted by Huel Moss
• Committed and Energetic Staff.
• Entire Support Staff signed up for BJC and BGCSE Examinations.
• Continued increase in the overall school GPA.
• Placed 3rd in the nation in BJC improvement in our category.
• Best individual BGCSE result in a Family Island School, including Grand Bahama.
• As the only government school to represent Abaco – won the national Model United Nations Sessions (MUNS) Competition in Nassau. Team will be travelling to New York in September to represent the United Nations.
• Took three of the top five positions in the District’s Spelling Competition.
• Reading Initiatives – Uninterrupted Sustained Silent Reading.
• Placed 2nd in the District’s Inter-
• Environmental Initiatives – tree planting, beach-community clean-ups, Discovery Club and activities toward becoming a “Green School”.
• Placed 2nd in the District’s Inter-
• Art students participated in several local competitions and exhibits.
• Participated in a successful Local Government Junior Council Program – several scholarships to study abroad were awarded.
• Successful GGYA Program.
• Won the District’s Junior Rotary Speech Competition.
• Placed 2nd in the senior division of the Young Chef Competition in Nassau, the only school to represent Abaco.
• Art students participated in several local competitions and exhibits.
• Participated in a successful Local Government Junior Council Program where several projects were completed.
• Environmental Initiatives – tree planting, beach-community clean-ups, Discovery Club and activities toward becoming a “Green School”.
• Placed 2nd in the District’s Inter-School Track & Field Competition.
• All Boys and Girls Seminars.

Lovely Reckley helps children in need

By Samantha Evans

Lovely Reckley has been donating free lunches to many Abaco schools for several years now but this was the first time that she sought assistance from the public to provide uniform and shoes for students of Central Abaco Primary School.

She began making preparations for this new venture from when the summer break began.

Ms. Reckley could be seen at Maxwell’s Store frequently which allowed her to collect over $400 for uniforms and $200 for shoes. The uniform assistance was set up at Just Ruth’s but later moved to His and Her Jeans in the Abaco Shopping Plaza. The Shoe Credit was set up at Sports World in Marsh Harbour.

This assistance was made available to parents through the Guidance Officer of Central Abaco Primary School Samantha V. Evans who accompanied parents to each location to receive the items needed. At the end of this credit more than twenty students were assisted.

Some received full uniforms while others only received a top or bottom as needed. The owner of His and Her Jeans provided two boys and girls with full uniforms at the end of the credit. At Sports World, each transaction was given a 10% discount which allowed more kids to receive shoes. Lovely Reckley also donated new long navy blue pants for students as well. They were distributed by the school counselor.

Thanks to this generous assistance many parents were able to get their children ready for school. Hence, more students can attend school from the first week of school rather than delaying attendance due to lack of school uniform and supplies.

Ms. Evans stated that more generous part-

By Samantha Evans

Owen and Bekera Taylor, part owners of Myriad Minds Community Center, held a Back to School Give-A-Way for young boys and men on Saturday September 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

They gave the patrons free haircuts and showed movies all day for children. Mr. Taylor was the barber for the day and has been a barber on Abaco for five years. He also has over fifteen years barbering internationally.

This event was the beginning of him getting back into offering his barbering services on a professional level next door to the Abaco Myriad Community Center.

According to Bekera Taylor, they will continue to offer movies on Saturday for all ages at affordable rates giving the community a convenient place for clean fun and entertainment.

She added that parents can drop off their kids while they shop or do chores on Saturdays. For further information parents can call 458-6314 or 432-0959.

Teachers at Central Abaco Primary attend motivational session

By Samantha Evans

After almost two months of vacation, public school teachers all across the Bahamas returned to work on Monday August 27, 2012. In most of these schools a motivational session was held on this day to get teachers fired up for the new school year.

On Abaco, the same took place and the for-

Mr. Cornish spoke to them about the importance of speaking into the life of the students they teach. He told them that this topic is dear to him because when he was in school he did not hear the encouraging words he should have from his teachers. In fact, he stated that based on the words he heard, he was not supposed to succeed in life. However, he did not embrace those words and is now a success. He told the teachers that mentoring students is part of teaching because students look up to them and listen intently to the words they speak. Therefore, they can uplift or break a child’s spirit. He appealed to them to speak positively into the lives of their students.

He encouraged teachers to do several things. He told them to be committed to self-development. He stated that once the leader continues to develop the staff with success and the students will do so as well. Next, he asked them to commit to excel-

Finally, he asked them to reignite their passion for education. Pastor Cornish stated that when change doesn’t come they must not get stuck. Once they have passion it will be a privilege to come to work rather than just waiting for payday. In other words, they find teaching to be an honour and not a job. Once they love it and enjoy it then it would not seem like work.

Myriad Community Center promotes back to school initiative

By Samantha Evans

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On Abaco, the same took place and the forty plus teachers at Central Abaco Primary School heard from gifted author and pastor of Change Ministries International Samuel Cornish.

Mr. Cornish spoke to them about the importance of speaking into the life of the students they teach. He told them that this topic is dear to him because when he was in school he did not hear the encouraging words he should have from his teachers. In fact, he stated that based on the words he heard, he was not supposed to succeed in life. However, he did not embrace those words and is now a success. He told the teachers that mentoring students is part of teaching because students look up to them and listen intently to the words they speak. Therefore, they can uplift or break a child’s spirit. He appealed to them to speak positively into the lives of their students.

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Teachers learn about Urban Renewal 2.0 Initiative for new school year

By Samantha Evans

On August 29, public and private school teachers learned about the Renew Program, or Urban Renewal 2.0 Livable Neighbourhood Program, from the officer in charge of the operation on Abaco, Sgt. Jocelyn Smith. Sgt. Smith stated that the program will have several arms, one of which is the school policing unit which will become operational on September 3, 2012.

Two officers will be assigned to Abaco Central High and S. C. Bootle High Schools. The officer assigned to ACHS will be Sgt. 868 Dorsette and the officer assigned to S.C. Bootle will be Corporal 2238 Jerome Ferguson. Each of them will be assisted by a reserve officer. Their job will be to provide security and promote safety on these campuses. They will also patrol the school grounds and surrounding areas. It was made clear that these officers will handle offenses that occur in and out of school.

The additional officers of the Urban Renewal Program are Constable 320 Ken- ton Clarke, Reserve Officer Janice Jones (Creole speaker), Officer Moss and Sgt. Smith. All of these officers have worked with the Urban Renewal Program in Nassau. Sgt. Smith stated that they are excited about the opportunities these programs will bring.

The Urban Renewal Project will facilitate four programs: Etiquette Program, Drill Core Program, Youth Music Band, and the Renew Program. The Etiquette Program will be available to primary school students in grades 4 to 6. The program is for kids who get into trouble or go into detention. The Drill Core Program is for students in grades 4 to 10. It will teach discipline, character building and respect for peers and others. She believes that the drills they have learned as police officers teach discipline.

The Youth Music Band will be led by an officer from the police band and assisted by two other police officers. The Renew Program is voluntary and reformative. It was created specifically to cater to suspended students. The program will provide them with something productive to do while on suspension so that they do not engage in deviant behavior.

Business mentors will be needed for the students. If the students are not re-enrolled at the end of the program, they will be enrolled in the Drill Core along with other activities. The officers will start the programs at Abaco Central High, S.C. Bootle, and Central Abaco Primary Schools. They will then branch out to other schools. It is her hope that each school will have their own drill core.

Commonwealth Bank donates To Central Abaco Primary School

By Samantha Evans

On Monday September 3, Assistant Manager, Mr. Johnson, and Sharon Dorsette, Senior Credit Officer, visited Central Abaco Primary School during the morning hours at which time they donated four boxes of books and several dozen pens to the school Guidance Department.

According to Ms. Dorsette, they donated to Abaco schools every year but this was the first one. Once they do, she stated, all things will fall into place. All of the students and lecturers present introduced themselves then the registration process began.

After registration Edith White, local coordinator, addressed the students. She told them about her experience as a student of Success who had to commute to Nassau for classes. She told them about her experience as a student and Mrs. Rolle told the students that it is number one institution on Abaco and made history on the island. She wished them well and reminded them to always put God first.

For this new semester the college is offering a great fee to recent graduates. All recent high school graduates can earn an Associates Degree for a special rate of $598 per term. Classes being offered include Business Administration, Human Resources Management, Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Computer Internet Technology, Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, Medical Assisting and Paralegal Studies.

Free registration is available to new students until September 21. Classes for the freshmen will begin on Saturday September 15, 2012. Interested persons can contact one of the coordinators for further details.

Eighteen to Graduate from Success Training College this November

By Samantha Evans

The second graduation ceremony for Success Training College’s Abaco Campus is scheduled for November 17, 2012. Under the theme “Soaring beyond the challenges towards a brighter future,” eighteen students are expected to graduate and they have predicted that their graduation will be bigger and better than the first one.

A meeting with the graduating class was held at Abaco Central High School at 2 p.m. on Saturday September 8. Shymlan Williams and Cleveland Dawkins are the class graduation coordinators. Ms. Williams gave an update on all of the activities leading up to graduation day.

A Health Drive will take place on October 13 which will include a walk-a-thon, souce out and pressure checks at the BAIC Park in Marsh Harbour. The route will take them from the BAIC Park to the airport round-a-about and back. Tickets will be on sale for chicken, pig feet and mutton souce. Drinks will also be on sale.

This event is a fundraiser for the class graduation. The event is scheduled to begin around 9 a.m. The church service will be held on October 28 at Full Gospel Assembly at 11 a.m. followed by a luncheon at Touch of Class. Photos were done by Alphonse Photog, “Soaring beyond the challenges towards a brighter future,” eighteen students are expected to graduate and they have predicted that their graduation will be bigger and better than the first one.

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Funeral Service For
Ernal G. Swain, 86, of Murphy Town also was held on Saturday Sep-
tember 1st, 2012 at 11:00 am at Bethany Gospel Chapel, Murphy Town, Abaco. Left to cherish his memories are his wife: Emamae, three sons: Barry, Ted and Bradley; one daughter: Vernita; six grandchild-
ren: Lashika, Luneeka, Rashon, Tashashua-
nae, Barrino and Makomi; one great grand-
son: Lawson; three daughters-in-law: Sarah, Shandell and Veronique; two adopt-
ed daughters: Deborah Miller and Pandora Bethel; nieces: Marilyn, Ada, Margaret, Beverlyler, Lucy, Prescola, Grace, Grean-
nae, Janet, Nicole, Grealth, Agatha and Ver-
onica; nephews: Calvin, Horace, Vincent, Rollel, Nelson, Haziel, Merwin, Elgie, Erksin, Belrmat, Edward, George, Arthur, Jowel, Senior, Elvis, Berkley and Amon; numerous grand nieces and nephews: Ma-
rgaret, Monique, Misap, Pleasant, Ama-
nona, Bernadette, Melissa, John, Howit, Ceeo, Tyrence and Lennett; three step grand-
children: Luneeka, Meke and Tray; other family and friends: Kermit, Renardo Curry and family, Wilaema Dawkins and family, Carly, Emmitt, Hilly, Lester, Johnathan, Rocklyn, Minalea and family, Carra, Prince, Hank, Terrance, Gwendolyn, Rush, Norma, Wenny and family, Edith Clarke, Carl Ferguson and family, Wil-
liam Swain and family, Isaac Dawkins and family, Earnl Butter, Oliver Miller and Family, Douglas McDonald and family, Arancco Smith and family, Mrs: Ada Swain, Deidre Smith, Larry Saunders, Paul Mills, Winfred Mitchell and family, Pandora Bethel and family, Victoria Gib-
son and family, Murzel Curry Richardson, Catherine Davis and family, Dolly Davis and family, Johnny Swain and family, Coley Swain and family, Sheila Simms and family, Jimmy Williams and family, the church family of Bethany Gospel Chapel, Zion Baptist, Strong Tower Community Church, Victory Tabernacle and the entire communities of Murphy Town, Dundas Town and Sweetings Cay.

Funeral Service For William A. Wil-
lie Cox, 94, of East Avenue Mila-
ren and formerly of Sandy Point Abaco, who died August 3rd, at the Princess Marg-
aaret Hospital. Funeral service was at St. Martin’s Anglican Church, Sandy Point Abaco. Rev. William Johnson will offici-
ated and interment was followed in the Public Cemeter, y Sandy Point Abaco. Pre-
deceded by: His wife: Clara Bel Burrows-
Cox, Donald Cox, Raymond Cox; all three left to cherish his memories are: His children: Vivian C. Reckley and Petty Officer Glen A. Cox of The Royal Bahamas Defence Force. Adopted children: Alternately called: Melvin Rus-
sell, Matllind Bain, Vincent Ingraham, Eula Gaitor, Sandra Knowles and Carla Nixon. Grand children: Roderick and Ralph Reck-
ley Jr., Robert and Prince Taylor, Clau-
dine Roberts, Clara Taylor, Rose Fawkes, Crystal, Lamylia, Montana and Yanina Cox, Takera Pratim, Tamar Davalle, Asharkelle Parrella, Vindaneena and Vin-
dette, Julian, Jacinata and Bonji, Carlos and Alex. Great grand-children: Alex, Ange-
law: Dena Ingraham. Grand sons-in-

Funeral Service For the late Baby Boy Matthew McKinney-Mackey, 9 days old, of Sandy Point, Abaco was held on Saturday August 25th, 2012 at 10:00am at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Sandy Point, Abaco. Funeral Director: Robert McKinney-Mackey Sr.; anointed family: Matthew McKinney-Mackey Jr.; father: Matthew McKinney Sr.; mother: Angelita Nevo; grandmother: Louise Green, grandfather: Phillip Mackey; niece: Amoy McKee; brother: Marlon Steed; maternal grandfather: Portia Bethell; and numerous nieces and nephews: Shanteel Green, Keva Dean, Rae(deceased), Pat Walter & Bernard; Aunts: Margaret, Joy, Lucille(deceased), others too numerous to mention.

On a normal day September 1st 2012 another baby boy, he was the third of many to be named Derek Kevin Albury. Derek begin his early learning at five years old at Calvary Christian Academy under Mr. Kenneth & Mrs. Coral Lahiey’s teaching. In 2011 he graduated from Bishop Archilaus Cooper assisted by Rev. Herbert Edgecombe officiated and inter-
ment was followed in the Public Cemetery.  He was em-
ployed as a Senior Technical Associate of BTC. He was First Connect Award Winner of 2008 as well as awarded for his Appreciation and Dedication for Outstanding Employee of the Month for outstanding Technical in 2003. He was many times an outstanding Dedication and Service Above and Beyond the call of Duty during Hur-
ricane Irene by the Relief Effort Commit-
tee of BTC. He was also promoted to Senior Technical Associate of BTC. On a normal day September 1st 2012 an- other infant decided to make its home. Left to mourn: His Father: Annie Pinder – Albury; His Father & Mother: Warren & Marilyn Albury; Two Brothers: Gary & Jarrod Pinder, and Grandmothers: Elliott & Ena (both deceased); Grandfathers: Berneli & Andrew Pinder (both deceased); Step Grandmother: Mar-
ilynn Pinder, Desta Pinder, Elizabeth Pinder (Lizzy); Father-in-law: Har-
rison Pinder; Grandmother: Grand-uncle: Cap-
tain Nathan Rolle, nieces and nephews: Vashanne Rolle, Deshiny Rolle, Kaysim Miller and Michael McIntosh, and a host of other relatives and friends.

As the sun pepped over the ho-
ron, he was cherished on the quaint settlement of Marsh Har-
bou, Abaco on August 20th 1967 Warren & Marilyn was blessed with a 9lb. 8oz.
bouncing baby boy, he was the third of many to this union. They thanked God with joyful hearts and named him Derek Kevin Albury. Derek begin his early learning at five years old at Calvary Christian Academy under Mr. Kenneth & Mrs. Coral Lahiey’s teaching. In 2011 he graduated from Bishop Archilaus Cooper assisted by Rev. Herbert Edgecombe officiated and inter-
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By Jennifer Hudson

The South Abaco District Council, in conjunction with corporate sponsors, presented a ‘Back to School Jamboree’ for students of all of the settlements of South Abaco on August 25. The well attended event was held in the Sandy Point Community Centre and was led by Mistress of Ceremonies Brennell Higgs, Headmistress of the James A. Pinder School.

Following an opening prayer in which John Hudson, Chairman of the Cherokee Township, asked for wisdom and guidance for the students during the coming school year. The Administrator for South Abaco, Joshua Smith, spoke to the students on the virtues of honesty and obedience and encouraged them to always put God first.

Keynote speaker was Enzil Cooper, teacher and motivational speaker who gave a very age appropriate talk, using rooms in their homes to illustrate his points. During the ‘tour of the home’ he spoke of:

- “Kitchen of creativity which is where you can try things out to see if they suit your taste.”
- “Where you can be confident in your talents being as big a star as anyone in the world”.
- “Where we get to imagine beyond what is real and how we come up with new ideas such as the latest clothes and technology and so much more.”
- “This is where we learn how to get along, how to love each other and make each other happy. We learn manners and respect and learn to live together.”

Mr. Cooper also spoke a word to the parents, asking them if they are allowing for creativity, confidence and talents, dreaming and socializing. He stressed that social skills are no less important than academics or schoolwork: “The crime statistics in our country demand that our people find more ways to get along”. He urged the parents to teach the kids social skills, help them develop creativity and encourage them to dream and be confident in their skills and talents.

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The children were then eager for the informal part of the program which included fun and games, such as “The Price is Right” and educational quizzes all arranged by the Mistress of Ceremonies Ms. Higgs. They were then all presented with bags full of school supplies, provided by the South Abaco District Council, Scotiabank and the Abaco Club on Winding Bay. Freddy Munnings, representative from Winding Bay, told the children that he would check on their development and that they should work hard because they might come to him one day for a job. The Manageress from Scotiabank told the children that the bank was giving each child a piggy bank so that they could save their coins and whenever their piggy bank was full they could bring it to Scotiabank and open their own savings account.

The jamboree closed with a time of refreshment when the children were given a variety of healthy foods which included sandwiches, fruit, juices and water.

Many children benefitted from gifts of school supplies during the South Abaco Back to School Jamboree.
Abaco Club distributes supplies to ECC and other local schools

By Canishka Alexander

Freddie Munnings, chairman of the Community Footprints Committee at The Abaco Club on Winding Bay, visited Every Child Counts on September 3 to distribute thirty three backpacks filled with school supplies to students.

Selected as partnering schools, students of Hope Town Primary School, Cherokee Primary School, and J.A. Pinder Primary School greatly benefited along with the employees of the Club who received supplies for their children as well.

According to Munnings, the school supply drive was initiated in January 2012, and volunteers from the committee held various fundraising events like car washes, cookouts and basketball games to raise funds for the project.

Additionally, Club members and local businesses made donations. As a result, Munnings said that the original target goal of $6,000 was exceeded, and more than 700 volunteer hours were recorded over the course of the fundraisers. He noted that Scotiabank made a significant corporate donation at the ceremony in Sandy Point.

"[The objective was] to provide consistent fundraising opportunities to support and fund our "School Back – Pack for a Purpose" program in August," Munnings acknowledged. "In total, our target was to supply 100 primary school backpacks for primary level students, and 50 backpacks for high school level students – replete with age-appropriate supplies."

Backpacks were distributed to the La
dies and Gentlemen at the Club on Aug. 6, while partnering schools received their supplies between Aug. 22 and the first week of school.

"It should be noted that the rationale for inclusion of the children of the Club’s [Ladies and Gentlemen] was driven by the fact that the annual seasonal scale back for the Abaco Club is of 12 week’s duration in 2012 (from Aug. 3 to Oct. 26)," he explained.

"Many of our employees are thus either on lay-off or reduced hours during this period. With schools in The Bahamas opening traditionally during the first week in September, it is only right that the children of our colleagues be also considered as deserving of this Club initiative, especially where mom and/or dad would surely need assistance in supplying ‘back-to-school essentials.’"

Mr. Munnings concluded, “Charity as they say should begin at home especially when it supports our Employee Promise.”

Commendations were given to Freddie Munnings, who was assisted by Denis Lightbourn, the purchasing manager, and his wife Veronica. He also thanked the Club’s Guidance Team, all Ladies and Gentlemen for volunteering, Club members and business partners on Abaco for “making this initiative a very fulfilling reality.”

Bahamian students attend Whale Camp in Sandy Point

-Press Release-

During the first two weeks of August, Bahamian students from throughout The Bahamas travelled to Sandy Point, Abaco to work with the Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organization (BMMRO) and take part in their Summer Whale Camp. BMMRO received sponsorship to support the students for a week at a time.

The participating students were: Karissa Maycock, Noah Hanna, Devyne Charlton, Nate Gabe Hudson, Pachancia Knowles, Kerwin Mullings, Jurike Russell and AJ McIntosh. While living at the BMMRO research center they had the opportunity to experience dolphins and whales in their natural habitat and gain hands-on experience in the field of marine mammal science.

BMMRO is a non-profit organization based in Sandy Point, Abaco. Since 1991 they have been documenting the distribution and abundance of marine mammals throughout The Bahamas by conducting boat based surveys and using a well-known technique called photo-identification. The main goal of the project is to contribute to the conservation of marine mammals by

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E-Mail: margaret.cc.abaco@gmail.com

September 15, 2012 The Abaconian Section B Page 9

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learning more about habitat use and social behaviour and sharing this information with other scientists and interested parties. Whale Camp was created in the hopes that young Bahamians will develop a better understanding and appreciation for the Bahamian marine environment.

These students were exposed to all aspects of marine mammal science, such as scientific data collection, acoustic monitoring of a local population of Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) and photo-identification. By photographing the pattern of natural nicks and scars on each animal’s dorsal fin or tail flukes, we are able to keep track of individuals, gaining an understanding of their social structure, habitat use and population status. Countless hours were spent on the boat water searching for marine mammals. Once we found a group of dolphins or a sperm whale; data on their group composition, age class and habitat use along with photos were collected. This data would then be entered and a photo catalogue would be used to identify the individuals seen.

Some of the species encountered during Whale Camp included Atlantic spotted dolphins (Stenella frontalis), Atlantic bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus), Dwarf sperm whales (Kogia sima), Pygmy sperm whales (Kogia breviceps), and Sperm whales (Physeter macrocephalus). For most of the campers, this was their first time seeing a whale or dolphin in the wild.

Jurique Russell from Cat Island recalled, “My experience at the whale camp was fantastic. Just looking at the whales and the dolphins was a dream come true. I really enjoyed listening to the different sounds of marine mammals, which they called acoustics. After acoustics we did photo identification of the mammals. We identified some by their nicks and scars on their dorsal fin. What I have enjoyed most was going to town and interviewing local fishermen on what they knew about marine mammals to put in our presentation. The outcome was great; we were surprised on how much information they had on these marine mammals. But overall whale camp was the most fun I had in a while. And I have learnt so much from this experience.”

BMMRO would like to thank their interns for their assistance with Whale Camp, Annabelle Cartwright from Nassau and Donavan Sankey Jr. from Jamaica. To our sponsors, Young Marine Explorers, Friends of the Environment, Disney Animal Programs and Environmental Initiatives and Rotary of Abaco.

As L.C. Hull & Co. continues to celebrate our 10th Anniversary as a law firm, we decided to donate all of the school supplies needed for this year to Cherokee All Age School. The staff of L.C. Hull & Co. attended the Cherokee School Assembly to make the donation. Ms. Hull gave a motivational speech to the kids and they had responded with a wonderful thank you poem for. Ms. Hull spoke to them about realizing that God created us all uniquely and that we should find our special talent and use that talent, work hard and in that way and say Thank you to Jesus for all that he has done for us.

Ms. Hull attended the All Age Cherokee School when she was a little girl as her parents were Missionaries in Cherokee.

L.C. Hull & Co. donates to Cherokee All Age School

Above: Rhonda Hull of L.C. Hull & Co. making the presentation to Cherokee School. Ms. Hull attended the school when she was a child.
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School & Youth News

PLP candidate Curry passes out
school items to students

During a day-long tour of North Abaco constituencies, PLP candidate Renardo Curry made several stops to hand out school supplies to local students. Mr. Curry said that education is a main focus of his and will be pushing to help those who have struggled academically.

“One of my focuses is education, because I believe if you get a good education you can then contribute to the development of your communities,” Mr. Curry said.

He said he will be pushing very hard for education, as he looks to bring trade and vocational schools like BTVI (Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute) to North Abaco. “We’d also like to have some programs for those who didn’t finish high school to help them earn their diplomas,” he added.

“We believe if we can help them succeed and develop themselves it will help us all,” he said.

FNM candidate Gomez donates to
Amy Roberts All Age School

On Saturday, September 8 Greg Gomez made a presentation to the Amy Roberts All Age School in Green Turtle Cay. During his meet and greet event that same day Mr. Gomez, met with the children of the community to pass out individual gifts along with new electronic equipment for the school including a printer.

Also present to meet with the children was FNM leader Dr. Hubert Minnis and the Deputy Leader, Loretta Butler-Turner. The candidate and Dr. Minnis returned to Green Turtle Cay on Wednesday, September 12 to make the official presentation.

The election, according to Prime Minister Perry Christie, will be scheduled sometime in October. Campaigning by both parties continues across the island.

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SANDLEE BRUTUS: 2 A’s, 3 B’s, 1 C and 1 D
ASHVONI RUSSELL: 4 A’s, 2 B’s and 1 C
LAQUANT RUSSELL: 1 B and 5 C’s
DEARSHARY BROWN: 3 A’s, 3 B’s and 1 C
HORME RAMPOTAR: 5 A’s and 2 B’s

BEST WISHES TO OUR HIGH FLYING BJC STUDENTS FROM ADMINISTRATION, TEACHERS, STAFF & STUDENTS OF SHERLIN C. BOOPLE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITIES OF NORTH ABACO
Central Abaco softball teams win double header

By Canishka Alexander

After softball games were cancelled the night before, players eagerly looked forward to the double header scheduled on September 1 in Cooper’s Town. The first game featured was between the RJ Bonefish Runners and the Lady Sluggers.

The first inning was dominated by the Lady Sluggers, who managed to secure a series of runs putting them in an early lead against their opponents. Although the Runners fought back and were able to accumulate a few runs, they were not enough to topple the Lady Sluggers who were on a roll by the final inning. In the end, the Lady Sluggers beat the RJ Runners: 14 to 6.

Next, the DNR Sluggers faced the New Vision players shortly after 11 p.m. The New Vision team engaged Troy Ballard as their pitcher for the night, and he did not disappoint. Before the game ended, Tommy Rolle also pitched for New Vision. However, DNR players rallied together in a unified effort to score 15 runs to New Vision’s 6.

The Lady Sluggers and DNR Sluggers were in a festive mood following the night’s games.

Tommy Rolle, one of the New Vision pitchers, admitted that they did not come out full force during the game because of a lack of practice. However, he promised that they would be ready by the time the playoffs came.

DNR Pitcher Thomas “Machine Gun” Kelly, who scored the only two home runs in the game, also made remarks.

“It turned out better than I expected with the youths that are on the team,” he said. “Everybody is playing pretty well, and I am trying to get the guys together. After they get where they are supposed to be, then we’ll try to be the champions of Abaco.”

Meanwhile, Abaco Softball Association President Nigel Bootle commented on the upcoming 2012 playoffs, which are scheduled for September 21. In the ladies’ division, there are the Lady Sluggers, F.E.S. Peacocks and RJ Bonefish Runners; and in the men’s division, there are four teams: DNR Sluggers, Creter’s Bulldogs, Destroyers and New Vision.

“The first round of the playoffs will be the best of five, and in the championship, the best of seven,” Bootle explained. “So we are going to start that on the 21st of September in order to be ready for Nationals in Nassau on Nov.4.”

He said that overall the teams look good and that the women’s teams in particular have improved a lot.

“A little more practice and the rest of The Bahamas will have to be on alert,” he advised.

Learn to Swim dives into new season

By Canishka Alexander

The ‘Learn to Swim’ program kicked off on September 10, 2012. The program will run until the water becomes too cold for the kids. We currently run the program on Monday’s and Wednesday’s from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m at Long Bay School pool. If you are interested in signing your child/children up for this program you can email us at abacoswimclub@gmail.com or come to the pool on Monday’s or Wednesday’s at 3:45 p.m. We are excited about teaching your children how to swim. We believe swimming is the only sport that could save your child’s life, and we are looking forward to a successful fun filled swim season.

North Abaco hopeful presents trophies to tournament winners

Renardo Curry, Progressive Liberal Party candidate for North Abaco, presented trophies to Agape Christian School’s Basketball Team for winning the Basketball Tournament that was held at Treasure Cay Primary School on Saturday, September 8. Godfrey Rolle along with the PLP North Abaco Committee organized the tournament.

Above: Coach Wade Adderley (far left) and Renardo Curry (wearing yellow in middle) along with the victorious Agape team.

By Canishka Alexander

Game between the DNR Sluggers and the New Vision players on Sept. 1 in Cooper’s Town.

Have Sports News to Share?

Contact The Abaconian

AbaconianNews@gmail.com

or

242-367-3200
Jeannie & Julie; Uncles-in-law: Frederick, Ian Ross & David Albury; Aunts-in-law: Patricia Cash, Kathleen Ross, Juanita Hall & Normajean Albury and host of other family and friends.

As the sun rose the month of August 6, 1972, a beautiful baby girl was born to proud parent Judy-mae Newman (deceased) and Hudson Simms and she was given the name Theresa Latasha Simms affectionately known as “Reese” who was loved by both her parents dearly. Theresa received her early education at Marsh Harbour Primary school where she graduated and went to Abaco Central High School. Upon completion at ACHS Theresa decided it was time to move on the work field. She was a striv

Obits

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**Across**

2. _______ Truncates; Scientific name of a bottlenose dolphin.
4. Vesuvius and Mt. St. Helen for example.
6. What most find gross this bird snacks on.
10. Sosie; popular target for hunters on Abaco.
16. Fake; 'Funny Money'
17. When you stand before twelve of your peers.

**Down**

1. Robert _______; Old steam ship once station at Snake Cay.
3. A popular hunting road in Abaco; A type of crab.
5. Objects maintain this due to gravity.
6. A French palace; A treaty that ended WWI.
7. Leader of the opposition.
8. What most find gross this bird snacks on.
11. A unit of energy; an excess of these leads to weight gain.
14. Harvested every two to three years.
15. Abbreviation for the best conference in college football; Georgia Bulldogs are a member.

**September 1 Crossword Answers**

**Across**

1. CHALK—Used on blackboards.
6. BARRIER—_______ reef; Abaco home to the third largest in the world.
7. SAILAWAY—Ten year old charity beach party.
9. COMPLEX—Opposite of simple; a cluster of buildings or offices.
12. SEMESTER—Most schools fall into this two system.
13. ELKHORN—A type of coral; not staghorn.
15. SODIUM—salt; _______ chloride.
17. MELANOMA—A concern with the appearance of strange moles and freckles; Too much sun a large factor of this.

**Down**

2. AVERAGE—Being typical.
3. INSURANCE—Purchased for a vehicle, a house or your health.
4. FLASH—Green _______; Rare phenomena relating to sunsets.
5. PREAMBLE—Introduction of a document; _______ to the Constitution.
8. QUEEN—'God save the _______'
10. MUTTON—Lamb; a type of snapper.
11. OAKES—Famous victim of Nassau murder conspiracy.
13. ELKHORN—A type of coral; not staghorn.
16. BOILED—Method of preparing fish; 212 degree fahrenheit water.

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**Needed**, a couple who are interested in working with the staff and management as assistant managers of Fernandes Bay Village, a 19 unit beachfront hotel, comprised of cottages and villas, clubhouse, restaurant, boutique, and beach bar. The owners are looking for a couple with beachside talents to: 

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- Supervising/working with day/ evenings

**I want staff**

- Picking food items from the pantry and delivering them to the kitchen
- Keeping the bar and wine cooler stocked
- Help keep all common areas neat and clean
- Stocking and merchandising skills
- Light maintenance knowledge
- Flexible work hours and schedule
- Work holidays and weekends

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We are particularly interested in individuals who are financially driven, with a good work ethic and a sense of responsibility to clients. Some college background preferred but not mandatory.

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To schedule a private and confidential interview, please contact our office on Dan McKay Blvd. by phone at 367.3452. Your resume is required at the time of the interview.

Colina Insurance Limited seeks 4 sales representatives to sell our diversified portfolio of insurance products and related financial solutions in Abaco.
Insights for your Innerspring “Build Confidence and Destroy Fear”

Submitted by Whitney Bain

Chapter 3 from ‘The Magic of Thinking Big’ by David J. Schwartz, Ph.D.

Is fear real? Dr. Schwartz seems to think so, and he feels that “we must recognize it exists before we can conquer it.” He continues to put forward his point that “most fear today is psychological. Worry, tension, embarrassment, panic all stem from mismanaged, negative imagination … fear is success’ enemy number one.”

We can’t escape the results of fear that we see in our lives and all around us. Once we accept that this emotion does exist we can take steps to destroy fear and build confidence. If we are to make any inroads into conquering fear we must recognize that “all confidence is acquired or developed over time, and with careful attention, we build the muscle of confidence.”

And just like the foremen in our thought factory, Mr. Triumph and Mr. Defeat; when we give our focus to building confidence we make him stronger while fear grows increasingly weaker.

Dr. Schwartz says “action cures fear,” while “indecision and postponement, on the other hand, fertilize fear.” What is it that you have been planning to do? You must act now! Continued postponement and indecision will encourage fear; bring about the failure disease called “excusitis” and cause frustration to take up a long-term lease in your house! You owe it to yourself to act now! Action does cure fear! Dr. Schwartz gives several examples of ways a kind of action to take to conquer fear. In the case of “embarrassment be- cause of what kind of action to take to conquer fear,” while “indecision and postponement, on the other hand, fertilize fear.” What is it that you have been planning to do? You must act now! Continued postponement and indecision will encourage fear; bring about the failure disease called “excusitis” and cause frustration to take up a long-term lease in your house! You owe it to yourself to act now! Action does cure fear! Dr. Schwartz gives several examples of ways a kind of action to take to conquer fear. In the case of “embarrassment because of personal appearance” he suggests “improve it. Go to a barbershop or beauty salon. Shine your shoes. Get your clothes cleaned and pressed. In general, practice better grooming. It does not always take new clothes.” In the case of “fear or what other people may think and say,” he sug- gests “make sure that what you plan to do is right. Then do it. No one ever does anything worthwhile for which he is not right. Then do it. No one ever does anything worthwhile for which he is not right.”

As mentioned earlier we must, indeed, be careful of the kinds of actions we take in life, as our actions can either aid the growth of fear or decrease it. In addition, our thinking must be pointed in a certain direction to enable us to continue to see positive results. If we pledge to take action and think more confidently today, we can’t think negatively and drop back into the rut of excuses tomorrow. This will confuse the mind, and the little progress that was being made on your behalf will be nulli- fied by the anti-action of negative thought that came just hours or days later. “Suc- cessful people specialize in putting positive thoughts into their memory bank”; while “negative thoughts produce needless wear and tear on your mental motor.” Some people have no regard for how much dam- age they do to their minds on a daily basis.

The constant repetition of mind-numbing music, empty words, unfiltering images, pointless conversations and loose associations all take a toll on our ‘thought factory’ and causes it to produce from the templates that it is given. No wonder so many try in futility to suddenly change their lives by drastic measures. They fail to realize that the state they created over many months or years of neglect cannot be restored overnight.

Dr. Schwartz quoted the great psy- chologist Dr. George W. Crane from his famous book ‘Applied Psychology’, as saying “Remember, memories are the pre- cursors of emotions. You can’t control the latter directly but only through your choice of motions or actions ...” In short, “we can change our attitudes by changing our physical actions.” Years ago in the ground- breaking program “Where There’s a Will There’s an ‘A’”, the facilitators said that changing one’s position in the classroom could positively affect one’s grades. They also went on to say that direct eye contact with the presenter increases retention and that if one would tilt forward about 45 de- grees when the lecturer is speaking, the brain is triggered to become more alert and as a consequence is open to receive the in- struction that is being given.

This is similar to the aggressive pos- turing of a wild cat getting ready to pursue its prey. I work with young people and their actions speak so loudly, yet they do not realize it. At our weekly youth meet- ings, many of them sit at the back of the hall or next to the walls. This shows their insecurity and vulnerability as well as their lack of confidence. Siting up front builds confidence! Confident action produces confident thinking. Mental attitudes are changed by adjusting one’s posture and speed of movement, and the way people move is a direct result of what’s going on in their minds.

Dr. Schwartz puts forth 5 procedures to build confidence and destroy fear:

1. Action cures fear.
2. Make a supreme effort to put only positive thoughts in your memory bank.
3. Put people in proper perspective.
4. Practice doing what your con- science tells you is right.
5. Make everything about you say, “I am confident, really confident.” Practice these little techniques in your day-to-day activities:
   a. Be a front seater
   b. Make eye contact
   c. Walk 25% faster
   d. Speak up
   e. Smile big

The Innerspring Toolbox provides re- sources for readers that can assist in their studies, their businesses or in their own personal development. Enjoy!
Phe begins a new chapter in his music career

By Callie Alexander

Bringing exceptional talent and recognition to his rising musical platform, Bahamian-born Azriel Reckley is known to the world as Phe.

“Phe was short for Phenom; that’s the name I started out with, but as I matured in music as well as myself, I decided that Phe would be a new beginning, a new chapter.”

And so as he embarks on this new beginning, this budding star continues to work along with Adrian “Drop” Sanalla at Drop Dead Beats and maintains a close working relationship with Jaime “Cardi” Rivera, a sound engineer, at Blindside Studio. Cardi has also been a mentor and like family to Phe.

As a singer, songwriter and producer, Phe was always aware of his love for music. He began playing the drums at the age of five and went on to develop his craft at the university level, Phe collaborated with top label clients like Sony/Verma Family and everyone in my life.”

As the journey continues for Phe, he remains inspired and focused on what he wants to accomplish. “What inspires me is life and...wanting to be the best at what I do or at least close to it because there is always room for improvement. So pretty much anything and everything inspires me, situations that people face on a regular basis, the ups and the downs – the entire picture called life!”

Phe paused to give special recognition to Edward Hoyte from Coopers Town, who he said is doing big things for Brickhouse Music Group. He also gave encouragement to future generations of Bahamian musicians. “I see my success being beneficial to others especially the younger generation because it tells them that anything is possible,” Phe admonished. “Being from Abaco and making it to where I am right now shows that God is good and hard work pays off.”

For more information on Phe, visit his website at www.iamphe.com or on Facebook under the name – AJ Reckley.

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Abacofilm film maker to screen work at Trinidad and Tobago film festival

“Five Bones” a short documentary by Bahamian Film maker Tyler Johnston, will screen at the Trinidad and Tobago Film festival this year.

The documentary provides a glimpse into the world of four boys’ of indigent descent, who live in an underprivileged community in The Bahamas; with few resources available, they build kites out of the most basic materials to entertain themselves. The short was made in The Bahamas by Tyler Johnston with music provided by British/Bahamian composer Maxime Lincoln.

A feature length documentary titled “The Mud” is already in the works, following up the success of “Five Bones.” “The Mud” will further explore the complex history of Haitian immigrants living in the Bahamas.

“Five Bones” is the start of much larger project about cultural relations and immigration in the Bahamas; these are fundamental issues all societies address in one form or another - so its a universal theme with a Caribbean focus” says Director Tyler Johnston.

Mr. Johnston was also accepted into the Focus Immersion Program at the Trinidad Festival, a four day program in which ten filmmakers and associated professionals to develop their plans for an original feature length documentary. Mr. Johnston plans to use this time to develop the production plan for the Mud Documentary.

“I am looking forward to connecting with the Trinidad film community and representing The Bahamas, I also want to thank the Bahamas Film Festival and The Bahamas Film Commission for their tremendous support in my efforts as a filmmaker.”

A native of Abaco, Mr. Johnston graduated from the Maine College of Art and currently produces the Portland Maine Film Festival.

Five Bones” also won the First Look Award at the Bahamas International Film Festival.

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Abacoconrians in the News

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Section B
Victory Tabernacle honours three of its founding members

By Canishka Alexander

Three members of Victory Tabernacle Ministry were recently honoured during a service on August 19. According to Pastor Alphonso B. Lewis, senior pastor, the honourees were Deacon David Rolle, Sister Catherine Davis and Evangelist Marjorie McDonald, who were chosen for their outstanding contributions as founding members of the church.

Pastor Lewis said that before the first meeting was held to establish Victory Tabernacle, Rolle, Davis and McDonald were already part of it. Currently, there are 60 plus members at Victory Tabernacle.

Beginning with Deacon Rolle, Pastor Lewis said their friendship covers an extensive period as Pastor Lewis recalled that he was the one to conduct Deacon Rolle’s marriage, and again when he welcomed Deacon Rolle into the body of Christ when he accepted Jesus as his Saviour during an altar call. Pastor Lewis added that Deacon Rolle has always been an encouragement to him as well as Sister Catherine Davis, who has supported him wholeheartedly in his ministry. He said she has done so much to raise funds to help the ministry, thereby earning the nickname - “Fundraiser for Victory Tabernacle.”

“She always encouraged the other members for us to work together to build and promote the Kingdom of God,” he stated.

As for Evangelist Marjorie McDonald, she was another of the founding members who supported the ministry from the beginning. Pastor Lewis commended her for encouraging members of her family to become a part of the church. He noted that the first church treasurer and secretary were positions that were filled by her now deceased son and granddaughter, respectively.

Unlike Deacon Rolle, and Sister Catherine Davis, however, Evangelist McDonald’s recognisability included the praise team, conducting service and preaching the Word on Sundays as needed; working with the Ladies Ministry along with Ms. Lewis, the mother of the church; and assisting with prayer and fasting and raising funds.

“These three people played a pivotal role in the development and spiritual growth of Victory Tabernacle Ministries,” Pastor Lewis commented. “As a result of their contributions, we thought it good to give them their flowers while they are alive, so they will be able to enjoy them.

“They and friends and family can see that Victory Tabernacle Ministry appreciates them.”

The honourees were all given plaques to commemorate the occasion and additional gifts were given to them. Pastor Lewis explained that church members are honoured every couple of years, and the last person to be honoured about five years ago was Deaconess Vernell Davis as a founding member.

Although Pastor Lewis acknowledged some 23 years in the pastoral ministry, Victory Tabernacle Ministry will celebrate its ninth anniversary in October, and they will host a Family Seminar in September. This year’s theme was: “Calling the Nation Back to God,” and next year’s theme will be “Trusting the God that Cannot Fail” as they look toward their 10th anniversary celebrations at Victory in 2013.

He added that church members will soon wrap up a two-year course of study on an Old Testament Survey where they will be given a questionnaire at the end and be presented with certificates.

Additionally, Pastor Lewis mentioned the construction of a new sanctuary in Murphy Town. Unfortunately, the building encountered adverse weather with tornadoes and a section of the walls were blown down. For those wishing to contribute to Victory Tabernacle Ministry, contact Pastor Lewis at 225-2102 or 458-3660 or by mail at P.O. Box: AB20796.

“Many of them are in their sixties and are retired, it is a difficult time for them. They raise a lot of money for these events and I am sure they would be grateful for any contributions they can get,” he said.

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Community stakeholders distribute school supplies at St. Thomas Baptist Church

By Canishka Alexander

On August 26, St. Thomas Baptist Church held a Youth Back to School Service in Wood Cay to distribute back-packs and school supplies to children in attendance. According to Krystel Jones, St. Thomas’ youth leader, approximately thirty five children were able to benefit from the supplies given. She added that it was an enjoyable service complimented by youth activities.

During the service, Jones was joined by Roy Boles of Black Sound Marina in Green Turtle Cay, and Sgt. Wellington Williams, officer in charge of Green Turtle Cay Police Dept.

Boles partnered with the church in their endeavour to give the children school supplies so that they are fully prepared for the new school year. He also gave a motivational speech on the importance of higher learning and discipline.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Wellington explained that they are trying to foster a relationship with the youths at St. Thomas and all of Abaco from a community policing perspective because there have been a lot of major crimes throughout the Bahamians initiated by the youth.

He said that in light of what is happening, it is important to get the attention of the youth in order to prevent situations that relate to crime and to try to direct them in the right path.

Adding to his comments, Ms. Jones pointed out that their first goal is discipline. She said discipline is needed for success, and it is this message that they are instilling in young people not only in the church, but the entire community.

“I feel that discipline is instilled in them from a church standpoint… the children can come out in the community or to the church and they receive that,” she asserted. “So if we instill in them now most definitely we can look at them as our leaders for tomorrow; we want our leaders to have discipline in their lives.”

Finally, turning to Supt. Curry, she made a presentation of school supplies to him as a heartfelt thank you for his support and to encourage his son at home. Supt. Curry thanked Jones and all involved agreeing that the gift would be put to good use for his son: Rashad Curry.

Supt. Noel Curry, Krystal Jones, and Roy Boles.

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