By Jennifer Hudson

At approximately 4.30 p.m. on April 29th four Haitians were pulled from the water by Immigration and Defense Force personnel after they were apprehended trying to swim away to avoid being taken into custody after Immigration Officers boarded the Guana Cay ferry. Private citizens assisted by loaning boats to the officers to chase the fleeing men. Twenty-five more persons were taken into custody when officers apprehended them on the Guana Cay ferry as they were returning from work on the Cay.

Earlier in the day approximately 45 illegal immigrants were rounded up in a raid on Bahama Star Farms. All of the men, women and children taken into custody had been living in the vicinity of the farm and were taken by bus into Marsh Harbour. At the Port Administration building they were processed and detained until arrangements could be made to send them to the detention centre in Nassau.

Approximately 20 persons, mainly women and children, were sent into Nassau on two Bahamasair flights on Thursday while the remainder of the men were detained in the cells at the Police station awaiting deportation.

Several more illegal immigrants were apprehended in Hope Town the following day and again brought to Marsh Harbour.

By Lyndon Scott

After dominating the Inter-Island Track and Field Athletic Championships in Marsh Harbour a few weeks ago, the S.C. Bootle High School’s track team recently competed in the National Track and Field Championship in Nassau and brought back six medals, the best showing they have ever had in this competition. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. J Torres, Amanda Parker, Alexander Rolle, Casto McDonald, Prisca McIntosh, Principal Leslie Rolle and Coach Lyndon Scott.

Several members of S.C. Bootle High School’s track team recently competed in the National Track and Field Championship in Nassau and brought back six medals, the best showing they have ever had in this competition. Shown above are, left to right, Mr. J Torres, Amanda Parker, Alexander Rolle, Casto McDonald, Prisca McIntosh, Principal Leslie Rolle and Coach Lyndon Scott.

By Jennifer Hudson

Immigrants were picked up on Bahama Star Farm, from the Guana Cay ferry and in Hope Town, were then processed in Marsh Harbour before being sent to Nassau for repatriation. Some are shown here being transferred to Bahamasair for the trip to the detention center in Nassau. Others were escorted to Nassau on the Bahamas Fast Ferry from Sandy Point.
Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour. It was a catch and release tournament. The Annual Bahamas Billfish Championship began on April 25 with the South Abaco Championship. The Bahamas Billfish Championship has five legs, the next to be held in Treasure Cay followed by one in Spanish Cay. The last and final leg will be the Boat Harbour Championship back at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour.

Sea Spray Hosts Its Second Tournament

The second annual Sea Spray Resort Family Fishing Tournament was held from April 20 to 24. The week was filled with entertainment and fun. Ten boats competed.

The first day of fishing was a great success. There was a total of four billfish caught and released. There was also a 95-pound yellow fin tuna brought in to the weigh station. The boat Mary-T held its commanding lead until the last day.

With 10 minutes remaining in the tournament, the captain of John Lancaster, hooked another blue marlin, which gave them 300 points and the win. The crew on the Mary-T included Joe Strickland, Bruce Davis and Bill Henderson. The crew was gracious enough to donate their vacation prize to the Hope Town Fire Rescue. The prize will be auctioned off at a later date.

Every evening was capped with great fun and dancing. It was a great show of sportsmanship by all who participated. On closing night, April 24, the awards banquet held at the Treasures Fine Dining was a great success. All are welcome and we hope to entice even more Junior Anglers to participate. Don’t miss this special tournament next year.

Bahamas White Marlin Open Tournament

By Isobel Sherman

The first Bahamas White Marlin Open Tournament was held on April 22-24 at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour with Al Behrendt as tournament director. The hosts of this tournament were Hatteras Lodge. The trophies were all sculptures of renown Little Harbour artist, Pete Johnston, which are always greatly appreciated. A special thanks to our local MP, Mr. Robert Sweeting, and to Mr. Don Cornish of the Abaco Tourism office for attending the banquet and assisting with the award presentations. We look forward to celebrating our 35th year of the Abaco Anglers Tournament in 2005. All are welcome and we hope to entice even more Junior Anglers to participate. Don’t miss this special tournament next year.

**Fishing Tournament Provides Family Fun**

By Karen Lowe

In spite of windy weather and rough seas, the Abaco Anglers Fishing Tournament enjoyed its 34th successful year fishing these pristine Abaco waters April 15th – 23rd, 2004. The tournament continues to encourage junior anglers to participate in this fun family tournament.

Those receiving awards are as follows: Junior/Junior Class (12 and under)

**Boys:**
- 1st Place: Eli Lowe
- 2nd Place: Will Danforth
- 3rd Place: Tom Magee

**Girls:**
- 1st Place: Sydney Roberts
- 2nd Place: Ashley Knowles
- 3rd Place: Carin Magee

Junior Division (13 to 16 years)

**Boys:**
- 1st Place: Ross Thompson Jr.
- 2nd Place: Ashley Knowles
- 3rd Place: Tom Magee

**Girls:**
- 1st Place: Sydney Roberts
- 2nd Place: Ashley Knowles

**Men’s Division:**
- Ross Thompson III received awards for his entries in the 4, 8, 12, 20 and 130 lb. test line category. Brent Osborne was awarded for his entries in the 16 and 30 lb. test line. The 50 lb. test category went to Craig Knowles. Tom Magee won the 80 lb. test as well as the hand line class entry.
- Bob Magee received a trophy for the wire rod entry. Jeffrey Thompson was awarded for landing and releasing a sailfish.

**Women’s Division:**
- Debbie Tomney won a trophy in the 8 lb. test line category. Taylor Roker was awarded for her 16 lb. test entry and for landing and releasing a sailfish. Lori Thompson received awards for her entries in the 20, 30, 50 and 80 lb. test line division. Peggy Magee won the 130 lb. test line category. Kara Roberts placed for her entries in the wire line class as well as the hand line class. Karen Huff-Lowe received a trophy for the shark class.

**Special Awards:**
- The Kelly Vernis Memorial Trophy for the largest fish weighed in by a lady angler was awarded to Peggy Magee for landing a 51 pound dolphin on a 4 lb. test line.
- The Men’s Line/Ratio trophy went to Ross Thompson III for a 12 pound dolphinfish on a 4 lb. test line. The overall Best Boat Tournament was received by the captain of R3, Ross Thompson III.

All the anglers and guests appreciated the delicious food and socializing at the awards banquet held at the Hope Town Harbour. The best fish all related to the Island Retriever proudly shows off their 95-pound yellow fin tuna that they brought to the weigh station.
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School News
Combined Get Well Going Away Party
On April 28 the students and parents gave a Going Away Party for Ms. Diane Sutherland, who is off to Canada for medical attention and necessary convalescence. All our best wishes will, of course, go with Diane, and we trust she will hurry back. We will surely miss her.

Basketball Backboards Are in Place
The youth have announced the installation of new basketball backboards at Cherokee Settlement, just in time for inspection by Mr. Eric Pittman, through whose generosity the new equipment was made available. Mr. Pittman generously assists Cherokee from a fund set up in memory of his son who was killed in the 9/11 terrorism attack.

Mr. John Watson, freshly arrived from Yorkshire Dells in the U.K, was instrumental in completing the final critical stages. Project consultants included Mr. John McGonagle, also visiting in Cherokee.

St. Martin’s Easter Monday Picnic
By Jennifer Hudson
Unfortunately, the weather gods did not smile on South Abaco on Easter Monday. The day turned out to be grey and rainy for the St. Martin’s Anglican Church Easter Monday Picnic at Oeisha’s beach cabana at Sandy Point. This annual festival hosted by the local Anglican church has become a mainstay in the social activities of the island. It is looked forward to by locals and visitors alike who wish to enjoy family fun activities, games, food, drinks and music. This past Easter Monday the crowd was smaller than usual due to the weather but the hearty group who braved the light rain certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves. While the beach volleyball remained deserted, the hoopla stall, on the other hand, drew lots of customers. Father Earle Hepburn and his young assistant were kept busy handing out prizes to the successful patrons. A church bus load of parishioners from St. John’s Anglican Church in Marsh Harbour drove to Sandy Point to join in their sister church’s festivities.

Mothers Day Sale
50% off Selected items
35% off Artificial flowers
25% off Lamps, picture frames, rugs
20% off All housewares

It’s that special time of the year again when you show your gratitude to the most special person in the world, your mother.

We are making it easy for you with a special sale.

Abaco Hardware
for Contractors & Homeowners
Mon – Fri 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sat. 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tel: 242-367-2170
Contest Rules:
Prizes as shown. No exchange. No cash value. All entries, including winning entries, are eligible for grand prize. Family Island winners responsible for collection and shipping of all prizes won. Mailed entries must be received by May 28, 2004. All winners agree to have names and photographs used in promotional material. One winner daily, except where indicated. Employees of Asa H Pritchard, Nassau Motor Company and AdWorks Advertising Agency and their immediate families are not eligible to enter.

**HOW TO ENTER**

Buy **ONE** item from each of these categories any size or type at participating stores.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISH CARE</th>
<th>HEALTH &amp; BEAUTY</th>
<th>LAUNDRY</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Dawn</em></td>
<td><em>Herbal Essences</em></td>
<td><em>Tide</em></td>
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<td><em>Joy</em></td>
<td><em>nice’n easy TEXTURES &amp; STONES</em></td>
<td><em>Downy</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Professional Curling Iron &amp; Hot Iron</em> Retail value $14.99</td>
<td><em>Mikasa BEVERAGE GLASSES</em> Retail value $51.80</td>
<td><em>Standing Mixer</em> Retail value $399.00</td>
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<td><em>Cuisinart 7pc Stainless COOKWARE SET</em> Retail value $210.00</td>
<td><em>16 pc CorningWare TABLEWARE</em> Retail value $52.50</td>
<td><em>Heritage ROOM RE-DO</em> Retail value $1,000.00</td>
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<td><em>Whirlpool 1 1/2 cu ft Turntable MICROWAVE</em> Retail value $280.00</td>
<td><em>Laundry GIFT PACK</em> Conair GARMENT STEAMER Retail value $150.00</td>
<td><em>Swiffer Dust Mops</em> Retail value $31.99</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Winners!</em></td>
<td><em>Crest SPIN BRUSHES</em> Retail value $15.00</td>
<td><em>COLEMAN COOLERS</em> Retail value $31.99</td>
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<td><em>BRUSH-IT</em></td>
<td>* Crest SPIN BRUSHES* Retail value $15.00</td>
<td><em>Hanna PORTABLE BASKETBALL SYSTEM</em> Retail value $319.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Conair Garment Steamer</em> Retail value $124.99</td>
<td><em>COLEMAN COOLERS</em> Retail value $31.99</td>
<td><em>GREY &amp; PINK ROOM RE-DO</em> Retail value $1,000.00</td>
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<td><em>Room Re Do</em></td>
<td><em>Whirlpool MICROWAVE</em> Retail value $280.00</td>
<td><em>DENIM &amp; LEATHER ROOM RE-DO</em> Retail value $1,000.00</td>
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<td><em>Denim &amp; Leather ROOM RE-DO</em> Retail value $1,000.00</td>
<td>2. <strong>Bring the 3 product labels or the actual products to the Prize-A-Day Giveaway Entry Centre, Top-of-the-Hill, Mackey Street, 10am to 4pm weekdays.</strong> Family Island residents should mail product labels and completed entry form to Prize-A-Day Giveaway, P.O. Box SS 6943, Nassau, to be received by May 28, 2004. Winners notified daily.</td>
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**Enter as often as you like for a chance to win these fabulous prizes!**

1. **Purchase one item from each of the 3 categories shown at left.**
2. **Bring the 3 product labels or the actual products to the Prize-A-Day Giveaway Entry Centre, Top-of-the-Hill, Mackey Street, 10am to 4pm weekdays.** Family Island residents should mail product labels and completed entry form to Prize-A-Day Giveaway, P.O. Box SS 6943, Nassau, to be received by May 28, 2004. Winners notified daily.

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Green Turtle Cay
How the Island Roots Heritage Festival Got Its Start
By Stephanie Humblestone

When artist Alton Lowe suggested that his home town of Green Turtle Cay become a sister city with Key West and this be celebrated with the Island Roots Festival, he rekindled family ties and friendships which have flourished and blossomed to this day.

Casting his mind back to when the idea first occurred to him, Alton smiled and seemed to relive the enthusiasm he felt that morning over breakfast when he shared his dream with friend Betty Bruce after the opening of the Albert Lowe Museum.

Three weeks later Ms. Bruce introduced him to the Mayor of Key West, Florida, Charles “Sonny” McCoy, and Ida Baron. These two key people were instrumental in making Key West and New Plymouth, Green Turtle Cay, sister cities.

A year from first conceiving the idea of the festival the festivities opened in Key West, and Green Turtle Cay descending to Abaco with the Island Roots Heritage Festival. New Plymouth will be buzzing with activity all weekend as hundreds are expected to arrive from Key West and all parts of Abaco.

To symbolize the unity of the two countries’ flags represented those of the two nations’ flags.

And thus was born the first of three subsequent festivals.

Plans for This Year’s Island Roots Festival
By Jennifer Hudson

A fun-filled and very informative weekend is scheduled for May 7th and 8th at Green Turtle Cay when this community joins with its sister city of Key West, Florida, in a celebration of their heritage at the Island Roots Heritage Festival. New Plymouth will be buzzing with activity all weekend as hundreds are expected to arrive from Key West and all parts of Abaco.

To join in the celebrations.

Festivities begin as early as 7 a.m. on May 7 with the serving of breakfast and at 10 a.m. all the festival booths will open and will remain open until 5 p.m. on Friday and 1 p.m. on Saturday. In addition to the food and beverage booths, other stalls will include arts and crafts, straw work, hair braiding, domino games, continuous entertainment featuring local bands and vocalists and Junkanoo hat pasting for the Saturday Junkanoo parade.

Many cultural activities are planned for people to learn more about this important heritage. These will include the Amy Roberts All Age Schoolchildren presenting information on Bahamian history and Independence. The Bahamas Village Business Association of Key West will inform us on how we are all connected. Alton Lowe will talk about Green Turtle Cay’s unique Biscayne tradition and quizzing on old time Bahamian vocabulary while his sister, Iris, will help trace your genealogy. Also featured will be Joe Albury demonstrating how to scull an Abaco dinghy and how he crafts his wooden boat models, Richard “Oil Blue” Jones will educate on how to identify bush and prepare and use the medicine (with samples of teas and potions), Junkanoo history by Floyd Johnson and a book promotion by Norma Jean West from Key West featuring Bahamians of Key West.

The “most fun” booth will be hosted by the Green Turtle Cay Volunteer Fire Department who will give demonstrations of old time games all day long. Here you can learn how to throw a top, play jack, make kites, shoot marbles, build a coconut bark boat for the race on Saturday evening and many more fun activities. Plaiting the Maypole, tours of the newly refurbished kitchen, old time storytelling by master storyteller, Kayla Edwards, and walking tours will be included in the wealth of educational activities in which to participate.

The official opening of the Festival will take place at the bandstand from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on May 7th. Among the dignitaries in attendance will be the Rt. Hon. Hubert Ingraham, Member of Parliament for North Abaco, and the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism. It is hoped that the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Perry Christie, will be able to attend. At 3 p.m. the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band will march from the Administrator’s office to the bandstand to herald the official opening.

On Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. the 61-member Key West Chorale, including many Green Turtle Key descendants, will perform in concert at the Alton Lowe Garden Theatre. Tickets priced at $15 for adults and $5 for children may be purchased from the Ministry of Tourism in Marsh Harbour and various locations in Green Turtle Cay. Ferry service will be provided to the Garden Theatre from the Treasure Cay dock with return immediately following the performance for a special round trip fare of $10 per person. Call 365-4166 or 365-4128 for the ferry schedule.

The people of Green Turtle Cay invite you to come and celebrate with them “Things Bahamian.”

Hope Town
Lecture Series Is Complete
By Dotte Shrier

The fourth and last of the season of a newly formed lecture series was held on April 7. Dave Gale of Parrot Cay was the speaker. He was introduced to a large audience which, for one time only, included men. The series, entitled Cay Topics, was originally designed for ladies who like to listen, learn and lunch, lunch being optional at the Hope Town Harbour Lodge.

Dave Gale is a well known author, business entrepreneur, ardent preservationist and founder of the first Out Island division of Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association. He is also the founder and president of the Bahamas Lighthouse Preservation Society.

Dave and his wife Phoebe came to Abaco as a part of a small group that started Newhope, the first tourist accommodation in this area. The New Plymouth Inn on Green Turtle Cay preceded them by a week or so, he tells us. Stung by the hotel business, Dave started Island Marine in 1961 and became the first outboard motor dealer in the Out Islands. He then started the first dive shop and the first rental boat company. In 1962 he formed BASRA Hope Town. He took out dive trips from his dive shop
for 22 years and introduced many divers to the underwater wonders of Abaco.

He chose to try writing and sold the first story he ever wrote to Skin Diver magazine. He won an honorable mention award in the inspirational category in the Writer’s Digest 1999 writing competition. His first book Ready About is now available in many local shops. It is as good a read as will find anywhere about true adventure.

Cay Topics will continue during the 2005 season. The committee has plans well underway for the second series.

Museum’s New Building Is Nearing Completion

Work is progressing well on the Balcony House, the two story building forming part of the Wynnine Malone Historical Museum complex, which provides over the small settlement of Hope Town as a constant and looming reminder of the settlement’s rich history. Centrally located near the main public dock, the government offices, library and medical clinic, the museum attracts scores of visitors.

Volunteers are currently working against the clock to have the upstairs fully air conditioned before the onset of the summer humidity. “We are installing the electricity right now,” said curator Tony Bennett, who, along with his wife, Elaine, secretary and volunteer coordinator, has expended a lot of energy into helping preserve Hope Town’s past.

“The big job was insulating the second level. We had to bring in power from the small connecting building which links the Balcony House with the smaller museum built after Hurricane Floyd 1999,” continued Mr. Bennett.

Among the volunteers who have been flagging in their efforts are booters Bob White, Mike Powers, Pip Epler and George Holloway. “And there are winter residents who have helped, people likeLarry Beachy and Dick Pyles,” added Mr. Bennett.

The new building provides much needed storage space, workshop, office space and adequate room to display the many exhibits. “We are always looking for more material,” said Mr. Bennett, who is presently researching some square blocks of rubber washed up on the rocks on the North End Beach of Elbow Cay. They are thought to have come from a torpedoed ship en route from South America to England in the 1940’s. Mr. Bennett and his family are anxious to find the name of the ship so they can erect a plaque telling the story of these curious findings.

It appears that this is not the first time that rubber blocks have been washed up. At one time they used to be sold for $10 a piece on the island. This is purported to have been the case but no one in Hope Town has any direct recollection of it.

Plans are underway to inventory and record all of the museum’s artifacts. High on the wish list, too, are funds for a website to digitize and computerize photographs and work regarding genealogical records. Mr. Bennett wished to express gratitude to the many volunteers who form part of the rotating “work” system which allows the museum to remain open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. six days a week.

The completion of the new building has provided much needed working and storage space. The museum is now able to accommodate more artifacts and record all of the museum’s artifacts. It is to be hoped that we might recapture the days of seeing two Abaco A-Class racing sloops on the Sea of Abaco, preserving this important piece of Abaco tradition. Any donations are greatly appreciated, and visitors are welcomed. Please direct any inquiries to Mr. Chris Albury at Man-O-War Marina at 365-6008.

An article on Man-O-War boatbuilders is forthcoming. A T-shirt highlighting the Man-O-War has been produced to launch this effort and is available for sale at the Dive Shop for $24. We urge everyone to buy and wear these shirts to show our pride in our history as the finest boat building island in the Bahamas.

School News

Students at the Man-O-War All Age School were taken on an excursion to points south on April 30 and had an opportunity to visit
The recent first phase of a tourism study for Abaco was considered successful by the twenty or so persons who were able to attend the entire two-day session. Our tourism success is catching the attention of his government colleagues have been implementing plans for the industry to ensure that growth is compatible with the local environment. It would be proactive in regulating such technologies.

The Abaco tourism industry - this is a heavy word to apply to Abaco’s main source of success. It brings visions of smokestacks and assembly line workers. However, in the broad context tourism is the un-managed and unregulated industry which drives Abaco. Like each worker on a factory assembly line, each of our people has a part to make Abaco the success it is today. When viewed in total as an industry, even a slight improvement in each worker’s performance provides the accommodations while the resorts brought people through other promotional and assembly line workers.

It is important in this age of technology to embrace and guide rather than to defend against new products and services. Recently the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued a warning to the public that “persons who provide illegal VoIP services to customers without license, is breaking the law and could remain open even if it meant not being able to generate produce. Note that one Abaco citrus farm exports 1,000 tons of grapefruit each week during the season. In general terms, those attending the retreat felt Abaco was moving in the right direction and should focus on “niche markets” in the city. When viewed in total as an industry, people spend more time on the internet and less time in front of the television. The Abaco Sound is a natural asset which is under utilized and not promoted to our children and future visitors to enjoy. We need not fear these new technologies as more and more growth in an industry.

By S. Timothy Roberts

The U.S. has been going through regulatory processes recently and they realize that they should not try to derail this new technology but guide it in a way that is beneficial to all concerned. W. David Gardner of TechWeb News writes, “The U.S. telephone industries are a stage of upheaval and much of the chaos can be traced to the recent boom in VoIP, which has forced the U.S. to face the reality that the country’s phone calls. In addition to the changes wrought by VoIP, wireless telephone technologies are encroaching on land line telephony rapidly and contributing to the uncertainty that is facing the entire market.”

The internet can be accessed at a vast number of sites, whether private or public. It is a relatively untapped resource in a safe and healthy environment. It would be proactive in regulating such technologies in a very careful way in order that we can harm no one as the Internet is an important tool for our own advantage as many other countries are already doing. We need not fear these new technologies such as VoIP, we merely must understand them and use them to strengthen our industries and create new opportunities for Bahamians.
Dear Editor,

I believe this is the first time in my almost 12 years of representing the great people of South Abaco that I have responded to criticism about the FNM Government. I do so now only at the urging of several of my constituents. I refer to a letter written by Samuel David Albury of Man-O-War Cay. He referred to a wonderful lady from Hope Town, and July 5th will give us 37 years in a wonderful and faithful relationship. The years have flown by and it doesn’t seem as if it has been that long.

I refer to a letter apparently from a constituent of the Abaco Historical Lighthouse Society. Many thanks to that Society and especially the family of the late Ken Mayes for the contribution of top quality paint for many years. We met a clinic that had been closed in excess of 20 years. We totally rebuilt the clinic and provided a full-time nurse. Just ask the elderly of Hope Town who were there to make sure, no more trips on the ferry to have their blood pressure checked, etc.

I imagine that the letter writer is the same Samuel David Albury that marched with many others against the PLP in 1977 with a broom over his shoulders in Man-O-War Cay. I protest of a government that had completely ignored the people of Man-O-War Cay and indeed the whole of South Abaco. I remember the Hon. Darryl Rolle who was a lawyer. I think I can, I think I can, was heard loud and clear on the highway between Casuarina Point and Bahamas Palm Shores. A long expected conspiracy of fire and wind united in its determination and turned their attention with a vengeance towards Bahamas Palm Shores. Eruptions of flames galore, taunting “catch me if you can.” Holy week you say, the devil had surfaced here to remind us of his no longer silent presence, lest we forget.

I was a maintenance person on the ferry to and from Abaco when she heard a strange crackling upwind. A billow of smoke was coming straight at the ferry. There was no lightning and a quick survey of the area later showed no glass bottles in the area of the road. The fire appeared to start in a field just northwest of the preserve. Brisk winds had the fire roaring and spreading rapidly in no time. Fortunately, several visitors to the preserve had just left the area to go home.

There was one maintenance person on the preserve, and he and I rehashed all four hours with a back pack sprayer (four gallons) and a rake. They turned the fire and kept it from coming across the gate.

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Please see Letters Page 21
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More Central Abaco News

Central From Page 10

the kids. According to Mr. Roger Delancey, Town Committee member, the event was very successful. Mrs. Linda Evans accepted the cheque on behalf of her family and expressed her heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Dundas Town Fire Truck Needs Repairs

By Portia Jonsson

According to Chief Councillor Cay Mills, it was very interesting for him to listen to the radio a few weeks ago during the station’s fund raiser for the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department, which he feels is deserving of every cent for the work they are doing. Councillor Mills said the person that conducted the promotion was a past elected Chairman of Dundas Town and is presently a sitting member of the Dundas Town Committee. He went on to say that this individual raised over $30,000 for the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department while cognizant that the Dundas Town fire truck is in need of repair and did not even mention the help needed in his own township.

Chief Councillor Mills feels that it is the responsibility of any Town Committee member to see to the betterment of the township that elected him or her and the surrounding area.

Mr. Mills said although he does not have the voice of the people of Abaco and the ability to collect over $30,000 in one hour, he is very much thankful to Mr. Paul Wujack for coming to the need of the good people of Dundas Town. Mr. Wujack presented Mr. Mills with a cheque for $5,000 from the WJ Private Foundation I. Mr. Wujack is a repeat visitor to Abaco and has a sailboat here. Mr. Mills added that Mr. Wujack is interested in donating these funds not for any gain towards him in any way, but interested only in helping the people through his foundation.

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Chief Councillor Cay Mills is shown beside the Dundas Town fire truck with a check for $5000 which a visitor donated for repairing the truck.

Light Impressions

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23’ Albury Bros’ $840

22’ Boston Whaler $798

20’ Albury/Hydra $770

18’ Privateer $560

Rates do not include gas

Open 7 days Born - Sun

Sea Horse Boat Rentals

Located in Hope Town & Marsh Harbour

Call (242) 367-2513 • Fax (242) 367-2516

www.seahorseboatrentals.com

Cancer Society

Thrift Store

By Jennifer Hudson

Thrift stores (or charity shops as they are sometimes called) are extremely popular in the United States and Great Britain. Not only are people able to shop there for wonderful bargains but the money made goes to help finance very worthy charities.

For some years the Cancer Society of the Bahamas has run a very successful thrift store in Nassau and now the Cancer Society of Abaco hopes to open a similar store here in Marsh Harbour. All proceeds from the store will be used to assist cancer sufferers on the island of Abaco and donations will be made to the Cancer Caring Centre in Nassau for the Abaco Suite. This will

Stephen Knowles

Master of Wood

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A specialist in preserving and teaching others about native plants and trees, Stephen works with already harvested Dogwood, Horseflesh, Steeidea, Mahogany, and other local wood. Using a planer for smoothing and a lathe for shaping, each item is carefully hand sanded, waxed and rubbed to bring out the beauty of the wood. He inlays some pieces using gem stones in pleasing patterns and with a delightful use of colour.

Stephen’s work is on display exclusively at Conch Pearl Galleries. Stop in and enjoy.

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Bootle athletes went to Nassau where they performed exceptionally well. The school was able to pick up six medals, the best showing ever in the history of the school. The Golden Boy of the group was Alexander Rolle, who came first in the Decathlon. Silver medals came from Casteo McDonald and Chris Nesbitt in the Long Jump and Prisca McIntosh in the Discus Throw.

Apart from the medalists, most of the other athletes qualified for the semi-finals and finals in their events. Coach Lyndon Scott and physical education teacher, Mr. Jose Torres, the staff and students of S. C. Bootle High would like to thank all the athletes for their full participation and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Agriculture Science at the S.C. Bootle High School has expanded by leaps and bounds. According to Mr. Hamlin Newbold, the Agriculture Supervisor in the Ministry of Education, the Agriculture Programme at the school is the fastest developing programme in the entire Bahamas. Thanks to the agricultural Science teacher, Mr. Lyndon Scott, who is persevering despite several constraints such as a reduction of periods allotted to him, lack of water, etc. The plot is now fully fenced and more programmes are added to make the subject more excited.

Following the success story with production of chickens, Mr. Scott and the students of Agriculture Science have added pig production to the fray. In the pens which were constructed by the Agriculture students of a last graduating class are four fattened sow pigs, each weighing about 200 pounds. When sold each of these pigs can generate at least $250. The pigs and their feed were supplied by the Ministry of Education.

Presently, there is a green house under construction and this is expected to be completed by the end of the term. With its completion the production of ornamental crops (flowers) will be added to the already flourishing vegetable production.

With the help of the Ministry of Education goat and sheep production is expected to be added to the programme for the next school year. The area has already been identified and the materials are expected to be shipped in very soon.

Mr. Lyndon Scott would like to openly thank the principal and staff and more particularly the students of Agricultural Science for their cooperation and hard work for making the programme a tremendous success.

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**We may be small but we carry it all.**

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**More School News**

**Central Abaco Primary School Gets Ready to Celebrate Literacy Week**

**By Portia Jonsson**

Literacy is about more than reading and writing – it is about how we communicate in society. It is about social practices and relationships, about knowledge, language and culture. Literacy – the use of written communication – finds its place in our lives alongside other ways of communicating. Indeed, literacy itself takes many forms: on paper, on the computer screen, on TV, on posters and signs. Those who use literacy take it for granted, but those who cannot use it are excluded from much communication in today’s world. Efforts must be made to ensure that we are on the right track towards literacy for all and thus education for all.

This is the reason why the Central Abaco Primary School has declared May 3rd-7th as Literacy Week. A very busy week with many different literacy activities is planned to promote and create a social awareness in the school and neighbouring communities through education.

Together, we can make a difference in our communities so that everyone has access to literacy in ways that are relevant and meaningful.

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**Sports at St. Francis**

**By Isobel Sherman**

St. Frances de Sales School held its annual Inter House sports Day on April 2 at the school. Competitions between the houses of the Warriors, Dragons and Marlins were held for all students from pre K through Grade 12.

At the end of the meet it was a tie for first place between the Warriors and the Marlins. The teachers’ race decided which house would take first place which was the Warriors in green. Second place went to the Marlins and third place went to the Dragons. Members of the Warriors House were treated to a cake and will have possession of the Floating Trophy until the next Inter House Sports Meet in 2005.

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**Workshop for Facilitators**

**By Isobel Sherman**

Mrs. Joyce Pinder, Family Life Coordinator for Grand Bahamas, conducted a one-day workshop on April 2 to train facilitators for the Parental Training Course. The workshop was held at the Resource Center in Marsh Harbour and was organized by Mrs. Sandy Edwards, Family Life and Reproductive Health Coordinator on Abaco.

The Parental Training Program was introduced on Grand Bahamas last year, and Mrs. Pinder has trained several facilitators.

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**The Agricultural Science students of S.C. Boothe High School have raised chickens and are now raising pigs and growing vegetables.**

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**We may be small but we carry it all.**
More School News

School From Page 15

To quote the late Rose Kennedy, “I looked on child rearing not as a work of love and duty but as a professions that was fully as interesting and challenging in any honourable profession in the world and one that demanded the best that I could bring it.”

Parents of grade one and grade seven students will receive letters informing them of the dates of these workshops.

Baseball League Begins Practice

The Abaco Schools Athletic Association got its Baseball League for 13- to 14-year-olds started yesterday at the St. Francis de Sales playing field.

Central Abaco Primary Heritage Month is Celebrated By Anastacia Seymour

Central Abaco Primary School celebrated the month of March as Bahamas Heritage Month under the theme Desi We Culture Through Music and Dance. To climax the month a special assembly was held where students danced the Heel and Toe as well as the Conch Style. They also sang songs such as Naughty Johnny by Eddie Minnis and Uncle Lou by Esau McKenzie. Poems such as Dancing Poinciana by Telcine Turner were recited.

The highlight of the closing assembly was a guest performance by Abaco’s own Eugenie “Geno D” Davis and the Impact Band. Geno D encouraged the students to put God first and to always believe in themselves. He urged them to remember Winners Never Quit and Quitters Never Win. Presentations were made to persons of the Abaco community who made contributions to help this month to be a success.

This celebration is held every year at the school to educate the students about our rich Bahamian heritage and culture and to encourage them to be proud of our heritage.

Abaco INN Mothers Day Dinner May 9th, 2004

Seating: 6:30, 7:30, 8:30

Price Per Person $40.00

- Soup - Creamed Apple Soup

- Salad - Fresh Peach Salad

- Entrees
  - Fresh Lobster Tail
  - Grilled Lamb Chops

- Veal Scallopini

- Walnut Crusted Rack Of Lamb

- Roasted Orange Duck Breast

- Dessert - Black Forest Chocolate Cake

Call for reservations at 367-0173

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St. Francis de Sales School honored those who did well in an intra-school sporting competition. They are, left to right, Abidemi Simon, Cordell Johnson, Zinnia Miller, Oswald Parker, Shaquille Telci, Freceal Cornish, Joy Mackey and Celeste Kelly.

The Abaco Schools Athletic Association's National High School Championships.

The team performed extremely well says coach Davis with exceptional performances from the following:


Kareem Parker made the finals in the Under 20 Boys 200 Meters and the semi-finals of the Under 20 boys 100 Meters. Javon Camerlidge placed 5th in the Under 20 Boys High Jump.

The other team members include Brandy Wallace, Rosna Jonassaint, Kevin Altidor and Collin Swan who also turned in outstanding performances.

More School News

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S.C. Bootle Choir Performed Concert

By Portia Jonsson

Seat Belt Law Enforcement Will Begin

The Road Traffic Division of the Royal Bahamas Police Force has announced that its officers will begin enforcing the seat belt law on May 20. “The fine as stipulated by the law is $300 for the driver, $100 for passengers and $500 for each child found ruling in a vehicle without a seat belt or not in the rear seat of the vehicle,” according to ASP Charles Walkine. “The fines fall on the driver who is responsible for the restraint of his or her passengers meaning he or she is held accountable for paying the fine,” he said.

The seat belt law was enacted by Parliament in 2002. “We here at the Police Traffic Division and Road Traffic Departments have been trying to sensitize the motor public to the use of their seatbelts in preparation for this date,” said ASP Walkine. He states that all vehicles shall be fitted with seat belts. Exemptions include tractors, motorcycles, omnibuses except front passengers and driver, trucks, except front passengers and driver, vehicles designed for physically disabled or medically handicapped or disabled, cars manufactured before 1986 and trucks manufactured before 1972. Children under the age of 12 years must be seated in the rear seat.

Obituaries of Family and Friends

The funeral for Jermaine Jackson Thompson, 30, was held in Nassau on April 24. His body was found in the Blue Hole near Bustin Bight on Good Friday. He is survived by his mother Elizabeth Julia Smith Cox; grandmother Cecilia Penn Smith; brother Devonne Smith; sisters Shannette Thompson McKinney, Anastacia and Jenni\n
The funeral for Timothy McBride, 27, formerly of Moore’s Island was held on April 17 in Nassau. Interment was in the Public Cemetery of Moore’s Island. He is survived by brothers Wellington, Jeffery and Willard Johnson, Salih and Ronnie McBride; sisters Judy and Betty Johnson, Ida Birch, Kadie and Sherlene McBride; grandmother Earlene Knowles; nephews Wesley Sr., Ahmed, Akeem, Ancil, Clement and Andy Johnson, Isaiah McBride, Joseph Birch, Chanquin Russell; grand nephew Wesley Jr., nieces Darlene, Deandra, Brittany, Gwenelina, Breanna Shanny, Asia and Abadsha Johnson, Salasha and Gwendolyn McBride, Amanda Birch, Chilliunn Martin, Deandra and Decardia Russell; grand niece Coronique Damianos; aunts Verletta and Iva Davis, Annie Rob\n
Don Mackey Blvd
Marsh Harbour
tel: 367-2916
fax: 367-2918
email: smml@coralwave.com
Conference Will Encourage Bahamians to Invest

An impressive line-up of top notch presenters will travel to the fast-growing island of Abaco to address delegates at the first annual Abaco Investment Conference scheduled for May 5 at the Abaco Beach Resort.

As plans are well in place for another successful ground-breaking conference, president of The Counsellors Ltd., Joan Albury, said that the timing is perfect. The conference will serve primarily to educate Bahamians on the importance of saving, investing, and to apprise them of opportunities that are available for individual investing and expanding their businesses, which can include catering to the export market.

Mrs. Albury stated, “It is important to educate Bahamians about savings because savings are needed to be able to invest. More than that, knowing what avenues are available for investing and how to best invest your money for better returns are some of the key factors delegates will take away from the conference.”

The conference is packed with a slate of “heavy-hitters” in the investments and financial services industry including Minister of Financial Services and Investments, the Hon Allyson Maynard-Gibson. She will open the conference with an overall perspective on investment activities and progress in the financial services sector economy.

Chairman of BISX, Ian Fair, will address the topic Capital Markets. Kenwood Kerr, Investments Manager at S.G. Hambros, will speak of broad Investment Opportunities in The Bahamas, while President of the Abaco Chamber of Commerce, Michael Albury, will speak of investment opportunities on the island of Abaco, one of the fastest growing island economies within the country.

The Counsellors Ltd remains the first company to ever hold such a business conference on a Family Island. In September 2003 Abaco Business Outlook had a record attendance and the positive feedback from delegates who attended that seminar served as the impetus for this scheduled Investment Conference.

In today’s business world where business transactions can occur with a click of a button, General Manager of Cable Bahamas Limited, Erik Russell, will speak on Business Connectivity and Continuity.

Realizing investments without linkages can lead to development challenges, Angela Cleare, tourism expert and Senior Director-Family Islands in the Ministry of Tourism, will expand on Maximizing Linkages with Tourism. But it does not stop there. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Simeon Pinder, will speak on maximizing linkages from an agricultural perspective.

Vice President, Finance at British American Insurance and host of You and Your Money show, I. Chester Cooper, will address the topic of Savings, Planning, Investing for your Retirement. Chairman of the Bahamas Development Bank, Neville Adderley, will speak on Access to Capital to promote further investments. Extolling the virtues of Cooperatives as an Investment Vehicle, will be Manager of Teachers Real Estate Holdings, Johnley Ferguson.

At the end of the conference, delegates will have a better knowledge of foreign, domestic and personal investing and will have the opportunity to speak to some of the movers and shakers who can assist them with getting their investments off the ground or help them boost what already exists.

Registration for the conference is ongoing and is $60 per person, inclusive of lunch. Interested persons can register by calling Antoinette Dean on Abaco at the Chamber of Commerce office at 367-5822 or send a fax to 367-5823. Or they can call Andrea M. Myers at The Counsellors Ltd. at 322-1000; fax 325-2482, e-mail amyers@thecounsellorsltd.com or register on-line at the conference website at www.tclevents.com.

Another Small Plane Has Mishap

By Jennifer Hudson

On April 27th at 10.30 a.m. a privately owned twin engine Aztec plane, registration number N556Y, made a crash landing at Treasure Cay International Airport. The small plane was on route from Marsh Harbour to Treasure Cay where it was scheduled to pick up passengers for Fort Lauderdale. On arrival at Treasure Cay the landing gear failed to come down resulting in a belly landing. Fortunately, the pilot David W. Freeman of Florida was the only person on board at the time and was able to walk away from the plane with no serious injuries.

The Civil Aviation Authority and the Police arrived at the scene shortly afterwards to carry out investigations.

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Because of the overwhelming success of its recent fund raising auction and the wonderful generosity of a number of individuals and businesses, Abaco Pathfinders’ Scholarship Foundation is able to award 13 partial scholarships this year instead of its usual 10. This is fortunate because the number of applicants was almost double those of previous years. Pathfinders is continuing to help support 21 of the 30 students it has funded in the last three years. Nine of those 30 have either completed their undergraduate education or have secured for themselves full scholarships from their colleges. A reception for this year’s new recipients and their families and current Pathfinder students will be held May 30 at the Below Decks Restaurant at Abaco Beach Resort.

The selection of this year’s students was very difficult because of the large number of outstanding applicants. After the application review process and the personal interviews, Pathfinders’ scholarship committee made the following selections.

Vilene Baptiste is the first recipient of a scholarship to the University of Abaco. Vilene, daughter of Arthur and Patricia Baptiste from Food from the Poor, Inc. of Deerfield, Florida. This scholarship was facilitated by Mr. David Price, who is that foundation’s Secretary/Treasurer and Chief Counselor. Mr. Price is also the present President of the Florida Pathfinders. The scholarship is in the honor of the Most Reverend Catholic Archbishop of the Diocese of the Bahamas. Miss Baptiste will graduate this year from St. Francis de Sales School where she has been her student’s honoree. She plans to attend college in the United States and pursue an education in medicine.

Mario Sawyer, a 2003 graduate of Abaco Central High School, is now attending ATI Career Training Center in Fort Lauderdale where he is studying architectural drafting. Mr. Sawyer is the son of Mrs. Erma Sawyer of Dundee Town.

David McHale Davis, the son of Aidele and Michelle Davis of Murphy Town, is now attending St. John’s University in Minnesota where she is majoring in environmental science. He is a 2001 graduate of Abaco Central High School.

Shane Cash, who will graduate this year from Forest Heights Academy, will be attending Ramapo University in New Jersey. There he plans to obtain a degree in secondary education and hopes to become a history teacher and coach here on Abaco. He is the son of Don and Carrie Cash of Hope Town.

Chervain Dean graduated from Abaco Central High School and then attended College of the Bahamas where he was awarded an Associate Degree in Psychology. In 2002 he graduated from the University of Abaco Central High School.

Tia Knowles will be a 2004 graduate of Forest Heights Academy. She is considering several colleges in the United States where she plans to major in theater and psychology. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Knowles of Marsh Harbour. Sabrina Laing of Black Wood is currently attending the College of the Bahamas where she is taking classes to prepare her for entering the nursing program there. Miss Laing is the daughter of Esther Laing.

Samantha Major has been awarded a four-year scholarship to Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, through a partnership between the university, Mrs. Rhonda Hall of Marsh Harbour and Abaco Pathfinders. This unique scholarship was facilitated by Dr. and Mrs. Jack Helm, residents of Winchester and second home owners of Elbow Cay. Miss Major, who is the daughter of Ms. Wanda MacKey of Hope Town, first graduated from Forest Heights Academy in 2003 and then attended high school in Ohio as an exchange student, taking college preparation courses. She will be majoring in biology at Shenandoah, then plans to enter a pre-medical program.

Dawson Malone will be entering a pre-law program at the College of the Bahamas this year. He will graduate from Abaco Christian School this June and is the son of William C.G. Malone, Sr. and Charlotte Malone of Casuarina Point. Joshua Malone, the son of George and Debbie Malone of Marsh Harbour, is a graduate of Forest Heights Academy. He plans to attend either Palm Beach Atlantic University or Toccoa Falls College in Georgia and study computer information systems and business administration.

Miquell Miller of Green Turtle Cay will graduate from Forest Heights Academy this year. Miss Miller has been accepted at Ramapo University in New Jersey and plans to eventually go into medicine. Miss Miller is the daughter of Patricia McIlmush.

Sarah Swan is a 1994 graduate of Abaco Central High School. For the last several years she has been an assistant head cashier at Price Right, Ltd. She has completed a certificate programme in daycare education and plans to attend the College of the Bahamas, majoring in early childhood education. She is the daughter of Stevenson Joy and Margaret Swan of Dundee Town.

Prices May Rise

By Isobel Sherman

Television stations in Miami have been reporting a rise in milk prices this past week. They say this is due to the decrease in the number of cows which is being blamed on Mad Cow Disease.

According to Chad Sawyer of Price Right his suppliers have informed him of a rise in milk prices. In addition, beef prices have risen also as a result of Mad Cow Disease. Mr. Sawyer also stated that his suppliers of paper products have said prices will rise in June for all paper products. Some economists in the United States are predicting inflation which means higher interest rates.
Abaco's new juice plant near Spring City as well as the old schoolhouse at Cherokee, which has recently been refurbished as a community centre. The students had lunch at the Sand Bar Restaurant and then attended an Earth Day event sponsored by Friends of the Environment. Friends of the Environment was organized in 1988 by a group of Hope Town residents and has a growing number of supporters who are concerned about Abaco's greatest resource, the sea around us.

Other Community News
We are happy to report that Mrs. Elva Gates is recuperating at Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau, having suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. She and her family are grateful for the community's support and prayers.

The Man-O-War Pirates hosted a pre-season "fun" game against the Green Turtles. They wish to thank all their friends who have made donations of time and money to the re-landscaping of the buffalo. While the project is by no means complete, sod is being purchased and installed as time, water and funds allow.

The New Life Bible Church will host its 10th Annual Missions Conference from June 2 to June 6 featuring special guest speakers. All are welcome to attend.

Guana, The Can Do Cay

By the Guana Observer
Guana Cay has a long history of self-sufficiency and a can-do attitude. This is made evident by the volunteerism in getting infrastructure projects completed despite the lack of government funding.

Two major projects in which this writer took part were the re-paving of several hundred yards of the 10-foot-wide concrete roads in March and April of 1995 and the construction of the community decking around the fig tree in 1997. The road work occupied more than 30 members of the community for several weeks. Heavy equipment was donated by Charles Sands and more than 1000 hours of labor completed the work.

The fig tree decking materials were supplied by Mike Malone, then Chief Counsellor of Central Abaco, and the labor was supplied over several weekends by the community.

A smaller project, that of a sea wall and parking lot between the government dock and the property of Guana Beach Resort, was a project of the Guana Cay Community Association. Other self-funded items include the funding of Guana Fire and Rescue, a new fire truck and, most recently, a raffle to secure funding for a new fire house to house the truck and associated equipment.

There have also been immemorable fund raising dinners, raffles and community events for the benefit of the Guana Cay School and many people and projects.

Government Funding
What does Guana Cay get back from the government to pay for capital improvements, repairs to existing infrastructure, fire protection, solid waste management, postal service, medical services, street lights, police protection?

Fishing
From Page 2

Billed to Black Gold with 1050 points and third place went to Anjoo with 600 points. These three boats held their respective positions from the first day of the tournament.

Organizers were pleased with this first tournament and the first catch and release tournament held at Abaco Beach Resort.

Letters From Page 5

reached the paddock area. Rehor said "We were at the farm border where the fence trail had been an effective block when the wind gusted to about 20k out of the west and turned the thing right back on us. The worker and I were separated by a wall of fire, but we were able to shout over the noise, enough to know that each of us was still safe. We are totally burned out in areas that escaped the last fire in December."

While fighting the fire, Rehor was so furious that it took awhile before she realized that her jeans were ablaze. Fortunately, there was still water left in the sprayer at the time. Her jeans had scorched marks and there was a golf ball sized blister on her ankle bone.

Nearly a third more fence was burned, and now there is not enough fence or other needed materials to enclose the area that was being set aside for the five horses who are still outside the preserve in unhealthy habitat.

This night Pattie Toiler, who is the anchor for the local emitters' VHF net, recruited seven volunteers. They left the next morning under cloudy skies. Fortunately, a light rain had fallen during the night and the worst of the fire was out. The volunteers, slogging through still smoking ruins of trees reminiscent of a scene from the The Lord of the Rings, repaired the fence by 3 p.m.

Rehor said, "These few words don't convey the amount of walking and hauling the volunteers did. The women stood guard on the horses for hours. Since the two men who usually work on the preserve were exhausted from being up all night with the horses, (one man had been on site for 24 hours), we would have had days of work ahead of us without this timely help. And at the end of it all the women found that sections of burned rope made great skip ropes. We had a wonderful display of techniques right up to double Dutch and some skipping verses in French! A really rotten situation was wrapped up with smiles."

On behalf of the Wild Horses of Abaco, thanks to Pattie Toiler for her net work, Kathryn Bamford and John Webb, Arne and Beverly Myrseth, Barbara and Jerry Allen, and Terry Campbell.
provide accommodation for Abaco cancer patients to reside while undergoing treatment in Nassau.

The society has been granted the use of two rooms in the southern section of the Marsh Harbour Community Library building which was formerly the medical office of Dr. Ejnar Gottlieb and occasionally used by a veterinarian. A team of volunteers has been busy cleaning out and preparing the rooms. Other volunteers are constructing all the necessary shelving so that as soon as a business licence has been granted the store will be ready to open.

The Cancer Society has previously held Rummage Sales twice per year in the spring and fall outside the Central Abaco Dental Clinic and book sales at Long’s Landing and Java. However, these will be discontinued as the items including clothes, books, household items and furniture will be sold from the thrift store instead. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday.

New Boutique Opens
By Isobel Sherman

Wrackers, a new boutique located at the entrance to Abaco Beach Resort in Marsh Harbour, had a soft opening on April 16, 2004. Owned by Abaco Beach Resort, Wrackers features a large selection of resort clothing. Arranged in a relaxed setting, one can find fine soft pastel cotton in blouses, skirts, dresses, blouses and jackets made by Spirit for the ladies and outfits for the children.

There is a selection of men’s and women’s clothing made from Androsia fabric. Handmade ladies sweaters knitted by Lillian (Lily Cash of Casuarina Point) can also be purchased. Colourful canvas totes in all sizes with a unique selection of handbags made by Brahma Handprints are displayed. All kinds of colorful hats made from canvas and straw can be purchased as well as souvenir t-shirts.

According to General Manager of Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbor, John Neophytou, Wrackers is here to serve both tourists and residents alike. Wrackers will be opening an art gallery in the next few weeks which will feature art by not only local artists but artists from all over the Bahamas.

Reprise
By Isobel Sherman

According to William Newbold, Manager of RND Cinema in Marsh Harbour, the theater will remain open until June. Previously, it had been slated to close in May. However, many persons expressed the hope that the theater would remain open even if only a few days a week.

On April 23 RND Cinema on Abaco joined the rest of the world in the premier showing of Man on Fire with Denzel Washington. Mr. Newbold stated that on May 5 and May 25 there will be two more premier showings of two movies at RND.

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Hope Town
Viewpoint

Better Attitudes Needed

By Jennifer Hudson

Whilst waiting in the checkout line in the largest grocery store in Abaco a few days ago, I witnessed a rather unpleasant scene which could have an adverse effect on our very precious commodity, tourism.

Packing boys have their place; it is pleasant to have one’s groceries packed and carried to the car, especially when one has a large amount. And the packers are delighted to receive their tip which is, of course, the reason they are there. I admire these young lads (and one sees the occasional young lady there) who are raising the money to perhaps help out their families or to save the money to purchase the latest fashions or something they particularly want.

However, I feel that there should be more supervision of these young people by the store managers. Last week in this particular store on the two occasions where I was in there, the packing boys were more of a rowdy rabble rather than a group of people wanting to give a service for which, in fact, they would receive payment.

On one particular day I was very disappointed to see how a visitor to our island was treated by these young people, and it threw a very bad light on this store. The lady was, rightfully, very annoyed and it must have left with a very poor impression of the store and its packers.

I feel that when stores hire these packers, they should give them a short course on how to behave towards store patrons and insist on some sort of dress code for them. I have been in stores in Nassau recently where the packers were all dressed in navy pants and white shirts and were lined up at the end of the store in an orderly manner waiting their turn (rather like the system the taxi drivers use at the airport). This gave an extremely good impression. If the young people here were given a dress code of perhaps dark pants and a white shirt or a T-shirt with the store’s name on it plus encouragement to have pleasant attitudes towards the customers, it would go a long way to making people’s grocery shopping more pleasant and leave a far better impression with our visitors to the island.

By Portia Jonsson

Mothers Day is a very special day. I want to take this opportunity to honour our Mothers and our Grandmothers, with out whom we would not be the adults that we have become without their love, nurturing, friendship and guidance. Moms are caregivers, cheerleaders, counselors, nutritionists, and so much more. Be sure to do something special for your Mom this Mother’s Day.

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WVF ch. 16

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Return 8 am 9:30 am 11:30 am 3:15 pm 4:45 pm
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Beyond Russell house or Peas & Rice house ....... $16 + $5
Eastern Shores to Peas & Rice house .................. $14 + $5

• Marsh Harbour or Crown Haven ......................... $10 + $3
• Marsh Harbour Round Trip .................................. $12 + $5

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Meetings Discuss National Youth Service

Officials Want Input from Abaco

Hope Town Dinghy Race Series Concludes

The Hope Town Sailing Club hosts a series of seven dinghy races each winter featuring the native-built Abaco sailing dinghies. The concluding race last month was on a picture perfect day and saw the older sailors winning over the younger sailors. Winner Malone in Hope Town is one of the last person actively creating these beautifully crafted sought-after dinghies. Photo by Cindy Merrill

By Sue Holloway

A series of races for traditional Abaco dinghies was sponsored by the Hope Town Sailing Club in March and April. A record 11 of the beautiful hand-made 10-foot to 14-foot boats turned out for the total of seven races. Many were older craft that had been restored while the newest dinghy made by Winer Malone of Hope Town also took part. The skippers ranged in age from 14 years to “somewhat over 70.” In most cases wisdom and experience prevailed although the younger crowd will be a force to reckon with in future years!

Results of the races:

First Regatta: 1st - Pim Epler; 2nd - Mike Jackson; 3rd - Wink Merrill

Baverstock Trophy: 1st - Pim Epler; 2nd (tie) - Doug Behrendt and Wink Merrill

Abaco Joy Trophy: 1st - Pim Epler;

Earth Day Is Celebrated in Marsh Harbour

Earth Day, celebrated world-wide for many years, is observed annually on Abaco but usually held in Hope Town. This year Friends of the Environment held its observance in Marsh Harbour to enable more school children to attend

By Portia Jonsson

Whilst the rest of the world celebrated Earth Day on April 22, Friends of the Environment together with the Abaco Science Association saw fit to celebrate Earth Day 2004 on April 30. Organizers of this event were Monica Bianchi, Recycling Chairman with Friends of the Environment, Nancy Burnett, Education Officer with Friends of the Environment, and James Richards, Chairman of the Abaco Science Association.

Earth Day

Championship Games Close Basketball Season

Abaco Youth in Action played their championship games in Dundas Town on April 30. The program is organized and run by a group of dedicated volunteers who work with the young people every Saturday morning. Trophies for these games were provided by William Davis and Vita Malt. See story on page 4.

Do Not Miss Island Roots Festival

Green Turtle Cay

May 7, 8, 9

History, Culture, Games, Fun, Food
Committee Is Studying a Youth Service Program

The discussions about a National Youth Service program are highlighting the problems the country faces with some youth who have anti-social and improper attitudes toward education, work and their country. At the meeting in Marsh Harbour three members of the Consultative Committee spoke to interested persons. They are, left to right, Pastor Dave Burrows, Deputy Chairman; Mr. Gregory Butler, Assistant Director of Youth in the Ministry; Pastor Nottage, Chairman; Mr. Freddie McIntosh, Chairman for North Abaco; and Mr. Gary Knowles, Senior Administrator for Central Abaco, and Pastor Nottage, Chairman of the Committee.

Pastor Nottage said they looked at a report from the Fox Hill Prison and found that 97 percent of the inmates are male and of those 76 percent committed their first crime before the age of 25. Additionally, the prison population experiences a 70 percent recidivism rate. Forty-four percent of the inmates were raised by a single parent. She pointed out that the report stated that if there were educational, technical and vocational skills training, the recidivism rate would be reduced by 57 percent. In other findings the commission noted the following which greatly impact young people: The Bahamas has:

- a large migrant population
- a substantial exposure to foreign media and culture
- a high rate of all types of abuse
- a high rate of AIDS
- improper nutrition
- lack of recreational facilities
- gangs affiliation
- lack of respect for the environment
- a lack of social responsibility and skills which contribute to high unemployment.

Pastor Nottage concluded her presentation by stating, “Gangs are the fastest growing youth group in the Bahamas and that is going to take a total effort on everyone’s part to change the direction of our youth.”

Pastor Dave Burrows presented the commission’s draft so far. He emphasized that it is a working document and is not written in stone. Basically, the commission has a three-prong approach. The first one relates to National Pride and Excellence. A second component deals with Transferable Concepts the commission has looked into the concept the commission has looked into the concept the commission has looked into the concept the commission has looked into the concept.

The tone of the Marsh Harbour presentation was typical. Before Pastor Nottage could even begin the presentation in Marsh Harbour, Chief Councillor Cay Mills posed some questions to Mr. Butler. In essence, Mr. Mills wanted to know if the Ministry of Youth was sincere in establishing a Youth Service Program and why there wasn’t an office for the Ministry of Youth on Abaco with a youth officer. Mr. Butler stated that the Ministry would be rectifying the situation but no date was given.

Pastor Nottage listed the members of the Youth Commission. It was noted that there is no member of the commission from Grand Bahamas or from Abaco, the second and third largest islands in population in the country.

Pastor Nottage gave an overview of the concepts the commission has looked into including the response from several town meetings that have been held in Nassau and in the Family Islands. She stated that with 25 percent of the population under the age of 25, it is imperative that something be done for the youth of the nation.

She stated that 57 percent of all households in the Bahamas are single parent households, 55 percent of all births in the country are to unwed mothers and of the 5000 births each year 13 percent are to teen mothers ages 10-19. The youngest grandmother in the Bahamas achieved that distinction at the age of 19.

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Three members of the Bahamas Youth Service Achievement Program held meetings on Abaco to feel out how people feel about youth service. They held meetings in Cooper’s Town, Sandy Point and Marsh Harbour. Shown above, left to right, are Pastor Dave Burrows, Deputy Chairman; Mr. Gregory Butler, Assistant Director of Youth in the Ministry; Pastor Nottage, Chairman; Mr. Freddie McIntosh, Chairman for North Abaco; and Mr. Gary Knowles, Senior Administrator for North Abaco.

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Please see Youth Service Page 11

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Drama Club Presented Love Letters Lost

By Jennifer Hudson
Senior students of the Drama Club of Forest Heights Academy and their mentor, Mrs. Leslie Kennedy, deserve a large pat on the back after their excellent performances last weekend. On April 30th and May 1st they presented Love Letters Lost a delightfully light-hearted romantic comedy set in a small village bookstore and showcasing two love stories in one, liberally interspersed with well-loved songs from popular shows. Mrs. Kennedy, English teacher at the school and Drama Club coach, adapted this play for the students from a 20-minute play she likes very much and has adapted this play for the students from a senior student Cleveland Dawkins performing one of the pieces.

The performance was performed in the Forest Heights outdoor auditorium which made a most pleasant “Garden Theatre.” At one point the birds in the trees around were so inspired by the beautiful singing that they chimed in with a delightful chorus.

The students performed with great confidence, having already excelled in their school’s performance of Annie last year and they appeared very much “at home” on stage. Many of these young people have been gifted with very melodious singing voices and Destiny Cornish’s renditions of music of There’s No Business Like Show Business by Irving Berlin and Claire Basden and Roxanne McIntosh were a delightful duo in Harry Wood’s Side by Side.

Shane Cash was a real “hit” with the audience with his delightfully rendered monologue of Never Let a Woman in Your Life and My Fair Lady.

The very professional background music for the cast vocals and scene changes was pre-recorded by talented winter resident Claire Kraner with senior student Cleveland Dawkins performing one of the pieces.

High praise is due to all the actors and their directors, Ms. Leslie Kennedy and Ms. Alana Carroll, those who assisted with set design, choreography, music, sound and all who helped in any way to make this a most enjoyable evening.

On the Saturday evening the auditorium became a Dinner Theatre where the audience was able to enjoy a lasagna dinner prepared by the Parent Teachers Association before watching the performance of Love Letters Lost.
Championship Games Are Held

Abaco Youth In Action sponsored a Championship Basketball Night to conclude its basketball season. It was a very exciting Friday night with championship games played in each age division. All of the games were well contested and close. The fans and children got an extra treat when they watched their parents, male and female, compete in a full court dribbling contest. The results of the Championship games follow.

Game 1 / Pee Wee League
Heat 2  Clippers 10
Jodie Martin and Clementino Burrows lead all scorers for the Clippers. Clementino Burrows of the Clippers was named the MVP.

Game 2 / Girls League
Hawks 1 Pistons 6
Jasmine Ferguson and Zinnia Miller lead the scoring for the Pistons. Zinnia Miller of the Pistons was named the MVP.

Game 3 / Mini League
Hornets 13 Suns 10
Chaz Darville and Cordero Carey combined for 11 points in the win for the Hornets. Cordero Carey of the Hornets was named the MVP.

Game 4 / Junior League

This game went into overtime.
Kings 15     Lakers 17
The Lakers had a balance scoring attack by Lyndon Davis Jr., George Martin Jr., Winton Adderley, Stanley McIntosh and Kingsley Cajeuse. Lyndon Davis Jr. of the Lakers was named the MVP. Nikili Williams of the Kings lead all scores with 9 points.

Parents Full Court Dribbling Contest
15 competitors each
Female Winner: Sophia Miller
Male Winners: (Tie) George Martin and Carleton Miller

Youth In Action Sportmanship Awards
Pee Wee League - Glen Fernandez
Girls League - Jasmine Ferguson
Mini League - Quinton Bastian Jr.
Junior League - Elizion Stuart

The trophies for the night were provided by William Tony Davis and Vita Malt. A large trophy was presented to William Davis for Rosie and Sons which has been the sponsor for Abaco Youth in Action. Refreshments were sold to aid in sending a team to play in Freeport in June.

Youth In Action Baseball
During the next few months Youth in Action will concentrate on baseball. Clinic and drills officially got started on May 1st at the Murphy Town Park with a tremendous turn out. Eddie Claude from Little League Baseball in The Bahamas from Freeport, Grand Bahama, was on hand and assisted.

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More than 80 youth turned out for the opening day of baseball practice of the Abaco Youth in Action. They are taught practice drills in several age groups. Girls and boys enjoy the competitive games.

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Turk’s Island Team Won Basketball Tournament

Mr. Tanter Williams and the Predators Basketball Team from Providenciales Island, Turks and Caicos, traveled to Nassa and Abaco to compete in local basketball tournaments over the Easter holiday weekend, April 8th-10th. The visiting team won the tournament game against the Abaco team. Pictured is Mr. Williams, owner and coach, accepting the tournament trophy from Mr. Cay Mills. In July of last year the Kemp’s Quicksell Rebels Basketball Team from Abaco traveled to Turks and Caicos to compete in the Southern Caribbean Championship.

Scholarship Is Still Available

By Isabel Sherman

Mrs. Judy Yanover recently spent time on Abaco visiting school officials. The Yanovers are the sponsors of the Prime Time Scholarship which is a full scholarship to Louisiana State University offered to one student from Abaco and one student from Eleuthera each year. Presently, there are six students from Abaco on these scholarships attending Louisiana State University. Mrs. Yanover was accompanied by Mrs. Judy Wood, who administers this scholarship.

The basic requirements to qualify for this scholarship are five BGCSE Passes with a C or better in academic subjects, an SAT score and proof of need. The scholarship begins in January in the spring semester each year.

Deadline for scholarship applications is May 30 for consideration for the spring 2005 semester. Applications forms are available from local high schools and from the District Superintendent’s office. The important thing to remember is the C or better passes in five BGCSE academic subjects. Acceptable academic subjects are English, Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Spanish, French, Accounts and Combined Science.

Mrs. Yanover stated that she is quite pleased with the performance of the Abaco students already in the program. Her only concern is that applicants do not seem to follow through with the required documents or paperwork.

The Passion of the Christ

By Jennifer Hudson

It is now Good Friday and having just returned from church I feel that this is a very fitting time to write this article. Having experienced the movie The Passion of the Christ, I believe that for all the thousands of people who also have seen it, Easter time will be even more vivid and moving this year.

The Passion of the Christ is a film about the last twelve hours of Jesus of Nazareth’s life. The film opens in the Garden of Olives where Jesus has gone to pray after the Last Supper. It then traces His journey through His betrayal, arrest, the accusations of blasphemy, condemnation of death, flagellation, carrying of the cross through the streets of Jerusalem and finally His crucifixion. This film generated much controversy even before it was released and people all over the world have flocked to see it. Here in Marsh Harbour it has drawn record numbers to the RND cinema.

I spoke to the Manager, Mr. William Newbold, after the movie had been running for two weeks to get some idea of how it had been received here, and he said that there had been a huge turnout of Abaconians viewing the movie. Very few patrons have been attending the cinema for its normal run of movies but within two weeks of The Passion 1747 individual persons had attended with approximately the same number of people attending in church groups. Within a two week period over one quarter of the population of Abaco had viewed The Passion, and it was to be held over for a further period.

Mr. Newbold stated that people had come from the length and breadth of the island from Crown Haven to Sandy Point and the cays and for some performances he even had to turn some people away. “Some people,” he said, “came three or four times and people were profoundly moved by it. Many people were moved to tears and one lady had to be calmed down by staff before she was able to leave the cinema.”

Since it was an R rated movie, children under the age of 17 could not be admitted unless accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. According to Mr. Newbold, many parents took their children, some as young as two years old. Several school groups were also. I wonder just how much the violence in the movie affected some of the younger children. I, myself, found it hard to take. Indeed, one of the criticisms by one film critic stated, “The graphic detail of Jesus’ torture made the movie hard to sit through.” Another critic labeled it “extremely violent, intense and graphic.” However, other more favourable comments were “There was good acting and the visuals were artfully done.” and “You come out of a church and you feel that you’ve been part of history.”

Mr. Newbold’s final comment to me was, “I hope the showing of this movie will cause positive changes in the lives of the people of Abaco.”
People in the News

Ms. Bertha McPhee Is Transferred

Back in August 1999, almost five years ago, Ms. Bethamae McPhee was sent to Abaco to set up and head the office of the Department of Environmental Health. At that time the department faced numerous challenges implementing guidelines and regulations because of the manner in which environmental issues were dealt with and carried out for many years on Abaco. During the past five years improvements and changes have been made, but work still needs to be done by the community.

On April 21st Ms. McPhee spent her last day in the Abaco office. She said it was a bittersweet day for her. “My experience here has been an exceptional training ground for me,” she said. “It has brought out gifts in me, matured me a lot, not just professionally but personally and spiritually.” Ms. McPhee feels comfortable leaving the Abaco office because all of the programs that are in Nassau have been set up and are in place here. She has seen a tremendous change in Abaco in the sanitary conditions, the residents are more compliant to the regulations set by Environmental Health, and they are eager to learn more. She believes we are getting there.

Ms. McPhee acknowledged the difficulty she had first coming here with only two officers and having the responsibility for the entire island. She said it was a daunting task. She commended her staff for their hard work and “putting their weight” behind any new program implemented without complaint. The Abaco office of the Department of Environmental Health now boasts two health inspectors, two vector control officers and one clerical worker.

Ms. Bethamae McPhee has been stationed on Grand Bahama where she will be responsible for operations in the Department of Environmental Health.

The Department of Environmental Health is responsible for monitoring of consumer products, building control, restaurant inspections, food inspection, food vendors approval, septic tank, yard maintenance, Haitian boat inspection and mosquito spraying.

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Photographer Wins Award

By Jennifer Hudson

Tuppy Weatherford of Man-O-War Cay is well known to the majority of Abaconians for her beautiful scenic and wildlife photography. She has exhibited her work at many art and craft shows on Abaco and for several years has been entering her work in the International Library of Photographers competition for amateur photographers. Recently one of her photographs was selected as an award winning entry and Tuppy was invited to the ILP Conference and Symposium in Washington, D.C. on April 2,3 and 4 to receive her award. Many of her photographs entered in the ILP competitions have been published in “coffee table” books in the U.S.

Tuppy was thrilled to have been selected to receive an award and enjoyed her visit to Washington tremendously. Whilst there she attended talks by well known professional sports and rock star photographers as well as photographers from the National Geographic magazine. Photographers from 20 countries in addition to the United States were present at the conference. Each prize winner, in addition to his official award, was presented with a digital camera with which to go out and photograph the sights of Washington to be entered in an “open” competition.

Tuppy became interested in photography as a teenager when she received her first Brownie, a black and white camera. She was not able to take it up seriously until she purchased a really good camera about eight years ago. Her favourite subjects to photograph are outdoor scenes and babies. She attributes her success to “being in the right place at the right time.” The photograph which won her the award was titled Memories and was taken on the beach at Man-O-War Cay. It is a delightful composition showing her niece, Priscilla, with her cousin, Amber, playing in the sand with pet dogs Chelsea and Sheba. Tuppy called this Memories because Amber died tragically in a fire two years later at the age of five. This photograph along with more of Tuppy’s work can be viewed on the website www.picture.com.

Minister Selected for Office

By Nadeen Benehy

Rev. Dr. Carl Claudius Campbell, the son of Mrs. Gleana Campbell and the late Peter Campbell of Marsh Harbour, will serve as President of the Wesleyan Theological Society, a society of Wesleyan holiness scholars based in the United States. Rev. Campbell was elected as second vice-president of the society at their last meeting held in New York. As President of the society in 2007, he will give both the welcome address and the presidential address. Rev. Campbell, who grew up in the Methodist community of Marsh Harbour, is the first black Methodist outside the United States to be elected President of the society. He stated that he was shocked and humbled by the election.

Abaco Poets and Writers Society Is Formed

By Jennifer Hudson

A very successful inaugural meeting of the Abaco Poets and Writers Society was held at Java Coffee House on the morning of April 16th. The idea of gathering poets and writers together to listen to and appreciate each other’s work was the brainchild of Peter Campbell of Marsh Harbour, who is the first black Methodist outside the United States to be elected President of the society. He stated that he was shocked and humbled by the election.

Abaco Poets and Writers Society was formed at a successful inaugural meeting held at Java Coffee House on the morning of April 16th. The idea of gathering poets and writers together to listen to and appreciate each other’s work was the brainchild of Peter Campbell of Marsh Harbour, who is the first black Methodist outside the United States to be elected President of the society. He stated that he was shocked and humbled by the election.

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of a very gifted young lady named Garnell Stewart. She is seeking to provide a platform for people to come together and develop their talents under the maxim “Speak and you shall be heard.” Garnell invites anyone who loves reading and listening to poetry to attend the meetings. One does not have to be a writer but must come with ideas to offer. Nine people attended the first meeting including boaters, students, writers and three artists who are attempting writing as a different form of expression. Stone McEwen read the words of his new song “Topia” which tells of traveling the world but realising that there is no place like The Bahamas.

Garnell delighted listeners with some of her own self-expressive poetry which she actually never thought of making public until recently encouraged to do so. She began her writing as entries in her personal journal while only in fourth grade. A very quiet child who sadly lost her mother at an early age and her father quite recently, Garnell expressed her innermost feelings on her own self-expressive poetry which she has continued to write and her poems are now copyrighted. She hopes to have them published in the near future. She decided upon graduation to return to school, she studied television production. Her late father was drummer for the band Funk Connection and her late mother, Patti Limperes, is well remembered in the teaching world for her motivational teaching. She was music teacher at the Abaco Central High School for over 10 years. Although born on Abaco, Garnell received her education in the United States where, during the last three years of high school, she studied television production. She decided upon graduation to return to Abaco to trace her roots and discover the heritage her late parents gave her. It was decided at the meeting that the entire cultural group should be called Expressions. Various groupings will spin off from this such as Poetry Expressions, Writing Expressions and Music Expressions.

Garnell is a young lady with a great vision for the arts on Abaco and with her talents and enthusiasm it is going to be something for all who are lovers of the arts to look forward to. She is willing to teach piano to interested students and may be contacted at home at 367-5691 or 375-9162.

The Second Annual Quilt Raffle was held on April 30. April Parotti made a quilt in memory of her late father, Robert Van Stratton, who died from prostate cancer in March 2000. The funds from the raffle benefit the Cancer Society, Abaco Branch. One hundred tickets were sold at $25 per ticket. Then a drawing was held on April 30. The winner of this year’s raffle was Kelly Dam of Marsh Harbour. This is the second year that she made a quilt and donated it. Last year’s quilt was won by Katie Sands. Mrs. Parotti, on the right, along with her daughter, Avery, are shown presenting the check to Mrs. Kathy Whiting of the Cancer Society, Abaco Branch.
Tourism Retreat Studied Abaco’s Future

Minister of Tourism Addresses Retreat

The main speaker for the retreat was the Hon. Obie Wilchcombe, Minister of Tourism, who felt that this session marked the first phase of the responsibility of tourism, that tourism is a business. He acknowledged that the focus has been on Nassau and Grand Bahama but that is changing. The Ministry of Tourism is serious that each island be featured individually.

Mr. Wilchcombe felt that we have not planned strategically. We like to enjoy small successes but do not like the work. This country is successful because we have a willing private sector, Bahamian and non-Bahamian, and we have creative people. But we need to determine how to get the next phase.

He stressed that Abaco needs a first class airport; the present one is not fitting for a tourist destination. Abaco needs an airport in quickest time possible. Abaco is the third city and third most popular Bahamian destination.

The Ministry of Tourism feels that it plays an important role on Abaco and because of that has named a Director of Tourism to show the importance of Abaco. Abaco has much to offer such as fishing and a second home market and is different from the other islands. There is a renewed interest in Abaco by visitors.

Mr. Wilchcombe felt that the people are not sufficiently trained. He cited the Four Seasons resort which recently opened on Exuma needing to bring in domestic help. He would like to see Tourism working more closely with other ministries such as education to bring about a better approach to development. If we are to take the country forward, we need to plan better. Abaco’s future will require technical training and we need to know what subject matter employees need to learn. We need to plan infrastructure for the projects that are proposed.

Tourism has spent very little money on the Family Islands. Mr. Wilchcombe wanted the group to determine priorities and money requirements. He felt that Abaco will need its own tourism board to fulfill the needs of this island and make it grow logically. He felt that it is important to deal with problems now so we can improve for the future. Then we need to demand support from government.

Tourism’s Goals Were Named

The Director General of Tourism, Mr. Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, also spoke at the Retreat. He stressed that each of the Family Islands needs to be considered individually. Several of them are bigger than many of the island countries in the lower Caribbean. We need to focus on each island area we need to focus our promotion efforts on where our visitors come from.

Tourism is thought of as a glamorous industry but is actually a means to a better economy. Tourism should do four things for our economy.

1. Tourism should provide employment.
2. Tourism should provide foreign exchange earnings which is vitally important for Abaco.
3. The earnings from tourism should be distributed broadly so that everyone can benefit.
4. There needs to be Bahamianization of the industry with linkages between tourism and other goods.

Tourism will have a new thrust on the economic development of Abaco but we always need to remember our main goal.

Please see Tourism Page 9
The Work Sessions of the Retreat

The Facilitator for the Retreat was Mr. Roosevelt Finlayson of Management Development Resources, who lead the group for the remainder of the retreat. He gave an overview of the purpose of the retreat and emphasized that this was an opportunity for the group to think deeply into the business of tourism. He wanted the group to look at how to make a new future for Abaco. Strong planning sessions are needed to decide what we want for Abaco. We need to focus on the future.

Mr. Finlayson assisted the group in developing a 10-year concept of the future of Abaco. If we want to develop, we have to plan for changes to allow it to happen. There was discussion on vision, purpose and mission. Then the teams developed what they envisioned. The response was a vision of small resorts, intimate garden settings, a model destination with harmony between visitor and supplier. They saw synergy between visitors and Abaconians. Deliberate expansion, continued development as we have now, maintaining a community’s identity and current character. They saw a thriving community that is supported by non-transient visitors who have bonded and blended with residents to create and preserve a community.

Ms. Outten concluded the retreat by commenting that Abaco has accomplished so much on its own. We now want to improve and we have the power to accomplish this.

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Service between Freeport and Marsh Harbour

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Depart FPO</th>
<th>Arrive MHH</th>
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Visitors can take advantage of a one-day Casino Excursion to Freeport or an overnight package. Package options include air fare, ground transportation and hotel accommodation.

For more information call
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Dinghy Race

2nd (tie) - Doug Behrendt and Wink Merrill
Also taking part were Jonathan Smallwood, Bill Pritchard, Tina Harrison, Bob Keaus, Todd Lee, Tania Harrison, Kent LeBoytillier and Sam Hummel.
It is hoped that the success of this year’s series will encourage others with Abaco dinghies to prepare their boats and join the fun next year. Hope Town Sailing Club races are open to all and there is no entry fee.

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Dr. Woodley Thompson • May 13-14
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Dr. Antoine Clarke • May 6-7
Periodontics (Gum disease & implants)
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Dr. Bertrand Woodley • May 13-14
Orthodontics (Braces)
Dr. Stokes • May 6-7
Periodontics (Gum disease & implants)
Dr. Neophytou & Staff
P.O. Box AB 20948
Marsh Harbour, Abaco
Tel: 367-3131 • Fax: 367-4190
P.O. Box AB 20676, Don MacKay Blvd.
Marsh Harbour, Abaco
Tel: 242-367-4355/54 • Fax: 367-2193
E-mail: agapedental@batelnet.bs
Dr. Munir Rashad • May 7
Oral Maxillo Facial Surgeon (Wisdom teeth)
Dr. Woodley Thompson • May 13-14
Orthodontics (Braces)
Dr. Antoine Clarke • May 6-7
Periodontics (Gum disease & implants)
Dr. Bertrand Woodley • May 13-14
Orthodontics (Braces)
Dr. Stokes • May 6-7
Periodontics (Gum disease & implants)
Earth Day Encourages Preservation

Earth Day From Page 1

A full day of activities, games, contests and fun took place at the Yamaha Park in Marsh Harbour. In an effort to educate children on recycling, teachers and students were invited to participate in a competition featuring songs, posters, displays and aluminum can collections. Ms. Bianchi felt that they were not reaching as many kids as they would have liked but because of this event, they doubled the amount of cans collected.

Ten schools took part in the day’s activities and as many as 200 students attended Earth Day. The children are learning to accept responsibility, to promote the growth of trees, flowers and food crops as well as to be on the alert for causes of pollution.

Display and science experiment tables were set up for each school to showcase its project. Forest Heights Academy focused on the recycling of plastics, Every Child Counts demonstrated solar cooking and Central Abaco Primary displayed numerous items made from recycled materials. Some of them included toys made from newspapers and houses made from used cardboard, toothpicks, egg cartons and used flowers. It was quite an impressive exhibit.

Winners in the staged competitions received environmental books, globes, computer games and Friends of the Environment t-shirts. Proceeds from Earth Day 2004 will benefit the Friends fund for education and outreach programs throughout Abaco. The organizers hope to influence the young people to make choices in their daily conduct that will foster harmony, lessen pollution, diminish waste and assist nature. They encouraged them to walk more, ride less, buy less, grow some of our own foods, recycle, and plant a tree.

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Next door to Regattas of Abaco
Lots starting at $130,000
Selling Fast

Royal Harbour - Marsh Harbour Lot #26 consisting of 14,585 sq. ft. Offered at: $197,000
Escape Hatch - Newly furnished and fully equipped 2 bed 2 bath condo unit at Raggeders of Abaco. Offered at: $260,000

Dorros Cove - Elbow Cay Lots #38 & 94 Offered as one parcel. Approx. 220 X 270 fabulous uninstructed ocean views. Offered at: $250,000. Will consider selling separately for $150,000 each. Lot 110 X 207

Marnie’s Landing - Elbow Cay Lot 15 1/4 Acre with private beach access. Offer at: $320,000
Marsh Harbour - New exclusive listing near Crossing Beach/Ferry Dock 2 Acres x Residential with 190 waterfront. Offered at: $599,000
Sugar Loaf Cay - 2.8 Acres X waterfront on Sugar Loaf Cay Lot #76A. Great Investment! Offered at: $350,000
Bahama Palm Shores - 3 Lots 80’ x 125’ $14,000 each
Cascarina Point - Residential lot 80’ x 125’ $15,000
Marsh Harbour - 13,000 sq ft residential lot next to Crossing Beach
Chase House Choice 33,500 Gross

Guanas Cay - Only 6 lots remaining in 15 lot subdivision, selling fast. Offered at $210,000

Guanas Cay - 5 Direct beach front lots starting from $250,000

Long Beach
Two direct beach front lots, side by side on beautiful beach. Each lot for $180,000 $365,000 Sold

Two ocean view lots, just across from beach. Each lot for $55,000 $110,000

Approximately 328 feet on ocean and bay, approx. 600 feet between ocean and bay. 175 foot dock, covered dock fishing area with a steps for swimming. Ocean waves perfect for surfing wavesnpeaikf rey. Hues Large wrap-around porch with views in every direction. $1,395,000 Gross

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Abaco, Bahamas
Phone: (242) 367-2719
Fax: (242) 367-2759
See additional listings on our website www.abacobahamas.com

Christ Thompson Real Estate
Elbow Cay and The Abacos, Homes and Property

ELBOW CAY OCEAN FRONT HOMES

OCEAN HOUSE

Incredible view of property with 2 bedrooms. 2nd floor home located on the Atlantic Ocean in historic Hope Town. Summerlin 13 feet of ocean from the long white sandy beach. The house has open floor plan with large kitchen and great room on second floor. Poured concrete house with 3/20,000 gallon cisterns.

Price: $1,300,000

PINEAPPLE BEACH HOUSE

Pineapple Beach House - Custom ocean front home on sandy beach, 4/6/3, open kitchen and great room on second floor with balconies for incredible views, completely furnished, freshwater pool. Attached garage offers additional 1/2 bath studio. Rental history available, great buy.

Price: $1,550,000

ATLANTIC HORIZONS

Custom Timber Peg ocean front home, views of Tilloo Cay and beyond. 38/48, spacious open to great room, large wrap around deck with pool, private dock slip at Tahiti Beach.

Price: $1,500,000

ELBOW CAY HOUSES & LAND

FLAMINGO TILSAS - Elbow Cay Lots located on the mouth of Hope Town Harbour. These 2.25 Acre Lots are beautifully furnished. Most Indian debut staff. A dip pool is shared and surrounded by open design. Fully furnished, totally furnished, rental history.

Price: $1,850,000

DORROS COW - 500’ of stunning white sand beach, 3/3/2, stunning ocean views. 30’ of ocean view.

Price: $535,000

MARINAS LANDING - Private marina community on the sea. Each lot comes with private dock slip at the marina, tremendous savings for potential buyers.

Price: $288,000

CENTRELINE ROAD - central Elbow Cay - lots approx 80’ X 200’ X 200’ x 80’ and developer. Prime residential or commercial, ideal for small business. Lot for $40,000. Call Greg Roberts for details.

Price: $1,756,000

JOE’S CAY

3- acre private cay, undeveloped, accessible from Elbow Cay, located in White Sound, great elevation, deep water for deep water craft, rare opportunity. Various inquiries only, shown by appointment.

Price: $1,000,000

LUBBERS QUARTERS

EAST VIEW

Located on Lubbers Quarters Cay, Development faces the Sea of Abaco across from Tilloo Cut and Tahiti Beach. Beautiful sunsets. Each house comes with a dock slip at the private marina. Great investment opportunity.

Price: $89,000

Chris Thompson
(chris@hopetown.com)
Ph: (242) 366-0216
www.elbow-cay.com

“Family Island Specialists”
Greg Roberts
(greg@hopetown.com)
Fax: (242) 366-0223
www.abacobahamas.com
Youth Service From Page 2

Skills while a third element is a Restorative Program for those youth who are at risk.

The ages the commission is looking to begin with is sometime before 6th grade.

The commission feels that much of the implementation can be accomplished through existing youth organizations and the educational system. Neither will there be sufficient funding for a full scale separate program. The final scheme would be mandatory for all youth.

Incentives might be given for participation. For instance, serving in the program might be a prerequisite to getting a government job. Some elements might have a work component and those participating might get a stipend. There are other incentives being considered.

After the presentation the members accepted questions from the audience. Many members of the audience pointed out the real need to educate the parents as well as the youth. It was pointed out that knowledge about The Bahamas is essential as many youth do not know about their country, its history and heritage.

At the end of the meeting there was continued talk among the audience that the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahamas should have representation on this commission. It should not be made up just of persons from New Providence.

Mother’s Day is May 9th

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Abaco Offers Several Internet Services

By Stephanie Humblestone

Abaco’s internet communication systems have grown in leaps and bounds over the past few years with four major Internet Service Providers (ISP) tailor made to serve the community’s needs, each having broadband coverage areas with rapidly expanding networks. These are: DSL (Batelco), Cable (Cable Bahamas) and Wireless Broadband (Out Island Internet and Abacom Wireless Services). DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) is offered by the Bahamas phone corporation Batelco. Accessed through an existing phone service, it allows customers to connect to the internet on an existing phone line without tying up their regular phone services. As with all the above named providers, it is a broadband, high speed connection. As yet it is available in select areas of Abaco but other areas are steadily coming on line. Batelco boasts of a 24-hour hotline for technical support, and friendly staff is available for information regarding residential and commercial packages weekdays during working hours at their Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay offices. Orientation programmes are offered to those unfamiliar with the internet.

Cable internet is offered by Cable Bahamas. It is similar to DSL in terms of speed but it is a “shared network,” meaning speeds may vary according to the number of users simultaneously on line. The service is supplied to the customer through an existing cable television subscriber line. Cable Bahamas, as well as Batelco, offer fiber-optic connections for commercial grade internet subscribers and secure private networks such as financial institutions and large companies requiring additional bandwidth to conduct business over the internet. It is also an “Upstream Service Provider” which means broadband width can be purchased from them by other internet providers. On Abaco both Out Island Internet and Abacom Wireless Services use this facility.

Mr. Eric Russell, President of Freeport-based Cable Bahamas likened it to “a gas station providing the fuel.” Cable Bahamas has its own fiber loop independent of Batelco connecting New Providence, Eleuthera, Abaco and Grand Bahama. Each island has a 24 hour hotline for clients. Cable offers packages for home and businesses at varying speeds, as does DSL, inMarsh Harbour, Dundas Town, Murphy Town, Cherokee, Marsh Harbour, Saffron, Treasure Cay, and Spring City. Coverage is expanding, and upgrading of bandwidths should be effect by the summer.

For clients “on the go” and located in areas where neither phone connection nor Cable is available or possible, the new and exciting “wireless internet” is in existence. Descending upon Abaco like a massive communication “cloud,” it has fast become popular among yachtsmen as they can roam Abaco Sound without having to be connected to a telephone line. No strings attached. The two companies at the forefront of this service are Out Island Internet and Abacom Wireless Service. Both companies have overlapping coverage on the mainland and the islands. The wireless signal is similar to the marine VHF transmissions although on a very different frequency and is very much “line of sight.” Reception is very good.

However, it is decreased or cut out completely when blocked by boat hulls, electromagnetic emissions, trees or hills. For marine use it is a clear, inexpensive and convenient route to the internet. Equipment necessary to connect ranges from a small credit card-sized radio receiver to a cigarette pack-sized receiver. In the open air access ranges between a quarter of a mile to four miles. The farther the distance, the slower the connection can be. Where interference is a factor, equipment needs to be upgraded and this is often costly. Initial set up may be expensive to some but this pales next to that the benefits of speedy internet access and the alternative of trenching in remote areas where no other internet service is possible or available.

Currently OII, owned and operated by Chris Claridge and Tara Hingle, and AWS Ltd, owned and operated by Malcolm Spicer and Sinclair Frederick, have wireless internet from Green Turtle Cay in the north to Bahamas Palm Shores in the south. Both companies are quickly expanding and plan to serve Abaco in its entirety.

These companies are striving to improve and facilitate internet services by making them more available, faster and less costly. Everyone is benefitting from these efforts.

Abaco is on a technological wave, riding fast and high into the future.

The Rotary Club of Abaco held a fund raising golf tournament in January. Scouts assisted with the tournament. In response Mrs. Jacquelyn Estavez, President of the Rotary Club of Abaco, presented a check for $3000 to Sandra Evans, Abaco Scout Commissioner, and Bill Thorndycraft, Scout Leader. The funds will be used to assist with the tournament. In response to “A Scouting Day” the above named individuals have assisted with the tournament. In response to “A Scouting Day” the above named individuals have assisted with the tournament. In response to “A Scouting Day” the above named individuals have assisted with the tournament. In response to “A Scouting Day” the above named individuals have assisted with the tournament. In response to “A Scouting Day” the above named individuals have assisted with the tournament. Abaco is in The Regattas. Beautifully and fully furnished, all amenities. Come and relax and enjoy the view! Weekly and monthly rentals. Please call for information.

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Kathleen Albury, BRI
a professional Licensed Real Estate Appraiser who has performed work for most local financial institutions, many attorneys and private individuals.

She also serves as Estate Agent with H.G. Christie, Ltd. with six years of extensive and varied experience in real estate, both in the U.S. and the Bahamas, four of these years in Abaco. She maintains licenses in both countries. She has completed many continuing education courses, having received her Bahamas Real Estate Institute designation, and can be considered one of the best trained realtors in Abaco.

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

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Church Minister Returns and Hosts a Retreat

By Jennifer Hudson

The congregation of the Kirk of the Pines Presbyterian Church in Marsh Harbour is very pleased to welcome Rev. David Stapleton back to Abaco. He was minister of the church from late 1997 to October 2003 when he left to spend some time with his family back in England. He has returned to Abaco to once again assist with the church for the next four months. The Every Child Counts school is also delighted to have him assisting with their programme once again.

Rev. Stapleton and the Kirk of the Pines hosted Elders from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Nassau and the Lucayan Presbyterian Church in Freeport at a Church Retreat on April 16 and 17. Among other things, plans for a church building and the way forward were discussed. During the Sunday service three church elders were installed. Hugh Cottis and Bill Thorndycraft were ordained as new elders and Bill Schweizer, who was previously an elder in his church in the U.S., was inducted as an elder of the Presbyterian Church in the Bahamas.

Presently, the Kirk of the Pines meets each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the music room of Forest Heights Academy and offers an invitation to anyone who is looking for a church home.

Church Cay Properties - Offered by Treasure Cay Specialists

Casuarina Beach/Ocean Boulevard

- Toad Hall Package deal. Extra large ocean front lot with unlimited opportunity for building your dream home. Directly behind is your present main home on its own lot. Two storey with 4 bed / 3 bath upstairs and large living / dining / kitchen down stairs. Detached double garage with 1 bed / 1 bath apartment above.

- Another World” This name gives you an idea of this special family island home. 5 bed / 5 bath CBS house on world reknown Treasure Cay beach with many features / extras including a van and golf cart. Areal “MUST SEE” $1,440,000

- Serenity” A real “Estate” property. Modern 4 bed /4.5 bath, 5600 sq. ft., two story CBS home with incredible ocean views. Upper level extra large, open floor concept living has 2 bed / 2 bath with outdoor covered balcony and master en-suite bed/bath. Lower level 2 bed /2 bath, lounge, wet bar plus additional bed/bath and double garage. Property has two fully landscaped lots with 290 feet ocean front. Special property with many, many additional features including 2 bed /1 bathroom caretaker’s suite.

- “Tiki House” Located in canal front, spacious CBS, 2 bed /2 bath, patio, pool, dining / kitchen, airy Bahama room, mature landscaping. PRICED TO SELL! $215,000

Galleon Bay Canal / Estates

-“Safe Harbour” Canal front with excellent elevation. Octagonal 825 sq. ft. garage / efficiency guest house with plans for main house. Dock $1,282,000 power in place. Must see. $405,000

-“Laguna” brand new canal front, ocean front, fully furnished, 3 bed /2 bath, modern open concept, living/dining/kitchen plus partially covered dock. Perfect island retreat for some lucky family. $714,500

- “Seaductress” / “Harbour’s Edge” Modern CBS 3 bed / 3 bath home including private entry suite, pool, 80 ft., fully serviced dock, 2 car garage including two vehicles. Exceptional location and view. Many more features, must see to appreciate. MOTIVATED SELLER $1,200,000

- “Lot Fifteen” Canal front, newly completed and designer furnished dream house. CBS 3 bed / 2 bath / 3000 sq. ft. with dock and boat. Fully landscaped with irrigation system. Many extra features. $650,000 + 14% closing

Windsward Beach Estates

- “Seavision” Ocean front CBS house, 2 bed / 2 bath plus detached 20’ x 30’ 2 car garage with extra bath. House has wonderful view as well as prevailing tradewinds $738,000

- “Sea Star” built as a retiree’s dream house, this comfortable spacious house has 2 bed / 2 bath with outside living/dining/kitchen. Also enclosed poarch, carport, utility room. Lush garden w/ picket fence. Package shows lots of TLC. $370,000

- “Bahama Sunset” Canal front two storey CBS home with 14 ft. water frontage with dock. Upper level has living/dining/kitchen den with mateer suite and large covered dock. Downstairs 1 bed / 1 bath/living also large garage/ workshop. Unique property with fantastic sunset view as well as ocean view. $950,000

Treasure Cay has one of the world’s best Beaches, Golf Course, Tennis, full service Marina, just naming a few amenities. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information. We not only sell here, we live here and love it. For further details and pictures visit our web page at http://www.treasurecayrealestate.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box AB22183, Treasure Cay, Abaco, Bahamas. E-mail: trealestate@tcl.net

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Church News

Brokers

Annie Albury

Marcellus Roberts

(242) 365-8538 Ph
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Ann Albury - Member

Treasure Cay Properties - Offered by Treasure Cay Specialists

ROYAL PALM

Canal Front Condos with on site Tennis and Pool
Phase 1 3 bed 1bath 1 bed DEN/LUANAI - site pool

$260,000

ATLANTIS

2 bed /2 bath

Bldg 4 Upst 1bath, boat slip $224,000

Bldg 4 Down $242,000

MARBURY

Townhouse Condos with on site Tennis and Pool

Marina View 1 $113,000

VILLAS

Brigitante Villas

Ocean front 2 bed /2 bath $280,000

ROCK POINT

Apartment four-ples, 2 storey CBS building, each level has 2 full apartments with 2 bed / 1 bath, living/dining/kitchen. Great rental investment. MUST SEE! $350,000

TREASURE HOUSES

Ocean front luxury units with lagoon pool / waterfall $425,000

Garden/ooed $356,000

BAHAMA BEACH CLUB

New luxury condominium project on Treasure Cay Beach, 3 bed / 3 bath / Den / Lanai - on site pool and many other features Starting at $475,000 Plus 14% closing

BRIGANTINE BAY ESTATES

“Sea Cliff” newly completed 2 storey CBS home fully furnished. Living / dining / kitchen downstairs, bed rooms upstairs. Direct greenway access to Treasure Cay beach MOTIVATED SELLER $369,000

LEEWARD BAY ESTATE

“Trident”/“Turquoise Seat” You cannot be more “on the beach” than in this special home. Offering 3 bed / 3 1/2 bath in the main house with detached garage / bed / bath / attic plus storage. Vast deck oceanside with widow’s walk. WOW! $2,520,000

“Cross Winds” Split level CBS home extra large lot across from 2 beach greenways. Private Master bed/ bath suite upstairs. Lower level 2 bed / 2 bath, cozy living room/ kitchen/ dining/ utility. Apartment annex 1 bed / 1 bed, living, enclosed patio. Plus/ Plus/ Plus $964,000

SANDPIPER BEACH

“Top of the Rock” situated on two elevated ocean front lots with natural and tropical gardens. Main house 1 bed / 1 bath with detached 2 bed / 1 bath guest accommodations plus additional 400 sq. ft. entertainment / bunk house facility. Great holiday beach property. $2,100,000

“Point of View” 3 bed / 2 1/2 bath CBS split level open concept home with cathedral ceilings and skylights. Lower level including living/ dining/ kitchen/ den and master bedroom suite accesses large ocean-side deck with Beach Beach and more Beach. Upstairs bedrooms each with own entry and sun deck $1,722,000

VACANT LOTS AVAILABLE

- Casuarina Beach/Ocean Blvd. 1 acre +/- $810,000
- Canal Front beginning at $99,000
- Golf Course/ Interior beginning at $25,000

May 1, 2004 The Abaconian Page 13 B

Church News

By Jennifer Hudson

The Roman Catholic community of St. Francis de Sales Church in Marsh Harbour and the Catholic community of Hope Town made a fond farewell to their Associate Pastor for a church home.

tort. Rev. Fr. Father RamonSaavedra, dur-

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May 14, 2004

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Hearing aids, hearing testing

May 14, 2004

Ms. Sonya Artwell - Ultra Sound Tech

May 15, 2004

Dr. May Hemoto - Hand and Orthopedic Surgeon

May 15, 2004

Dr. Ida Mae Hanna - Dietician

Healthy Lifestyle

May 17, 2004

Dr. Rosetta Ingham, Dermatologist

May 17, 2004

Dr. Bernard Rolle - General Medicine

Diabetes Specialist

May 19, 2004

Dr. Daniel Johnson - Foot Doctor

May 21, 2004

Dr. Elaine Lundy - General Practitioner

May 22, 2004

Dr. Gregory Neil - Plastic Surgeon

June 5, 2004

Dr. Charles Johnson - Ears, Nose, Throat

June 10, 2004

Dr. Paul Hunt - Pediatrician, Asthma and Allergy Treating

June 14, 2004

Dr. Francis Biney - Eye, Nose, Throat

Every week Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Mr. Christopher R. Monize - Physical Therapist

Every week Friday

For Appointments Call 367-0020

May 1, 2004 The Abaconian Page 13 B
A passport and clothing were lost when someone stole a Murphy Town resident’s bag on April 4 while at the Marsh Harbour airport liquor store. A Guana Cay man was arrested on April 6 for stealing. A pneumonia was stolen from a Murphy Town resident’s car on April 6 containing a bag of marijuana in the waist of his pants. A ten-year-old boy was injured in the face below his eye while playing with a bullet which exploded. He found the bullet while at the Marsh Harbour dump late in the morning of April 16. He was treated locally and sent to Nassau for further treatment. A Grand Cay resident was arrested for hiring another man in the head with a beer bottle at 2 a.m. on April 18. He faces further charges for resisting arrest and assaulting police officers. A resident of Great Cistern was arrested on April 18 after his pickup truck was found in a ditch, and he appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. A Fox Town resident was arrested on April 18 for stealing. Two jet skis were stolen from Freeport on April 17. A Grand Cay man and an accomplice were believed to be involved. A taxi caught fire while in the Cooper’s Town yard of the owner on April 18. A Treasure Cay man was arrested on April 21 at the side of Annie’s Take-away on the S.C. Boote Highway. The burglar was discovered to be jimmyed and he was found with $49.65 on his possession. A Fire Road resident was struck in the head with a pool stick while at a bar in Cooper’s Town on April 20.

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**Buckle Up!**

A short walk to Coco Bay and the ocean beaches. A few steps to Gillam Bay beach. Coral Point - Lot 8 Inner White Sound (For Sale). Long Dock 200’ x 200’ Near Sunfish. US $895,000 plus 7.5% to close. Located just 200 steps from the beach. A perfect retirement home! $650,000 plus 7% to close. Great ocean views. Two bedroom two bath apartment complex. Fully furnished. A/C, 9 ft high ceilings, ceiling fans, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths, covered front porch and rear deck, landscaped and sheltered parking for golf carts. Located within five minutes of two spectacular beaches; public dock and major resort. A perfect retirement home! $135,000 plus 7% to close.

---

**BEST BUYS IN ABAÇO**

**REDUCED** #1603 Best priced home on Elizabeth Cay - 2-1/2 bdrm home on 17,000 sq. ft. lot. Offers sea views, central A/C, open plan, two level porch and decks, plus a walk-out lower level with 2 1/2 bdrm with en-suite and whirlpool spa. MUST SEE $199,500.

**SOLD** Guana Cay #1709 - 2 adjacent lots with 215’ x 215’ in the settlement, close to beach and harbor. Lot located in this picturesque town. $149,900.

---

**Guana Cay #1703 NICELY UPDATED AND JUST REDUCED! 2-5 cottage in the settlement close to beach and harbor. Ideal location in this picturesque town. $169,900.**

---

**New! Three-year-old two story furnished home. 2 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths up with separate entrance to each. A/C, satel- lite, W/D, surroiunding covered porch with stunning views of Atlantic Ocean. Floor: garage with golf cart, 1 bedroom 1 bath furnished apartment, A/C and deck. 1/4 acre. $585,000 plus 7% to close. Located just 200 steps from the beach. The HERO CONTRACT**

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**A Grand Cay man was arrested on April 8 when found by police to have a bag of marijuana in the waist of his pants. An $1800 stereo system and two head
drummers were believed to be involved.**

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**A Fire Road resident was struck in the head with a pool stick while at a bar in Cooper’s Town on April 20.**

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**A Fire Road resident was struck in the head with a pool stick while at a bar in Cooper’s Town on April 20.**
Waterfront with Dock - #0131 Two bedroom two bath house with large open entertaining areas with great views. Boat house and dock has power & water. Motivated seller! Under Contract.

TREASURE CAY - #1222 Three bedroom two bath home near beaches and golf course. Fully furnished with all amenities. $325,000 Reduced

Historic Club & Inn - #0677 Located in the heart of a snorkelpark. Colonial village, this 150 year-old landmark has been meticulously maintained in its original décor. Consisting of 10 guest rooms, 40 seat restaurant, lounge, pool and patio. A rare find that will allow you to enjoy a lifestyle reminiscent of the old days. This once in a lifetime opportunity is offered at $1,780,000 Hurry!

High on a Bluff - waterfront 1/3 acre elevated lot offering fantastic panoramic views of the Sea of Abaco and breathtaking vistas. Located near resorts and marinas, this is a must see! Sold!

Two lots overlooking the sea. These gorgeous elevated 1/3 acres have a spectacular view of the Sea of Abaco with magnificent sunsets. Owner will sell as a pair. Call for price. New Listing!

Beachfront - 1/4 acre located virtually on the Atlantic beach. Sold!

Ocean View Lots - two 1/2 acre lots overlooking the Atlantic. Elevated with grand views 206’ ft. from the beach. Sold!

Nice Neighbourhood – ready for building! Challenged lot with fruit trees, near to beaches, park and a public dock. $45,000

GREENWATNEY CANAL LOT - Treasure Cay with splendid unobstructed views of the canal. $15,000 Owner says sell!

Waterfront with Pool - Three bedroom 1/2 bath located in beautiful Treasure Cay, overlooking the Sea of Abaco. This new house is sure to be a pleasure. Offered at $546,000 Reduced

Beach/Canal lot package – Enjoy the best of two worlds, a beautiful sandy beach and a salt canal front lot for your house. Located in Leisure Lee, these adjoining lots are a rare find for the person who loves living on the beach and boating. Call for price

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

MARSH HARBOUR - #0596 Great opportunity investment. 5 octagonal wooden building comprises of 2,995 sq. ft. These buildings are now currently being used for commercial ventures. There are two upstair units that are 1 bed/1 bath apartments. This property is located in the main tourist strip. Fantastic investments. $440,000

Yellowwood - Vacant lot approx 425’ x 150’, close to Cherokee Sound and Little Harbour $215,000

Cassarina Point - vacant lot available in growing community, close to beach, reduced to fantastic price $15,900

Bahama Palm Shores - two lots side by side in fast growing community. UNDER CONTRACT

Man-O-War - Vacant interior lot, in town, close walk to restaurants, grocery stores and the beach. $99,900

Leisure Lee - Best priced canal lot $45,000 UNDER CONTRACT

Pelican Shores - Elevated waterfront home lots available, one of a kind location in Marsh Harbour. Starting at $230,000

Hill Creek - 4 1/2 acres with 50’ doc and 100’ of waterfront $165,000

Fire Road North Abaco - Starter home for sale, 1 bed, 1 bath, view of the sea, $30,500

Bahama Palm Shores - vacant lot with foundation on it for 2 bedroom 1 bathroom house. House plans available for $145,000

Sand Banks - Several vacant lots available agores, 1 acre, some waterfront, some interior with elevations. Motivated seller. Call today for price.

Orchid Bay - Gean’s Cay Georgine bays front lots available in lovely new development. Development features pool, tennis courts, marina and restaurant on property. Call for prices.

Orchid Bay - Gean’s Cay Charming waterfront cottages with 2/2/2, features private dock and amenities of Orchid Bay. Features beautiful view of the Sea of Abaco. $372,500

Green Turtle Cay - #0333 Two bedroom / two bathroom house with a dock. The modern interior consists of two dining areas, an island bar, living room and kitchen. All four rooms overlook the 150’ dock and harbour of White Sound. This is the last available deep water property on Green Turtle Cay. $455,000

HOPE TOWN - Three story island home with 3bed/ 3 bath Sold!

Orchid Bay - #1331 This elegant 3 bedroom, 3 bath island beauty comprises of 3,200 sq. ft. with all modern day features. Features include Karinian counter tops, six burner stove, dish dance studio, hobby room, wine cellar, barbeque pit and much more. Property includes guest cottage with 2/2b and ocean views as well. Only steps away to a white
Better Statistics Will Benefit Tourism

A presentation was made by the Caribbean Advanced Technical Center concerning e-commerce and e-business for offshore clients. Ms. Kayla Ward, General Manager, gave a talk on Information Technology. It is developing software to attract business to The Bahamas instead of having to go to the Far Eastern countries.

On the areas which the Caribbean Advanced Technical Center is involved with is developing new immigration cards which are providing a great amount of information about our visitors. The present card was introduced in September 2003 to track trends and factors with changes being made to it to make it more tourist friendly. The cards are providing detailed information which will be helpful to the tourism industry. It evaluates the characteristics of the tourists and provides national security information. Tourism is working with Immigration so both departments can use the information.

At this time processing of the cards is completed in about four days, shortened from the previous time of four years. Abaco data lags by about six to seven months. It did not have the ability to produce this data before. It does not have the ability to produce this data now.

Complaints that visitors have registered about Abaco include too many dogs, the communities are not clean, too much garbage around, need for cleaner streets, recycling should be implemented, need for more night time activities, more night clubs, need to make the area more attractive to younger people as the area is presently geared more to older people.

The information from the immigration cards will be made available to industry people. Tourism is committed to getting this information to the industry. They stayed, how long they stayed. It needs to be made available to the customers. That information is gotten from exit surveys. The exit surveys get information on what visitors expect, how they rated their vacation and what they say about their experience. It also records their complaints.

Mr. Gary Young, Director of Research and Statistics, gave a talk giving statistics about tourism in the Bahamas and specifically for Abaco. He accompanied this with a slide presentation of graphs showing a variety of information. He will make suggestions on how to make an environment’s functional outcomes better serve them.

Mr. Monize treats sports injuries and is always available to cover sporting events such as track meets and football matches. To request his services he can be contacted through the Auskell Medical Clinic.

Physical Therapist Visits Abaco

By Jennifer Hudson

Mr. Christopher Monize, Physical Therapist, recently made his first visit to the Auskell Medical Clinic and plans to return on a regular basis. Mr. Monize holds a Bachelor’s degree in chemistry and biology and a Diploma in Physical Therapy from the University of the West Indies. He has worked at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau for four years and was a volunteer Physical Therapist for both the men’s and women’s Bahamas National Soccer Teams from 1999 to 2002. On Abaco he will be seeing patients referred to him by physicians and will firstly do an evaluation and then work out a treatment programme for each patient. Treatments will include the use of modalities such as ultrasound, ice, heat, electrical stimulation, exercises and a home programme. Patient education will be included if changes need to be made in the home or work environment. He will make suggestions on how to make an environment’s functional outcomes better serve them.

Mr. Monize treats sports injuries and is always available to cover sporting events such as track meets and football matches. To request his services he can be contacted through the Auskell Medical Clinic.
Unusual Visitor Writers in Leisure Lee

Charlie is given a meal of either raw fish, beef, pork or lamb in his own dish right outside her door. He is almost always on time for his meal. If Joan is late in the morning in putting his food out, he sits and waits for her to arrive. He knows when she is waiting and is there. She stays there for about an hour after his meal, then goes back down to the water to clean his bill and pass the time watching for fish and frogs.

Charlie has already left Abaco to visit his home in the north for the next six months leaving Joan to miss his daily visits but looking forward very much to his return in November.
Central Abaco Dist. Council March 31
The Council approved Shawn Simmons to be on Licensing replacing Paul Swain. The nomination of Wayde Archer for the Licensing Board caused one Council member to strongly object. A Marsh Harbour member, Mrs. Yvonnie Key, objected to his being on the Licensing Board based on his performance as chairman of that Board several years ago. After a heated discussion, it was agreed that he could be on the Board but not as chairman.
The Chairman discussed a special project that he was working on. He feels that the Ocean View Park needs a sea wall to protect the basketball court from erosion due to wave action.
The Chairman felt that the Crossing Beach restroom needs to be under the control of the Council rather than the Marsh Harbour Town Committee. He would like to see the restroom opened very early in the morning for the benefit of taxi drivers who arrive early for the ferries. However, Mrs. Key objected strenuously saying that it was a Marsh Harbour park and would remain under Marsh Harbour control. She would be willing to give a restroom key to a Marsh Harbour taxi driver so he can open it at 7 a.m. The discussion was so heated that several members walked out of the room, causing the meeting to be adjourned without formalities.

Marsh Harbour Committee 6 April 2004
Quotes will be requested for constructing additional sidewalks in the business section of Marsh Harbour. There may be enough money for 2200 feet of sidewalk to begin at Insurance Management and extend into town.
Speed reducing bumps are still wanted but not as chairman. A Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department caused one Council member to strongly object. A Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department which asked if its stipend could be raised from the present $96 per week.

Steps will be taken to close an unlicensed garage in Spring City. Cars are accumulating around the property.
The vacant lot separating the Pigeon Pea area from the softball park in Marsh Harbour is scheduled to be cleaned. It was unclear if this will include the removal of garbage now hid by overgrowth along the Pigeon Pea boundary.

Steps are being taken to secure the Pavilion being donated by a long time homeowner in the area. This would be erected on the vacant waterfront site east of the Conch Inn used years ago for a packing plant.
It was reported that Snake Cay has been sold for a development.

Town Planning April 26, 2004
Twelve applications were before the Board with a combined value of $2,126,130. All were approved with some requiring further approval from Environmental Health. Eight were of a residential nature, a warehouse was submitted by Bahaama Palm Grove, AID requested an addition to their building, Cherokee Air applied for an office, customer lounge and reception area at the airport, and the Pilot Club applied to build a guard shelter at the entrance to Abaco Central High School.

Central Abaco Council 29 April 2004
Discussion opened on Dundas Town’s recommendation to appoint Wade Archer as a member of Licensing. Marsh Harbour members felt this was inappropriate as he left the Board several years ago during a period of irregularities. Administrator Williams reminded Council members that Dundas Town could recommend whom they wished and the Council would then vote. This is expected to come up at the next meeting.

Mrs. Key asked the Chief Councillor to stop writing letters suggesting the letters were sanctioned by Council. She showed several letters recently written on Council letterhead to Marsh Harbour property owners reflecting the personal views of the Chief Councillor but not the Council. One letter concerned a fence in the Crossing Beach area.

A heated discussion then ensued between Councillor Yvonnie Key and Chief Councillor Cay Mills over access to the restroom at Crossing Beach. The Chief Councillor, who is a taxi driver, asked that control of the Crossing Beach be assigned to Council. He feels that the taxi drivers need the restroom opened at 6 a.m. for people coming from Hope Town and Marsh Harbour to catch the early 7 a.m. Bahamasair flight.

Another issue was the Chief Councillor’s refusal to sign the contract check for the Marsh Harbour road cleaning crew. Apparently the Chief Councillor found an area of roadways in Marsh Harbour which did not meet his approval, and he withheld payment.
The discussion became quite heated and Mrs. Key left the meeting amid remarks suggesting racial overtones.

Administrator Williams said the proper procedure would be to bring the matter to Council’s attention rather than attempt to rectify a perceived problem by taking punitive action.
Mr. Mills asked Council’s permission to buy and install bar grill bars on the computer rooms at the high school and the primary school. Each summer these rooms are vandalized and equipment stolen.
Administrator Williams said this did not fall within Council’s mandate but would be for the Ministry of Education to install as this would be construed as a capital expense. Councillor Carl Archer reminded Mr. Mills that in any event it would be a collective decision of the Council and not a decision for the Chief Councillor to make.
The Crossing Beach restrooms were discussed again with the Deputy Chief Councillor making a motion (which failed) to either be given a key or to cut the lock off and install a lock provided by Council. It was left that the Administrator will discuss the issue with the Marsh Harbour Town Commissioner.
Mr. Mills was authorized to make a trip to Exuma on May 4 - 7 to get information on the marine preserve there and bring information relative to establishing a marine preserve on Abaco. He was given a budget of $1100 for transportation, hotel and other expenses relative to the trip.
Administrator Williams asked the Chief Councillor to plan to go to Trinidad in November to attend the World Mayor’s Council. The Bahamas would like to be represented at this meeting with Chief Councillors being our version of a mayor.

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Drinking & Driving
DESTROYS LIVES!
Pilots Promote Educational Program on Brain Safety

By Jennifer Hudson

The month of March was designated as Brain Minder’s Month by Pilot International whose focus is on Brain Related Disorders. The local chapter in Marsh Harbour was responsible for educating the public on this topic. Club members and Anchors conducted special Brain Minder’s presentations at several schools. These presentations consisted of puppet characters, colouring books and participant certificates.

The Pilot Club of Central Abaco along with the Anchor Club of Abaco Central High presented a brain-minder buddy workshop to students at the pre K – Grade 1

The programme was well received wherever presentations were made and approximately nine presentations have been completed for over 200 students.

Members intend to continue this project with the assistance of the community.

Pilots and Anchor Club members will continue promoting brain safety, Allita Bain and Letisha Woods are shown visiting schools to promote brain safety.

Pilots Promote Educational Program on Brain Safety
WE’LL BLOW YOUR MIND, NOT YOUR BUDGET

The freshest produce, specially-cut meat, groceries, supplies, housewares, electronics, lawn and garden & more. All at great prices with daily Smart Buys for even bigger savings. You CAN have it all. All in one place: Solomon’s SuperCenter.