Grand Cay Was Slammed by Wilma
Eight Residences Were Destroyed, Others Were Damaged

By Richard E. Fawkes
The government of The Bahamas, through NEMA, recently built eight new homes on Grand Cay to replace those destroyed during back-to-back Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne during September of last year. This year Hurricane Wilma, approaching from a south-westerly direction on October 24, laid waste to many homes and inflicted severe structural damage on at least three more buildings, including business establishments, in this northernmost Bahamian community. Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne had approached from the east.

According to District Council member George Russell, Grand Cay residents were somewhat caught off guard and did not prepare for Wilma as well as they could have. He blames this on the failure of ZNS Radio and the Meteorological Office to specifically locate and warn Grand Cay residents in their forecasts and bulletins. He said he had taken a trip to Florida not long before the storm, unaware of its path toward Grand Cay and that it was only when he turned on the television in his hotel room was he able to get a clear picture of the imminent threat. He had to charter a plane from Florida to get home to secure his property and family. Mr. Russell said residents on Grand Cay have to extrapolate a hurricane’s threat to them from reports of its proximity to Grand Bahama or mainland Abaco. Grand Cay cannot re-

Telethon Raised Thousands for Hurricane Victims
By Portia Jonsson
On October 28th a two-hour radio telethon was staged by Radio Abaco to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Wilma.

Children Enjoy Guy Fawkes Fun Day

By Portia Jonsson

Firemen Assist with Controlled Burn
Friends of the Environment has an ongoing project in the pine woods of South Abaco. They are studying the effects of the burn on the flora and fauna with the view to keeping a healthy forest. This was the second burn and was studied from many aspects by scientists from the U.S. Forestry Service and The Nature Conservancy. One of the observers at the burn was Mr. John Rood, U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas, who is standing in the middle of the group. The burn followed a seminar sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command that trained firemen in firefighting techniques, first aid and CPR. See story on page 18.
Wind Caused Destruction on Grand Cay

Grand Cay
From Page 1

ceve ZNS television because its antenna, destroyed during Frances or Jeanne last year, was not replaced.

Seventy-six-year-old Vera Hield said she was lucky enough to have been at her daughter’s house during the storm’s passage. The roof and front portion of half her six-room dwelling were ripped out, with the remaining rooms losing their ceilings as a result of roof damage.

Maxwell Cooper has only his concrete foundation, strewn with bathtub, stove, washer, bits of furniture, pieces of clothing and children’s toys to show where his house was. He, his wife and children were able to escape and find refuge in a stone building next door. His roof landed across the street on top of his brother’s hotel at harbour side, crushing its roof. The brother, Jolly Cooper, said he had rebuilt his business, Jollyeke’s Hotel, in that location after last year’s hurricanes had destroyed it at a higher level. Mr. Jolly Cooper said he also lost his 25-foot fishing boat with two Mercury outboard engines.

Next to Mr. Cooper’s hotel, Roosevelt Curry’s motel had its upper floor ripped off again, although Mr. Curry’s docks and restaurant remained intact.

One half of the building housing the government clinic was demolished. Nurse Vlma M itchell and her assistant, auxiliary nurse Dolly M ae Cooper, had been ordered off Grand Cay to Freeport prior to the hurricane. Grand Cay’s health and education services are under Grand Bahama’s jurisdiction, but police, administration, social and environmental health services are under Abaco’s jurisdiction. A clinic facility was set up at a duplex near the school and was re-opened for business on November 1, when this reporter visited Grand Cay. A three-building clinic complex, with doctor and nurse’s residences, and upgraded facilities.

BEC Team Repairs
Electrical Damage

By Richard E. Fakes
A five-man distribution crew, led by Kenneth Williams, a supervisor in the Family Islands Division of BEC, arrived on Grand Cay from Nassau on November 1 to begin restoring the damaged electrical infrastructure on the cay, which suffered the loss of at least three poles, four transformers and many downed lines. Mr. Williams said a barge delivered all the equipment and supplies they needed that morning. Kenneth Knowles, BEC’s distribution manager in Marsh Harbour, flew in that day to help assess the damage and get restoration work going.

The generator on Walker’s Cay, which supplies Grand Cay with power, was running, however, and the connection to the water plant was in place, supplying that important resource, with only intermittent cuts, according to some residents. The rebuilt water tower held firmly in the storm this time.

“Bad woman make good man sleep in policeman hand,” goes the refrain to an old calypso song and Hurricane Wilma, being one “baaaad woman!” did exactly that to caretaker Jason Brown when she forced him to flee this house, owned by an American, as it collapsed around him during the storm. Mr. Brown said, after telling his feet, “Feet don’t fail me now!” he escaped through a window and found refuge by breaking into the police station across the street. A police officer said no breaking and entering charges will be brought against Mr. Brown for creatively saving his life.
HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY

“Eliot Room” - Oceanfront home with 3 master suites, 100 linear feet on the ocean and shaded dock slip in Harborfront. Expansive outdoor living area with swimming pool. Great rental history & more. $1,775,000. #2299
Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY

“Ocean Room” - Hilly 3 bed 1 bath home in Harborfront with 100 linear ft on the ocean and shaded dock slip. Additional waterfront lot kitty corner to the property, excellent docking space. Nicely landscaped. US$I 300,000. #211
Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY

“Goose Valley” - 2 Waterfront villas in Hope Town Village. Each with 2 bed 2 baths upstairs and spacious living areas downstairs. Fully furnished and profesionally landscaped grounds. Excellent rental history. $1,495,000 for both. #259
Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY

“Local Buoys” - Oversized Tahiti Beach is this two story 3 bed 2 bath, 1,600 sq. ft. island home. Wrap around deck, 2nd floor loft with sea views. Beachfront, dock and heated pool. $620,000. #2871
Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

LUBBERS QUARTERS

“Blue Water” - 4 bedroom 4 bath oceanfront home with 50 ft of water frontage. Solid CBS construction, sprinkler system and generator. New Bermuda roof, ocean views and beautiful landscaping. $2,150,000. #2644
Laurie Schreiner: 242.366.0163

LUBBERS QUARTERS

“Cove View” - 1,100 sq. ft. Beach cottage near the Sea Spray Resort with 2 bedrooms 1 bath. Wrap around deck, terrazzo tiles, panel wood interior. Enjoy the surrounding natural beauty: ocean views & surf. $185,000. #2871
Jane Patterson: 242.366.0569

HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY

“NorthEd’’ - Low key 2 bed 2 bath cottage on a lovely 0.2 acres lot steps away from a beautiful ocean beach. Fenced, dock access. $940,000. #1945
Jane Patterson: 242.366.0569

“Paradise Pleasure” - Fractional ownership for $225,000. #2427
Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY

“Turtledove” - Elevate with a sea view. Lush tropical 5,000 sq. ft. home, 50 feet above sea-level. Spectacular views, French doors, screened wrap around porch. Energy efficient Solar powered home with proper appliances. $1,400,000. #2885
Laurie Schreiner: 242.366.3143

BAMAHAMA PALM SHORES

“Treasure Cay” - 3 bed 2 bath hillside home, 50 feet above sea-level. Spectacular views, French doors, screened wrap around porch. Energy efficient Solar powered home with proper appliances. $1,200,000. #2849
Laurie Schreiner: 242.366.3143

LUBBERS QUARTERS

“Parrot’s Perch” - Fractional ownership for $225,000. #2427
Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

BAHAMA PALM SHORES

“Beach House” - Unique building site on 6 acre lot. 4 bed 4 bath homes with 300 ft of waterfront on Hurricane Hole (entrance to the harbour). 50 ft of water in the pond - perfectly docked for Barrier. Great location near the Government Dock, 4.525 sq. ft lot, has great investment potential. $700,000. #2243

PACIFIC SHORES - MARSH HARBOUR

“Pacifica” - 2 bed 2 bath home with 50 feet of waterfront on Hurricane Hole (entrance to the harbour). 50 ft of water in the pond - perfectly docked for Barrier. Great location near the Government Dock, 4.525 sq. ft lot, has great investment potential. $700,000. #2243

BAHAMAS

“Stevens Paradise” - 3 bed 2 bath oceanfront home with large floor balacony, attached garage and spacious 13,000 sq. ft. lot, $360,000. #195
Laurie Schreiner: 242.366.3143

HOPE TOWN, ELBOW CAY

“Sea to Sea” - 3 3/4 acres - $715,000. #1884
Kerry Sullivan: 242.366.0163

LOT 83 AOC  - $106,000. Laurie Schreiner: 242.367.5046

LOT 82 AOC  - $118,000

LOT 81 AOC - $119,000

LOT 84 AOC - $119,000

LOT 85 AOC - $124,000

LOT 86 AOC - $124,000

BAHAMAS

“Green Cay” - 4 bed 2 bath oceanfront home, 50 feet above sea-level. Spectacular views, French doors, screened wrap around porch. Energy efficient Solar powered home with proper appliances. $1,400,000. #2885
Laurie Schreiner: 242.366.3143

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Residents Were Thankful for No Injuries

Grand Cay

From Page 2

Residents were thankful for no injuries. Facilities such as emergency room, x-ray room and dental clinic, is under construction near the school. It is slated for completion by next June, according to contractor Tony Rolle.

The owner of the building which housed the clinic, Alphonso Rolle, also lost his home, shop and a six-unit apartment complex. A house owned by an American, which he had bought from its Bahamian owner and rebuilt after it was destroyed in last year’s hurricanes, was also levelled. The caretaker, Jason Brown, was in the house when the storm struck and barely escaped through a window before the structure collapsed. Mr. Brown found refuge by breaking into the police station across the street.

The Grand Cay All Age School fared a lot better this time around, suffering the loss of shingles on one wing and leakage in two classrooms. The roof over the students’ lavatories had to be repaired and Principal Suresh Seeram lost the porch to his residence. The school now has a generator, which Mr. Seeram says comes in handy as the power was still off.

None of the residents interviewed by this reporter who lost property had insurance coverage. All of the structures were of T1-11 or other wood. Some claimed the premiums for coverage of wooden structures were prohibitive. Maxwell Cooper said he will rebuild in stone.

The Grand Cay clinic used to stand here. It was in a building added on to an existing building that could not stand Wilma’s winds.

These three BEC transformers were partially embedded into the roof of Talesa Higgs’ NEMA-built house when Hurricane Wilma snapped off the portion of pole to which they were attached. Ms. Higgs and her family were unscathed. A five-member distribution team from BEC’s Family Island Division arrived on Grand Cay with equipment and supplies on November 1 to begin restoring electrical infrastructure and power.

The clinic was destroyed, but a week later Nurse Vilma Mitchell was seeing patients in a rented duplex. Here a young resident is being weighed. A three-building clinic complex is under construction, with completion targeted for next June. One building will house the clinic while the other two buildings will be residences.

Buffet Dinner Menu

Soup
- Pumpkin Bisque

Salads
- Mixed Garden Green Tossed Salad
- Potato Salad
- Pasta Salad
- Assorted Salad Dressings

Hot Entrees
- Sage Roasted Turkey Carving Station
- Brown Sugar Glazed Ham Carving Station
- Pan Seared Grouper

Fixings
- Peas & Rice
- Mashed Potato with Gravy
- Candied Yams & Marshmallows
- Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes
- Sweet Glazed Carrots
- Stuffing & Cranberry Sauce

Desserts
- Pumpkin Pie
- Pecan Bourbon Pie
- Apple Pie
- Fresh Bread Rolls & Butter
- Tea & Coffee

Adults $35.00 + 15% Per Person  Children $18.00 + 15% Per Person  Reservations call 367-2158

Abaco Beach Resort & Boat Harbour
Cordially Invites You To Join Us On Thursday, November 24th, 2005
at The Angler’s Restaurant
between The Hours of 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm for our Mouth Watering Thanksgiving Buffet Dinner
Live Entertainment will be provided - all evening

Happy Thanksgiving

Anglers

RESTAURANT

Abaco Beach Resort & Boat Harbour
Cordially Invites You To Join Us On Thursday, November 24th, 2005
at The Angler’s Restaurant
between The Hours of 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm for our Mouth Watering Thanksgiving Buffet Dinner
Live Entertainment will be provided - all evening

Happy Thanksgiving
An early Christmas gift from Solomon's!

Get a $1 Santa Buck when you spend over $50 in November 2005. See restrictions below.

Spend your $1 Santa Bucks on:
- Clothing
- Electronics
- Appliances
- Cookware
- Housewares
- Hardware
- Lawn & Garden
- Automotive
- Office Supplies
See store for details.

Restrictions:
- Santa Bucks are redeemable through December 31, 2005 at Solomon's Nassau, Freeport and Marsh Harbour only.
- Santa Bucks are redeemable on general merchandise purchases only.
- Santa Bucks are not redeemable on groceries or food.
- One (1) Santa Buck is issued per purchase over $50.
- Santa Bucks must have receipt attached and receipt number recorded to be valid.
- Santa Bucks expire December 31, 2005.
- Maximum $10 Santa Bucks redeemable per GM purchase.

242-367-2601
Nathan Key Drive
Marsh Harbour
Open Monday-Saturday 8AM to 7PM & Sunday 9AM to 2PM
Credit Cards accepted
Gift Cards available
Councillor Urges Post-hurricane Changes

By Richard E. Fawkes
Grand Cay District Council member George Russell said he wants ZNS and the Meteorological Office to address hurricane warnings specifically to residents in Grand Bahama. Mr. Russell told The Abaconian a week after the storm, which destroyed eight homes and badly damaged at least three more structures, including business establishments.

“Grand Cay is never mentioned on ZNS or the Florida stations. We have to tell them where the hurricane is in relation to us. We feel at a disadvantage to prepare when they don’t tell us where the hurricane is in relation to us. We seem to be forgotten,” Mr. Russell said.

He said Grand Cay does not really have an emergency refuge as an alternative. We definitely need a secure place for people to go to. You see all the establishments.

“We’re in the middle of nowhere,” he said. “Where are we going to evacuate to; how far in advance would such evacuation have to take place; how is it going to be done? I think we have to find an alternative. We definitely need a secure place for people to go to. You see all the homes that were destroyed.”

He said Grand Cay does not really have flooding problems as the cay is generally high. When Hurricane Wilma brought virtually no water at all, “But we are very vulnerable to that wind,” he said.

Grand Cay is about 50 miles north of Grand Bahama and about 40 miles northwest of the mainland of Abaco.

Mr. Russell, who has previously served as Chief and Deputy Chief Councillor, said the cay’s residents are still not able to watch ZNS TV as the special antenna to enable such reception was destroyed during one of last year’s hurricanes and never replaced by Batelco.

Residents with satellites can receive international television signals.

Mr. Russell is also appealing to BEC to put an auxiliary generator on Grand Cay. He was grateful to the corporation for despatching a team from Nassau within a week with equipment to replace downed poles, lines and transformers; and distribution manager Kenneth Knowles from Marsh Harbour to assess the damage and get the repairs underway.

The cay receives power from a plant on the now closed Walker’s Cay resort. The generator was running, but there was no power on Grand Cay except for the water plant because of the downed lines, poles and transformers.

Mr. Russell said an auxiliary generator on Grand Cay would give some assurance if the plant on Walker’s were to go out.

Seventy-six-year-old Vera Hield was lucky not to have been at her daughter’s house when Wilma struck. Ms. Hield’s six-room dwelling was damaged beyond repair.

Fishermen in this town which relies heavily on crawfishing, especially since the closure of the Walker’s Cay resort over a year ago, were waiting for the waters to clear of mud to resume work.

A team of four social services workers spent November 1 conducting needs assessments, while environmental health officer, Christine Greene, and a vector control assistant carried out tests on the water supply. Ms. Greene said there was no immediate concern for mosquito infestation as Wilma brought little rain.
Cherokee Sound Methodist Fellowship

By Lee Pinder

Methodist Fellowship

The three Abaco BCMC Methodist churches on Abaco, St. Andrews, St. James and Epworth, met for a Fellowship Meeting on October 30 at St. James Methodist Church in Hope Town. Somewhere around 175 to 200 parishioners came together for this occasion. Each of the churches participated in the service in one way or another. The guest speaker was Dr. Reg Eldon from Nassau, who spoke strongly on the subject of unity. He began his program by telling of his own personal experience of accompanying the Prime Minister and a delegation of 52 other government officials and clergymen to view the recent hurricane damage to Grand Cay, Eight Mile Rock and surrounding areas on Grand Bahama. He pointed out that the devastation was almost more than he could bear. Not only had people lost their homes but were without even clothing, food and water—all the things that are necessary to sustain life. He reminded us of the monies we had sent to the Tsunami victims last year and the donation we had made to the victims of Katrina, but pointed out that these were our neighbours, our brothers and sisters and Bahamians and they definitely needed our help. He announced that all the churches within the BCMC would be taking up a special offering in the very near future for this special need.

The weather was nearly perfect and the luncheon prepared by St. James’ ladies was not only delicious but bountiful. Joining the Methodists on this day of fellowship were the members of the Kirk of the Pines who contributed their talents to the day’s entertainment as well as to the food preparation. It was a most joyful and exciting time for all who attended.

Town Meeting

On November 2nd Cherokee Sound Methodist Church held its first Town Meeting for the new year. It was very well conducted by the new chairman with an initial explanation by the Administrator about our budget, commitments and expenditures.

A good cross section of the community was present and voiced their concerns. One of the items brought up for discussion was the completion and opening of the new public toilets plus the need for a sign. Some minor carpentry work needs to be finished before they will be ready. Another problem discussed was the moving of our local dump. The Administrator stated that tenders were being accepted now from contractors who might want to bid on garbage collection from the various settlements for transport to a central collection depot. He assured the public that central government was addressing this very important environmental problem and that a solution would be forthcoming soon.

Also discussed were the developing pooling of the newest public toilets and the need for speed limit signs along the main road as there was extra funds to take on a major project. The Administrator stated that tenders were being accepted now from contractors who might want to bid on garbage collection from the various settlements for transport to a central collection depot. He assured the public that central government was addressing this very important environmental problem and that a solution would be forthcoming soon.

Ronald G. Eldon was guest speaker at the Fellowship Meeting that three Methodist Churches held at St. James Methodist Church in Hope Town on October 30.

South Abaco News

Cherokee Sound

By Lee Pinder

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Also discussed were the developing "pot holes" appearing on the main road (which they noted had been circled with orange paint). The Administrator stated that road department was already aware of this damage and was in the process of doing the repairs before they got any worse. It was pointed out that there was a need for attention to some of the local roads within the settlement which have badly deteriorated as well. To this the Administrator agreed to join with the local Board members to have a "walk about" to estimate the damage and come up with a solution. He said he could petition the government for assistance as this was an infrastructural problem. Also mentioned was the need for speed limit signs along the main road as there was so much more traffic using them now.

Someone asked about a water supply trimming and mowing can again take place. It was pointed out that the mowers cannot pass over large rocks or be cut properly if the land is left gouged out. Or, if the land is being used to park boats, boat trailers or other vehicles that are kept there for any length of time that they need to be grouped together as closely as possible so that they do not impede the regular clean ups, as trimming and mowing must continue throughout the year.

The public was asked to take care when driving onto or through the school grounds which, as we all know, is a very low area and can become quite muddy at times. This is a hardship on the persons doing maintenance work and it would help if everyone did his part to help keep Cherokee clean and presentable. Further, such as this at the present time. One of the Board members pointed out that anyone living in or owning property in Yell Wood should be extremely appreciative to The Abaco Club at Winding Bay for seeing to it that the electrical lines were brought that "extra mile" and, thereby, enhancing the value of the Yell Wood property by probably 200 to 300 percent.

A couple of small problems were brought out regarding road verge or park areas. It was pointed out that if persons having building materials, rock or quarry deliveries made on public land needed to remove all traces of the delivery and return the land to its original condition. It is necessary for the land to be smoothed off so that trimming and mowing can again take place. It was pointed out that the movers cannot pass over large rocks or be cut properly if the land is left gouged out. Or, if the land is being used to park boats, boat trailers or other vehicles that are kept there for any length of time that they need to be grouped together as closely as possible so that they do not impede the regular clean ups, as trimming and mowing must continue throughout the year.

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A baco's growth is phenomenal by any standard. We are acknowledged to have the fastest growing economy in the Caribbean. We are gripped by the capabilities of the host. Recently, we heard a statement by the administrator to the effect that we have the fastest growing economy in the Caribbean. We are gripped by the capabilities of the host town. It is imperative that our buildings be constructed to the present building code or better. It is up to the resident engineer and his staff of certifying inspectors to ensure that the necessary requirements are met. Many of the buildings destroyed may be legacy buildings from another era, but newer buildings are not immune to hurricane force winds.

The availability of a stable and qualified labour force is a concern. As the A baco Club and Baker's Bay expand, the opportunity for employment is growing. It is up to the host town to talk by politicians of a massive development somewhere to the south. Whatever is planned cannot be accomplished without the cooperation of all sorts, both in the construction phase and the actual operation.

There are all the employees to come from the Fishing community, who will need new employment opportunities, and many of them are getting scarce.

I want the Bahamian officials to deal with the Haitian students and workforce to the south. Whatever is planned cannot be accomplished without the cooperation of all sorts, both in the construction phase and the actual operation.

This is good for the employees, but leaves the previous employer in the difficult position of finding new qualified staff. As a baco expanded operations, the realignment of employees will become more prevalent and difficult to cope with.

In the event, this effort must be given to the long range planning to accommodate as many guests as one of the ten-room inns were followed by several others, all of which fit quietly into their host town. This was followed in a few weeks by New Hope Lodge on Abaco. A short time later, the Great A baco Beach Hotel opened in 1954. In February 1955, on the site of a former fish camp, ten-room houses were erected. It was during this era when the small ten-room houses were woman's beach house. The staff required by these small inns were springing up that saw the little inns were followed by several others, all of which fit quietly into their host town. This was followed in a few weeks by New Hope Lodge on Abaco. A short time later, the Great A baco Beach Hotel opened in 1954. In February 1955, on the site of a former fish camp, ten-room houses were erected. It was during this era when the small ten-room houses were woman's beach houses.

Several small inns had opened earlier and were patronized by hardy and determined individuals coming through Nassau and arriving here by seaplane. The New Plymouth Inn on Green Turtle Cay was first in 1954. This was followed in a few weeks by New Hope Lodge on Abaco. A short time later, the Great A baco Beach Hotel opened in 1954. In February 1955, on the site of a former fish camp, ten-room houses were erected. It was during this era when the small ten-room houses were woman's beach houses.

In 1963, the A baco Club opened in the former location of the A baco Club. The A baco Club opened in 1954 on the site of a former fish camp, ten-room houses were erected. It was during this era when the small ten-room houses were woman's beach houses.

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Letters From Page 8

the silliest things she’s ever heard. Gone are those days when we would sit back being the quiet, stoic little housewife, of this I’m sure. Otherwise, it would only be Bahamian males, not females, going away to further their education! This law and every other sexist law we have need to be changed. I know I am right, you know I am right! So what are we going to do about it?

A Proud Young Bahamian Communities or Just a Living Space?

Dear Readers,

I felt the need to write and share an experience with you all. I am hoping to enlighten one or two people along the way. I am also very hopeful that something will lighten one or two people along the way. I am hoping to encourage people to be a part, then when it’s too late, we all get together and reminisce about how it used to be and what could have been.

Our subdivision has an opportunity to start with a clear slate. No predetermined idea was that the committee would help citizens to handle some of their concerns, but also to bring us together as a neighborhood. It was received positively and encouraged by the community.

The committee had a couple of good meetings when residents came out and discussed the future plans of our subdivision. Even our newly appointed local government representative came out to our first meeting. There were suggestions made and the committee has worked and accomplished some of the concerns that the residents had. Like most things it is taking time to get some of our concerns addressed. People are still willing to give up their free time to help the community or Abaco as a whole. So, please let’s take the steps now because soon it will be too late. One morning you will wake up and look outside and wonder is this a community or is it just a living space?

A Concerned Citizen

Too Much Noise

Dear Editor,

It’s disturbing enough to be nearly blasted off a sidewalk by a passing car whose speakers are so loud they are vibrating and the sound literally slams one in the chest. What is far, far worse is to see some tiny tyke strapped into the same vehicle. The operation is far, far worse is to see some tiny tyke strapped into the same vehicle. The operation...
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The Phone Card That Gives Back!
Hope Town
New Pool and Swim Team
By Lindsey Delaplaine
Big things are happening at the Hope Town Community Pool. Not only is it open to the public, after seven years of hard work by the committee, but it is being put to good use by the families, school kids and lap swimmers of Hope Town, and soon the Hope Town Swim Team.

Currently, the pool is open from 6:15 a.m. until dark every day. It’s always open to the public, although scheduled activities like physical education classes for the school or swim team practice have priority. Visitors have the option of buying a year’s membership or paying a drop-in fee. Memberships are $200 for a family of four or $75 a person. The drop-in fee is $5.

Despite having to cancel the Swim-A-Thon this fall due to weather conditions, things are still happening at the pool. They hosted a successful spaghetti dinner at the Harbour’s Edge as a fund raiser on November 11th and are moving forward to create a Hope Town Swim Team. Although about 20 kids have been practicing in the pool six days a week since the pool opened, thus far it has only been at a club level. But several factors are changing that will allow the program to take it to the next level.

The first, and perhaps, most important factor was securing Dominic Latella as a swim coach. Mr. Latella, who swam while attending college at the Savannah School of Art and Design, spent part of the summer in Hope Town, working with the local kids on their swimming. Just recently his return was secured. He will live in Marsh Harbour and serve as the swim coach for Long Bay School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Thursdays and Saturdays he will come over to Hope Town to coach at the pool. On other days Carrie Cash will run swim team practice. “I’m excited about coaching at Long Bay,” said Latella. “The school has all of the equipment that you really need for a team already in place.”

In order to get that same equipment in place in Hope Town two different strategies are being employed. First, members of the swim team will pay a registration fee, and there will be continued fund raisers. Anna Albury is working to create a parent’s committee for the Swim Team. “We’d really like to see the parents get involved,” she said. “The kids are already excited about it, but to make it a reality we need the parent’s support.” Interested parties can contact Anna at 366-0429.

A though the Marsh Harbour and Hope Town teams will train separately, the plan is to create a regional Abaco Swim Team out of the combined Long Bay School and Hope Town kids. Cash said the first meet for the Swim Team will be in the spring. Both Nassau and Freeport already have swim teams for Abaco to compete against. But Mr. Latella has his sights set even higher. “I’d like to see Abaco kids competing in the Caribbean Games, the Pan Am games and even representing the Bahamas in the Olympics one day.”

Green Turtle Cay
By Annabelle Cross
As the days of September and then October slipped slowly by, we thought the chances of a hurricane were slipping by with them. But Wilma made her way across Florida and let us feel her wrath on October 24th. Wilma was a very dry storm, bringing little or no rain to Green Turtle Cay and leaving everything coated in salt and dirt. We went to bed that evening with tropical storm winds still blowing outside our boarded up homes and awakened the next day to a cold front. Once again we were very fortunate as Wilma caused only minimal damage to the island. The brown, burned-looking trees and foliage is the only sign that a hurricane blew through.

Community Holds Meeting with Police Chief
Green Turtle Cay is a peaceful community and violent crimes don’t usually happen here. However, many residents have become increasingly concerned about traffic, underage drinking, loud music from vehicles, speeding, underage drinking, the sale and use of illegal drugs and other public nuisances. After many complaints to the Police, a meeting was held with ASP Wayne Miller to discuss the concerns of the community. The meeting was well attended and there was much discussion. Many people feel the need for more police presence around the town. (There are two police officers and two reserve officers living on Green Turtle Cay). They feel that police presence will discourage some of the incidents that concern the public.

However, A S P Miller seemed to feel that a form of neighborhood crime watch is what we really need on GTC. For every concern expressed by the residents, Mr. Miller seemed to point back to the formation of a neighborhood watch.

Merry Christmas
The staff of Wracklers, John Bull, Abaco Gold, Conch Pearl Gallery and Java would like to cordially invite you the public to join us on Friday, December 9, 2005 for a Christmas Block Party on Marsh Harbour’s Treasure Corner Doors open at 5:30pm and close at 9:00pm.

Refreshments will be available.
Junkanoo Band to perform starting at Java Coffee Shop and ending at John Bull
The property for the groups to use! He did ting up a fence or placing trash bins around sance. He suggested lighting the area, put-

leaving their trash and cigarette butts around using the school property for a hangout, allow for speed bumps to be built at this quickly pointed out that the budget did not needed in court.

He said that it was not easy to prove that a proposed the idea of building speed bumps. While the people feel that a few tickets should be issued for speeding, Mr. Miller

as to the authority this group would have. While the people feel that a few tickets should be issued for speeding, Mr. Miller proposed the idea of building speed bumps. He said that it was not easy to prove that a person was speeding, and proof would be needed in court.

Chief Councillor Chris Farrington quickly pointed out that the budget did not allow for speed bumps to be built at this time. A hotter concern was that groups were using the school property for a hangout, leaving their trash and cigarette butts around the property. Mr. Miller pointed out that this concern was not a crime, but a nuis-

ance. He suggested lighting the area, putting up a fence or placing trash bins around the property for the groups to use! He did not mention who should be responsible for paying for the lights and fence or emptying the bins. (A routine patrol of the area would be cheaper, as the school property should not be used as a hangout.)

Some of the young people expressed concern about the violence that exists in the North Abaco area and how Green Turtle Cay young people are often targeted when they are in that area. They voiced concerns about the upcoming regatta and their safety when attending parties at the regatta village. ASP Miller talked about the arrests that had been made in that area after a re-

cent incident. He mentioned a search for drugs on GTC in recent months and that nothing had been found. A local resident complained about the embarrassment of having his property searched on what he considered was a false tip. He felt that the police acted without investigating. It was also pointed out that many people do not feel comfortable reporting incidents to the police because they feel that their identity will be revealed. Mr. Miller told the crowd that it would be unethical for the police to do this and that it was merely a perception that they do.

After a lengthy meeting and much lively discussion, ASP Miller said that the concerns had been noted. He still suggested that the community form a crime watch group and have programs for the youth. He stressed the importance of parental in-

volvement. While most people agree with ASP Miller on many points, they still feel that the police can do more to discourage many of the public nuisances in the com-

munity. ASP Miller remarked about how tranquil our community is. We would like to keep it that way and hope that the police will assist us by nipping petty crime in the bud.

Setting the Record Straight

There was a recent report on Radio A baco concerning the youth violence in North Abaco. The involvement of young men from Green Turtle Cay was mentioned and a recent fight in a local bar was re-

ported. Contrary to the information given in the report, fighting or violence is not a problem in nightclubs on GTC. The fights that the local young men have been injured in have happened in other Abaco commu-

nities. No one was stabbed in a nightclub on GTC. A fight was alleged to have hap-

pened in a local club on the afternoon of October 8th. It was alleged to have involved the owner of the club and a person who is NOT a resident of GTC. As a result of the alleged fight one person was injured (not stabbed) and required medical treatment. The police are investigating the incident. This was an isolated incident.

School Boasts New Physical Education Coach

Now to the peaceful happenings that we are known for! The students of Amy Roberts Primary School held a bake sale to raise money for their fellow Bahamasians who were victims of Hurricane Wilma. Each student of the 5th and 6th grades are also packing a Christmas box to be delivered to children affected by Hurricane Wilma.

Amy Roberts Primary now has a Physical Education teacher and coach, Mr. Wil-

liams took his newly formed softball teams to a jamboree in Marsh Harbour. They came back all excited because they had won a game! They still have a lot to learn and the jamboree was a great experience for them. The PTA of Amy Roberts Primary has once again decided to have its annual Fair and Raffle in the spring of 2006 instead of De-

cember as had been the tradition. The spring fair proved more successful.

Regrets of Cancelled Regatta

The All Abaco Regatta was postponed from September to late October because of the threat of a hurricane. However, Hurri-

cane Wilma passed through the area just days before, delaying the arrival of the sail-

ing boats. The weather was not suitable for a sailing regatta and many persons were disappointed. While GTC does not host or organize the regatta, the boats are offloaded at our dock and many of the sailors have accommo-

dations here. We heard many
Cash usually runs the ride, but he was in is usually a part of the event. Mr. Wade The children all missed the hay ride that next few days it was all they talked about. bonfire! Kids ran screaming, but for the "gorilla" that seemed to come out of the fire! The highlight of the evening was finally chosen and it was off to the bon- "Guy" dance it around! A winner was had a hard time choosing a winner! It entered in the competition and the judges rain! A strange variety of "guys" was tradition was broken because it did not food, socialize with friends and watch the large crowd turned out to enjoy good Fawkes Fun Night on November 5th. A Committee held its third annual Guy Fawkes Fun Night on November 5th. A large crowd turned out to enjoy good food, socialize with friends and watch the bonfire. The weather was beautiful and shore activities at the regatta site than to the sport of sailing, which is what the re-gatta is all about. It is a part of our culture that needs to be passed on to the youth and maybe there will be more appreciation for the actual racing.

Guy Fawkes Fun Night The Island Roots Heritage Festival Committee held its third annual Guy Fawkes Fun Night on November 5th. A strange variety of "guys" was entered in the competition and the judges had a hard time choosing a winner! It always helps to watch the creator of the "Guy" dance it around! A winner was finally chosen and it was off to the bonfire! The highlight of the evening was when one of the "guys" came alive and ran through the crowd followed by a huge "gorilla" that seemed to come out of the bonfire! Kids ran screaming, but for the next few days it was all they talked about. The children all missed the hay ride that is usually a part of the event. Mr. Wade Cash usually runs the ride, but he was in ding funds for the 2006 Island Roots Heri-tage Festival.

Wedding Bells Rang Congratulations to Antonio and Lise Abury, who were married on October 15 at the New Plymouth Gospel Chapel. A lovely reception followed at the home of Steve and Faye Buchanan. A flower hon-eymoon in Florida the couple will reside in Marsh Harbour. The children of the community will miss Lise because she was active in Sunday School and Awana. Lise is the daughter of Junior and Judy Roberts of Green Turtle Cay and Anto-nio is the son of Stan and Ruby Albury of Marsh Harbour.

Community Has Lost Town Leader Our community was shocked and sad-denied by the sudden death of Capt. Roswell Sawyer on November 9th. Mr. Sawyer had been recovering from a sur-gical procedure in a Florida hospital and all efforts to revive him were in vain. It is hard to imagine GT C without Roswell Sawyer as he was so much a part of the community. Over the years of his life Mr. Sawyer spent a lot of time at sea. He operated a fishing boat and many of the local fishermen got their start with the man they affectionately call "Cap." He was very interested in politics and even offered himself as an independent candi-date in the general elections of 1967. He was not successful, but his interest in politics and the future of his community and country continued to grow. He served on many of the government boards and committees for many years and was elected in the first local government elec-tions, serving as Town Chairman.

M r. Sawyer was committed to the de-velopment of his community. It was be-cause of his dedication and commitment that work on the proposed park project at Settlement Point continued, even after Hurricane Floyd caused extensive dam-age. He could always be called on to contribute to community functions. He was very knowledgeable about both local and national affairs. He was firm in his be-liefs and could not be easily swayed to change his mind. He stood for what he believed in and those who knew him had deep respect and admiration for him. He was a Justice of the Peace and was honoured by being awarded the OBE medal.

At the time of his death he was serv-
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FLAMINGO VILLAS
Fabulous villas located at the mouth of Hope Town Harbour. Each 2 bed / 2 bath, incredible West Indian decor, open decking and shared pool. Excellent rental $865,000 each

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

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

MAGNUSON HOUSE
Quiet North End Elbow Cay, 3 bed/3 bath (detached master efficiency) overlooking white sandy beach, large wrap deck, sold fully furnished, great art work, boat, golf cart included $1,595,000

MOMMA’S MARLIN
Turnkey ocean front home 4 bedroom, 2 bath, large open deck, great rental history $850,000.

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

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

BREAKERS
- White Sound, great ocean front lot located on surfers dream, Garbonzo Beach. Great building site for single family home, or 2 villas, convenient location, walk to marina and restaurant $595,000

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

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

MARNIES LANDING
- Ocean Front Lots, private marina community, covenants permit main house and guest cottage on these large lots, dock slip included. Lot #2 $895,000 & Lot #6 $770,000 PARCEL 4 UNDER CONTRACT PARCELS 1, 2, 3 and 5 - SOLD

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

WHITE SOUND
- Rare Ocean front find in White Sound, large lot with Dock on White Sound Bay, 129’ on North Boundary, and 94’ on South Boundary. Ideal spot to build second home, or income producing rental $899,000.

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Sale Date: November 10th–19th, 2005

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PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.
A firefighting training course was offered on Abaco on November 2-6, 2005. This course was sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command of the U.S. Embassy in Nassau in cooperation with NEMA and the Royal Bahamas Police Force. The course was for Royal Bahamas Fire Service personnel and for Family Island volunteer firefighters. It covered many aspects of firefighting and emergency medical training.

Ms. Nancy Bennett, U.S. Embassy and U.S. Southern Command staff member from Nassau, coordinated the arrangements for the course. Cpl. Paul Johnson of the Abaco Police Force and Lt. Steve Skulnick of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department organized the event on Abaco. This course was the second of a series of three training sessions. The first was held in Nassau in July 2005 and was attended by Cpl. Johnson and Lt. Skulnick of Abaco. It was a one-week training course which culminated in train-the-trainer instruction. There are now 28 trained personnel who will continue extending this training throughout The Bahamas.

The course held on Abaco was to accommodate the large number of volunteer fire fighters involved with fire departments in several communities on Abaco. Mr. and Mrs. George Florence, fire consultants from G & G Fire Protection Consultants based in Dallas, Texas, provided training for both sessions in Nassau and Marsh Harbour. Mr. Florence instructed the group in some of the topics while Lt. Skulnick and Cpl. Johnson taught some of the segments. The topics covered related to firefighting included teaching proper techniques for applying fire suppressants, lectures on the use of water for effective firefighting, maximizing water usage and hose maintenance. Several segments were devoted to problems and situations specifically for Abaco. One of these was marine fire. Ms. Karen Florence was the teacher for the Medical First Responder training which included 16 hours of lecture and skills.

Since the course was offered during the

Please see Training Page 18
Burn Takes Place in South Abaco

By Mirella Santillo

As early as civilizations have existed, men have burnt vegetation and forests to clear pathways, to drag animals out for hunting and to fertilize the soil for new crops. In every part of the world vegetation has been exposed to fires on a regular basis, either started by lightning or by humans.

Here on Abaco we have been confronted many times with forest fires. The first reaction is to put it out as quickly as possible because we feel threatened. But ecologists have come to realize that some types of vegetation need fire to thrive, and a pine forest is one of these.

When a forest has not burnt for a long time, there is an accumulation of dry material, such as pine needles, grasses and dry wood called “fuel.” When a fire occurs in such a condition, it is more intense, more destructive and more difficult to control. It could spread to the nearby coppice areas, where it can be very damaging.

In a pine forest fire, nutrients contained in the fuel are released, contributing to a rapid regrowth, whereas in a coppice fire they are destroyed due to the different nature of the soil. A way to control the degree or severity of a fire in a pine forest is to conduct regular “burns” if nature has not interceded first. A forest that burns regularly contains less “fuel” and presents less of a threat to nearby vegetation and settlements.

During a burn, a chosen area is set on fire when proper climatic conditions are favorable, since a fire progresses in different ways according to the wind speed, the humidity and ambient temperature. Control burns also provide in-field training for fire fighters. Such a burn was organized by Friends of the Environment on November 4 on approximately 30 acres of the Crown Land in southern Abaco. The event was part of a program organized in partnership with other agencies. The Nature Conservancy provided classroom training and were consultants for the projects.

Michael Parotti of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department was in charge of the actual burn. He has had extensive training in fire fighting, fire control and controlled burning.

The November 4th burn began about 10 a.m. with patrol trucks monitoring traffic on the highway on both ends of the involved area. A fire truck was ready to intercede if necessary and an ambulance was close by.

There were a few spectators and many participants. Mrs. Anita Knowles with Friends of the Environment, Administrator Roderick Bowe, Sgt. Rahming from the Sandy Point Police Station, and Mr. David Knowles, a reserve police officer, were among them.

Mrs. Anita Knowles with Friends of the Environment, Administrator Roderick Bowe, Sgt. Rahming from the Sandy Point Police Station, and Mr. David Knowles, a reserve police officer, were among them.

Mrs. Karen Florence taught basic emergency medical procedures to the firefighters during the workshop held in Marsh Harbour on November 1-3. The Florences of the G & G Consultants of Dallas, Texas, were brought to Abaco by the U.S. Embassy program which is teaching groups who will in turn teach others.

The firefighter on the right is starting a small fire that will be monitored as it moves through a 30-acre tract in a controlled burn. Many precautions were in place to keep the burn under control while many weather and fire conditions were monitored.
present as well as Mr. Wetherell from the U.S. Embassy. A couple of local firefighters monitored the fire near the road and a group of firefighters and scientists were spread inside the forest.

The burn ended at 6 p.m. that same day. “It was a great success,” explained local veteran firefighter, Lt. Parotti. “Everything went well,” he said. “Everyone performed the way they were asked to do, and the scientists were able to conduct their experiments.” He mentioned that taking part in the burn were Marsh Harbour firefighters, Steve Skulnick and Mary Matthew Key and James McKenzie as well as two Abaco Beach Resort staff members, Triska Knowles and Jason. Bro. Bob Cornea and several other volunteer firefighters represented the Casuarina/Bahama Palm Fire Department their engine. Police fire officers from Inagua, New Providence, Eleuthera, San Salvador and Grand Bahama had come to Abaco for training.

“We received a tremendous amount of help from Cpl. Johnson representing the Police and the Fire Department, and from Colin Aibury and Mickey Lowe with Crash and Rescue. Also David Knowles and Chris Bergh, who assisted in organizing and supervising the burn,” added Mr. Parotti, who explained that two firefighters, Danny Sawyer and Michelle Key, stayed on duty in Marsh Harbour in case of emergency.

“We learned how to burn with the weather,” he explained. “We performed weather readings every half an hour, measuring the wind, the humidity and the temperature and did an average at the end of the burn. This is the second controlled burn we have conducted. We are planning a third one next year. We will then have made three controlled burns in three different forest areas at different stages of regeneration and we will be able to compare data.”

There were ideal conditions for a burn. There was “fine fuel,” enough to get the fire started and spread to the secondary growth, and enough humidity, so it did not burn too fast. “It burnt slow and low. We had created a 30-foot to 50-foot belt to prevent the fire extending and when we came back to check on Sunday, it had extinguished itself. All the hot spots were gone.”

Mr. Parotti has been a fireman with the Marsh Harbour Fire Department for 15 years. He explained that his family lost a home to a fire at a time when there was only one fire truck and two firefighters. That loss prompted him to get involved.

Mr. John Rood, U.S. Ambassador to The Bahamas, came to Abaco to observe the burn. He is in the foreground, consulting with Mr. Chris Bergh of The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy is a consultant for Friends of the Environment that is the organizer of the controlled burn program.

The Casuarina/Bahama Palm Volunteer Fire and Rescue kept a truck at the site in case of any problems.

U.S. Ambassador Observed the Burn

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A Forester’s Involvement in the Burn

By Mirella Santillo

Mr. Joseph O’Brien, a research scientist with the United States Department of Agriculture with the Forest Service, was invited to come to Abaco during the prescribed fire burn on November 4th. As a research ecologist, his goal is to “understand the role of fire in the ecology of a natural forest.” Here in The Bahamas, and particularly on Abaco, one has to deal with the pine forest, a forest that needs fire to keep growing.” Mr. O’Brien said, “By taking part in a fire management program, one will get a basic understanding of how a pine forest works and apply the findings to similar habitats in the United States.” He explained how various plant species react differently to fire and how in a pine forest, most species are actually stimulated by fire. An induced fire helps scientists understand the dynamics between a pine forest and coppice area.

Studying the way a fire behaves under different weather conditions and its consequences on the environment has become an important research field, especially when controlled burns are conducted since they are actually stimulated by fire.” Mr. O’Brien explained. “We want to study the dynamics between the pine forest and the coppice. The burn will allow us to evaluate which time of the year and which weather conditions are better to conduct a controlled burn. We would like to have ongoing research about fire in the Abaco forests. There is a relation between the amount of fuel present and public safety. If you understand the dynamics of fire, you can control the safety issue.” explained Mr. O’Brien.

It is the scientist’s fourth trip to Abaco connected to the same research. He was here three years ago to evaluate the forest and subsequently performed a training session in 2004. He then visited in July of 2005 at which time the burn was supposed to take place. It had to be cancelled because of the weather, but he took advantage of the visit to place markers and outline plots. He plans to be back in January of 2006 for the Abaco Science Alliance meeting which is to take place in Marsh Harbour.

While in the forest, he collected data to study the effect of forest fires on the Bahamian parrot’s habitat. Sensors were placed in the parrot’s holes to measure the temperature, the amount of smoke and carbon monoxide. The measurements showed that the temperature level did not rise considerably and the carbon monoxide was actually sucked out the hole during the fire. The only inconclusive data was the effect of smoke on the parrot. Mr. O’Brien said, “There was a lot of smoke created by the high humidity during the November 4th burn. What is the bird tolerance to smoke? We have little background on fire here. It is very exciting to find this information. The parrot depends on the forest. This should motivate us to better understand the consequences of a fire. I am trying to do as much as I can here during this trip, but I hope to expand the research. I’d like to get a graduate student to help monitor the research as an on-going project.” He took air samples from the cavities for smoke analysis which will be done in a lab. He explained that he does the same type of work in the United States, mostly in Georgia. “But here the plant species are different and the growing season longer.”

The habitat on Abaco is very similar to the one in the Florida Keys where the US Department of Agriculture has conducted ongoing research. So as a good neighbour policy, there is a lot of interest in transferring the learned data to The Bahamas.”

Mr. O’Brien, who did research in Costa Rica for his PhD, is fascinated by tropical vegetation. “My early training is as a botanist,” he stated, “and I admire the incredible diversity of The Bahamian vegetation. I enjoy doing research here and hope it will be an on-going project.”
Suzanne Bethel, Chair of the Wyannie Malone Museum Board, stands proudly in front of the recently rebuilt gazebo with the donors who made it possible, Mr. and Mrs. Wolfgang Baumann of France. The gazebo is the center piece of the Byrle Patterson Memorial Park, named for a founder of the Wyannie Malone Museum, Byrle (Malone) Patterson, who passed away in 1981. The park is located in Hope Town just south of the Post Office on the upper road that leads to the Hope Town Harbour Lodge. It stands on land that was once the location of the Commissioner’s house and belonged to the Bahamian government. The land was put under the Museum’s protection some time ago. The Wyannie Malone Historical Museum Society is actively soliciting funds to rebuild the park’s fence that was destroyed in recent hurricanes. For more information on land that was once the location of the Commissioner’s house and belonged to the Bahamian government. The land was put under the Museum’s protection some time ago. The Wyannie Malone Historical Museum Society is actively soliciting funds to rebuild the park’s fence that was destroyed in recent hurricanes. For more information or to contribute contact someone at the museum, which is once again open to the public after being closed during the off-season.
The funeral service for Barbara Madrice Dean, 38, formerly of Exuma and later of Nassau, was held on October 23 in Nassau. Interment was also in Nassau.

She is survived by her daughter Chanee GiNda Curry; sisters Lisa Butterfield, Valerie Dean, Margo Dean-Kelly, Anette Stuart, Bertha Knowles, Ameace Nonome, Torkel Dean-Smith, Valdia and Camille Dean; brothers William and Michael Dean, Kirk Stuart, Lamont, Julian and Tyler Dean; adopted father Valance Dean; sisters-in-law Henrietta Dean and Jaclyn Stuart; brothers-in-law Delon Nonome, Chet Kelly, Joseph Knowles and Jammal Smith; nieces Laniasha Butterfield, Chelsea and Chanel Cooper, Roberta Dean-McIntosh, Celeste Kelly, Lateasha Dean and Joseph Knowles; nephews Armco Dean, Manuel Miller, William, Malik and Trent Dean, Jacoby Dean-Bethel, Miguel and Kirk Knowles; granddaughters Khadijah and Sydney; brother Hemling Stuart; uncles William and Kerli, Role and Dalis St. Charles; children Shanit and Luman St. Charles; nephews; nieces and other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for Gesny St. Charles, 35, of Marsh Harbour, was held on January 3 in Marsh Harbour. Interment was also in Nassau.

She is survived by children Doranell McPhee, Leota McDonald and family, Verona and Clinton Williams, Allison, Shirley Cox, Robert Williams, Gladys and Henry Williams; nieces and nephews-in-law; cousins Gerald Lowe; nieces Trevez and Tylor Basden; brothers Kerli, Role and Dalis St. Charles; children Shanit and Luman St. Charles; nephews; nieces; daughter-in-law Cindy; grandchildren Kbahijad and Sydney; brother Hemling Stuart; uncles William and Kerli, Role and Dalis St. Charles; children Shanit and Luman St. Charles; nephews; nieces and other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for馥ma Neeley, 63, of Crossing Rock was held on October 29 in Marsh Harbour. Interment was also in Nassau.

He is survived by his mother Adilia Joseph; father Griesny St. Charles, children Shanit and Luman St. Charles; nephews; nieces; daughter-in-law Cindy; grandchildren Kbahijad and Sydney; brother Hemling Stuart; uncles William and Kerli, Role and Dalis St. Charles; children Shanit and Luman St. Charles; nephews; nieces and other relatives and friends.

The funeral for Howard Stuart, 67, of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Sandy Point. Rev. Dr. Carrington Pinder, Rev. Napoleon Roberts and Rev. Morris Bain officiated. Interment was in Sandy Point Public Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife Ismae Stuart; sons Edward and Garyn Stuart; daughter Nadia Stuart; adopted daughter Caree C. J. Smith; grandchildren Issa and Raheem; father-in-law Edward Pinder; mother-in-law Dr. Carrington Pinder, Rev. Napoleon Roberts and Rev. Morris Bain officiated. Interment was in Sandy Point Public Cemetery.

She is survived by children Doranell McPhee, Leota McDonald and family, Verona and Clinton Williams, Allison, Shirley Cox, Robert Williams, Gladys and Henry Williams; nieces and nephews-in-law; cousins Gerald Lowe; nieces Trevez and Tylor Basden; brothers Kerli, Role and Dalis St. Charles; children Shanit and Luman St. Charles; nephews; nieces; daughter-in-law Cindy; grandchildren Kbahijad and Sydney; brother Hemling Stuart; uncles William and Kerli, Role and Dalis St. Charles; children Shanit and Luman St. Charles; nephews; nieces and other relatives and friends.

The funeral for Madrica Dean, 63, of Marsh Harbour was held on November 5 at Zion Baptist Church in Sandy Point. Rev. Dr. Carrington Pinder, Rev. Napoleon Roberts and Rev. Morris Bain officiated. Interment was in Sandy Point Public Cemetery.

She is survived by her parents Jessie Emmanuel and Adelrose Forbes; sisters Roseline and Victoria Forbes; brothers Michael, Oliver and Jesse Forbes Jr.; aunts; uncles; granduncle Rev. Stafford Symonette; and many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service for Keith Winston Antonio Basden, 49, of Dundas Town was held on November 5 at the Dundas Town Church of God in Dundas Town. Pastor Leroy Cornish officiated assisted by other ministers.

He is survived by his wife Deborah Basden; daughters Carol, Christine, Cinquette, Claire and Chante Basden; brothers Trev and Wayne Basden; father-in-law Delgario Newbold; mother-in-law Viola Newbold; sisters-in-law Brenda Basden, Linda Knowles, Temra Ferguson, Jacqueline Ritchie, Bernadette Major, Rosanna McCrue, Sherel, Sandy, Melissa, Melisa and Harveyann Newbold; brothers-in-law Trevor, Elvis, Fonard, Derek and Dwight Newbold, Linward Knowles, Rufus Ferguson, David Ritchie and Drexel Major; uncle Joseph Williams; uncles-in-law Edward Sawyer; aunts-in-law Catherine Mckissack, Kathleen M. Cinton, Olevia Nesbitt, Floreen Armbrister, Elvinet Isaacs, Linda Sawyer, Ruth M Queen and Florence Lowe; nieces Trevez and Tylor Basden; nieces and nephews-in-law; cousins Gerald Williams, Dudley and Martha Airee; Lillian Jolly, Josephine Robinson, Louis Williams, Elena Hanchell, Judith Williams, Saundra Lightbourne, Ben Johnson, Peter Williams, Shirley Cox, Robert Williams, Gladys, Veronica and Clinton Williams, Allison, Deborah, Kevin, Kenyon, Godfrey and Kirkwood Bardsen, Iris Hanchell and many other relatives and friends.

They completely understand what Abaco is all about, which has been a huge time-consuming project for me, so I didn’t have to do anything, and they got it right the first time. So professional, a delightful team to work with.”

Nancy McDaniel
www.blueberryflanking.com

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www.abacoinet.com

Monday- Friday
9 am – 5 pm

Out Island Inter.Net

By Mirella Santillo

If you listen really carefully, you can almost hear the sounds of the cowbells, horns, whistles and oh, those goat-skin drums. This can only mean one thing - Christmas time is near.

Organizers are already hard at work to make this year’s second annual Abaco Christmas Festival a great success. The festival is being planned for December 10th at the Memorial Plaza between 12 noon and 11 p.m. and promises to be a fun-filled family event.

Santa Claus will be making a special appearance during the day and kids will be able to have a photo taken with him. Additionally, there will be Christmas tree lighting, arts and crafts, Toys For Tots, Junkanoo rush out, fireworks and a taste of Abaco’s finest cuisine. A slew of musical talents is also planned including the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band, choirs, quartets and soloists.

Mark your calendar and plan to be a part of this joyous and holiday event.

Plans Are Underway for the Christmas Festival

Telethon Assists Hurricane Victims

Ten homes were destroyed on Grand Cay by Hurricane Wilma and these families have been left with nothing. The monies raised by this telethon will go a long way in helping these people get back on their feet. All funds collected are deposited to the Bahamas Disaster Relief Fund managed by the Bahamas government. To assist in this great cause, please make donations to the Royal Bank of Canada, Main Branch Account No. 1281013.

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Wireless@abacoinet.com
www.abacoinet.com

Monday- Friday
9 am – 5 pm

When She’s Ready for College
The Only Question Will Be “Which One?”

She has yet to learn her ABC’s but that doesn’t matter. When it’s time for her to go to college, she won’t have to worry about whether we can afford it or not. With a plan from Colina Imperial, we know that we can give her the education she needs to succeed. Harvard, Oxford, University of The Bahamas? The choice will be hers...but a college education is definitely in her future!
Subway Staff Hear from Hospitality Trainer

By Portia J. Jonsson

A one-day customer service seminar conducted by M. S. Kelly Stewart of Grand Bahama was held at Subway Restaurant on November 6th for all staff members. M. S. Stewart, a Certified Caribbean Hospitality Trainer shared with the staff the importance of employers and employees giving excellent customer service to their internal and external customers.

A customer is the most important person in your organization, she said, whether it is in person or by mail. She reminded them that a customer is not dependent on their business but vice versa, their business is dependent on the customer. M. S. Stewart instructed the staff to exceed their customers' expectations and if they do this, the customers will come back again and again.

She congratulated M. S. Yvette White, Subway's owner, for providing her staff with a one-day customer service seminar conducted by Ms. Kelly Stewart of Grand Bahama was held at Subway Restaurant on November 6th for all staff members. Ms. Stewart, a Certified Caribbean Hospitality Trainer.

The Moorings and The Conch Inn Hotel and Marina

Tide - North Bar Channel
December 2005

Cruise the Abaco Sound in one of our new power boats

34 ft. mono-hull or 37 or 45 ft. Catamaran

The Conch Inn Marina
- Docks are in service with power
- Cable TV connections underway
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- The Best Sailing Vacations In The World!
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- Hotel rooms on the harbour front
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Email: themoorings@batelnet.bs
www.conchinn.com

Compromises of The Moorings and The Conch Inn Hotel and Marina

You are cordially invited to an
AVON Christmas Product Expo
Saturday - November 19th, 2005
1:00 - 6:00 pm
St. John’s Parish Hall, Marsh Harbour
be the first to see the new products! there will be giveaways and raffles.
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT! BRING A FRIEND!

The Best Sailing Vacations In The World!
Letters From Page 9

A customer is not dependent on their business but vice versa, their business is dependent on the customer. Ms. Stewart, a Certified Caribbean Hospitality Trainer, for providing her staff with a one-day customer service seminar conducted by Ms. Kelly Stewart of Grand Bahama was held at Subway Restaurant on November 6th for all staff members. Ms. Stewart, a Certified Caribbean Hospitality Trainer.

Everyone seems to agree that it is essential to long-term business success, especially in today’s competitive marketplace. Why then do more businesses not deliver? Most of us have come to believe that outstanding customer service is just a thing of the past. M. edioce service (or worse) is the norm. When a company actually delivers great service, it is almost too good to be true.

In the end, only those businesses with an ongoing commitment to delivering excellent service can consistently keep their customers delighted and Subway definitely on the right course.

With noise abatement showed no (such) difference. A eleven-month retardation in the course of only four years of school is disastrous. A child would have to struggle hard to catch up.

"Without a loudspeaker, we would never have conquered Germany," Hitler wrote in his 1938 annual of German Radio in 1938.

• the noises that irritate us are sounds loud or spiky enough to be potentially damaging to the ear." If you want to destroy your minds and ears, roll up the windows. Don’t do it to the rest of us. And either cut it down for the kids or leave them at home. They’re defenseless.

Blasted in Paradise

Come and experience the beauty of the Bahamas. We are waiting for you.
it was suggested that an electrical line needs to be extended to the public cemetery for maintenance purposes by the grounds keeper. The Chairman said he would check with Mr. Strachan as to what was required and into having this done as soon as possible.

The Administrator announced that he would be in Cherokee again on November 10th from 6 until 9 p.m. to register voters. The Administrator appealed to Cherokee for a donation to the victims of Wilma especially for the eight families who lost their homes on Grand Cay. As Grand Cay is grouped in with the Abaco cays, this catastrophic hurricane hit very close to home. He reminded us that we were spared this time, but that next time it could be us in need and asked our residents to give generously as the need was great.

The Antiques Road Show
The Antiques Road Show is now set for December 29 from 12 noon till 6 p.m. in Cherokee Sound at the W.W. Sands Community Center. In addition to a display of local historical artifacts we are requesting that the public preregister any antiques that they wish the visiting appraiser to value for them. You can call the Abaco Tourism Office any weekday from 9 until 5 p.m. at 367-3067 for additional information. The receptionist will include your item or items to a preregistration list. This will give us an idea of the type of items that will be coming in that day and give the Appraisers a chance to familiarize themselves in a particular field. We know the artifacts are out there, and we feel sure you want to know if they really are worth anything. You may want to show them off. So please call and preregister your items. A far afield, what good are they stuck away in your upstairs. Why not share them with other Abaconians to remind and remember bygone days. We hope this will be a kind of “Show and Tell” like we used to have in primary school and we believe it is going to be a fun day for everyone. A quick phone call giving your name and a general description of the item is all that is needed. On the day of the Road Show a small donation will be accepted for the appraisal service. All donations will go to the Cherokee Primary School Windows Project Fund.

More South Abaco News
The schoolchildren are planning a May Pole Dance and we hope to have a local storyteller, some old and some new games for fun and competition, a raffle and silent auction. There will even be a mystery item that we want you to guess “What is it?” - a surprise ending for the day’s festivities, not to mention food and drink and all for your enjoyment and pleasure. Abaronians always have so much fun when they get together and talk about “the old days.” We will have our new genealogy book on hand so that you can check out to see if you come from Cherokee Roots. So come out, see some old friends and go back in time to another era.
The importance of giving excellent customer service cannot be overstated. Customer service, on the other hand, continues to decline. Dealing with surly cashiers who seem to have more important things to do than ring up your sales is the rule rather than the exception. Without customers, no one earns a paycheck. Everyone seems to agree that it is essential to long-term business success, especially in today’s competitive marketplace. Why then do more businesses not deliver? Most of us have come to believe that outstanding customer service is just a thing of the past. Mediocre service (or worse) is the norm. When a company actually delivers great service, it is almost too good to be true.

In the end, only those businesses with an ongoing commitment to delivering excellent service can consistently keep their customers delighted and Subway definitely on the right course.

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She congratulated Ms. Yvette White, Subway’s owner, for providing her staff with the training and also recognizing the importance of giving excellent customer service.

Customers today are often treated like a nuisance instead of the reason that a company is in business. Products and services continue to increase in cost. Customer service, on the other hand, continues to decline. Dealing with surly cashiers who seem to have more important things to do than ring up your sales is the rule rather than the exception. Without customers, no one earns a paycheck.

Everyone seems to agree that it is essential to long-term business success, especially in today’s competitive marketplace. Why then do more businesses not deliver? Most of us have come to believe that outstanding customer service is just a thing of the past. Mediocre service (or worse) is the norm. When a company actually delivers great service, it is almost too good to be true.

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Emergency Services

Police - Marsh Harbour 367-2560
BASRA Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc - all areas 367-2295
Fire - Dundas Town 367-2055 or 4035
Fire - Hope Town 367-2320
Fire - Gran Turc Town 365-4333
Fire - Man-O-War 365-6921

Medi-Cal Medical

Abaco Family Medicine Marsh Harbour - 367-2295
Auskell Advanced Medical Clinic - 367-0020
Marsh Harbour Medical Centre - 367-2250
Government Clinic Marsh Harbour - 367-2510
Cobbett Clinic Treatment Cay - 368-8288
Cobbett Clinic Cooper Town - 365-0020
Government Clinic Green Turtle Cay - 367-2000
Government Clinic Hope Town - 366-0108
Government Clinic Sandy Point - 366-4010
Government Clinic Fox Town - 367-2020

Tours & Excursions

Abaco Island Tours Marsh Harbour - 367-2296
Excursion boat - Froggies Hope Town - 365-0461
Excursion boat - Froggies Hopetown - 365-0461

Taxis & Car Rental

BASRA Bah Air Sea Rescue Assoc - all areas 367-2295
Government Clinic Sandy Point - 366-4010
Government Clinic Hope Town - 366-0108
Government Clinic Sandy Point - 366-4010
Government Clinic Fox Town - 367-2020

Excursions - Duck Tours - Man-O-War Cay or Green Turtle Cay

Alfred Lever - 366-4286
Duck Tours - Man-O-War Cay - 366-4286
Ferry to and from Man-O-War Cay - 366-4286

Air Florida - Ft. Lauderdale - 365-5599
Air Sunshine - Ft. Lauderdale - 367-2800

Abaco Air - 367-2266
Local air charters serving Bahamas & S.Florida

Cherokee Air Charters - 367-2089

Government Clinic Hope Town - 366-0108
Government Clinic Sandy Point - 366-4010
Government Clinic Fox Town - 367-2020

Abaco area code 242 unless listed otherwise

Tourist Information

Abaco Chamber of Commerce - 367-5822 Fax - 367-5823 www.abacochamber.org

Flats Chart

Marsh Harbour to Hope Town 10 minute trip from Crossing B 7:15 9 am 10:30 12:15 pm 2 4 5 9 10 45 Return 8 am 11 10 am 11:45 12 30 4 5 6 11:15 Marsh Harbour to Man-O-War 20 minute trip from Crossing B 10:30 am 12:15 pm 2 5 (W/M) Sat 4 5 Return 11 am 1:30 pm 4 4:35 6 3:05 Same day stay - Adult one way $15 Round Trip $30 Kids 50% off. Free under 6 from Grand Turk

Ferry Schedule Departure times shown • Daily unless noted

Albun's Ferry Service • Ph - 367-9147 & 367-0290 • VHF Ch. 16

Marsh Harbour • Hope Town 20 minute trip from Crossing B

10:30 am 11:30 am 12:30 pm 2 3 4 5 6

Marsh Harbour • Man-O-War 20 minute trip from Crossing B

10:30 am 12:15 pm 2 5 (W/M) Sat 4 5

Marsh H • Gua Cay (& Cayman Island with advance notice) one方式 from Conch Inn

10:30 am 1:30 pm 3:30 5:45

Green Turtle Ferry • Phone - 365-4516, 4128, 4151 • VHF Ch 16

Green Turtle Cay to Treasure Cay Airport

8 am 9 am 10 am 12:15 am 3 4 3:30 5

Treasure Cay Airport to Green Turtle Cay

8:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 1:30 pm 2:30 3:30 4:30 5:30

One way adult $7 Children $3 Round Trip $12 Extra to destinations

Abaco Adventures • Ph - 365-8849 VHF Ch 16

Treasure Cay to Gua Cay Sunday 12:15 pm 14:45 PM $35 RT

Treasure Cay to Man-O-War Hope Town $30 am 3:30 pm $35 RT

Treasure Cay to Gua Cay Sunset Cruise $25 Call for time

Pinder's Ferry Service Between Abaco & Grand Bahama - Conch Crawl to Treasure Cay - one way $11

McLean's to McLean's Town $10 am & 2:30 pm

McLean's to Town $8 am & 4:30 pm

Ferry Fare $40 one way $50 children half fare Call Abaco 363-2356 for information

Bus service between McLean's dock & Town rentals at both terminals.

Bahamas Ferries

San Pedro Horse to Nassau via Grand Turk $800 OW

Islander Express - Bus - M Harbour & Sandy Point - call 366-4444 or 457-9586

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

To Abaco by land and sea from Florida • Take Queen’s Quay Line Bus (365-9124) from Ft. Lauderdale/Dania Ferry (365-4737) from West Palm Beach to Freeport • Buse to McLean’s Town • Ferry to Conch Inn • Bus to Green Turtle ferry or Marsh Harbour ferry • Walk to Marsh Harbour ferry dock • Ferry to Hope Town, Man-O-War or Gua Cay

Restaurant Guide

Price & Location (on street or in dock) (Based on dinner entire range)

Boat & Bikes - Boats - Cars & Rentals • Marsh Harbour

A & P Car Rentals • 367-2695

Blue Wave Boat Rentals • 367-3810

Concept Boat Rentals • 367-5570

Layoure Boat Rentals • 367-4566

Power Boat Rentals • 367-4630

Rainbow Boat Rentals • 367-4652

Abaco Inn • 366-0036

Wimacs Car Rentals ... 367-4970 or 367-4313

Green Turtle Cay

Boat & Bikes Rentals • 367-4360

C & D Car Rental • 367-4084

D & G Car Rental • 367-4085

E & G Car Rental • 367-4086

New Plymouth Car Rentals • 361-4818 or 4149

Rent Boat Rentals • 361-4815

Side Car Rentals • 367-4817

T & C Car Rentals • 375-8050

T & A Car Rentals • 375-8068

Abaco Marina • 365-4200

Donna Sands Cart Rentals • 365-5195

Dive Abaco, Marsh Harbour • 367-2787

Rich's Boat Rentals • 365-8582

Donnie's Boat Rentals • 365-4119

Conch Crawl • 365-4444

Pete & Gays • 366-0119

Wrecking Tree Restaurant

Sundowners • 365-4060

Dundas Town

Ambassdor Inn • 367-2022

Pope's Place • 367-3796

Saddo's • 367-3798

Sea Side Cafe • 367-3799

Snack Shack • 365-4005

Shappies • 367-3797

Wally's • 367-2074

Marsh Harbour

Dundas Too • 367-0069

Floyd Burrows • 366-4175

Derrick Gaitor

Patrick Roberts • 366-4286

Ricky Burrows • 366-4233

Links Adderly • 366-4335

Jody Albury • 375-8068

Thomas Adderly • 366-4336

Rob Prince • 365-5196

Paul's Place • 367-3703

Memphis• 367-0055

Waymon's • 367-0056

Dundas Too • 367-0069

Floyd Burrows • 366-4175

Derrick Gaitor

Patrick Roberts • 366-4286

Ricky Burrows • 366-4233

Links Adderly • 366-4335

Jody Albury • 375-8068

Thomas Adderly • 366-4336

Rob Prince • 365-5196

Paul's Place • 367-3703

Memphis• 367-0055

Waymon's • 367-0056
Work is for people who don’t know how to fish!
Enjoy Life, while Insurance Management works for you.
Ingraham Wins Leadership of FNMs
Edison Key Is on Board, Too

Weird Hat Day Raises School Funds

Lumbering Began at Wilson City

Drill Rig Owner Promises to Remove Barge

Open Letter to the Citizens of Abaco
During the last hurricane, our operation west of Walker’s Cay suffered substantial damage. As you may know, there were many totally destroyed homes at a neighboring cay.

We had several related drilling vessels in the Walker’s area, and there are no safe haven ports or areas that our vessels can be located in the event of a hurricane. Therefore, my company went to extra efforts to secure the vessels when it became apparent that the Hurricane Wilma might strike Walker’s Cay directly.

We reinforced our anchor system by laying out over a thousand feet of 1 3/8 inch anchor chain and anchors.

The anchor and chain appear to be holding the barge away from the reef but the barge is partially flooded and not moving.

We are now in the process of obtaining several six-inch pumps and repairing their tugboat that was also damaged in the reef but the barge is partially flooded and not moving.

After we located the barge, we contacted the government for assistance and have worked with them in looking for the best resolution that could be found given the circumstances.

Please see Open Letter Page 27

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Please see Open Letter Page 27
The newly cut lumber was stacked and dried before being shipped out.

Lumbering

From Page 1

ditions. The island limestone does not allow a taproot to grow so the trees develop an extensive but flat root system in the shallow soil. The extensive lumbering operation established in 1905 at Wilson City gener-
ally gets credit as the first in the industry. However, we were recently told of a lumbering operation at Witches Point, five miles south of Marsh Harbour, prior to the Bahamas Timber Company at Wilson City. The 100-year lumbering lease held by Bahamas Timber Company morphed through different names and owners on the three islands with forests: the Abaco Lumber Company, National Container Corporation, and lastly Owens-Illinois of the Bahamas operating at Snake Cay on A baco and winding up operations on Andros in 1972. Wilson City was situated on the A baco headland opposite the north end of Lyndar Cay and just inside North Bar Channel. Ships drawing 12 feet or more would sail through North Bar Channel to the dock. Remnants of this dock are still visible. It was a modern operation by standards at that time. It had a rail sys-

Wilson City Was the First Large Lumber Operation

The newly cut lumber was stacked and dried before being shipped out.

A view inside the mill which was a very busy place.

This is the mill showing the railroad track in the left foreground and the log pond on the right.

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The logs to the mill. The community even tempered with steam engines which brought joy roaming the Wilson City area as there are rusted locomotives and foundations of mills and buildings scattered through the area. At low tide, the off-shore stones are visible which supported the railroad track and formed the log pond.

The stone cairns that formed the log pond, foreground, can still be found in the shallow water off the Wilson City shoreline. Deep water which could accommodate the two- and three-masted schooners carrying the lumber to various markets was out at the end of the peninsula. Supervisory housing can be seen on the “Mount Pleasant” ridge.
Remnants of Old Lumber Camp Still Remain

Lumbering

From Page 3

Norman’s Castle sometime after World War I ended. It was on the west side of Abaco opposite Green Turtle Cay and on the coast beyond the present farm acreage. Once again there was a rail system and steam locomotives that brought the logs to the mill. Both of these early operations relied on horses to bring the logs out of the woods to the rail sidings.

A few Norman’s Castle there were portable mills at several locations on the west side of Abaco and south of Marsh Harbour - Cornwall, three different Millvilles, and finally Cross Harbour which closed in 1943 or 1944. These latter sites used tractors for hauling the logs out of the woods rather than using horses although the locomotive was believed to be the main route to the sawmill and the shipping dock...

Abaco temporarily lost its lumber industry in 1944 when Abaco Lumber Company moved its operation to Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama. This was near the present Freeport which did not exist then. Shipping was done from the north shore of Grand Bahama. The lumber company was owned for a while by Wallace Groves who eventually developed Freeport. The larger timber was milled into lumber and the smaller trees were cut into pit-props and sent to England to prop up mine ceilings.

In 1956 an American company, National Container, bought Abaco Lumber Company. The operation was moved from Pine Ridge about 40 miles east to Riding Point on the north shore. The end use of the wood changed as the pine trees were cut into eight foot lengths and barged to the companies pulpwood plant in Jacksonville, Florida, for making container-board. Since pulpwod was the desired product and would be harvested by newer methods, much of the Pine Ridge equipment was left behind in the move to Riding Point. The use of the narrow-gauge steam locomotive came to an end.

Moving the residential aspects to The Gap, as the new village was called, was a major operation. Many of the employees followed the operation to Riding Point and the Gap while a few left the lumbering business and joined with the various elements in the growing Freeport area.

In the next issue we will explore the change from sawmills to pulpwood and the use of new harvesting methods.
Incredible hilltop home named for the ancient Tamarind tree that stands proudly surrounded by the breezy wraparound verandah. Beautiful, fully furnished 2 bed 2 bath home with one bedroom apartment and one acre of land in very private Lucayos Subdivision. Awesome view of the Sea of Abaco. Community dock steps away.

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

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Ingraham had promoted Mr. Turnquest as a leader to continue where Mr. Bethel had left off. Mr. Ingraham had promoted Mr. Turnquest 104; and Mr. Foulkes 40. Montague M.P. Brent Symonette won the deputy leadership position over outgoing chairman Carl Bethel and incumbent Sydney Collie, and Desmond Bannister won the chairmanship. Mr. Ingraham quickly moved to heal any possible rift by meeting privately at his home on Friday with Mr. Turnquest and Mr. Foulkes. Mr. Turnquest made his continued active role under his leadership, including inviting Mr. Foulkes to continue leading the party in the Senate. He called all of the losing leadership candidates to the podium as he made his acceptance speech. He also announced the appointment of Mr. Bethel to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Senator Tanya McCartney.

As you know, the party elected me as its leader,” Mr. Ingraham began his acceptance speech. “I made a very late decision to allow my name to go forward on Monday. I had been of two minds and I was persuaded by the persistent calls which turned into demands by many party supporters and Bahamians. I then agreed that it was the will of the people that I should lead them, I would do so.”

He told Mr. Turnquest he regretted the people did not agree with his assessment of Mr. Turnquest as a leader to continue where he left off. Mr. Ingraham had promoted Mr. Turnquest as leader and Mr. Foulkes as deputy leader when he stepped down in 2002.

Reminding the FNM of the responsibility he felt toward the party and heeding its call for its service, the MP for North Abaco turned into demands by many party supporters and Bahamians. I then agreed that it was the will of the people that I should lead them, I would do so.”

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- **Yellowwood- waterfront lot available. 37,368 sq.ft of property, this parcel commands endless ocean views and runs 184’ on the Atlantic. $257,000**

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- **Yellowwood Cottage- #5027 partially completed 1bed/1 bath cottage on a 150’x175’ lot. Near to Cherokee Sound. $150,000.00**

- **Man-O-War Cay #5475-Vacant property from sea to sea on Eastern Harbour. Total of 160’ of waterfront. Rare offer. $830,500 Call now!**

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- **Green Turtle Cay- Pineapple Bluff- 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 3,289 sq.ft. home overlooking the Sea of Abaco.**

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By Matthew McCoy

Despite adverse weather and financial conditions, the All Abaco Regatta was held on the rescheduled weekend of October 26th in Green Turtle Cay. It was moved from its original date due to a hurricane threat. Unfortunately, even though the Regatta was delayed, there was very little money available and it was hastily put together. To compound these problems, there was a very strong cold front that had just moved through, leaving strong, gusty northerlies and poor racing conditions. Poor weather has always been a problem for the Regatta, as the last two years of incomplete competition has shown. Despite all this, officials and sailors alike are optimistic that with a modified plan and disciplined execution the All Abaco Regatta can become the top Bahamian work boat event. This year’s Regatta Committee started off with a slight deficit, as the Regatta Village venue was destroyed in last year’s double hurricane strike. It was estimated to cost between $20,000 and $24,000 to repair the village. Since its inception eight years ago, the Regatta Committee has raised most of its money through sponsorships from Marsh Harbour businesses. This year Regatta Committee Chairman Jackson McIntosh felt that the support just wasn’t there, emotionally as well as financially. According to Mr. McIntosh, Abaco currently has so many events that need sponsoring, including the well-received Sandy Point Homecoming and Regatta, that sponsorship has to be spread thinly among many recipients.

Additionally, when Treasurer Mitchell Albury left the committee at the end of the summer to pursue further education in the US, much of the Marsh Harbour support departed with him. Shortly after, Secretary Wynnsome Ferguson left the committee, due to her time consuming job at the Abaco Tourism Office. That left an undersized committee with just three members: Mr. McIntosh, Perry Thomas, and Ishmael "Stretch" Morley.

In midsummer the Ministry of Tourism withdrew its support. The reason, according to Bernadette Harding of the Ministry of Tourism, was, “We felt that there wasn’t enough community support for us to get involved. We try to support events and venues that are supported by the community.”

This summer the Committee had a booth at the Goombay Festival, but it was very expensive to run and although they made a profit, it did not bring in as much money as they had hoped. With the typical sources of funds not producing, Mr. McIntosh began to look for other avenues. He arranged a meeting with Baker’s Bay in May to see if they could help support the reconstruction of Village Park. He asked for $20,000, but the representatives said that they had to discuss the matter with the project partners. As late as September, Mr. McIntosh thought he could count on their support and went ahead with the reconstruction, even though he had not had any follow up meetings.

Livingston Marshall of the Baker’s Bay Project is the only man allowed to commit funds on Abaco. He says that although they approved $700 to advertise on the back of the Regatta Program, they never committed to the reconstruction. “We look for more global causes,” he said, “things like education and health care. We look at what will make the most impact.” To that end, he says they put $20,000 into Abaco schools.

The next blow to the Regatta was the threat of Hurricane Rita, which meant that the boats were unable to sail out of Nassau for the original dates of the races. Because they needed the money, the Committee decided to go ahead with the planned entertainment anyway, but the event cost $25,000 and failed to break even.

In order to raise much needed money before the rescheduled October 27th deadline, the committee then decided to throw parties in a makeshift venue every weekend, but there was no marketing and turnout was consistently poor.

Then Hurricane Wilma threatened, and it looked again like the 2005 All Abaco Regatta would be canceled. The Island Link, chartered to bring the other island work boats up to compete, had to cancel due to the weather. At the last minute the Ministry of Tourism stepped in and found another boat. The mailboat left on October 27th, a day late.

Please see Regatta Page 8

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At this point it is unclear why the whole event wasn’t cancelled. Although Wilma had passed, a strong front was coming right on its heels, and the funds still hadn’t been raised. Mr. MacIntosh may have felt pressure from the Ministry that found the boat (they contributed $30,000), but Mr. Orley of the Marsh Harbour office does not think so. “In all my dealings with him [Min. Neville Wisdom] he has been straight up,” he said. “I don’t think he would go behind my back and pressure Jackson.”

Mr. MacIntosh communicated to the sailors in Nassau that he had $72,000. It was not a large purse, but the sailors decided to come anyway. In fact, Jackson had only $36,000, but he was confident that between the Thursday and Friday night parties he would be able to raise the money. “We would not be the only venue to do that,” said Mr. Orley, “I feel it could have been handled better.”

Mr. MacIntosh agrees that he was not happy with how things happened. He felt that there were many people who did not have faith in his leadership, leading to underwhelming local support, both from party patrons and sponsors. But he says that he still believes in the All Abaco Regatta. “It unites our community,” he said. “It does a lot for our economy. We should learn from this weekend and move on. Abaco has a lot going for it, in terms of both purse and the fact that we are the only...”

Changes Could Bring Success

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 seven years of extensive and varied experience in real estate, both in the U.S. and the Bahamas, five 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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Abaco Central High
Rewards for the
Honor Roll Students

By Mirella Snatillo

The largest high school in the Family Islands, Abaco Central High School has a student body of approximately 520 students with no auditorium or room large enough to hold everyone of them together. So on this beautiful fall Friday they were occupying the chairs that had been set in the school yard in front of the podium occupied by the dignitaries, faculty and committee members. The occasion was the reward of the first term honor roll students. As the spectators watched and applauded their classmates, the honor roll students. As they appeared to be more focused so I hope it will show in their academic results.”

On the Honor Roll were Locassie Innocent, Racasha Desinor, Shannen Paul, Kward Bethel, Shana Blanc, Bianca Albury, Georgia Cornish, Shalna Blanc, Shannalee Paul, Ashley Whyliy, Andre Singh, Samantha Pinder, Nickesia Jones, Lunique Lightbourn, Thomazene Stuart, Larissa Dawkins, Jude Vilma, Lathera Lightbourn, Mikille Baillou, D’Andrea Johnson, Thomazene Stuart, Monalisa Vilma and Lavado Cornish. The following students made the Principal’s Honor Roll: Mone Saintil, Evelande Gedeon, Ladowitch Jean Louis, Jackson Jacques, Shakquille Jones, Matthew Weightgoe, Belinda Jaco.

Afer the ceremony the Honor Roll students and the committee members were treated to a luncheon at the Abaco Beach Resort.

Abaco Central High School honoured students who made the Honour roll. After receiving recognition at the school, they were treated to lunch at Abaco Beach Resort.

Honor Roll Students

By Mirella Snatillo

The largest high school in the Family Islands, Abaco Central High School has a student body of approximately 520 students with no auditorium or room large enough to hold everyone of them together. So on this beautiful fall Friday they were occupying the chairs that had been set in the school yard in front of the podium occupied by the dignitaries, faculty and committee members. The occasion was the reward of the first term honor roll students. As the spectators watched and applauded their classmates, the honor roll students. As they appeared to be more focused so I hope it will show in their academic results.”
More School News

School Prepares for Jr. Junkanoo

By Richard E. Fawkes

Ministry of Youth Officer Ishmael "Stretch" Morley recently announced that the Junior Junkanoo competition will be held in downtown Marsh Harbour on December 17. Last year, because of the late opening of schools caused by the hurricanes, the schools were only able to mount exhibition presentations.

Schools throughout the island have been "in the shacks" for some weeks now, preparing for the return of stiff competition with the construction of costumes and music and dance practice — none more than Abaco Central High, whose M arlins are the defending senior division champions from the 2003 competition.

Music teacher Denise Gadsby, a native Trinidadian who was a participant and national judge in her country’s world-famous carnival before coming to The Bahamas, is once again directing the students with the help of a team of her colleagues. On pain of death for breaking a promising not to take revealing photographs or writing give-away lines, this reporter was shown some of the work-in-progress on banner pieces and individual costumes during a recent visit to the school.

Ms. Gadsby declined to say what the group’s theme is this year.

About 30 students are involved in pasting the costumes, with a total of about 70 in the entire project. Students work Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 after school, and on Saturdays, pasting, painting and practicing their music and dance steps.

Denise Gadsby, Abaco Central’s music teacher seen here with her eighth-grade class, is once again directing the Junior Junkanoo Senior Champions in their efforts to defend their title on December 17.
Meet the Team....

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Government Will Begin Influenza Vaccination Campaign

The Bahamas government is launching a national influenza vaccination campaign. This campaign will lessen the impact of seasonal influenza. At-risk populations include the elderly (65 years of age and older), young children (younger than 6 months of age), pregnant women, persons with chronic conditions (such as heart and lung disease), diabetics, and those who have been hospitalised within the last year. The influenza vaccine is safe and persons will not get influenza from it.

The Department of Public Health and the Ministry of Health wishes to remind the public that good hygiene practices including hand-washing, covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, using a tissue only one time and disposing of it, and careful, frequent cleaning of surfaces will prevent the spread of influenza.

Gas Prices Are Beginning to Fall

By Portia Jonsson

Retail gas prices, which soared over the past several months, are finally beginning to come back down. This reduction brings great relief to Abaconians who have been paying close to $5.50 at the pumps. Texaco Service Stations have lowered their price of fuel effective November 12th by $1.13. The new price on Abaco is presently $4.20 per gallon as opposed to the recent $5.33 per gallon. Mr. Gary Sawyer of ABAO Petroleum said Texaco is leading the way on Abaco in the reduction of gasoline prices. It is not yet known whether or not ESSO and Shell Service Stations would follow this example.

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1129 - 5 lots with amazing views and excellent elevations. All lots 1+/- acre in size and underground utilities to come.

1218 - NEW EXCLUSIVE - Two story home in Bahama Palm Shores offering two beds along with detached one bedroom guest cottage. A GREAT BUY!!

1219 - Royal Harbour waterfront - Ideal protected docking in Marsh Harbour. Close to town, all underground utilities.
Secluded 4 bedroom, 2 bath home. Located directly across the lane from Eight Mile Bay and its gorgeous beach. Rooftop deck enjoys some of the best views in the area. Room to expand and put your personal touch to this promising home. $422,000

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#3426: Two nice side-by-side home sites just 300 feet from Eight Mile Beach. Good elevation, cleared and ready to build. Buy both for a generous building envelope and "build up" for Atlantic Ocean views and breezes. $41,000 each.

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

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

#934: "Southwind" - One of the first homes built on the lovely peninsula of Pelican Shores. Encompassing just under one acre of land, fronting on Duck Pond. Comprised of 2 bedroom/2 bath, den/library, open living and dining area and galley style kitchen. Included is a quiet cottage pool, enclosed 2KW generator and dock. A promiscuous property with superior land value and great potential for the discerning, imaginative buyer. SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY PLEASE.

#9534: Reduced! Lovely wooded home site located in the secluded community of Bahama Palm Shores. The site is situated within 300 ft of the gorgeous 8 Mile Bay and its sugar sand beach! Build up for views and breeze. Priced to sell! $38,000.

GREENLAND BAY

#9867: Rare homesite located on the secluded peninsula of Eastern Shores. Property runs sea-to-sea, 70’ on the protected “Creek”, western boundary runs 120’, eastern boundary 133’. Serious inquiries only, please.

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

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

#9755: Lovely, oversized beach front site containing 18,204 sq. ft. Inland location, road-to-road site with possible views of canal system and the Sea of Abaco if buyer "builds up". A greenway borders one boundary making the site secluded and private. $68,500.

#9756: Lovely, oversized home site in Casuarina Beach Estates. Located at the end of a scheduled cul-de-sac and directly on the golf course. Great investment for the future! Price to sell at $45,000.

#9310: Greenland Bay, Gorgeous, unspoiled beach front, dazzling white sand, rolling grassland interior. Parcels encompass 100 to 200 feet on the beach, depth of +/- 300'. 30 miles south of Marsh Harbour. Only one parcel may be sold in each instance; the entire acreage is not offered a whole. Starting at $120,000.

#9330: Lovely wooded home site located in the secluded community of Bahama Palm Shores. The site is situated within 300 ft of the gorgeous 8 Mile Bay and its sugar sand beach! Build up for views and breeze. Priced to sell! $38,000.

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(formerly Treasure Cay Mini-mart)
More School News

**School**

A rt teacher Lori Thompson directed a group of students in creating the designs and is directing them in the making of the costumes. Colonel Curry, leader of the Spring City Rockers and also a staff member, is assisting students in their design and construction of the large pieces, according to Ms. Gadsby. M. S. Thompson has integrated some of the work into her classroom activities, with students doing research on the origin of Junkanoo. The preparation for the junior Junkanoo competition is intended by the Ministry of Education to be integrated into the curriculum.

Other teachers involved in the committee are Joyce Chamagnie, Shantell Miller, who is assisting with choreography; and Erika Burrows, treasurer, who is organizing fund raising. M. S. Burrows said the community, including businesses and individuals, has been quite helpful.

**Costume Design and Making**

On November 10th fifth and sixth grade students at Central Abaco Primary School learned the importance of tourism in The Bahamas from Bernadette Harding of the Abaco Tourist Office. Mrs. Harding shared with the students the meaning of tourism, the various jobs available in the tourism industry and the reasons why tourists choose to visit our islands. She advised them that three quarters of every dollar spent in The Bahamas comes as jobs available in the tourism industry and the reasons why tourists choose to visit our islands. She advised them that three quarters of every dollar spent in The Bahamas comes
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**Tourism Office**

The Ministry of Education held its first spelling bee competition for the school year 2005/2006 on November 4th at the Learning Resource Centre in Marsh Harbour for the students of grade nine. Winners in this competition were left to right 2nd Place Ta'Asia Anderson (Forest Heights Academy), 1st Place Ludline Joseph (St. Francis de Sales) and 3rd Place Alexis Williams (St. Francis de Sales). Also pictured is St. Francis de Sales' spelling coach accepting the trophy for the winning school. Other schools competing for the title were S.C. Boodle High School and Agape Christian School.

**Tourism Industry**

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**Student Research**

...with Ms. Gadsby’s assistance, the various jobs available in the tourism industry and the reasons why tourists choose to visit our islands. She advised them that three quarters of every dollar spent in The Bahamas comes...
The Bahamas Wahoo Championship Tournament is a series of wahoo competitions that is now in its ninth season. This three-legs makes up the Championship and this year for the first time one of the legs will be held at Treasure Cay Resort on January 11-14, 2006.

The first leg was held at Port Lucaya Marina on Grand Bahama on November 9-12 and the final leg will be there also on February 1-4, 2006. Each leg begins on a Wednesday with registration and cocktail party. Entrants will fish on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and that leg ends with a cocktail party and awards banquet held on the Saturday night.

The Bahamas Wahoo Championship Tournament supports scientific research and works closely with the Wahoo Research Project at Florida Atlantic University. Scientists there have discovered that wahoo has just begun.

The Wahoo Research Project is working with fishermen from this Championship to attach tags in a pilot study to gain more knowledge of the movement of this species.

This information was provided by the Bahamas Wahoo Championship Tournament.

### Schools Hold Soft Ball Meet

By Mirella Santillo

Only a few clouds decorated the bright blue sky on November 3rd as local school students gathered on the sports field of Abaco Central High School to participate in a softball jamboree organized by Crossing Rock’s Primary School’s Principal, Mr. Frank Hepburn. “The purpose of the event was to get as many schools as possible to participate, to awaken interest in that game and to help the coaches find out the weaknesses of their teams,” explained Mr. Hepburn.

Primary and high schools were included. The attendance was very good. Nearly all of the teams on Abaco, both private and public, showed up. Crossing Rock and Sandy Point’s J.A. Finder School were combined as one team, Hope Town Primary, Man-O-War, Central Abaco Primary, Abaco Central High, St Francis de Sales, Amy Roberts, Cooper’s Town Primary and S.C. Bootle were represented. The games won by a score of 6-5.

### Wahoo Tournament Will Have Competition on Abaco

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Characteristics of the Pine Forests

By John Hedden

As one travels between settlements in the Northern Bahamas the dominance of the pine forest landscape is readily apparent. Long journeys become monotonous unless of course one takes an interest in the forest itself. This may precipitate a foray into the interior to have a closer look. The forest itself is not closed and oppressive, as fairy tales and nursery rhymes would have us believe, but rather a very open and exposed area that magnifies the prevailing weather of the moment. Historically the forest has had an economic impact, whether through subsistence or commercial exploitation of trees and wood, wild boar hunting, foraging for food, fresh water and of course the raw materials for utensils (clays and thatch).

More recently however the forest has been exploited for large scale production of lumber and logs, agriculture, urban water supplies and wildlife tourism. The forest itself has also been largely affected by the influence of human society through change in patterns of treatment, viz garbage dumping, forest fires and urban clearing for development. The delicate ecology of the forest is held in dynamic balance between species of flora and fauna, and the interaction with the physical substrate on which they survive. Climate and seasons are an integral part of this and create a symbiosis that is truly one of the great symphonies of life. Why should this be so distinct?

The Bahamas is literally a product of the warm shallow seas that exist today. The warm water causes the break down of parent rock to provide a geological medium and its ability to support the forest. Over time this system will move between the different levels over a daily cycle.

The higher levels are probably the most noticed by us. The lower canopy consists of broadleaf plants; this including poisonwood, five finger, wild guava, Bahama stopper, pigeon berry, thatch palms, native grapes and poison ivy. The upper canopy consists exclusively of Bahamian pine rising up to 90 feet high and living for up to 500 years. At Hope Town in Abaco the pine trees are up to 30 feet; a layer of tree trunks, and then the canopies are distinct; broadleaf rising up to 70 feet and living for up to 130 years. In these top levels most of the bird life is found, including the brown thrasher, hairy woodpecker, red tailed hawks, owls and vultures. The heights of the canopy are distinct; broadleaf rising to 30 feet; a layer of tree trunks, and then the top canopy 70 feet above the ground. Why should this be so distinct?

To understand we must look at the weather—seasons, temperature, light, rain, wind, storms, tides and sea levels. One factor is equally important—time. Weather systems and the geology work together—low lying land systems and marine-influenced weather patterns affect the geological medium and its ability to support the forest. Rainfall stored in aquifers, salts and minerals imported by storms, light and temperature from seasonal patterns; all affect forest growth and survival. Salt, water, temperature and wind extremes may negatively affect the forest through poisoning, cold damage and physical destruction. But they may also be beneficial in weeding and thinning old and weakened members of the community; allowing replacement by younger more vigorous individuals. Plants and trees decompose to provide nutrients and humus for the soil, recycling for the next generation. The animals living in the forest also make their contribution to the organic content of the soils. Water availability, temperature, light levels, all affect the rate of transformation in this cycle of life. Rainfall absorbing chemicals from the air to form acids, wind throws uprooting large chunks of rock, temperature changes causing expansion and contraction, all help break down the parent rock to provide a soil to support the forest. Over time this symbiosis of life develops and the success of one species will eventually affect the success of all the other species in the community, none becoming dominant to the exclusion of others. Climatic extremes all have their effects on the forest system. Hurricanes and winter storms thin out the larger and weaker pine trees of the forest through wind throws; they also strip leaves.
and branches from the broadleaf understorey. However, it all regrows and the empty spaces are filled. But why for example doesn’t the broadleaf vegetation overtake the pine and become the most dominant species? The answer lies in fire.

In a forest without external interference fires are caused by one factor alone. Lightning! Lightning only occurs during thunderstorms; which themselves more frequently occur during the summer rainy months of the year. The intensity of the fires caused is determined by several factors including the dryness of the vegetation, the fuel load (amount of dead and dry matter lying around), the wetness of the environment and wind. If all of these factors are favourable towards fire, then very hot, far reaching fires will occur. The result being large scale destruction in the forest community. Summer storms however tend to be immediate and wet, which limits the spread and intensity of the fires through the forest. The result is localised burning of the broadleaf canopy, thinning it out to allow the young pine to grow through towards the uppermost canopy. This burning allows nutrients to be returned to the soil very quickly, encouraging rapid growth of the pine trees.

The pine is protected from these low intensity fires by its thick bark insulating it from the heat, the protection of the growing parts by a thick circle of very green pine needles around the young shoots, and its growth habit of long unbranched trunks lifting the green canopy above the reach of these fires. The broadleaf plants are also well adapted to this fire factor relying on the low intensity heat which does not penetrate to any great depth of the rock and soil. Large clusters of fresh growing points exist on each plant just below the soil surface, and these quickly develop into new branches and leaves to replace those damaged by fire. Many of the animal kingdom also burrow into the soil, hide under rocks, and dive into pot holes to escape the rapidly moving fire; only to emerge minutes after the fire has passed over them. Within months of the fire passage, and with the help of summer light, rain and temperatures, the forest is actively growing again. The young pine trees are able to penetrate the understorey before the broadleaf shades them out again, and the mature pines are well above the level of fire and so do not get badly damaged. The pine maintains its dominance. This is the fire climax system and exists in many pine forests all over the earth.

But……… the Bahamian Pine Forest has been interfered with, it has been exploited, it has been invaded and altered. How will these effects influence the survival of the forest? The next article will attempt to shed some light on this.

Fire and the Health of the Pine Forest
Provided by Gladstone Stone McEwan.

The endless global hopping associated with Mr. Ernie Els' professional golf games has earned him a well deserved break. He chose the Abaco Club on Winding Bay for a weekend of relaxation. He was accompanied by his wife Liezl Wehmeyer Els, their daughter Samantha and son Ben. Because it’s imperative for all proficient athletes to maintain their form, Mr. Els also brought Mr. Josh Salzmann, his personal trainer. They all had a wonderful weekend at the club, so good, in fact, that Ernie became a member of the Abaco Club before he left.

Who is Ernie Els? He is one of the top three golfers on the planet. His winnings over the past five years alone is over $19 million, not taking into account the other 11 years of prize moneys he won since he turned pro 16 years ago.

Ernie turned professional in 1989. Three years later at the age of 22 he won the Big Three tournaments on the South African Tour: the SA Open, the SA PGA and the SA Masters. In 1993 he won the prestigious Dunlop Phoenix Tournament in Japan. In 1994 he won the Dubai Desert Classic, breaking the Emirates course record in the first round. He also won the Johnnie Walker World Championship in Japan in 1993, the SA Open, the SA PGA and his first World Matchplay Championship at Wentworth. Ernie went on to win a PGA Grand Slam Tournament, featuring the four major winners of 1997: Tiger Woods, Justin Leonard and Davis Love III. In October 2004 he became the only man in golf history to win the World Matchplay Championship for a sixth time. He has continued to win many other major titles to the present day, maintaining his position as one of the top money winners in the world of golf.

As is evident from this certification of Ernie’s achievements throughout his professional career, he is one of golf’s few truly global players. He has visited many countries and stayed in some of the best hotels and resorts. He has played the best golf courses the world over. But for Mr. Els, the Abaco Club on Winding Bay was like no other.

Members and guests at the Abaco Club have access to almost three miles of one of the most beautiful beaches in The Bahamas, engulfed with different shades of blue waters that cannot be better harmonized anywhere. Viewing photos or a DVD does not prepare one for the splendour of it all. The tropical Scottish links style golf course will challenge the most skillful golfers in certain weather conditions, while at the same time leaving them totally mesmerized by the natural ambience of it all.

The Abaco Club promotes healthy and fit living. The club has a gym outfitted with the most modern and professional exercising equipment available, making it a physical trainer’s dream. Ernie and Josh indulged themselves in it and took advantage of the incredible spa managed by competent professionals after their work out.

One can assume that one of the main contributors to Ernie and his wife Liezl joining the club are the fun, educational and amusing children’s programs Winding Bay have to offer. There is horserace riding, kayaking, nature walks, swimming, fishing and tennis. They all intermingle with the attentive hospitable staff at the Abaco Club.

The Abaco Club offers residents total privacy without the feeling of being shut in. Ernie Els summed up the Abaco Club with these words. “It’s a phenomenal golf course, a sensational beach and a great concept with privacy for family, kids and seri-
U.S. Withdraws Proposed Passport Deadline

By Portia Jonsson

The United States has withdrawn a proposed December 2006 deadline for implementing new travel rules that would require Americans to show passports when returning from The Bahamas, Caribbean countries and Central and South America, amid complaints that the measures will hurt tourism.

The U.S. Embassy in a press release stated that the Departments of State and Homeland Security recognized that implementing the requirements of the passport legislation would have “potentially significant implications.” The Administration is now proposing a revised time line for implementation, which will be published in the near future.

Minister of Tourism, Mr. Obie Wilchcombe attributed the withdrawal of the December 2006 deadline to the combined efforts of all the Caribbean countries and those who fought the issue on their behalf. Mr. Wilchcombe believes that with a later deadline The Bahamas tourism industry “is going to be fine.”

Following the initial announcement of the new passport rules, Caribbean countries raised the concern that the December deadline would not give travelers sufficient time to apply for the necessary documents, thereby leading to a significant decrease in American visitors to the region. As travelers to Mexico and Canada were given until 2008 to comply with the policy, the Caribbean also felt discriminated against.

Until the new passport policy goes into effect, Americans only need birth certificates or driver’s licenses for travel to and from The Bahamas.

Civic Organizations

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

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Reginald K. Patterson R.L.S.
Victor R. Patterson B.R.E.A.
Coldwell Banker Donates to the Fire Department

Supplied by Coldwell Banker
Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty teamed up with 225 Abaco students to raise money for the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. First graders from four schools learned what to do if their clothes caught fire - Stop, Drop and Roll - through a Coldwell Banker-sponsored colouring contest. The students worked hard and produced delightful colouring sheets showing three dogs, fur ablaze, rolling on the ground to extinguish the flames.

As a reward for their hard work, Coldwell Banker made a donation to the fire department and the winners were treated to a fire engine ride through town. A fire volunteer drove the children through Marsh Harbour. The winners also received gift certificates to Abaco Pizza.

Mailin Sands, Coldwell Banker agent and a volunteer dispatcher in Marsh Harbour, said the funds will be used to help build a new fire house.

Lynsie Albury of Agape Christian School walked away first place winner. Natalia Sawyer of St. Francis de Sales, Ashley Laroda of Long Bay School, and Alexandra De Villas of Central Abaco Primary placed second, third and fourth respectively.

“We are delighted to help the fire department which operates on a strictly volunteer basis,” Mike Lightbourn, president of Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty, said. “We’re also happy to help develop an awareness of fire safety among the young people of Abaco.”

The winners of a colouring contest were treated to ride through town on a fire truck and were given gift certificates to Abaco Pizza.

By Portia Jonsson

Duty Free Items for Hurricane Wilma Victims

Qualifying goods are building materials, electrical and plumbing supplies, appliances, clothing, household furniture and motor vehicles. Motor vehicles must be approved by application to the Ministry of Finance. Any abuse of the exemption will result in both seizure and disposal in the goods.

The Ministry of Finance has announced that Bahamians affected by Hurricane Wilma will be allowed to bring duty-free items into the country until January 31st, 2006. This includes residents in Bimini, the Berry Islands, Grand Bahama as well as Abaco, where some ten homes were completely destroyed in Grand Cay.

Contact: Chris Farrington
Ph. 242-365-4695
e-mail chris@coldwellbankerbahamas.com
Vacant Properties

#5470 Beachfront lot and dock package consisting of over 2 acres of elevated land and a dock on the protected side of Coco Bay. This is considered the best beach on Green Turtle Cay and is offered at $1.5m as a package deal or $750,000 each. Lot Please call for details.

#5480 Ideal deep water dock lot situated on scenic Blacksound Green Turtle Cay. Property consists of over 100’ of water front and over 100 ft. depth from the sea to a paved road. Near to settlement and shipyard, this is a yachtsman’s dream come true. Offered at $602,500.

#5483 Beachfront/Canal front Package. Located in beautiful leisure lee. Enjoy the lifestyle of living on the beach and having secure dockage for you boat on the second lot. This is the better of two worlds. Offered at $900,000 will consider splitting.

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Choose from a range of Hyundai, Ford, Toyota, Daihatsu, Honda and GM vehicles — at standard Nassau prices, all backed by full factory warranties.

A selection of models are in stock now. Give Wayne Lowe a call and make a deal.
Congratulations to Mr. Laver Burrows and Ms. Brenda Rolle, who were wed on October 15th at the Assemblies of God Church in Sandy Point. The bride is the daughter of Mr. Bernard Rolle of South Andros and Mr. and Mrs. George Burrows of Sandy Point are the proud parents of the groom. Mr. Laver Burrows, who moved to Abaco in June of this year, now calls Sandy Point her home.

Sandy Point Couple Wed

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"Eclent House" (Ref #443) 8 bedroom, 11 bath fully furnished beachfront home, 3,000 square feet, sleeps 60+ guests. Frontage, recently renovated. Price $2,500,000.

"Casuarina Beach Home" (Ref #350) Fabulous 2 story 6 bedroom, 5.5 bath, fully furnished, plus efficiencies, pool, 80’ frontage, recently renovated. Price $2,400,000.

"Harbour’s Edge" (Ref #391) 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2,502 sq. ft. harbour front home, 80’ of bulkhead for dock with 80’ depth. Waterfront views through large glass doors, open kitchen, interior doors include hand painted tropical mural, 2 car garage, 1/3 acre lot with privacy walls, Mediterranean style pool, fully furnished. Price $1,950,000.

"Bluefin Beach Condo" (Ref #409) 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath totally townhouse with ocean views just steps from the beach, furnished, rental history $495,000.

Canal Lot on Brigantine Bay (Ref #321) Great lot with 100’ on the water, pool, dockage, perfect lot for a 45’ yacht. Price $450,000.

"Lone Palm" (Ref #380) 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 470 sq. ft. home on 2 lots with office space, pool, 100’ dockage, perfect location for a 45’ yacht. Price $425,000.

"Turtle Rocks" (Ref #431) Large waterfront lot includes 20,000+ sq.ft with 110’ of waterfront on the Sea of Abaco. Deep water access, views of Spanish Cay just 3 miles south. Price $910,000.

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November 15, 2005  The Abaconian  Page 23 B

We regret that incorrect information was given in the last issue concerning Tiffany.
By Nancy Russell
Sometimes in a small town or area such as we have here, the do-gooders never get the kudos they deserve for all the good things they do. Each month we will be looking for all the good deeds being done around this area to give our kudos award to.

My first kudo goes to Pattie Toler, a resident of Eastern Shores in Marsh Harbour. She and her husband, Bob, have maintained a morning information program on the VHF radio each morning at 8:15 a.m. on channel 68 called the Cruisers Net. It was started to give local information to the boaters coming to Abaco. As Pattie says, she “just volunteered” to do the program, receiving her script from Dave and Kathy Ralph who where doing it; that was 16 years ago.

Information about bars and restaurants, where to fill their propane tanks, grocery stores, hours of operations, medical clinics, and on and on. Pattie is a wealth of local knowledge. Taking on this info program has been time consuming and requires getting up very early every morning to put together all the info she can to pass on to our boating guests who arrive here with no means to communicate but by VHF radio. The program carried us all through many hurricanes over the last few years, broadcasting info for homeowners and boaters alike, 1, as many others, rely on the info given out during this program, especially after hurricanes. We got info from the program that we could not get anywhere else on Abaco after the storm of 1999 and then last year after the two big ones, Frances and Jeanie. As many of us know, to keep a program going as the Cruisers Net, it takes much dedication and a very strong personal desire to get all the info she can to the public. They receive no money for doing this free service. When many people would lose interest and just stop over time, Pattie just keeps going with new updates and so much more info.

After the storms last year we could not make calls to loved ones in the U.S. This program put together locals with boaters who had access to single side band radios and/or satellite phones to get info back to the U.S. to family members who needed to know if we were alive or here or if we got blown away. A lot of info was passed along as to what the situation was in N.Orth A Baco and South A Baco and all areas in between. The Tolers maintain a weather info station that is always so helpful. As any weather reporting goes, it is not always an exact science but does give us what we need to know.

So special kudos go out to Bob and Pattie Toler. Thank you for all you do for the community.

Kudos Korner

Nippers
Bar and Grill

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2005/COM/COM 0032
IN THE SUPREME COURT
COMMERCIAL DIVISION

THE MATTER OF TRANQUILITY BEACH RESORTS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, CHAPTER 308
OF THE STATUTE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

NOTICE OF ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for the Winding-up of the above-named Company, TRANQUILITY BEACH RESORTS LIMITED, by the Supreme Court was on the 27th day of May, 2005 presented to the said Court by RANDY WALTER ALBURY of Guana Cay, Abaco, The Bahamas.

AND that the said Petition is directed to be heard before The Honorable Justice Ms. Vera Watkins of the Supreme Court sitting at Court No. 3, 2nd Floor, Supreme Court Building, Bank Lane, Nassau, Bahamas on Monday, the 23rd of January, 2006 at 10.30 in the forenoon; and any Creditor or Contributor of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing in person or by his Counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any Creditor or Contributor of the said Company requiring such copy.

Signed
Callenders & Co.
One Millars Court
P.O. Box N-7117
Nassau, Bahamas
Att’s: Cheryl D. Cartwright
Attorneys for the Petitioner, Randy Walter Albury Telephone: (242) 322-2511

NOTE: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm; or his or their solicitor (if any), and must be served or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed not later than 4 o’clock in the afternoon of the 22nd day of January, 2006.

Softball

From Page 17

Advertise in
The Abaconian

Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire & Rescue

On behalf of the Marsh Harbour Volunteer Fire Department

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the businesses and private individuals for their donations for the years 2004 and 2005.

Without the on-going support to the Volunteer Fire Department, the maintenance, upkeep and readiness of our equipment would be next to impossible.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A growing financial organization invites applications from suitably qualified persons for:

1) The position of Branch Manager, at its Marsh Harbour Office

Interested Abaco residents meeting the above requirements, are requested to forward their resume to the address below, by November 18th 2005, at the latest.

The Human Resources Manager
P.O. Box AB-20187
Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas

From Page 17

Abaconian    November 15, 2005

Nippers
Bar and Grill

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS 2005/COM/COM 0032
IN THE SUPREME COURT
COMMERCIAL DIVISION

THE MATTER OF TRANQUILITY BEACH RESORTS LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, CHAPTER 308
OF THE STATUTE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

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The Regatta Committee’s three-year term has ended, and no one on the current committee will run again. Anybody interested in running should contact Bernadette Harding and the A baco Tourist Office for details. She would like to see a wide representation of A baco on the Committee. “It’s supposed to be A LL A baco!” she said.

“It should be broad base committee,” agrees Mr. MacIntosh. He says there should be seven to 12 committee members and elec-
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“Hopefully, we can put all this negativ-
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Mr. M orley agrees that there is a good sup-
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and the families lost everything. Grand Cay who will then make distributions. Ten homes on Grand Cay were destroyed response. Ms. Martin said so far the response has been good, and she has the assistance Grand Cay. The drive, which started on October 28th, will continue as long as there is drive of clothing, shoes and household goods for the victims of Hurricane Wilma on Ms. Gwen Martin and her team at Special Touch Beauty Salon are spearheading a collection Ms. Philippa Farrington of Abaco Central through the US and Caribbean. Based in South Florida serving Florida, the Keys, The Bahamas and other destinations for the victims of Hurricane Wilma on Grand Cay. Ms. Philippa Farrington of Abaco Central High Anchor Club said while most people made donations, some refused because it was done on Halloween night.
Mr. de Savary said that the Abaco Club has enjoyed playing with Mr. Els and his family to the club and said, “We are privileged to have Mr. Els as a member and we do expect many more upcoming PGA events here.”

Mr. de Savary said that the Abaco Club is currently exploring the prospects of hosting a major PGA event early next year.

Open Letter  From Page 1

Mr. Kenny Gargiulo, the interim golf pro at the Abaco Club, had the pleasure of playing a round with Mr. Els and had this to say. “It was an honour to have Mr. Els and his family to the club and said, “It was an honour to have Mr. Els and his family to the club.”

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Telephone: (242) 367 - 5454
Bay Street - P.O. Box AB 30777
Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas
e-mail: abaco@hgchristie.com

**HOMES**

**Great Guana Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay and North Abaco**

- **Casa Sirena** - 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 1,921 sq.ft. Ocean Beachfront. Superb, beautifully maintained. 3 Bedroom, 3 bath 3,300 sq.ft. home on two levels. Wrap-around covered and open decks. Fabulous ocean views. Central A/C. Generator. #AB134 - $1,935,000.

- **Twin Dolphin Point** - 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 1,536 sq.ft. home, 440 sq.ft of covered verandahs. Set on a 0.649 sq.ft. parcel. None of The north-eastern area of the Great Guana Settlement. Fully furnished with equipment. #W100121 - NEW LISTING $785,000.

**Green Turtle Cay**


**Cranemoore**

- **Cragamo** - 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 1,536 sq.ft. home. Set on 1/4 acre. Fabulous views of the sea and outlying cays. Fully Furnished. #AB138 - UNDER CONTRACT

**Great Guana Cay, Green Turtle Cay, Treasure Cay and North Abaco**

- **Green Door** - 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 1,315 sq.ft. home. Over 1,300 sq.ft. of covered and open decks. Situated on two lots for a total of 1.04 Acres. Central A/C. 5 Golf Carts. Auxiliary Generator Great Ocean Views. Fully Furnished. #AB169 - NEW LISTING $685,000.

- **Lady Mia** - 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, 2,200 sq.ft. home on two levels. Central A/C. Generator. Over, 2,000 sq.ft. of covered and open patios and decks. Fabulous ocean views. Swimming Pool. #AB86 - $1,000,000.

- **Casa Cézanne** - 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 1,815 sq.ft. prime ocean Beachfront. Fabulous views. Private Dock. 10/15/05

- **Summer Camp** - 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, 1,000 sq.ft. house on two levels with Central A/C, 360 sq. ft. Shop, 390 sq. ft. Bar. 1,317 sq.ft of covered and open decks. Fabulous views. Private Dock. #AB135 - NEW LISTING $1,545,000.

- **Sunset** - 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1,200 sq.ft. home on two levels with Central A/C, 360 sq. ft. Shop, 260 sq. ft. Bar. 1,157 sq.ft of covered and open decks. Fabulous views. Private Dock. #AB135 - NEW LISTING $1,545,000.

- **Green Door** - 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 1,315 sq.ft. home. Over 1,300 sq.ft. of covered and open decks. Situated on two lots for a total of 1.04 Acres. Central A/C. 5 Golf Carts. Auxiliary Generator Great Ocean Views. Fully Furnished. #AB169 - NEW LISTING $685,000.

- **Cranemoore** - 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 1,536 sq.ft. home. Set on 1/4 acre. Fabulous views of the sea and outlying cays. Fully Furnished. #AB138 - UNDER CONTRACT

Meet our Abaco Team of Agents and discover Why you need a Managing Broker in our H.G. Christie Ad on Page 2 of the first section.

H.G. CHRISTIE LTD
Providing Elegant Lifestyles In The Islands

The Bahamas Oldest and most extensive real estate service - Global Exposure - Local Expertise - Over eighty years of service - Bahamas Largest Real Estate Data Base - The largest number of luxury property listings in Abaco - The most extensive geographically distributed and best trained active agent network in the Bahamas - The most professional, best researched and produced marketing materials in the Bahamas - Agents' own vessels for convenient access to all areas.

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HGChristie.com

- **Twin Dolphin Point** - 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 1,536 sq.ft. Ocean Beachfront. Total of 3,000 sq.ft. - Four 1/2 bedroom, 1 bath units and three of North Abaco. Fully furnished. - Central A/C- Laundry Building- Excellent Rental History & #AB156 - $925,000.

- **Dolphin Beach Estates** - 4 Bedroom, 4 bath, 2,100 sq.ft. home. 750 sq.ft of raised decks - Situated on one half acre. Central A/C Ocean and Sea of Abaco views, Beach and Dock Access. Furnished. #AS1731 - NEW LISTING - $355,000.

- **All you need to know about real estate in The Bahamas!**

- **Cranemoore** - 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 1,536 sq.ft. home. Set on 1/4 acre. Fabulous views of the sea and outlying cays. Fully Furnished. #AB138 - UNDER CONTRACT

- **New Listing** - 2 Storey Waterfront Home. A total of 9 bedrooms, 8 baths in 4,000 sq.ft. Sit up as fine four separate rental units with great history. About 1/2 Acres with 170 of Sea of Abaco frontage. Furnished. Fabulous Views. Private dock. #AB141 - Each Home Separately - $75,000. The Complete Estate - $1,925,000.

- **New Listing** - 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, 725 sq.ft. Ocean Beachfront. Total of 3,000 sq.ft. - Four 1/2 bedroom, 1 bath units and three of North Abaco. Fully furnished. - Central A/C- Laundry Building- Excellent Rental History & #AB156 - $925,000.

- **Twin Dolphin Point** - 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 1,536 sq.ft. Ocean Beachfront. Total of 3,000 sq.ft. - Four 1/2 bedroom, 1 bath units and three of North Abaco. Fully furnished. - Central A/C- Laundry Building- Excellent Rental History & #AB156 - $925,000.

- **New Listing** - 2 Storey Waterfront Home. A total of 9 bedrooms, 8 baths in 4,000 sq.ft. Sit up as fine four separate rental units with great history. About 1/2 Acres with 170 of Sea of Abaco frontage. Furnished. Fabulous Views. Private dock. #AB141 - Each Home Separately - $75,000. The Complete Estate - $1,925,000.

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