Dead Sperm Whale Concerns Cherokee Residents

Boaters happened upon an awful surprise on November 16 when they met the remains of a Sperm Whale floating in waters just East of Cherokee Sound. Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organization (BMMRO) noted on their social media page that they were alerted first thing Friday of a large dead stranded sperm whale. They were taken the carcass, estimated to be about 45 feet long, where they took photographs and collected samples in order to hopefully determine the cause of death.

They said that there were no obvious external injuries, but as it was heavily scavenged by sharks and decomposed, they were not able to determine its cause of death. They noted on Facebook that they were alerted to “fisk killing sharks that are scavenging on the carcass of this whale... We have reported this to local Fisheries Officers.” It was added that “killing sharks is illegal in the Bahamas and they are also going to be the best way to get rid of this extremely large whale whose smell will only get worse.” Photo: BMMRO

South Abaco Development Being Considered

By Timothy Roberts

During a town meeting held by the Minister of Tourism and Aviation, Dionisio D’Aguilar it was mentioned that the government is in the early stages of considering a development in South Abaco.

The announcement comes almost eight years after a prior proposal by a Georgia company Valencia Group went cold. The initial announcement was met with much controversy.

While Mr. D’Aguilar did not name the developer as it is still in the early stages of discussions, he did indicate that it was not Valencia Group.

Residents feared that the prior proposal which included a large-scale development of South Abaco, including three hotels, two golf courses, and an amphitheater in an area near the Abaco National Park, would be environmentally harmful and not in line with the character of Abaco which sees a stream of visitors who are attracted by the fact that it is less developed than New Providence and Grand Bahama.

Residents were further disgruntled by the pushing of a road through the eastern side of the National Park where it was feared some part nests with eggs were destroyed.

Mr. D’Aguilar said the project as he knows it does not include a marina nor a golf course. He said the government will do their due diligence and bring the proposal to the people in a town meeting when they are at that point.

Governor General Visits Abaco Students

Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling spoke to students on Nov. 14, 2018 at Agape Christian School’s Grace gym. She is flanked by District Superintendent of Education, Mrs. Dominique McCartney-Russell (right) and a body-guard. See Section B Page 1.
LOCAL NEWS

Marinas and Maritime Industry See Substantial Uptick

By Timothy Roberts

While addressing Abacanians at a town meeting in Marsh Harbour, Minister of Tourism and Aviation Dionisio D’Aguilar noted that while overall tourism numbers were up, marina operators were seeing an exceptional rise in business.

Noting the damage to the Eastern Caribbean caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Mr. D’Aguilar said that it seems that has led to many of the tourists expected to go there having diverted to the islands of The Bahamas, and Abaco in particular.

He said the based on the first eight months of this year the maritime sector – which includes sailboaters and cruisers - is having its best year since being in existence, adding that the challenge is now to keep them here.

The Ministry of Tourism’s Senior Manager responsible for the Boating Sector, Richard Treco said that Bahamian marinas believe 2018 could produce a 50 percent year-over-year increase in visiting boaters as the country moves to generate further interest in this sector.

“In 2018, the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation saw boating numbers double in some islands, and saw an overall increase in numbers for the same periods in 2017,” said Mr. Treco.

“In 2016 we accommodated some 18,595 pleasure boaters, and in 2017 that number increased to 21,090 pleasure boaters. From all indications, and based on the 2018 boating performance thus far, we anticipate that 2018 will exceed the previous year’s performance by as much as 50 percent.

‘No other vertical market provides the economic level of spin-offs into the communities that boating does,” he continued. “It has the greatest economic impact in our Family Islands and truly trickles down to every sector in our communities from the marina shop operator, fuel provider, restaurant and hotel operator, to the ‘mom and pop’ sundry store.’

Molly McIntosh, general manager at the Bluff House Beach Resort & Marina in Green Turtle Cay, said 2018 was a busy year for her 40-slip marina also. “We saw business levels increase by at least 20 percent for the period October 2017 to October 2018,” she said.

“The Incredibly great weather conditions in The Bahamas, coupled with a strong and vibrant US economy, have definitely contributed to the business success we have received this year. Additionally, we have seen a heavy return of past customers, some of whom were absent for almost 15 years.”

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Press Release

In an effort to improve health outcomes for The Bahamas, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) launched a 45-day consultation period with stakeholders on October 23rd to discuss proposed changes to the program. Today, Dr. Robin Roberts, Chairman of the NHIA Board, announced that the consultation period will be extended by an additional 10 days to provide more communities and stakeholder groups with the opportunity to share their feedback about potential ways forward for the NHI program. This means that the 45-day consultation period, which was originally scheduled to be completed by December 6, 2018, will now continue until December 16, 2018.

The announcement comes after a series of successful community meetings were held in Grand Bahama, which resulted in positive feedback and meaningful dialogue about the future of NHI, and how it can be transformed to better serve the needs of Bahamians.

“NHI Bahamas is transforming to improve the health and wellbeing of all Bahamians. I am encouraged by the meaningful and productive discussions we have had with stakeholders and members of the public during the consultation period so far, and look forward to welcoming additional voices to the table by extending the deadline for consultation. Our objective is to build a NHI program that will act as a catalyst for change in the way Bahamians experience health care, and working with communities on a path forward is exactly how we will achieve that. It is important that Bahamians make their voice heard and contribute to the debate on the implementation of this program as we move towards universal healthcare in The Bahamas,” said Dr. Robin Roberts, Chairman of the NHIA Board.

On November 15th, the NHIA will travel to Exuma to meet with local residents and stakeholders as consultations for NHI Bahamas continue. Other upcoming visits are planned for Abaco, Eleuthera, Andros, Long Island and New Providence to hear from more Bahamians and stakeholder groups on NHI Bahamas.

Stakeholders and members of the public can also review the policy paper online and submit their feedback through the online consultation survey. Based on the feedback collected during the consultation period, the NHIA will then present recommendations to the Government of The Bahamas on the way forward for NHI Bahamas.

Party Celebrates Snappas, FRIENDS and Going Green

Sailor Jane, a Reggae artist from St. Augustine, Florida, performed at Snappas Bar and Grill at a special event celebrating 15 years of Snappas and 30 years of Friends of the Environment (a local environmental group) on Friday, November 16. All proceeds from the $10 cover charge to enter were donated to Friends of the Environment. Director of Friends, Cha Boyce said that they were also celebrating the beginning of Snappas going green as the Bar and Grill as they get on board with the government’s initiative to ban single-use plastics by 2020. Snappas are using compostable cups and containers obtained through Every Child Counts (ECC) instead of Styrofoam or plastic.

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MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO PH: (242) 367-2271
By Timothy Roberts

Minister of Tourism and Aviation Dionisio D’Aguilar held a town meeting at the Anglican Hall in Marsh Harbour speaking about the future management of the airport and other topics related to his portfolio.

Mr. D’Aguilar opened with the report that tourism is doing “exceptionally well; tourism is doing exceptionally well on the island of Abaco.”

He said that stopover visitors are up over 18 percent for Abaco and nationwide stopover visitors are up 15.1 percent for the first 8 months of 2018.

“That’s an additional 150,000 stopover visitors and estimates say they have spent over $225 million additional dollars in the Bahamas, which is phenomenal,” he said.

“Tourism continues to be the engine of our economy and in places like Abaco it continues to do very, very well.”

He said that there are four reasons why tourism numbers are doing well this year, starting with an excellent economy in the United States of America. He said that 85 percent of our visitors arrive from North America and 76 percent of them from the USA. He said additionally that the “on-boarding of Bahamar has contributed 2,300 rooms to the inventory to Nassau – “if they run at 50 percent occupancy it will contribute about 250,000 additional visitors,” he said.

Mr. D’Aguilar said that the damage to the Southern Caribbean caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria led to many of the tourists expected to go there to have diverted to the islands of The Bahamas.

And he said finally that the Ministry of Tourism having adjusted their marketing strategy and taking advantage of new trends has also contributed to the growth of tourism.

As 70 percent of Americans purchase their vacations online the government decided to take advantage of the technology to gain additional stopover visitors.

He said they recently met with online travel site Expedia – their sales this year are up 25 percent – who sold 318,000 plane tickets to The Bahamas, 423,000 passengers, over 400,000 room nights.

He said the shift to this new strategy is yielding positive results.

Addressing aviation, and airports in particular Mr. D’Aguilar said the government is “looking at creating a silo at the Leonard M. Thompson International Airport (LTIA) where we will create a company that will in turn run that airport in much the same way that NAD (Nassau Airport Development Company) does.

He said that this will likely lead to a new additional passenger charge for the airport, but added that it is needed to generate the funds to afford the upkeep and maintenance of the airport.

He noted that The Bahamas has the most airports per capita in the world, and that after Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA) the second busiest airport in The Bahamas is the LTIA in Marsh Harbour.

He said that for the first eight months of 2018 LTIA has seen 95,000 visitors to Abaco by air, while 54,000 arrived in Grand Bahama for the same period.

Mr. D’Aguilar said that the money collected here will stay here and...
RBDF Says Report about Vessels "False and Misleading"

By Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF)

The recent report by a local tabloid stating that 8 of 11 Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) vessels were broken down are false and misleading.

"Reporting of unverified information to the general public as fact is blatantly irresponsible," said Commodore Bethel.

The RBDF has 9 Damen-built patrol craft and 2 Bahama Class vessels that were refitted by Damen in the Netherlands. Six out of the 9 Damen-built vessels are operational; 3 are non-operational, with 2 of them requiring short term maintenance due to normal wear and tear; and the third vessel (HMBS Dion Hanna) requiring longer term repair work due to a grounding.

The cost of repair for this vessel was grossly exaggerated and will be covered by insurance.

Short term maintenance work for 2 of the vessels can take 1 to 3 weeks to complete. This includes routine dry docking and generator repair. The longer term work for the third vessel can take up to 2 months once arrangements are finalized. Funding for these projects are available in the RBDF budget.

The 2 Bahama Class vessels are operational and are having their air-condition systems assessed by Damen at Coral Harbour Base as part of Damen’s refit package. These systems are under warranty.

It was recommended by the RBDF that the contracted service for Damen’s Field Service Engineer be converted from a ‘full time’ to an ‘as required’ basis, as all patrol craft were delivered and the RBDF engineers and technicians have acquired necessary experience with new systems. The renewal of a contractual agreement under the Sandy Bottom project is not necessary.

Adequate funding is available in the RBDF budget for payment of fuel for patrol boats.

“We will continue to protect our maritime borders, as we work in collaboration with our fellow law enforcement partners, and serve our wider community,” said Commodore Bethel.
Throughout my Optimist sailing career, the National Championships were the highlight of my year, especially since the event has always been held on various islands and at different sailing clubs throughout the country. The 2018 Optimist National Championships proved true to its reputation, full of adventure and new experiences, places, and people. On the 12th and 13th of October, 89 sailors from across the Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos, and the Cayman Islands traveled to Harbour Island to test their skills and determine who will be the next National Champion. Through the weekend, God could not have blessed us with more favorable weather conditions; no rain, great winds, and clear skies.

I was given the awesome privilege to accompany and coach three of Abaco's junior sailors to represent and compete for the title. Hope Town sailors Jasmine Aberle, Dawson Thompson, and Maison Koepke competed among 41 sailors in the Championship, or advanced, Fleet. This was Jasmine's first time sailing in the Championship Fleet after graduating from the Green, or beginner, Fleet at her last regatta. She sailed exceptionally well for her experience, including a 7th place finish in a race, completing the regatta in 25th. Dawson, probably the most comical of the group, had a part of his rudder break right before one of the races but managed to overcome his disadvantage and complete the race with one of his best finishes; Dawson finished the regatta in a solid 28th. Maison finished highest out of the team in 15th, he sailed a great regatta and had many battles with the top sailors.

All three of our sailors showed great talent and potential for the future, and I personally could not be more proud of them.

However, any experienced sailor can tell you that a regatta is more than just the races; the time spent traveling, eating, rigging, and being together is probably just as exciting. During our stay in Harbour Island, we explored, swam at the Pink Sands Beach, did many fun and crazy activities, and before leaving we even got to go horseback riding on the beach. As a coach, I believe that each of the kids created lifelong memories and friendships, hopefully learning a little more about themselves and their abilities in the process.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to coach these young sailors. Having the ability to share my sailing knowledge and invest in their lives is an extraordinary privilege. Additionally, none of this would have been possible without Rhiannon Thomas, who did a remarkable job of organizing and chaperoning the trip, the Hope Town Junior Sailing Association and all of the other supporters who helped make the trip possible for these three young sailors. I look forward with great anticipation to their next event and also to the future growth of Abaco's junior sailing program. For pictures and a highlight video visit Facebook.com @ AbacoSailing.
Christmas is in the air, well, metaphorically because it’s still hot as sin outside. So, more accurately, Abaco is getting festive – even if it’s not chilly.

Town has started to stir from its off-season slumber. Nary a free weekend from here until February without a community tree-lighting, Christmas Bazaar, Open House, Music Festival or fundraiser. I point to the Hope Town Boxcart Derby as the beginning of this fun season and Love Rush Junkanoo in February as the end. A time where residents and visitors alike get to enjoy the best Abaco’s varied communities have to offer. Between now and then, with Public Holidays every other week, productivity on-island is... less than optimal.

I have also found some choices that our government has made, or pursuing, less than optimal as well. But beyond the spirit of the holidays I’ve found Bahamians have developed a spirit of speaking up and speaking out in recent years. It sounds sappy (it may just be the nostalgic, warm glow this time of year brings with it) but I think we are going to be alright. I am impressed with the generation coming up, the economy is heating up and I see a current population less keen to sit quietly.

I don’t agree with all the noise in the street. But I can certainly appreciate citizens getting more vocal and active.

So, as we all participate the activities of this season, I remind you, my reader, don’t let cynicism and busywork distract you from the many blessings we have – especially here in Abaco. Enjoy the holidays. Enjoy the unique and warm community Abaco has fostered. And enjoy your families and friends.

Merry Christmas.
Merry Christmas!

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Press Release

The Combustion Music Hope Town Music Festival is again bringing their hit songwriters to the Abacos Dec 7 – 9, 2018. Founded in 2013, the festival has brought big time songwriters, who collectively have written over 150 #1 hit singles, to this incredible community.

“It was my goal to introduce many of my songwriter friends to this special island that my family and I have grown to love over the past 15 years, and to introduce Hope Town and its residents to the incredible musical talent of these writers, and finally and most importantly, to raise a bunch of money for some very worthy charities,” says Combustion Music founder and President Chris Farren.

In 2013, the festival brought a group of over 20 participants from Nashville and wowed the local crowds with packed shows at 4 different Hope Town venues over 3 days and nights. With the help of great sponsors both on the island and in the States, Hope Town Music Festival raised over $30,000 for three local charities in the first year. “We at SunTrust Music Row have been involved with the Hope Town Music Festival since its inception in 2013. We are so glad to be a part of such a great cause, that gives back to such a special place,” said SunTrust’s Dusty Miller. The festival has grown every year since. In 2015 the festival distributed over $55,000, over $75,000 in 2016, and over $150,000 in 2017.

Chip Esten, the star of ABC’s “Nashville” was a first-time performer in 2016 and will be joining us again this year. “I can’t remember a more enjoyable time than the long weekend I spent with Chris Farren and his Combustion Music family at the incredible Hope Town Music Festival. The world’s best songwriters in the world’s most beautiful place. What more could you ask? Only to be invited again!”

2017’s performers included Ashley Gorley, Brett James, Chris DeStefano, Jameson Rodgers, Chris Farren, Kelly Archer, Everette, Jon Nite and other special guests. Five-time ASCAP Songwriter of the Year, Ashley Gorley stated, “the locals and I know each other by name at this point. The islands are beyond beautiful, and the people couldn’t be kinder and more appreciative. I’m more than happy to help Combustion and Chris Farren raise money for the community, and I’ve got it on my calendar to come back every year.”

This year’s event will include perennial favorite and 5-time Songwriter of the Year, Ashley Gorley plus hit writers Brett James, Chris DeStefano, Jon Nite, Chip Esten, Chris and Jessica Farren, Jameson Rodgers, Kendell Marvel, and other special guests. The shows will kick off on December 7th at the Hope Town Harbour Lodge at 8pm and will continue with performances over the next three days at venues across Elbow Cay.

This year’s event will include perennial favorite and 5-time Songwriter of the Year, Ashley Gorley plus hit writers Brett James, Chris DeStefano, Jon Nite, Chip Esten, Chris and Jessica Farren, Jameson Rodgers, Kendell Marvel, and other special guests.
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Your Health Matters to God

In 2014 the Bahamas was ranked 6th in the world for obesity. And just to give an idea of the reality of the problem: the U.S. known all over the world for its obesity problem, and the U.S. ranked at number 9 (below the Bahamas). It has been estimated that 70% of Bahamians are overweight. The Bahamas actually has the highest overweight rate in all of the Caribbean and Latin America. Obesity is now being referred to as an epidemic in our country.

Obesity amongst Christians is also rising at a very fast rate all over the world. Why this is the case I am not entirely sure. And we could debate for hours about the reasons why, but the truth is, the reasons don’t matter. What matters most is that we should begin to take our health more seriously because our health does matter to God!

1. Your Body is a Temple

We are told that good health goes well with our souls. We are also told that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (for those who are Christ-followers).

Why do you think that is worded as a temple and not a house or a dwelling place?

Temples are holy. Temples are treated with respect. Temples are cared after. We don’t care as much if our houses are messy. Houses are a place of comfort, a place where we live. And in turn, they appear as if they are lived in. They are messy, they are dirty, and we don’t take care of them the way we do a church or a temple. To let a temple become run down is a disgrace.

If our bodies are temples, why do we not take better care of them? Why do we not eat cleaner, exercise more, do everything we have to in order to be as healthy as possible?

2. You Should Want to be Healthy

Approaching this topic with the fact that we are still referred to as a Christian nation, I’m going to assume for the most part that we want to live for Christ and desire to do God’s will.

And if it is our desire to do whatever He calls us to do, for however long He calls us to do it, then we should make sure we are healthy enough. We should want to be in as good of physical shape as we can, so that we are ready for whatever God may ask us to do.

Not everyone will be called to do extreme things, but the truth is, we don’t know what we are going to be called to do. And we should be available, willing, and healthy enough that we don’t give God a ‘no’ as an answer because we have neglected our health.

3. You were Created to Move

We have joints, muscles, tendons. We are able to move on different planes. We can move forward, backward, side to side. Almost everyone is born with the ability to walk, run, jump, skip. It is clear that God created our bodies for movement, and not to be stagnant.

And so the question is, if we were created to move, why do we spend so much of our time still? Why are we not training our bodies to be able to move more and to move better?

Far too many of us get winded just from walking to the car. This is not the way our bodies were designed. We should be walking, stretching, strengthening our muscles, and staying active as long as possible.

The truth is we are not going to cure our nation’s epidemic overnight. But if we each made a vow to live life a little healthier, it is possible that it would eventually spread throughout our nation, one person at a time.
Onions

Full-sized bulbng onions are the last of the major vegetable groups to plant and will produce their harvest in May. Non-bulbing onions such as scalions could have been started earlier in the year but large onions must wait until conditions are just right.

Onions require lengthening days in order to swell and produce the traditional onion shape. The winter solstice on 21st December is the shortest day of the year and your onion seeds should be in the ground by then. Make sure your seeds are labelled ‘short day’. Long day onions are used further north but we require short day onions.

Some onion varieties are day neutral but these tend to be smaller types. The seed you buy from Pinewood Nursery have been specially selected for local gardeners.

You may wish to grow two varieties. Salad onions are mild and usually larger than yellow onions which are the ones which make your eyes water when you peel them and are great for cooking. White onions are of the salad type and are usually more expensive. Red onions are also mild and tend to be the sweetest of all.

Onions love sandy soil that has been enriched with compost. Exuma farmers have raised great onions for years using sand and seaweed. The seeds should be started in trays or a seed bed and, sown now, should be ready to transplant by the end of January. The slips should be planted out in rows with 5 to 6 inches between plants or in blocks the same distance apart.

Plant the slips quite deep with a couple of inches of green leaf above ground. Onions need regular watering early on but less once the bases start to swell.

Onions send up tubular leaves and each leaf represents a layer of onion flesh. When onions reach full size the leaves wilt and dry. When fully dried the should be pulled from the ground, have the roots trimmed away, and left to cure for a week or so, turning them over daily.

Some onions are good keepers and store well; others need to be eaten within a month or so. Bunches of onions can have their dry leaves plaited and hung on hooks in an airy shaded position. If you are no good at plaiting you can trim and hang your onions in net bags and massage them every few days to ensure they each receive light and air. When you trim the foliage from your onions you should leave two inches of stalk. If you trim too closely the onions may rot. Once the onions are fully cured the stalks can be trimmed flush to look like supermarket produce.

Leeks are long non-bulbing onions that infuse soups and stews with their rich and distinctive flavour. They are little used in Bahamian cuisine and are very expensive compared with regular onions. Give them a try, however, for they are prized in many areas of the world. Allow the seedlings to stay in the seed bed until they are very well rooted and then transplant very deep. I like to add a ‘tea’ made from rainwater-soaked compost to leeks and other onions to give them a tonic.

Now is also the time to set out garlic and shallots. Individual garlic cloves should be buried two inches deep in rich sandy soil and kept fairly dry as too much water is detrimental. Only use perfect plump garlic cloves and leave the ‘skin’ on. Your garlic plants will take 5 or 6 months to mature but will are fairly maintenance free.

Shallots are grown the same way using individual divided bulbs. Make sowings once a month because shallots can last well into the summer.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks on Behalf of The British Legion-Bahamas Branch

On behalf of The British Legion – Bahamas Branch and the Abaco Sub-Committee I would like to extend thanks to all persons that made donations to this worthy cause.

The British Legion-Bahamas Branch, is an official Non-Profit Organization registered under the 1992 Companies Act of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, with its Headquarters located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

The above-mentioned annual financial assistance would provide a monthly Ex-Serviceman Grant for needy Ex-Servicemen who served in World War II and upon their demise, a small Widow’s Grant for their surviving spouses. The Government of The Bahamas also provides a small annual stipend to the local Bahamian Branch, whose responsibility is to distribute these grants to its registered Bahamian Ex-Servicemen and Widows.

Thank You
Keith Bishop
Abaco Sub-Committee Chair

Government forces Business License Amendment through Parliament

Other than the pot calling the kettle black about “shoddy accounting”, what could be the motive for government forcing businesses to provide audited financials with their business license application?

Could it be they want to measure what a new corporate tax will bring upon implementation?

Maybe it should not be surprising this legislation was forced through Parliament without debate?

What happened to the Green Paper on this subject? In fact, what has happened to following Parliamentary procedure with Bills? Successive Governments have now become like American presidents with their use of Executive Orders to circumvent the democratic process.

It is very discouraging when a political party promises accountability while campaigning only to reverse course on several fronts once elected.

Yours in Liberty,
Rick Lowe
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New Businesses

Es Butler Services

By Canishka Alexander

Es Butler Services (EBS) owned by Magheo and Esther Wheeler specializes in housekeeping; business cleaning; private cooking, grilling and catering; bartender services; servers at private events; running errands; grocery shopping; pet walking; and house management.

Based on Abaco, contact EBS today at 1(242)817-8875 or 1(242)458-8156, so they can cater to your every need even if it means travelling to another island in The Bahamas. The Wheels can also be contacted by email at eswheeler@gmail.com or via their Facebook business page: esbutlerservices.

EBS’ business hours are flexible and designed to fit your schedule. Es Butler Services: “Your Happiness is our Satisfaction.”

Leya’s Icecream Parlour & Take-Away

By Canishka Alexander

Toward the end of July, Leya’s Icecream Parlour & Take-Away opened just in time to catch the last of summer’s heat. Leya’s Icecream Parlour & Take-Away is our Satisfaction.”

The home-based business offers scrumptious food items like pizza burger with fries, conch burgers, cheeseburgers, cracked conch and lobster snaks, wings snacks, and a variety of pizza toppings including veggie and specialty pizzas, pizza combos, overladen baked potatoes and party platters with all the fixings.

For the sweet-toothed customers, take your pick from DF Treat’s cinnabites, tropical cheesecake salads guava duff, cupcakes or mini cheese-cakes.

Business hours are Monday to Friday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 1(242)458-3309 or 1(242)438-1521 to place your order for pick-up or delivery.

DF Treats

By Canishka Alexander

DF Treats delivers a menu that will leave your mouth watering, and according to its slogan, “Satisfy Your Craves.”

The appetizer was a citrus-kissed fried eggplant with garam masala, roasted pumpkin puree, and for the entrée, he made a roasted duck breast perfected with cognac-infused mushrooms, petit vegetables and roasted pumpkin puree.

Chef Antonio Huyler expressed that: “[Chef Jaquille] placing third was a great accomplishment, and we were all excited as this was the first competition he had done in a while especially competing against chefs from Nassau, who have the opportunity to compete regularly.

“He has done the Blue Hole and Abaco very proud and should be recognized.”

Chef Jaquille is a prominent young man from North Abaco. He graduated from S.C Bootle High School in 2011, and is currently a student at Johnson and Wales University (JWU) in Miami.

“Prior to JWU, I was enrolled in the College of The Bahamas where I studied in the college of culinary arts for a year. While studying, I also cooked for homeowners back home in Abaco,” he shared.

His professional career started at the age of 16, as he offered his services at the Spinnaker Restaurant and Abaco Beach Resort.

While in high school, he enrolled in competitions that gave him access to scholarships and sponsors.

“Unlike many other children, I was always a very hard and determined worker from young,” Chef Jaquille explained. “When I was a child, my parents made sure that playing was at a minimum, [so] work was all I knew. This work ethic habit grew from my childhood days to the present.”

Chef Jaquille Edgecombe competed in the Bahamas Food Services (BFS) Food Show 2018.

A sous chef at Da Blue Hole restaurant in Marsh Harbour, Chef Jaquille prepared two courses: a seafood appetizer followed by an entrée featuring duck.

The appetizer was a citrus-kissed grouper lollipop with tropical salsa, and for the entrée, he made a roasted duck breast perfected with cognac-infused mushrooms, petit vegetables and roasted pumpkin puree.

Chef Antonio Huyler expressed that: “[Chef Jaquille] placing third was a great accomplishment, and we were all excited as this was the first competition he had done in a while especially

Abaco Chef Places in BFS Food Show

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BUSINESS
Tourism’s Marketing Strategy
Bearing ‘Real Fruit’ for Family Islands

By Matt Maura

The Ministry of Tourism’s marketing strategy of promoting The Bahamas as a 16-island destination is yielding the desired results of creating a distinct brand identity for individual islands of the Family Islands of The Bahamas.

The resulting impact has been a “whopping” 20 per cent increase in visitor arrivals to the Family Islands between January and August of 2018 when compared to the same time period last year.

An added benefit of the strategy, Tourism officials report, has been an increase in investor confidence in The Bahamas that is “evidenced by a deeper stake in our destination being secured by the leading cruise lines; the construction of boutique resorts throughout our islands; the building and expansion of marinas and the coming on stream of a whole gamut of new touristic offerings.”

Addressing a Service of Thanksgiving for management and staff of The Bahamas’ Ministry of Tourism and Aviation at Christ Church Cathedral, Thursday, November 22, 2018, Minister of Tourism and Aviation, the Hon. Dionisio D’Aguilar, said Bahamian islands such as Exuma, Abaco, Bimini, Harbour Island, Eleuthera, and the like, are becoming household names in the consciousness of international travel consumers, as a result of the strategy.

Minister D’Aguilar said the reality is that the world is taking note of what is happening in The Bahamas.

“Our destination overall, is becoming more visible in the international travel marketplace, resulting in greater investor confidence in our nation,” Minister D’Aguilar said.

“There is an ever-increasing desire for our destination among travel consumers; more and more people are coming to experience The Bahamas, (and) the majority of our guests are leaving with a good level of satisfaction about their vacation experience. They are sharing their experiences and we are delighted to see our destination being recognized internationally with another award. They are sharing their experience. And we are delighted to see our destination internationally recognized by a number of prestigious travel awards.”

“Proverbs 27:2 says: ‘Let another the praise you and not your own mouth; a stranger and not your own lips.’ The word of God is always on point,” Minister D’Aguilar added.

Minister D’Aguilar said 2018 has been a year of increase for Bahamas tourism thus far. He said the country’s visitor arrivals statistics show a “marked increase” over the first eight months of 2018 when compared to 2017.

“This current year 2018 has proven to be a year of increase for that we give thanks. In Nassau, we have seen a 15 per cent increase in stopover visitors, air arrivals, between January and August of this year, are up, when compared to last year. Visitor arrivals, air and sea combined, to the Family Islands have shown an increase of a whopping 20 per cent between January and August of this year.

“(Today) we pause to give thanks for all of these positive trends and others that are taking place in our destination. Thanks be to God, we are seeing the fruits of our labour,” Minister D’Aguilar added.

Western Air to Add Treasure Cay and Marsh Harbour Flights

By Jerome Sawyer

Western Air, the largest privately owned airline in The Bahamas, completes Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority’s (BCAA) certification process for its newly acquired Embraer ERJ 145 long range (LR) 50 seater jets. Western Air signed an agreement with Embraer to acquire four (4) Embraer ERJ 145 LR jets, two of which are presently in The Bahamas, the third is to be delivered in the first week of December 2018 and the fourth aircraft is scheduled to be delivered in the first quarter of 2019.

The jet aircrafts are powered by Rolls Royce advanced, high-efficiency engines. These aircrafts have the ability to fly internationally to destinations up to 1500 nautical miles away. The 145 Jets will allow Western Air to expand to multiple destinations in the Caribbean and Latin America, including Santo Domingo, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and Panama. As well as northern destinations such as Toronto, Canada. While international destinations are on the horizon, the airline also plans on providing daily jet service between Nassau and Grand Bahama, Marsh Harbour and Exuma. Western Air will use its current Saab 340A fleet to add flight service into New Bight, Cat Island and Treasure Cay, Abaco.

Western Air signed a five year, multi-million dollar engine support agreement with Rolls Royce, as well as a five year Pool Program agreement with Embraer for aircraft parts and support. Embraer has worked closely with Western Air providing additional pilot support and aircraft technical representatives on site in The Bahamas who will remain in the country as the airline transitions into the 145 jet aircrafts. Western Air becomes the first airline in The Bahamas and the Caribbean region to operate the ERJ 145 jets.

The airline made a significant investment into its long standing personnel. Western Air’s Captains and First Officers were sent to Flight Safety International in St. Louis, Missouri where they successfully completed their ERJ 145 jet training and went on to do additional flight training with Embraer Support Captains. Flight Safety maintenance instructors came to The Bahamas earlier this year to provide detailed training on the aircraft to the Western Air Aircraft Maintenance Department. Further, Embraer also flew representatives to The Bahamas to provide pre-lease ERJ 145 jet training to Western Air’s dispatchers. Additional ramp and ground training was also conducted for the ground support team.

BCAA’s certification process included five phases and an extensive review, observation, inspections and demonstrations for the new aircraft type to be added to Western Air’s operations specifications. The certification was led by the Manager of the Safety Oversight Department, Mrs. Julia Braithwaite Roulle and the Certification Coordinator and Chief Inspector Mr. Donald Barrett. Western Air and BCAA are to sign official documentation on Tuesday, November 20, 2018.

Western Air will launch jet service between Nassau and Freeport Thursday, November 22, 2018. Start dates for other destinations will be announced in the coming days.

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HOLIDAY CHEER

Light Up Christmas

By: TX O’Kelley

He was determined to string lights on the palm trees in front of the house. Mom said she thought he had seen it on a beer commercial: Christmas lights on a palm tree on a tropical island.

So my brothers and I sweated in the Bahamian December sun, wrestled with the rickety wooden ladder, and generally had a miserable time stringing lights in the palms. The tallest was over thirty feet. I got to the climb to the top. The house and the cay looked peaceful from up here. When Dad hollered up to see what was taking me so long I acted like I couldn’t hear him.

Afterward Mom called us inside to help her make cookies. That wasn’t something she would have bothered us with before. But this first year on the cay she was pulling out all the stops to make it Christmasy.

Matt kept eating the little candies that were supposed to be the eyes on the cookies. Peter clapped his flour covered hands to make a puff like Lebron James. Mom said that eight year olds know better. Then she kicked us out and said we might not get to eat the cookies. Peter clapped his flour on a palm tree on a tropical island.

“Jack, do you think Santa can find this place?”

I looked over at Peter. His hand shielded his gray eyes from the sun. I knew the boys were worried about presents. There had been no signs of gifts around the island, just a few small packages from relatives beneath the scrappy pine in the house. Dad had been back and forth three times to Little Harbour, two miles across the Sea of Abaco, that week. The boys and I had unpacked the boat. There were no mysterious packages spotted. But it was Christmas Eve, and I had faith in Santa. And Dad and Mom.

“Of course he can. He’s got a sleigh. You can see everything from 3000 feet. The cay stands out like a lovely diamond necklace on the slim curved palms. We all cheered. Then the lights went out. What now?” Dad muttered, and turned to check the lines. A moment later Mom called from the porch “Power’s out.” Dad groaned. Power outage is frequent on the cay. Dad says the undersea cable that brings the power from the big island is so fragile a jellyfish sneezing will knock it out.

He shook his head “No can do without that switch. Christmas in the dark. Perfect.” He turned and walked off towards the shed.

“Does this mean Santa can’t find us?” Peter asked.

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Season’s Greetings

May the magic of Christmas be with you and yours throughout the holidays and new year!

The Management & Staff
A&W TRAVEL SERVICE

December 1, 2018 The Abaconian Section A Page 21
“He’ll find us. He’s Santa.”

They did not look convinced.

As I turned toward the house I heard just the trace of a boat engine in the wind. I ran down to the dock.

It was Densil. Fishing guide, carpenter, and friend to us all.

I caught his bow line.

“Hey Jackie, Merry Christmas.”

“You too Densil. What brings you out?”

“Got something for your Dad.”

He smiled at me.

“Thanks.”

“Okay, I better go. gonna be dark. Merry Christmas Jackie!”

He pulled away into the gloam as Dad came down to the dock.

“Who was that? Densil?”

He looked at the big box, and I handed him the generator part.

“I’ll hand it to you there. But might have been Santa.”

He pronounced it “Dodd”.

“Thanks.”

“Hey Jackie, Merry Christmas.”

“Gettin’ dark, I’m gonna’ give it to you. I was supposed to bring this yestahday but my boat wasn’t runnin’.”

“Thanks.”

Dad laughed, and put his arm around my shoulder as we went to the sil.  But might have been Santa.”

He handed me a huge box, so heavy I struggled to get it up on the dock.

“Package for your Mom, I think.”

He smiled at me.

“Thanks.”

“Thanks.”

“Okay, I better go. gonna be dark. Merry Christmas Jackie!”

He pulled away into the gloam as Dad came down to the dock.

“Who was that? Densil?”

He looked at the big box, and I handed him the generator part.

“I smiled: “Yeah, looked like Densil. But might have been Santa.”

Dad laughed, and put his arm around my shoulder as we went to the generator house to light up Christmas.

SATURDAY SHOW: December 1, 2018

The Christmas Bazaar is one of the most anticipated events on the island’s calendar. It’s almost the most wonderful time of the year, and the island of Abaco is gearing up to host its 15th annual Christmas Festival on December 1, 2018, at the BAIC Park.

The event which brings together the entire island from the north to the south, leaving no one behind, is one of the most anticipated events on the island’s calendar.

Wynsome Ferguson, Manager of the Abaco Tourist Office, said this event kicks off the season and is a well-loved initiative.

“The Christmas Bazaar is a family event; the entire island comes together to celebrate the holiday season, from north to south, and to give back. Corporate Abaco gives back to the community as well as civic organizations lend their time and support. Kids look forward to seeing Santa and the grown-ups enjoy the camaraderie as well as the entertainment. It’s a good time,” Ferguson said.

The event was launched in the aftermath of Hurricanes Jeanne and Francis which devastated the island. Resident Joanne Bradley wanted to host an event to lift the spirit of Abacoarians. Her original idea was to do a Taste of Abaco but since there was an existing Christmas bazaar, she partnered with the Abaco Tourist Office and the Office of Local Government to form the Abaco Christmas Festival.

She along with another resident Brenda Sawyer are co-chairs of the festival.

Every year, kids receive free toys donated by Baker’s Bay and free candy bags are donated by the Abaco Club on Winding Bay. Entertainment this year features appearances by the Royal Bahamas Police Force Marching and Pop Band, New Entry Band, Cultural Mime, Rashad the Sax Man and of course, no event is complete without the beating of the goatskin drums and the pulsating sounds of Junkanoo.

Along with exciting sounds, the festival will open the Christmas season with the official tree lighting.

The Christmas Bazaar is a family event; the entire island comes together to celebrate the holiday season, from north to south, and to give back. Corporate Abaco gives back to the community as well as civic organizations lend their time and support. Kids look forward to seeing Santa and the grown-ups enjoy the camaraderie as well as the entertainment. It’s a good time,” Ferguson said.
Merry Christmas

The Magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His Presence.

We, the Directors, Management, & Staff would like to wish you a magical Christmas and warm blessings for the New Year!

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The six lovely contestants of the Miss Teen Abaco Pageant graced the stage together as “Blossoming Beauties” for one last time at the Pageant Finale held at the Murphy Town Community Center on Nov. 24.

Once again, the contestants were: Carissa Francois, Miss Hibiscus; Ronnycha Baptiste, Miss Yellow Elder; Fanaeya Nicholson, Miss Lotus; Jada McKenzie, Miss Poinciana; Chamadora Camelus, Miss Cherry Blossom; and Jolyne Lubin, Miss African Moon.

Prior to the Pageant Finale, the float parade was held the week before, and Miss Hibiscus – Carissa Francois – was named the winner, followed by Fanaeya Nicholson, Miss Lotus, as first runner-up, and Jolyne Lubin, Miss African Moon, as second runner-up.

There were more firsts for Miss Hibiscus as she won the Public Service Accountment (PSA) award and the Miss Teen Top Model title. Miss Lotus placed as first runner-up and Jolyne Lubin, Miss African Moon, as second runner-up in the Miss Top Teen Model competition.

Environment Minister Impressed by Science Fair Projects

Minister of the Environment Romauld Ferreira said he was happy to see, in light of the government’s policy to ban plastics by 2020, the theme of the Science Fair was “Investigating and Implementing ways to Eliminate Single-Use Plastics.” “Without the energies of the young people we are really going to be nowhere,” he said.

Governor General Visits Students

For the first time since being sworn in as Governor General of The Bahamas in July 2014, Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling came to Abaco on an official visit.

Notified of her desire to meet the students of Abaco, District Superintendent of Education, Mrs. Dominique McCartney-Russell, chose Grace Gym at Agape Christian School as the venue, a place large enough to accommodate the many school children who were to attend the ceremony.

On the morning of Nov. 14 at around 10 a.m., a private car preceded by two policemen on motorcycles, made its way down the hill leading to the Agape Christian School Grace Gym. Along the way, students stood waving to welcome the cor-tege.

Under the watchful eyes of Chief Superintendent of Police Kevin Mortimer, the car came to a stop amid two rows of saluting Defence Force Rangers Cadets. Dame Marguerite was then escorted out of the car by her protocol officers, Corporal Maycock, Corporal Burrows, and Inspector Roberts, and led to the entrance of the school where she was welcomed by the school’s faculty members.

Following a strict protocol owed to the highest personality of the country, Governor General Visits Students

The Agape Eagle were once again crowned champions in the Volleyball National Tournament.

The Agape Eagle were once again crowned champions in the Volleyball National Tournament.

Lady Eagles Win National Volleyball Tournament

The Lady Eagles were once again crowned champions in the Volleyball National Tournament.

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she was then accompanied to the stage through the standing crowd, where Senior Deputy Family Island Administrator Maxine Duncombe, District Superintendent of Education McCartney-Russell, District Education Officer Huel Mos, and Abaco Christian School Director, Patrick Rutherford, awaited her.

The ceremony was moderated by two high school students, Delvene Wilkinson from Patrick J. Bethel High School and Chelsea Cooper from S.C. Bootle High School.

Students from various other schools were the actors and performers in the program, such as Alicia Wilchcombe, who interpreted the National Anthem, and Stuart from Mosien’s Island Comprehensive School, who eulogized the invocation. They were followed by the Junior Minister of Tourism, Kahlen Richard from Forest Heights Academy, who offered a warm welcome.

Students from Hope Town Primary School dressed in colorful outfits to perform a Bahamian medley. The same school was also represented by a duo, Principal Justin Higgs and teacher, Donnella Beckford, who were the only adults to perform. They “...sang from our hearts and gave joy.”

A group of 10 students from Treasure Cay Primary School acted out a poem “Proud Nellie”; their performance was followed by the beautiful voice of Gelin Bellott, a student from S.C. Bootle High School, interpreting in solo “Rise Up.”

Choral Verse Speaking on “Abaco” was recited by a group of Crossing Rocks Primary School students. The poetic piece was written by the school’s principal, Mrs. Brennel Higgs.

“Young Excellency, when you retire choose Abaco to come and relax,” were their parting words.

Introducing the Governor General was Kaitlyn Francis, a student form Abaco Christian School, who gave a synopsis of Dame Marguerite’s life.

Dame Marguerite was accompanied to the microphone and in a gentle voice acknowledged all the dignitaries present as well as “all who have welcomed me to this beautiful island.” Expressing her gratitude for the “warm welcome and gracious hospitality” demonstrated, she then spoke of her childhood on South Andros where she was born.

Dame Marguerite acknowledged the hardship of growing up in a poor family, and participating barefoot in household chores before going to school. She explained, however, that by participating in these activities she developed respect for her parents and her family, saying that she thanked God for these experiences that gave her strength.

As a teen, Dame Marguerite came to the realization that she was destined for a life of public service, and that she had to be responsible to take care of herself and know her worth.

She went to Nassau to finish her education subsequently finding work with a photographer, a position that taught her to always be elegant and well-dressed. This opportunity eventually led to meeting her husband to be, the late Prime Minister, Sir Lynden Pindling.

She told the students that the reason she was telling her story was to encourage them to dream big. Before telling them that she was giving them the gift of a day off from school that prompted a standing ovation, she also gave them a few words of advice: pray and ask God for guidance; have respect for yourself in the way you act, dress and speak; always display good manners; educate yourself, not only in the classroom, but by reading books, using the media and talking to older people because learning never ends; and commit your plans and your dreams to Almighty God.

All the schools had participated financially for the gifts that were then presented to the Governor General by a student from Central Abaco Primary School (CAPS), Ashley Smith.

A poem by students from Every Child Counts (ECC), “We are the world, we are the heartland,” was accompanied by a drum band led by Ronel Escarment. The drums were soon joined by cowbells turning the rhythm into a Junktano beat.

Paul Knowles, Abaco District Teacher of the Year 2017-2019, and principal at J.A. Finder Primary School, presented the Vote of Thanks.

“A simple, but profound thank you,” he said as he acknowledged all present, telling Dame Marguerite Pindling that her presence had defined the event as a most “momentous” one.

All the schools on the island were then invited to enter the stage one by one for official photographs before the departing of the officials.

Dame Marguerite Pindling was to meet the heads of local government during a luncheon held at the Bahamas Government Complex.
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to Simone Pedican, Zeldon Simmons Jr., Leanne Russell and “Giving Counts”, the organizers of the Sip & Paint: “Raising Awareness of ADHD” charity event which benefited Every Child Counts.

Also a HUGE THANKS to the Blue Hole and all the patrons and supporters!
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God to win.

Omari shared that he was excited to "We are so excited. Omari’s our cham-
sions of peace in our nation.

things, we can leave lasting impres-

prayer is a nation at peace.”

ther, he acknowledged “that a nation in

missing is found in Jesus, and that a

his listeners that the peace that we are

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Tamarind Hill, Elbow Cay 2000sq. ft. Home 3 b, 3 b, 900 sq ft Guest Cottage, view of Sea of Abaco, pool, 20 kw Generator $1,150,000 MLS 27365

Shell House, Guana Cay 1558 sq ft. 3 bed option for 4 th. 2 bath, 636 open decks, on 0.277 Acre. Good Rental Income property.$725,000. MLS 18515

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Kiwanian, witnessed the exercise. Braynen said with great confidence that this is his first event, and the children showed a great deal of excitement and team work as they went door to door collecting canned goods.

Meanwhile, Kiwanis President-Elect, Cheri Rolle, said her group had a few challenges, but that did not stop the fun they had. Revealing the great time her group had, Kiwanian Jonnell Smith, an English Literature teacher at Patrick Bethel High School, said being new to Abaco she, too, had a great deal of fun, and the love that was shown by the residents was overwhelming.

President Claudia Butler noted that the children involved are committed to making a difference in the lives of many as they will distribute their canned goods collected from Trick-O-Canning to seniors at the annual Christmas Concert, which most of them look forward to attending on Dec. 6 at Zion Baptist Cathedral in Murphy Town. Kiwanian of the Year and Vice President, Jovita Charite, indicated that this project – Trick-O-Canning – features a great deal of sportsmanship and participation from the wider community being the major contributors making this project a successful one.

Crossing Rocks Primary Staff, Students Educated on Road Safety

By Canishka Alexander

As they continued in their Road Safety Initiative, the staff and students of Crossing Rocks Primary School were elated to facilitate members from the Royal Bahamas Police Force on Nov. 20.

In attendance were Sgt. 531 Christopher Higgs, PC 3455 Khandiron Wright, Corp. 3506 Nesbitt, WPC 3492 Dean and WPC 3995 Augustine.

Officers from the Road Traffic Division briefly spoke with students about their duties and traffic laws followed by road crossing and safety tips. “They were thoroughly impressed with the students’ behaviour, responses, bravery and their hearty welcome coupled with the closure of their visit with the recital of a Road Safety poem written by [me],” said Principal Brennell Higgs.

Students were overly excited to take photos on the motorcycles with the officers. Two of the students, Leonardo Forbes and Briannique Neilly, were given the opportunity to go for a short ride on the motorcycles with the traffic officers.

“This experience was unanimously enjoyed by all staff and students. We express heartfelt thanks to the representatives from the Royal Bahamas Police Force for making such a warm, memorable and indelible impression on the lives of our children at this institution," Principal Higgs admired. "They now know that the police are truly their friends, and they are committed in helping them keep our streets safe.”
where.” He said to the venue full of students, teachers, parents and guests.

He said that The Bahamas as an island nation are stewards of over 100,000 square miles of water, and being aware of the importance of water is significant in protecting our waters from the detrimental effects of plastics.

Mr. Ferreira said that “there can be no more timely a message, a theme, figuring out ways to eliminate single use plastics.”

He encouraged the children to take pride in their country, not just for the sake of our visitors, but for ourselves.

The student’s projects highlighted ideas on alternatives to single use plastics, as well as ways to recycle and reuse those plastics in our daily lives.

Schools from across the island and from as far away as Moors Island attended with their projects which were judged in four different age brackets; Lower and Upper Primary School and Lower and Upper High School.

Winning the prize for the Lower Primary division was Hope Town Primary School with the Upper Primary division being taken by Man-O-War Primary School.

For high school Long Bay School walked away with the top spot for the lower division while Patrick J Bethel High School took first place in the tightly contested upper division.

Olivia Patterson-Maura, Deputy Director of Friends of the Environment, said that “Every year we try to pick a theme that’s related to what’s going on around the world or in The Bahamas – we had already in mind the topic of plastics, then the government made their declaration and it really became so pertinent.”

She said “it was great that the Minister was able to come and see how passionate the students are; I am always amazed at how creative the students are in coming up with real world solutions.”

Mrs. Patterson-Maura said it was great to see how excited the kids are because it means they have pride in what they are doing.

She said she wished that more people from the general public would come by to see the projects – they put so much effort into the projects it would be nice if more people could enjoy them.

She said that success and growth of events like the Science Fair helps Friends feel accomplished in what they are doing “which is to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage people to make change in their daily lives.”

She said that the Science Fair began in about 2004, before which it was an event based on earth day celebrations.

She said that Friends is thankful to the many people who worked together to make the Science Fair possible and to New Vision for being such a good venue.
that Agape Christian School Lady Eagles Clanea Davis, because of her volleyball skills, is likely to receive a full scholarship to attend the St Augustine University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Deanna McDonald was awarded for being the best server; and Summer Sands was the best setter.

Competing in Nassau in the School League Volleyball were the senior Boys Eagles, who took second place in the tournament.

According to Coach Stephan Johnson, they played a very tight championship game against Government High School’s team losing two sets by a short margin, 23-25 and 24-25. Ernest Clarke won the best setter title.

As the Flag Football League nears mid-season after a delayed start to the season the Champions from the 2017 season are all hoping to continue their winning ways.

In the Peewee Division – ages six through nine – The defending champions the Marsh Harbour WildHawks continue to dominate this season and are currently the only undefeated team in any division followed by a tough Man-O-War Makos team who are 1 and 1 for the season, and a resilient Green Turtle Cay Falcons who are 0 and 3.

In the Junior Division, previously dominated by the defending champion Falcons, there is much tougher competition as both the Falcons and WildHawks have lost just one game – to each other – this season. The WildHawks currently occupy the top position with one more win than the Falcons at 4 and 1, but the Falcons at 3-1 still remain the one of the toughest teams to beat.

The Makos have proven that though they are fewer in numbers they are still a team to contend with currently sitting in third place with 2 wins and 1 loss. Both Hope Town Bull Sharks and the Tigers have yet to get a win for the season both with three losses, but they are not to be discounted as there are talented and play hard. In the Senior Division the defending Champs are sitting at the top of the division after a slightly sluggish start with a record of 3 and 1, with the talented Man-O-War/ Hope Town Sharks nipping at their tail at 2 and 1. The Murphy Town Tigers though 0 and 3 have played some tough and close games and with just a little more than half a season to go have time to catch up.

One thing is certain is that there is great parity in the league and it promises to be exciting straight through to the final games in February.

The Abaco Youth Football Association (AYFA), now in their fifth season, is a mentorship program that uses the game of flag football to reach youth to help build character, discipline and wellness in a team sport atmosphere.

The season will resume on January 12, 2019 with the playoffs taking place on February 2 and Championships on February 9.
'TIS THE SEASON IN TREASURE CAY
ORGANIZED BY THE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29TH
CLIPPER PARK
GOLF CART PARADE 6:30PM
($10 ENTRANCE FEE)
TREE LIGHTING &
CAROLING: 7:30PM
CHRISTMAS MARKET SALE:
3PM UNTIL...
CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE
FOOD BOOTH
4PM UNTIL...

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
6:30PM
DECORATED
BOAT PARADE
AT TREASURE CAY MARINA,
ENGAGE IN ADVANCE & DECORATE YOUR BOAT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
5:00PM
AT THE TREASURE CAY COMMUNITY CENTER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
CHRISTMAS MORNING
SANTA ARRIVES AT 7:45AM
WITH GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

DONATIONS TOWARD
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By Canishka Alexander

Bishop Cedric Bullard and First Lady Gertrude Bullard have so much to be thankful for around this time every year.

The 12th Pastoral Anniversary Service for New Life Ministries Int’l in Cooper’s Town on Nov. 25 was a celebration indeed encompassing the 30th wedding anniversary of the Bullards, the 51st birthday of Bishop Bullard and the dedication of New Life Ministries’ Administration Offices.

There was a great gathering of members of the clergy and specially invited guests in attendance.

The anniversary theme was “The Lord is My Keeper,” with Psalm 121 designated as the Scriptural text. It was an exhilarating praise and worship session, which ended with the singing of “You are My Strength” effectively ushering in the month of November.

In his travels, he realized that God has not placed everything in one person, but that we need one another in order for us to function properly.

Pastor Simms said that as Bishop Bullard experienced various challenges in ministry and life in general, he is assured that they knew where their help came from and who was keeping them. He ended with a prayer over the Bullards that God would propel them into their destiny like he did Joseph and that the good Lord would continue to work with them.

An offering was taken up before Bishop Bullard and First Lady Gertrude came forward with their responses. Bishop Bullard thanked everyone in attendance at their pastoral anniversary as well as Pastor Simms for delivering such a mighty message. Bishop Bullard said it took a whole lot of faith, but they made it.

In her remarks, First Lady Gertrude said that truly God has been her keeper, and if it wasn’t for the Lord on her side, she would not be standing here today. She was particularly thankful for the church’s Ladies Ministry.

Apostle Alex Archer was invited to pray the prayer of dedication over the completion of the second phase of their building, which houses the Administration Offices located upstairs. Contained there are the Senior Pastor’s Office, Ladies Ministry Office, Youth Pastor Office, Assistant Pastor Office, Rest Area for pastors to prepare before their sermons, Reception Office, Conference Room, and the Secretary/Treasurer’s Office.

In closing, Bishop Bullard asked everyone to join them following the service for the feast that had been prepared.

Pastor Simms said there is no doubt in his mind that Bishop Bullard and his wife work hard with their congregants and give many of them spiritual guidance for every aspect of their lives.

Turning their attention to the main Scriptural text, Pastor Nixon noted that Psalm 121, like Psalm 23 is a song. When the children of Israel used to ascend or make their pilgrimage to Jerusalem they had songs that they would sing coming up to their arrival at the Temple.

These Psalms, Pastor Simms noted, prepared them along the way to have the right attitude as they brought their sacrifice to the Lord and worshipped God in the Temple. He indicated that 15 Psalms – Psalm 120-134 – are labeled as Songs of Ascent.

Pastor Simms said that as Bishop Bullard experienced various challenges in ministry and life in general, he is assured that they knew where their help came from and who was keeping them. He ended with a prayer over the Bullards that God would propel them into their destiny like he did Joseph and that the good Lord would continue to work with them.

Moreover, Pastor Simms said he travelled all the way from Moore’s Island to tell them that the Lord has been keeping him.

“I’m not all I want to be, but the Lord, is keeping me. I tell the Lord to keep working on me,” he proclaimed.

Speaking to the New Life congregation in particular, he told them to continue to honour God’s chosen vessels and to continue working with them.

“When we are working together, we are a force to be reckoned with. We are working together, and we are going to wage war on the kingdom of darkness.”

“Bishop, we come here to work with you not work against you. We come to work with you and for you,” he announced.
Agape Hosts College Fair

By Mirella Santillo

On Nov. 13, the gymnasium at Agape Christian School became a hub of activity. Tables bearing the names of colleges and universities were set up around the room, and students brought by bus from seven local high schools walked around Grace Gym, stopping at each table, browsing for information, meeting the representatives, asking questions and filling out forms.

The College Fair was officially opened by District Superintendent of Education, Mrs. Dominique McCartney-Rutherford, who also acknowledged Mr. Jonathan Cartwright as the organizer of the event.

While considering tertiary education for your children with budget in mind, the local colleges and the University of The Bahamas (UB) offered the best deal. Mr. Nevar L. Smith, recruitment officer for the University of The Bahamas, said that he saw a strong interest among the local students.

“Everything in the system is high level,” he stressed, adding that the University of The Bahamas is a world-class institution. He even mentioned that by next year, tuition might be free for Bahamian students.

The University of The Bahamas offers a wide range of undergraduate programs in Education, Social Sciences, Business and Hospitality, Liberal and Fine Arts, Mathematics, Nursing and more than a dozen minors. The contact number is: (1242)688-5926.

The Bahamas Agriculture & Marine Science Institute (BAMSI) was represented by Ms. Jarena Rahming, senior admissions officer, who said that many students expressed an interest in Marine Biology. She would like to see the same interest directed toward Agriculture because The Bahamas imports so much in produce every year. Environmental Sciences, Agribusiness and Aquaculture are other fields of study available at BAMSI. Interested persons can call: 1(242)397-6580, ext. 86.

Another local vocational institute also had a presence at the fair: The Bahamas Technical & Vocational Institute (BTVI), which supports technical and practical studies, and offers career counseling, career development and planning, scholarship search and applications, job placement, health services, college search and day-care facilities as well. Their telephone number is: 1(242)502-6374.

Away from home, but not as far as Canada, although a lot of Bahamian students favor some of the northern universities, is Southeastern University in Lakeland, Fla. Located between Orlando and Tampa, it offers a climate similar to that of The Bahamas and its proximity to the sea. Academic scholarships and Pastoral Ministry scholarships and grants are a possibility. The phone contact is: (863)209-7035.

Average undergraduate costs for a year at Tampa University can reach close to $40,000. The university is unable to offer need-based financial aid to non-US citizens, but athletic and academic scholarships of $10,000 are awarded to exceptional international students. Students can visit the Web site at: www.ut.edu/admissions/international/financial.

In Miami, Florida National University offers on-campus and online learning. It supports the National Accreditation and Equivalency Council of the Bahamas Act, which was established in 2006 and came into effect in 2007. The NAECOB is responsible for registering and accrediting primary schools, secondary schools, post-secondary schools and any institution that offers training in The Bahamas. A Bahamas Admission Liaison for Saint Benedict’s & Saint John’s University, Ms. Judith Adderley, can be reached at 1(905)815-4001 for more information.

Students can call 1(242)397-6580, ext. 86. The college offers a two-year associate degree in 65 different programs. Interested persons can call: 1(242)397-6580, ext. 86.

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King's University College is located in London, South Western Ontario. King's University advertises the King's Difference: small classes with intensive student/faculty interaction; quality degree programs; comprehensive student services; generous guaranteed entrance scholarships; and a supportive community. Residence is guaranteed for all new students who return their residence application by the deadline for King’s University. The campus offers a variety of room options to choose from. Thirty percent of students living in the residences are international students from 15 different countries of the world. Telephone numbers for King’s University are: 1(800)265-4406 or 1(519)433-3491.

St. Francis Students Make Thanksgiving Donation

By Canishka Alexander

On Nov. 22, Thanksgiving Day, four students from St. Francis de Sales Catholic School stopped by the Department of Social Services to make a donation. The donation stemmed from an initiative that involved the entire school as each grade level contributed to the collection of canned goods. In attendance was 12th grade student, Osborne Clarke, Jalano Curry, an eleventh grader, and Vernanda Destine and Ariel Richardson, both 10th grade students. The donation of canned goods was presented to Senior Welfare Officer Etta-mae Jones to be distributed to those in need throughout the community.

Right: Students from St. Francis de Sales Catholic School visited with Etta-mae Jones, senior welfare officer, at the Department of Social Services to present her with a donation of canned goods. Pictured from l to r: Osborne Clarke, Vernanda Destine, Etta-mae Jones, Ariel Richardson and Jalano Curry.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

IN THE SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court & Equity Division

BAHAMAS DEVELOPMENT BANK

AND

ALONZO KNOWLES

Plaintiff

ELIZABETH II, by the Grace of God, Queen of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and of her other realms and territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

To the Honorable Sir Harry L. L. L. Lennox, Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and for the time being, The Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of The Bahamas, being by virtue of the said office by virtue of the said office by virtue of the said office by virtue of the said office.

AND TAKE NOTICE that in default of your doing the Plaintiff may proceed thereon and judgment may be given in your default.

WITNESS, the Honorable Sir Harry L. L. Lennox, Chief Justice of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas and for the time being, The Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of The Bahamas, being by virtue of the said office by virtue of the said office by virtue of the said office by virtue of the said office.

REGISTRAR

N.B.- This Writ is to be served within twelve calendar months from the date thereof, or, if moved, within six calendar months from the date of the last renewal, including the day of such date, and afterwards.

The defendant may enter an appearance personally or by attorney either by handing in the appropriate forms, duly completed, at the Registry of the Supreme Court, Ground Floor, British American Building, Mudford Street In the City Nassau in the Island of New Providence, or by sending them to the said office by post.

If the defendant enters an appearance he must also deliver a Defense to the attorney for the Plaintiff within fourteen days from the last day of the time limited for appearance, unless such time is extended by the Court or a Judge, otherwise judgment may be entered against him without notice, unless he has in the meantime been served with a summons for Judgment.

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

1. The Plaintiff is a statutory corporation established under the laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas whose primary statutory function of undertaking is to carry on the business of banking and money lending and is carrying on such business at Cable Beach, in the Island of New Providence and at other branches in the said Commonwealth.

2. The Defendant was at all material times a customer of the Plaintiff and is indebted to the Plaintiff pursuant to a loan facility hereinafter more particularly described.

3. By a loan facility granted by the Plaintiff to the Defendant made on or about 20th September, 2000 the Plaintiff advanced the sum of $15,000.00 to the Defendant. Interest was to be charged at a variable rate but was initially charged at the rate of 7% per annum.

4. The said loan was evidenced by:
   ii. a Promissory Note dated 5th September, 2000 and executed on 20th September, 2000.
   iii. a Chattel Mortgage dated 5th September, 2000 and

5. It was an express term of the loan facility that the Defendant would pay to the Plaintiff the agreed monthly sum of $297.02 until the loan was paid in full.

6. In breach of the terms of the loan facility, the Defendant has failed to make the agreed payments and has fallen into arrears thereunder whereupon an outstanding balance is payable and owed to the Plaintiff.

7. The Plaintiff and its attorneys notified the Defendant of his breach of contract and demanded that the Defendant pay to the Plaintiff all the sums due and owing to the Plaintiff under the loan facility but the Defendant has failed and/or refused to pay the said sums or any part thereof to the Plaintiff and remains in breach of the terms of the loan facility.

PARTICULARS PURSUANT TO ORDER 93.

RULE 1 OF THE RULES OF THE SUPREME COURT

(i) The loan was made on or about the 5th September, 2000.

(ii) The amount agreed to be lent was $15,000.00 principal, plus interest at the initial rate of 7% per annum.

(iii) The interest rate charged is the said rate of 7%.

(iv) The contract for repayment was made on or about 5th September, 2000.

(v) The contract for repayment was made and signed by the Defendant and delivered to the Defendant and were delivered to the Defendant immediately after the execution thereof.

(vi) The amount of principal outstanding as at 21st June, 2017 is $15,576.59 together with interest thereon in the amount of $3,576.59.

(vii) The full principal and interest became due and owing on 25th August, 2013.

(viii) By reason of the foregoing the Defendant is indebted to the Plaintiff as at 21st June, 2017 in the amount of $15,572.39

AND THE PLAINTIFF CLAIMS –

1. Payment of the principal sum of $15,575.81 due and owing under the said loan facility by the First Defendant to the Plaintiff;

2. Interest on the said principal sum in the amount of $3,576.59;

3. Further or other relief as the Court may deem just.

DATED the 22nd day of June, A.D., 2017

ALEXIOUL KNOWLES & CO. (Attorneys at Law) Chambers, St. Andrew’s Court Frederick Street N.P.O., Nassau, Bahamas

By Canishka Alexander

The Abaconian December 1, 2018
light up Christmas

light up their life with a gift card from $25 to $1500 this Christmas.
Bright and early on Saturday, Nov. 17, a group of avid bird watchers – some armed with long lenses cameras; Dr. Bracey with a telescope – met near Stink Pond, on the S.C. Bootle Highway.

The 15 people, some regular ornithologists from Abaco, others second homeowners or visitors, were led by bird expert, Reginald Patterson.

With the bushes around Stink Pond cleared for the installation of the culverts, a view of the pond was offered like never before, which allowed the spotting of many water fowls, among them some American Coots, Common Gallinules and one Pied-Billed Grebe.

A flock of 42 Ring-necked Ducks was detected with the telescope on the far side of the pond.

In the surrounding mangroves, a Northern Waterthrush was heard, and a few Common Yellowthroat Warblers were spotted.

The group left the S.C. Bootle Highway area for the trek through the abandoned settlement of Abaco Heights, which took them all the way to the sea, almost four miles forth and back. They encountered different habitats along the way, first a pine forest, then marshy grasses with shrubs, and later overgrown coppice, casuarinas along the shore, perfect areas for spotting different species of birds.

Many trees in the pine forest had been decimated by a pine beetle infestation, but it did not prevent Pine and Palm Warblers from frequenting the area. Hairy Woodpeckers were also spotted.

“Woodpeckers are often found around dead trees,” explained Mr. Patterson. Turkey Vultures hovered above along the path. A Merlin perched long enough on a branch for photographs; another glided on the air current scanning the ground for eventual preys.

An immature, Little Blue Heron was sighted far away in the marsh. Loggerhead Kingbirds fed on insects crowding the humid areas.

A shy Greater Antillean Bullfinch was spotted hiding behind branches; an American Redstart female posed at length for the group, the male in the distance.

A Cape May, Prairie Warbler and a pretty little Northern Parula were seen in the coppice area. More Common Yellowthroat Warblers were sighted randomly along the way. A Bahama Woodstar, and a couple of Cuban Emerald hummingbirds found enough flowers to feed on. A Black-and-White Warbler made his way along a tree trunk.

Altogether, thirty six species of birds were recorded.

The trip was organized by Ms. Kaderin Mills, manager of the local Bahamas National Trust (BNT) office.

The Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count will take place this year on Dec. 15 for South Abaco. The North Abaco count will be held on Dec. 29.

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### Classified Advertisements

**Business Service Directory**

- **Abaco Glass Company**
  - Window Glass and Mirrors
  - Cut and Installed
  - Commercial Store Fronts
  - Installed and Replaced
  - **Yale Windows**
  - Don MacKay Blvd. 367-2442

- **Big Cat Equipment**
  - Rentals: Backhoe, Dump Trucks, D3, D5 & D8 Tractors, Payloader, Excavators
  - Services: Land clearing, Fill, rock, sand, soil, Trenching Foundations
  - Tel: 242-367-2555 • Fax: 242-367-2464
  - Call: 242-577-5322 • 242-359-6339

**Classified Advertisements - Houses, Land & Businesses - For Rent and For Sale**

**CLASSIFIED RATES:**
Call: 242-367-3200
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- 3 lines of info - $12 per issue (Minimum)
- B&W Picture and 4 lines - $27
- Additional lines - $2 per line
- Spot Color highlight on wording - additional $10
- Colored Photo - additional $20

**PROPERTY & HOUSES FOR SALE**

**Duplex in Central Pines:** Lot No. 17, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Fully furnished with appliances: Refrigerator, Stove, Dishwasher, Microwave, Washing machine and Dryer. Size: 2300 square ft. Covered Porch: 180 square ft. Proposed rent as is: $1800 per month
Contact Person: Jabez Paul 823-5775

**PROPERTY & HOUSES FOR SALE**

**Bahaama Palm Shores:** 6,400 sq. ft. home site in a quiet community. $18,000 | Ref. AS12654
Dwayne@HGChristie.com, 242 367 5454

**YELLOW WOOD:** Cherokee: 2 bedrm cottage has space to expand. $116,000 | Ref. AS12656
Dwayne@HGChristie.com, 242 367 5454

**PROPERTY & HOUSES FOR SALE**

57 acres, waterfront at Aidan’s Bay, Marsh Harbour, Abaco. Possible marina and canal site. Approximately two miles from airport. $1.9 million. Coldwell Banker/Bobby Chen.
1-242-809-6918/bobby@cbbahamas.com or nbgr@coralwave.com/1-242-334-2799.

**PROPERTY & HOUSES FOR SALE**

Lot for Sale, Central Marsh Harbour. $55,000 Net. 375-9117.

**Classified Advertisements - Items for Sale, Employment, Services, Cars & Boats**

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**BOATS AND MARINE ITEMS FOR SALE**


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ONE PRICE, MORE COVERAGE!
TREASURE CAY | PINEAPPLE POINT
Charming turn-key 2 bdrm, 2 bath condo with bay views, central A/C and a backup generator.
$465,000 | AS12653
Dwayne Walmsley : 242 359 6046

WINDING BAY | SUNSET
This move-in ready home has 4 bdrms, 4.5 baths, water views, and an outdoor diving area.
$2,500,000 | AS12637
John Christie : 242 357 7572

TURTLE ROCKS | SEAGLASS ESTATE
This 1.2 acre turn-key estate has a 2 bdrm guest villa and 100 ft. of beach.
$1,225,000 | AS12533
Dwayne Walmsley : 242 359 6046

HOPE TOWN | Pritchard’s Point
A 2.1 acre lot with 898 ft. of uninterrupted shoreline and over 300 ft. of protected cove.
$2,250,000 | PS10736
Patti Love : 242 475 1715

BOOKIES BAY | LITTLE HARBOUR
This elevated 4.8 acre parcel of land offers 135 ft. of waterfront and is 50 ft. above sea level.
$125,000 | AS12588
Dwayne Walmsley : 242 359 6046

SCHOONER BAY | ISLAND TALIS
This 3 bdrm harbour-front home has a private plunge pool, and is 160 ft. to deep sea.
$985,000 | AS12652
Dwayne Walmsley : 242 359 6046

LITTLE HARBOUR | Tom Curry’s Point
1.7 acre waterfront estate has a 5 bdrm home, apartment, gym, dock and tennis.
$995,000 | AS12477
Neil Abate : 242 577 0277

HOPE TOWN | OCEANVIEW BEGINNINGS
A perfect beginner 2 bdrm, 2 bath Beach House with 80 ft. on the Atlantic Ocean.
$640,000 | PS10739
Patti Love : 242 475 1715

SANDY POINT | BEACH ESTATE
2 bdrm, 2 bath home with 215 ft. of white sand beach overlooking beautiful waters.
$425,000 | AS12154
Dwayne Walmsley : 242 359 6046

CHEROKEE SOUND | CHEROKEE COTTAGE
This historic 100 year old cottage is turn-key and has 3 bdrms, 1 bath, has been restored and sorted with modern fixtures, and would make a fantastic vacation rental in the quaint settlement.
$189,900 | AS12674
Dwayne Walmsley : 242 359 6046

ELBOW CAY | HOPE TOWN
0.08 acre waterfront lot directly in front of Hope Town Harbour has private dockage.
$540,000 | PS10751
Frank Knowles : 242 577 0339

TILLOO CAY | BEACHFRONT LOTS 47, 48 & 49
11,000-12,500 sq. ft. lots with nice elevations and less than 50 ft. from the beach.
$220,000 | AS12384
Frank Knowles : 242 577 0339

BAHAMA PALM SHORES | SOUTH ABACO
This 0.6 acre parcel offers 100 ft. of quiet, pristine beachfront and has electricity ready to connect.
$110,000 | AS12639
Dwayne Walmsley : 242 359 6046

ELBOW CAY | SURRY’S REST SUBDIVISION LOT 3
This great, ocean view rental opportunity has a 2 bdrm house and two - 1 bdrm units.
$299,000 | PS10721
Patti Love : 242 475 1715

LONG BEACH | LOT 13
New Price! This generously sized, 19,945 sq. ft. lot enjoys over 77 ft. of beautiful ocean frontage.
$169,500 | AS12342
Neil Abate : 242 577 0277

HOPE TOWN | LOT 38
Unobstructed sea views and sunsets await at this 18,000 sq. ft. elevated homesite.
$180,000 | AS12440
Patti Love : 242 475 1715

SAND BANKS CREEK | VACANT LAND
Over 2.5 acres of property with 50 ft. of pristine and peaceful waterfront.
$89,500 | AS12336
Neil Abate : 242 577 0277

THE CAYS | LUBBERS QUARTERS CAY
One-of-a-kind, 10,000 sq. ft. elevated lot has dock rights and Sea of Abaco views.
$85,000 | AS12144
Patti Love : 242 475 1715

MARSH HARBOUR | SOLDIER ROAD
This 0.4 acre lot can be used for commercial or residential purposes and includes utilities.
$69,500 | AS12635
Neil Abate : 242 577 0277

MARCH HARBOUR | 242 367 5454 | 561 902 1800
HOPE TOWN | 242 366 0700 | 954 767 7127
Sales@HGChristie.com | www.HGChristie.com

December 1, 2018