

FREEPORT NEWS

GRAND BAHAMA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2007

Vol 48: No 69 © The Nassau Guardian (1844) Ltd

24 PAGES \$0.75

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SPORTS



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COMMENTARY



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WEATHER



Sunrise: 6:53 am
 Sunset: 5:29 pm
 High Tide: 10:31 pm
 Low Tide: 4:36 am

Partly sunny and warm with a small chance for an isolated shower.

TEMP: 81° WINDS: E-SE 10-15 KNOTS

ONE FAMILY WINS

Delayed decision based on only the first lap due to inclement weather

By **INDERIA SAUNDERS**
Guardian Staff Reporter
 Inderia@nasguard.com

Members and supporters of the One Family Junkanoo group shouted and danced with glee yesterday when Junkanoo officials declared their group the official champions of the 2007 Brian "Boldie" Gibson Boxing Day parade.

Hundreds of people were gathered at Arawak Cay, anxiously waiting to hear if their group had been declared the winner. However, under the theme, "Crime: Enough is

Enough," One Family won this year's bragging rights as the victor of the highly-anticipated parade.

The unofficial results of Wednesday's parade were a reflection of the group's overall performance, where only the first lap was counted due to inclement weather, Junkanoo officials announced yesterday.

Darren Bastian, leader of One Family, said a lot of hard work had gone into the group's win. "The win is well overdue," he said. "There are so many parades that we have legitimately won, but they robbed

us out of it. We have proven that we are a resilient group (and) we are the most creative group in the universe."

In order to secure the coveted first place prize, the group racked up a number of wins including a total of 1,455 points in the overall category, 445 points in the Best Music category and 341 points in the Best Costume category.

The parade scores put the Saxons group in second place overall with 1,437 points, Roots in third place with 1,367 points, Valley Boys in fourth with 1,349 points and the

Music Makers in fifth place with 1,215 points.

According to One Family co-leader Arlene Nash-Ferguson, one of the things that placed One Family ahead of the other groups was its dedication to the community.

"We would wish the community to know we took our theme very seriously," she said. "We are not for crime. Enough is enough. I want to say to the families of murder victims in 2007, we will not forget you and we were sincere in our honouring of you."

Because of the rainy weather this year, there was also a tie for the first place position in the B category, with One Love Soldiers getting first prize for Bay Street and the Original Congos getting the first prize for Shirley Street.

The inclement weather was also to blame for the delay in the announcement of the official results in the hours following the parade, according to the acting chairman of the Junkanoo Corporation of New Providence, Leslie Johnson.

In a prior interview with *The Guardian* (Continued on Page 5)

Police report quiet holiday weekend

Advises public not to let guard down

By **ANGELO ARMBRISTER**
Freeport News Reporter

Although things were quiet on the crime front this holiday weekend, police are reminding residents not to let their guards down.

Speaking with *The Freeport News* yesterday, Press Liaison Officer Loretta Mackey said even though police are pleased with the way the Christmas holiday went, residents should not get complacent.

"We had a little shop breaking and house breaking, stealing and stuff like that, but nothing of significance. We still want to remind business persons and the general public not to let their guard down. They still need to be security-minded," she said, adding that they need to properly secure their homes.

She offered tips such as having proper lighting and ensuring that doors and windows are always locked.



LORETTA MACKEY

Mackey noted that only a few traffic accidents were reported that were minor in nature.

"On the traffic side of it, there were few fender benders, one of two minor bruises, where persons were treated and discharged, nothing

major," she said.

The Assistant Superintendent of Police also warned residents not to drink and drive for the safety of all road users.

With the pleasant weekend report, Police say that it is looking as though Grand Bahama is ending the year on a good note.

"We still want to remind the public not to resort to violence or conflict," she said.

The island has suffered some 14 homicides this year, three of which police say are outstanding.

Of the 14 homicides, Mackey explained that 11 of them made it before the courts for suspects to be charged because of the superb investigation skills of the police, "assistance from the public to whom we are grateful and the media for reporting accurate information to public."

Three homicide matters that (Continued on Page 5)



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE — Students living in the West End community received some much needed support towards their education from The Kohn Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Colorado. The foundation was formed back in April 2004 to assist the children of West End with their education following the devastating storms. Pictured from left to right are Eurika Rolle, Brittany Stubbs, Rashelle Lightbourne, Alexis Nairn, Kohn Foundation founder Ellen Kohn, Romal Russell, Maressa Hanna, Marquita Cooper, and Jerreth Rolle, West End Coordinator (Photo by JENNEVA RUSSELL)

Kohn Foundation awards three more scholarships to West End youngsters

By **ANGELO ARMBRISTER**
Freeport News Reporter

Three more West End youngsters joined the ranks of college-bound students

yesterday thanks to the selfless contribution of the Kohn Foundation Scholarship Programme.

The Kohn Foundation (TKF), a non-profit organization based in Colorado, and was formed back in April 2004 by Ellen Kohn, a frequent visitor to Grand Bahama.

The American organization

established the scholarship programme to ultimately support the education of West End students and expand local business opportunities for its residents.

"Our family has been coming here to West End for about six years now and we got to know some of the families and grew to love the children and saw that there was a great need for higher education," explained TKF founder Kohn. "So our family started the foundation to assist the families whose children are motivated to go to college but may not have the financial means to get there."

Kohn announced yesterday that the three new recipients (Continued on Page 2)

AT THE PELICAN BAY HOTEL - PORT LUCAYA - GRAND BAHAMA

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LOCAL MEETINGS

Harbour Boys Junkanoo Meeting/Practice

Date: Every Friday
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Venue: International Bazaar
 All members and interested persons are invited. Please bring your instruments and be on time. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Swingers Junkanoo Group Meeting/Practice

Date: Every Saturday & Sunday
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Venue: RND Parking Lot
 All backline members are asked to please attend. All interested persons are welcome.

PLP Women's Branch Meeting

Date: Sunday, January 6
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Venue: PLP Headquarters, East Sunrise Highway
 All members and all those wishing to become members are asked to attend, important matters will be discussed. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Majestic Crusaders Junkanoo Group Meeting/Practice

Date: Every Sunday
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Venue: St. Vincent de Paul, Hunters
 All persons are asked to attend and be on time.

Royal Bahamas Police Force Retired Officers Association Meeting

Date: 1st Monday Every Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Venue: Police Headquarters
 All members are asked to attend and be on time.

Grand Bahama Hotel Union Club #602485 Meeting

Date: Every Monday
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Venue: Worker's House
 The community is invited to attend.

St. Stephen's Church Heritage Festival Meeting

Date: Every Monday
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Venue: St. Stephen's Church, Eight Mile Rock
 Contact Ethel Jones, Chairperson at 348-3507 for more information.

Interdenominational Mass Choir (IMC) Meeting

Date: Every Monday
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Hawksbill High School
 All members and interested persons are invited to attend, please be on time.

Kiwanis Club of Freeport Meeting

Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Venue: Freeport Rugby Club
 The public is invited to attend.

AA Meeting. If you want to drink and can that's your business. If you want to stop and can't that's our business

Date: Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Sat
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Venue: Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

Godly Men and Women of Excellence And The Urban Renewal Marco City Meeting

Date: Every Other Wednesday
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Venue: Community At Heart Tabernacle, Church of God of Prophecy, Coral Road
 All students are welcome.

The Royal House of His Imperial Majesty Meeting

Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Venue: Club UTOPIA
 Open to the public.

Grand Bahama Motorsports Association Meeting

Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Venue: Pub on The Mall
 All interested persons are asked to attend.

The Baha'i Community of Grand Bahama Devotional Meeting

Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 8:00 p.m. ~ 8:30 p.m.
Venue: #10B Pearl Way, Seahorse Village
 All interested persons are welcome and light refreshments will be served. Call 688-4264 or 533-6037 for directions.

Al-Anon Meeting. Al-Anon has but one purpose to help families of alcoholics

Date: Every Wednesday
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Venue: St. Paul's Methodist Church, East Sunrise Highway
 All interested persons can call David at 373-2286 or 352-9751.



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER — Many restaurants around the island are busy getting ready to bring in the New Year in grand style by offering lavish dinner packages for that night. Ruby Swiss, an old-time favourite of many residents, however, is going with its regular menu for that night. Veteran waiter at Ruby Swiss Wesley Munnings is pictured here putting the finishing touches on a table. (Photo by JENNEVA RUSSELL)

Be prepared to shell out 'big bucks' if you are dining out New Year's Eve

By K. NANCOO-RUSSELL
 Freeport News Reporter

Couples around the island will have to shell out big bucks to bring in the new year in style as restaurants are kicking it up a notch with lavish celebratory dinner packages for that night.

A quick check around to several restaurants revealed that the average night of New Year's Eve dining is around \$112.

Newly opened restaurant Sabor, at the Pelican Bay, is promising "an elegant night of epicurean delicacies" for \$99 per person.

Their dinner show will feature a performance by the Kevin Fox Trio from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. and music by DJ Steely afterward. An open bar is also offered.

Over at The Harbour Room in Port Lucaya, they will have two seatings for dinner, at 6 p.m. and at 9 p.m. to accommodate the demand.

Their "one-of-a-kind New Year's Eve"

event which includes a cocktail hour, will cost \$99 per person, exclusive of gratuity.

The Ferry House Restaurant will host "a festive and elegant New Year's Eve celebration" where guests will receive signature gifts and a complementary drink upon their arrival.

Dining and dancing will take place on a floating platform, and there will be four themed cooking locations — Thai, South American, Italian, and Cajun cuisine — two open bars, a live band, and champagne and fireworks at midnight. Dinner will begin at 8 p.m. at \$300 per couple, including gratuities.

The Westin at Our Lucaya is offering diners "a new beginning" that night at what they are touting as "the most talked about New Year's Eve event on the island."

The celebration at that venue includes dinner, drinks and dancing for \$150 per person, including gratuity and all service charges.

Those opting for a less extravagant

night out can visit the Grouper Grill restaurant at the Ocean Reef Yacht Club and Resort, which is offering dinner, champagne cocktails, entertainment and party favours for \$65. per person, excluding gratuity, a modest fee compared to the others.

The long-time favourite of many locals, the Ruby Swiss restaurant, although they will be open that night, has opted out of offering a package for that special night and will be serving from its regular menu.

Couples who may choose to have an intimate dinner at home can still be entertained that night as the Port Lucaya Marketplace is serving up a dose of its own brand of New Year's festivities.

Entertainer Wilfred Solomon will perform at the Count Basie Square from 9 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. and a deejay will entertain the crowd afterward.

A grand fireworks show will take place at midnight and complementary party favours will be available.

Kohn Foundation awards three more scholarships

(From Page 1)

of the scholarship will be Romal Russell, Bianca Pedican and Brittany Stubbs. They will receive \$1,000 per semester, she explained, as long as they are enrolled in a college.

"So that could be about \$2,000 per year, per student and that is what we are excited about," she said.

The foundation also renewed existing scholarships yesterday for five other students: Eurika Rolle, Rashelle Lightbourne, Alexis Nairn, Maressa Hanna and Marquita Cooper.

Kohn said that recipients are asked to fill out an application and write an essay describing what they want to do in college and how they plan to give back to the community once they have completed.

The scholarships, she said, are awarded based on merit,

financial need and community service.

"The scholarship programme is growing... and we've helped about 10 students in the past two years," she said, adding that they haven't received any direct assistance from the local business community.

"We haven't received any direct local Bahamian aid for the scholarship, although we are getting to be known a little bit better now. We'd like to see some of the local corporations and people who want to help persons in their own communities, get behind it."

One of the excited recipients, Roshelle Lightbourne, is studying chemistry.

"I'm very appreciative of the Kohn foundation scholarship because it has been very helpful in me being able to accomplish my dream of becoming a pharmacist," she said.

A graduate of Bishop

Michael Eldon High, formerly Freeport High, Romal Russell is one of the newest recipients of the scholarship and is majoring in accounting at The College of The Bahamas.

"I was more than delighted to receive this scholarship because it will prove to be a great help," Russell said. "I was very happy to see that people who visit here are interested enough in the youth to want to give back."

Seventeen-year-old Brittany Stubbs said she was very excited to hear that she had been awarded the scholarship.

She said that she is presently studying at The College of The Bahamas and is looking

to become a dentist.

Though the foundation is quite young, Kohn was pleased to share its very first success story, Sasha Williams, who is graduating from Bethune Cookman University next April.

"She is a pre-med student and very hard working, getting extremely high grades and is dedicated to finishing and all of us want to give her a hearty congratulations," she said.

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