

# Legends of diving to be honoured

By K. NANCOO-RUSSELL  
Freeport News Reporter  
krystal@nasguard.com

Some 12 persons who were instrumental in revolutionizing the sport of diving are in Grand Bahama this week for the Legends of Diving event being held at the International Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO) facility.

The event, which begins today and runs until April 6, is aimed at bringing worldwide attention to a number of unsung heroes who dedicated their lives to scuba diving.

Among the legends who will be honoured are Robert Croft, Nick Icorn, Dottie Frazier, Dr. Jose Jones and Alec Pierce.

Divers Ben Rose, who discovered Ben's Cavern located in the Lucayan National Park; John Englander, former owner of UNEXSO and Dr. John Clement, who was in charge of the hyperbaric chamber and one of the original founders of UNEXSO, will also be on-hand.

Bahamian divers Nick Rolle, Joel Pratt, Presley Knowles and Ollie Ferguson will share their stories about the history of diving on Grand Bahama Island.

Keith Cooper, UNEXSO Director of Sales & Marketing explained that the idea is to use the event to thank the men and women who have made invaluable contributions and risked their lives to improve the sport of diving.

Jeff Rice, who started the legends of diving event said it is also used to educate students about the history of the sport and about the current standards in the industry now.

During the program, students in the marine science program at St. Georges and Jack Hayward High Schools will be enlightened about the contributions of both U.S. and Baham-

ian diving legends that helped to shape the early developments of scuba diving, underwater photography, cave diving, marine research and animal identification while receiving instruction in diving.

"It is our hope that this event will inspire the next generation of divers to become professionals who will eventually teach new divers and to carry forward the legacy left behind by these great men and women who are joining us for this historic gathering of diving legends," said Rice.

Dave Woodward, the first manager of UNEXSO, who has been scuba diving since 1954, said he believes the sport has evolved over the years and is now considered a mainstream resort activity.

"It's grown tremendously as far as the interest. When we initially started, only the man that would wear black leather jackets would dive because it was dangerous and everybody was going to drown and it had just taken us a long time to lose that image," he said.

"There are not many of us that get to pioneer a special resort sport of any sort so I feel tremendously fortunate."

Another legend, Dr. Albert Jose Jones said it was especially important that the legends have the chance to pass on their knowledge to the younger generation.

"I had the opportunity as a youngster just like these young kids here to hear somebody talk about marine science and oceanography at my particular junior high school in Washington D.C. and that's what got me started," he explained.

Jones founded the first black diving organization the Underwater Adventure Seeker Scuba Diving Club in Washington D.C. in 1959, and noted that it is now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.



**LIVING LEGENDS** – Six of the pioneers of diving who are on Grand Bahama this week for the International Legends of Diving, which will take place at The Underwater Explorer's Society (UNEXSO), pictured from left are Dr. Albert Jones, founder of the first black diving organization; Dottie Frazier, first female instructor; Dave Woodward, first manager of UNEXSO; Nick Teorn, first CEO of PADI; Bob Croft, former Navy diver and World Free Diving Record Holder; and Alec Pierce, largest sea hunt memorabilia collector.

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

**Do you want to become a Medical Assistant apply today!**

**Success Training College**  
(Officially registered by the Ministry of Education and accredited by the Ministry of Public Service)

**Spring Semester 2009 will start April 20**  
Pre-registration now at 9D Kipling Building.  
Telephone 351-2673 • Fax 351-6455

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Kentwan Kenneth Smith**  
FOR BEING NAMED  
RICHEY ADDERLEY  
PLAYER OF THE YEAR

He also got most blocked shots and made all tournament team in the Hugh Campbell Tournament. He has a 3.11 G.P.A.

Congratulations to Mr. Darrell Sears, Mr. Patrick Victor, Mr. Gregory Monroe and the St. Georges Jaguars under 20 team for winning the GBSSAA Championship. Kentwan was named V.I.P. of the games.

FROM YOUR NUMBER ONE FAN!!!

## ANNOUNCING

**DR. L. BARRY RUSSELL**  
Will be available for Consultation and Treatment  
(Braces for Adults and Children)

Visiting April 1, 2, 3  
Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Thursday from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
and Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**BAHAMAS ORTHODONTIC CENTER**

The Insurance Management Bldg., Suite #3  
All patients needing an appointment please call  
**Tel: 352-5756, Fax: 351-6636**  
All Major Credit Cards Accepted.

## Universal Security Armored & Surveillance Services

*Minimize Your Risk*

**Secure Your Cash!**

SERVICES INCLUDE:  
• 24-hr. Guard Service  
• 24-hr. Armored Cash Transport  
• 24-hr. Surveillance and Camera Monitoring  
• Armed V.I.P. Escort  
• Private Investigations  
• Employee Vetting  
• Bad Debt Collection

*Our guards are professionally trained and licensed*

Suite 17A and 18A Kipling Building  
Ph: (242)-351-2767; (242)-351-6454  
Tele/Fax: (242)-351-9373  
Email: universalsystemsecurity@gmail.com  
"WE ARE YOUR SECURITY SOLUTION!"

#3 Kashea's Mini Mall 17, West Atlantic Drive, across from the Teachers' Credit Union  
Phone 351-9885 - Jackie Knowles

## HOT CROSS BUNS

1/2 doz Wheat Raisins & Cinn.  
1/2 doz Raisins & Cinn.  
1/2 doz Coconut  
1/2 doz Whole Wheat  
1/2 doz Plain White

All Orders in no later than  
April 4th, 2009

*BUSINESS HOURS*  
Mon - Thurs 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Fri - Sat 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

*Come One, Come All!*  
Get On-board the **EXCITING, FUN-FILLED**  
*Mother's Day Homecoming & Regatta*  
May 8th - 11th, 2009

**Bahamasair Dash 8 Private Charter**

Direct from  
Freeport to Mangrove Cay, Andros

Hurry! Hurry! Space is limited

Mrs. Greene: 373-2046  
Terry Armbrister: 373-6410  
Miss Greene: 351-2861

**Round Trip Ticket fare \$210.00**

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Ms. Lolita Outten**  
*on completing the*  
**Ministry of Education Grandfathering Program**

From your children: Teka, Nelly and Tyrell; parents: Rev. Hilton and Cecelia Outten; brothers: Joe, Chris, Elkin, Simeon, Joshua, Caleb and Jonathan; sisters: Julie and Dorcas. Numerous family members and friends including: Kavis, Donna, Jermone, Gina, Carol, Heidi and the staff, parents and students of Tekanell's Preschool.

## ANNOUNCES FLIGHTS TO

Fort Lauderdale & West Palm Beach

REGULAR AIRFARE & CHARTER FLIGHTS AVAILABLE

**\$198.00** per person + taxes (daily)  
**\$59.00** One Way (Sundays Only)  
Excellent way to Fly over; Cruise back!

Passengers with U.S. Visas only  
HOTEL PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Depart Freeport 9:00 a.m. to Fort Lauderdale  
Depart Freeport 3:00 p.m. to West Palm Beach  
Depart Fort Lauderdale 2:00 p.m. to Freeport  
Depart West Palm Beach 4:30 p.m. to Freeport

For reservations call 553-2383 or your local travel agents  
email: Bahamastransair24@hotmail.com

## Public Notice

The Grand Bahama Port Authority, Limited is pleased to inform its licensees that in an effort to assist during this slow economic period, effective March 1, 2009 retail businesses can deduct 50% off their 2009 business licence billing if paid within 3 months of billing. This discount program will expire on February 28, 2010.

To confirm eligibility, please contact our Licensing Department at telephone numbers 350-9050/3.

Complete Vacation Packages!  
Cruise Packages! Discovery Tickets!  
Car Rentals!

**Now Open on Sundays**  
12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#6 Kashea's Mini Mall  
West Atlantic Drive  
(opposite Teacher's & Salaried Workers Union Bldg.)

**Dedra Campbell**  
Proprietor/Manager

**Marjorie Laing** Travel Consultant  
**Ruth Cadet** Travel Consultant  
**Lisa Bowe** Travel Consultant

Operating Hours Mondays - Fridays 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Phone: (242) 351-9651 Fax: (242) 351-9652  
(242) 352-5639 email: dedralc@hotmail.com