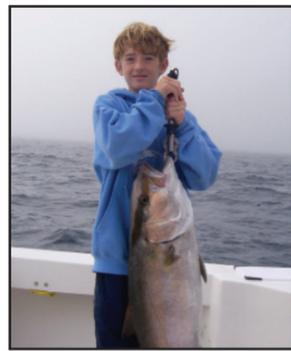




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# The Islander

Anna Maria



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Volume 15, No. 9 Jan. 3, 2007 • FREE

## 2006 Islander of the Year: Pete Lannon

By Diana Bogan  
Islander Reporter

If there is one person who has touched the fabric of life that brings out the best in the Anna Maria Island community — it has to be Pete Lannon. He is more than our Holmes Beach community resource officer, he is a mentor for our children, a confidant for those in need and a friendly face that even Island visitors greet with a wave as they pass Anna Maria Elementary School, where Lannon has been a fixture as the school's crossing guard for more than five years.

Lannon joined the Holmes Beach Police Department after moving to the area from North Carolina and has been active at AME for seven years, teaching the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program and patrolling during student pickup and dropoff hours.

He's been more than a school resource officer at AME, he has been an active member of the Island community, as his friend Joy Murphy puts it, "doing more than just his job."

"He'll jump in and volunteer just because he wants to," she said.

So, when news spread through the Island community in early October that the officer was off duty due to illness, it didn't take long for people to band together their resources in support of the Lannon family.

According to Lannon's wife, Debra, the official diagnosis for Pete is metastatic pancreatic cancer. Metastatic, meaning it has moved from the primary site, the pancreas, to involve another site, in this case, she said, his liver and the surrounding lymph nodes.

Shortly after the diagnosis, Pete began radiation treatment to shrink the size of the pancreatic tumor. He also received small doses of intravenous chemotherapy drugs to make the tumor cells more receptive to the radiation.

"He has been done with the radiation treatment for about eight weeks," said Debra, "and it did shrink the tumor, so that now he is without pain. He can never be rid of the tumor, but we can hope that we keep it small."

The first opportunity Island friends and students had to see Pete following his diagnosis was at a spaghetti dinner that also served as a fundraiser for the Lannons. Held in St. Bernard Catholic Church's activity hall, the room swelled with kids and adults eager to offer Pete their encouragement and, most of all, to embrace and share their feelings.

But Lannon remained on a drug treatment program and, despite the outpouring of well-wishers, he had to refrain from contact with others — even hugs. He wore on his shirt a small sign at the party warning "no hugs."

"Cancer is never cut and dry," said Debra. "So every person responds differently to every treatment. He will go for another scan probably at the end of January to see what progress has been made."

The illness caught many people by surprise, especially Pete's family. At 48 years old and having overall good health, doctors weren't looking for anything so drastic when Lannon began complaining of back pain earlier in the year.

As far as family history, Lannon's dad died from lung cancer in his late 60s, but he was a fireman during a time when less protective gear was provided. His mother was a 25-year survivor of breast cancer and died last year at age 80 of natural causes.

Pete says he has no doubt he will be a long-time

PLEASE SEE LANNON, PAGE 3



### Revved up Lannon, Island's superman

Pete and Debra Lannon were joined by son Pete Jr. and his childhood friend for the "superbowl" of NASCAR racing in Homestead, Fla. Following the races, the family spent a few days at Stan Schieble's home in Key Largo — a short drive from the racetrack. "It was an unforgettable weekend," said the Lannons. *Islander* Photos: Courtesy Debra Lannon

## Man faces multiple charges in Holmes Beach holiday holdup

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

John Lightner II wrote his 3-year-old son a letter to help him remember Christmas 2006, the holiday they witnessed a gunman try to escape after robbing a Holmes Beach store.

On Dec. 25, shortly before 6 p.m., the Lightners of Bradenton arrived to the Holmes Beach CVS Pharmacy at 605 Manatee Ave. W., as a robbery was taking place.

"At first I thought people had shoplifted," said Lightner, who saw a woman run, screaming, from the store. He said he learned from other witnesses that a man inside "pulled out a gun and demanded everyone lay on the floor" because "his children were going to have Christmas this year."

Authorities arrested John Francis Butler, 45, of Ninth Avenue West, Bradenton, on multiple charges in connection with the robbery. He was further charged while at the jail for the CVS robbery with holding up a Washington Mutual bank Dec. 21 in downtown Sarasota.

Butler, who as of Dec. 31 remained in the Manatee County jail, was charged with two first-degree felonies punishable by life in prison — robbery and carjacking — for his Christmas spree in Holmes Beach. He was also charged with two second-degree felonies — fleeing to elude and aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer.

The charges stem from what was an armed robbery at the CVS and an escape attempt that involved a carjacking and a high-speed chase on Manatee Avenue.

Butler used a BB gun in the CVS robbery, which can complicate a conviction for armed robbery. However, Holmes Beach Police Chief Jay Romine said, "In this case the charges are extensive enough that it shouldn't be an issue here."

HBPD was the primary respondent, with assistance from officers with Bradenton Beach Police and the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

Just before 6 p.m. Christmas, the Butler was observed wandering around the CVS store.

He was in and out of the store several times until he came in one last time and pushed CVS clerk Sarah Lanzillo on the chest, shoving her to the floor, showing his gun and ordering everyone else to the floor, according to one source. One woman on the floor became so terrified that when the manager went with the robber to the office, the woman got up and ran from the store.

Meanwhile, the Lightners arrived in the CVS parking lot as the robbery was in progress. They needed some batteries to power a toy train, remote control car and robotic cat that 3-year-old John Lightner III received for Christmas.

They soon noticed frantic looks on the faces of the people in the parking lot and learned that they and the others were witnesses to a crime.

HBPD Officer Michael K. Leonard also arrived to the CVS to see "several people running out."

The officer parked his vehicle, as an MCSO deputy arrived in a patrol car.

"I then observed John Butler exit the store with his hands in his pockets and I verbally ordered him to get on the ground," Leonard wrote in his report. "Butler then ran around the corner of the building and I ran to



Butler

PLEASE SEE HOLDUP, NEXT PAGE

**2006 YEAR IN REVIEW,  
PART 2, PAGE 5.**

## Holdup suspect in custody

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the corner of the building, where I observed one of the witnesses pointing across the street and yelling that he ran across Manatee Avenue.”

The suspect ran toward Westbay Cove condominiums, where, with what looked like a semi-automatic gun, he demanded the keys to a 2006 Scion from the owner holding his 1-year-old grandson.

“As the gunman entered Westbay, screams could be heard,” said Lightner, adding that his father had run after the suspect to keep “tabs on his whereabouts.”

The motorist turned over the keys and the suspect drove off in the Scion, traveling east on Manatee Avenue with police in pursuit. BBPD Officer Roy A. Joslin III had been in the vicinity, heard the radio call for a robbery and responded. MCSO Deputy Beau Griner, on patrol in Anna Maria, also responded and gave chase.

The Scion first stopped in a dirt lot on the east side of the Anna Maria Island Bridge.

“Butler got out of the vehicle and barricaded himself behind the car,” Leonard wrote.

Leonard and Joslin ordered the suspect to drop his weapon and get on the ground, but instead the suspect returned to the Scion and again drove east on Manatee Avenue, traveling on the north side of the road.

“Several vehicles were forced from the roadway, including a marked Manatee County patrol vehicle,” wrote Leonard, who again led the pursuit, followed by Joslin, then Griner.

On the Palma Sola Causeway Bridge, the suspect lost control of the Scion. He crashed into a concrete barrier on the north side and then ran from the vehicle, shedding clothes and preparing to jump in the water.

During the apprehension of the suspect, three vehicles — a HBPD patrol truck and BBPD and MCSO patrol cars — were damaged.

“While outside of my vehicle giving verbal commands, the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office unit crashed into the rear of Officer Joslin’s vehicle, causing Officer Joslin’s vehicle to hit my patrol car,” Leonard stated.

The MCSO report stated, “The road conditions were wet and still raining. It was dark and there were no street lights.”

Joslin was still in his car at the time of the accident and later sought treatment for a neck sprain at Lakewood



The Bradenton Beach police cruiser, left, and the Holmes Beach police truck, as well as the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office vehicle, met “by accident” when the high-speed pursuit and arrest of a CVS robber climaxed on Manatee Avenue. Islander Photo: Gene Page III

Ranch Hospital, according to an incident report from BBPD.

Griner, advised by his sergeant, also went to Lakewood Ranch for an examination.

Leonard and HBPD Officer Mike Pilato arrested Butler. The suspect resisted, according to the HBPD report, so Leonard said he “hit him with a front knee strike to his stomach and hit him in the face with my elbow causing minor injuries to his face.”

On the seat in the Scion, authorities found a BB gun and magazine and a CVS bag containing \$7,635.71.

Police also collected a baseball cap and other clothing, a red cooler, a Bic lighter, an additional \$282 and a note written by Butler to his mother.

The note, according to a property report from HBPD, was “apologizing for his downfalls and asking for forgiveness.”

A report from MCSO said the note confessed to a bank robbery that occurred the week before in Sarasota County.

Butler also “made statements that he was dying and had eight months to live and was trying to commit suicide by cop,” the MCSO report said.

Butler was taken to Blake Medical Center for minor injuries and then transported to Manatee County jail, where he remained at press time without bond.

Butler, who is scheduled for arraignment in February, has a history of trouble, multiple convictions for

offenses in Manatee County, including obstructing justice, resisting a merchant, retail theft, marijuana possession, battery, disorderly intoxication, petit theft and resisting an officer without violence.

CVS employees declined to be interviewed, saying they didn’t want to jeopardize the integrity of the case against Butler.

Days after the incident, customers casually shopped in the CVS, aware of what had happened but not intimidated.

“Something like that, it can happen anywhere, in any store in any city, I would say,” said Bradenton Beach resident Stacey Keoser.

“I’m sorry it happened, and I’m thankful he was caught,” said Paula Frasier, of Holmes Beach. “And now life goes on.”

Meanwhile, John Lightner II said some day he will show his son the letter he wrote detailing the events of Christmas 2006.

“We felt a deep sense of sorrow that on such a sacred day a misguided man, without so much as a thought of the true meaning of Christmas, could ruin such a beautiful day,” Lightner wrote in the letter.

But for now, the father is telling his child, “There was a bad man.”

Last week, days after the incident, Romine echoed that statement.

“The bad guy went to jail,” the HBPD chief said.

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# Cortez in final round for national award

By Jim Hanson  
Islander Reporter

The achievements of the historic fishing village of Cortez may be recognized by first lady Laura Bush if the village makes the final step for the Presidential Preserve America Award.

Manatee County Commissioner Jane von Hahmann has been notified that the village she loves and lives in has made the final cut in the national competition, name change and all.

The ultimate decision awaits judgment by a jury drawn from around the country and will be announced in May. Until then, she and Manatee County have high hopes and their fingers crossed.

Judging will be based on projects already completed to preserve Cortez as a Gulf Coast fishing village, one of only two surviving in Florida.

Invited by the county to enter the village, which has been her home for years, in competition with other entries from around the United States,

von Hahmann nominated the Florida Institute for Salt-water Preservation, the main motivator in most civic things in Cortez.

But the governing organization advised her its rules couldn't admit such an entity. So the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, impressed with Cortez and its works, voluntarily changed her entry to "Cortez Cultural Preservation Project," and as such it passed into the finals.

The achievements included:

- The Cortez Village Historical Society getting the village officially designated as historic, which protected it from developers and made it eligible for many public and private aid programs.
- The Waterfronts Florida program, which organized a number of events and projects.
- Purchase of the 95-acre FISH Preserve to keep that bit of old Florida unspoiled.
- Purchase of the 1912-built school at the eastern end of the village, abutting the Preserve.
- Restoration of the building and its grounds, nearly

completed now.

- Creation of the Florida Maritime Museum, which will occupy the old school building.
  - Rebuilding the old Miller's dock.
  - Moving the old Burton Store to the school-house site and beginning the refurbishing project.
  - The pending reconstruction of the historic Pillsbury Boat House on the grounds.
  - Establishing the Fishermen's Memorial on the waterfront.
  - Restoration of the old fishermen's offshore net shed.
  - And all the money raised through festivals, donations, grants, Manatee County, and other sources, as well as all the volunteer hours the villagers put into their heritage and its preservation.
- The Preserve America Award carries no direct financial reward, but it is a high honor in preservation circles and would be of great help in obtaining future grants from other organizations, von Hahmann noted.

## Lannon 2006 Islander of year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cancer survivor as well. His fighting spirit and infallible positive outlook as he battles this challenge in the public eye only make him more of a positive role model.

Pete and Debra have three children — 25-year-old Pete Jr., 21-year-old Jessi and 10-year-old Matt. "When he was first diagnosed, it hit our oldest son the hardest," confided Debra. "Jessi kept an upbeat attitude for her dad's sake, and Matt doesn't really understand the whole thing and doesn't really want to know."

Staying positive is a matter of taking "one day at a time."

"You can't be negative," said Debra. "There is nothing else to do but keep going."

Lannon admitted that he might understand the willingness to give up if he was older. "Being sick is very draining on a healthy person, I can only imagine how it must be to go through this when you already have other strikes against you from aging.

"I guess everyone at some point asks 'Why me?' You just think of your family and friends and keep as good an outlook as you can."

Lannon has said numerous times in the past few months that he feels like Jimmy Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life."

Since Lannon has had to take an extended leave of absence from work, the Island community came forward to assist the family with financial concerns.

In addition to meeting the cost of ongoing medical treatment, the family provides for their daughter's college tuition and carries two home mortgages. One of the homes has been on the market but the family has not yet found a buyer.

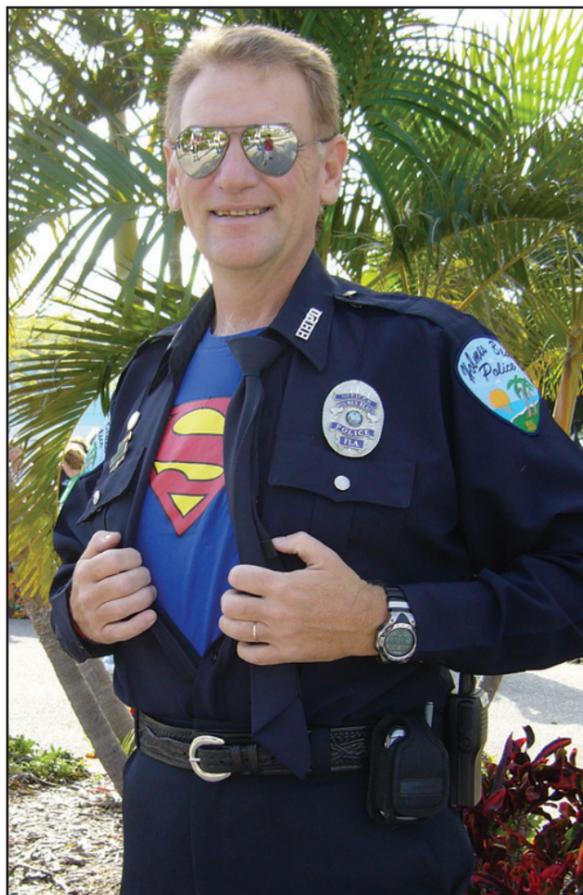
Staff at AME quickly established an account at Wachovia Bank in Holmes Beach to accept financial donations. And attorney Chuck Webb worked with the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce to establish the non-profit Bay of Dreams to accept donations and assist in fundraising efforts on Lannon's behalf, as well as for future needs of others. Friends organized a benefit dinner and auction, the HBPD sponsored a walk-a-thon with friends of the family and the Bradenton Beach Bridge Street merchants raised funds at their holiday events. Fellow officers have also donated their own leave time to Lannon.

"I think Pete was shocked at first by how much of a response there has been from the community," said Holmes Beach Police Chief Jay Romine. "I think he was truly surprised that he has touched so many people. We weren't — everyone who knows him loves him."

And Lannon said he "loves the people on the Island." He counts the Island community as his extended family and said he feels "blessed" by the support everyone has shown.

"I don't think you really know how much of an impact you have on people until something like this happens," Debra said.

The impact Lannon continues to have, even in his leave of absence, is quickly apparent on the days when Lannon makes a visit to the Island. On a recent visit to AME to tape a holiday greeting for students, one



Officer Pete Lannon allowed a peek at his costume before the fall parade. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

youngster's eyes lit up as he saw the DARE officer climbing the steps to the media center — the student excitedly nudged his classmate and pointed out "It's Officer Lannon," a grin appearing across his face.

"The kids past and present knew where to find him most of the time," said Debra. "They knew he had an open-door policy, that they could come to him at anytime. Parents, too, come to him for advice.

"I see how the kids look up to him when we visit the school — they all wave and whisper, 'Officer Lannon, Officer Lannon.'"

Lannon can't wait to get back on the job and his co-workers at HBPD are looking forward to that day, too.

"It's been a huge adjustment," said Romine. "We're like a family and it's just not the same around here. No matter what type of day you might be having, Pete would come to work laughing and smiling.

"Pete can crack himself up over nothing — and it's contagious. He is a big kid with a terrific attitude — we miss that lightheartedness here and he is missed at the school."

Chief Romine said that as an officer, Lannon has the knack for resolving issues in a manner in which everyone walks away happy. "He can get along with a wide range of people and he is very well suited for his position."

Romine said he and his staff continue to offer the family their prayers and support. When it's a rough day on the job, Romine said all it takes to turn the tide is remembering that Lannon would do anything to get back to work.

One of the pitfalls to his illness, Lannon said, is extreme boredom. The holiday festivities proved to be

a diversion, with a flurry of indoor and outdoor decorating to manage and the older kids coming home to spend the night before Christmas. "It was nice to wake up with everyone home again," he said.

With the holidays winding down, however, Lannon's days around the house are becoming boring. "He now even goes shopping with me," said Debra, "Before he was sick, the only store he set foot into was Publix to get milk, Popsicles and a lottery ticket. He has been to Wal-Mart twice this week."

Lannon said he misses the kids, misses teaching, misses joking with his coworkers at HBPD, misses crossing guard duty and waving to everyone and the conversations he'd have with people.

"We miss his positive attitude — he needs to get his butt back to work," Romine said.

There is no word yet on when we'll see Lannon waving at us each morning in front of 4700 Gulf Drive, but the outlook for 2007 is to keep up the fight — "to put on some weight, increase his energy and get him back to work, even if only for a few hours a week," said Debra.

"We just want to express our appreciation for everything everyone is doing for us," said the Lannons. "Please keep the prayers coming — and pray to St. Joseph that we sell our house in Country Creek."

Pete told *The Islander*, "We wish everyone a happy, healthy, prosperous and safe new year. Hope to see ya'll soon."

Same to you, Officer Lannon.

## Meetings

### Anna Maria City

Jan. 11, 5:30 p.m., Sunshine Law course.  
Jan. 11, 6:45 p.m., special city commission meeting, public hearing on flood ordinance.  
Jan. 11, 7 p.m., city commission work session.  
*Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, 708-6130 — www.cityofannamaria.com*

### Bradenton Beach

Jan. 4, 7 p.m., city commission meeting. Agenda: public comment, pier construction schedule presentation, banner applications, no-objection letter request at 2201 Gulf Drive, mapping and survey service request for 2200 block Gulf Drive, sidewalk donation from Marbella Condominium, tree replacement at 2211 Gulf Drive, reassignment of funds for water line work and board appointments.  
Jan. 8, 4 p.m., WAVES committee meeting.  
Jan. 9, 1 p.m., scenic highway committee meeting.  
Jan. 9, 3:30 p.m., town hall meeting on parking.  
Jan. 11, 2 p.m., city commission work meeting.  
Jan. 11, 5 p.m., planning and zoning board meeting.  
*Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 778-1005 — www.cityofbradentonbeach.org*

### Holmes Beach

Jan. 9, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.  
Jan. 10, 5 p.m., parks and beautification committee meeting.  
*Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 708-5800 — www.holmesbeachfl.org*

# Court approves sale of GSR's Villa Rosa lot

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

The U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Court in Tampa last week approved the sale of financially troubled GSR Development's Lot No. 14 and accompanying model home at its Villa Rosa housing project in Anna Maria.

Judge K. Robert May approved the auction sale of the property to Capital Crossing Bank of Massachusetts for the \$1.875 million lien held by Fifth Third Bank plus a nominal fee. Capital Crossing then assigned its rights to the property to CapX Realty LLC, a foreign-based subsidiary of Capital Crossing.

Court documents indicated no other bank bid on the property.

While Fifth Third Bank recovers its investment in GSR, the sale of the property does not come without some baggage for Capital Crossing.

The property has not been officially platted and contractors involved with construction of the model home estimate an additional \$800,000 is needed to meet Anna Maria's criteria for issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

In addition, NBA player Theo Ratliff of the Boston Celtics has filed a notice with the Manatee County Cir-

cuit Court that he has a contract to purchase the house — when ready for occupancy — for \$2.5 million. The contract was signed in April 2004.

According to its Web site, Capital Crossing Bank is a mid-major bank in Boston that deals almost exclusively with real estate loans and transactions and leasing properties. It has very little consumer business. CapX appears to be a legitimate real estate company that operates in several states.

Efforts to reach Maria Stahl of Capital Crossing Bank to determine what plans CapX has for the property were unsuccessful.

## Challenge allows 2 more weeks

With still some dollars to go before the total hits \$50,000, Chuck and Joey Lester have given a reprieve — until Jan. 15 — to raise more money to match their donation to the Anna Maria Island Community Center building fund.

The deadline was to be Dec. 31, by which time the Lesters hoped to owe their share: \$50,000.

Chuck and Joey pledged again this holiday season to match whatever could be raised for the Anna Maria Island Community Center, up to \$50,000, by the end of the year.

Well, the pledge holds. As of Friday, the challenge contributions to the building fund were at \$42,000, according to Center executive director Pierrette Kelly. As a bonus, challenge contributors have also sent \$29,000-plus to the Center's endowment fund.

But the Lesters really, really want to have to give \$50,000 so the Center gets a total of \$100,000, which it badly needs to rebuild the campus in Anna Maria, a costly project that gets more costly as time goes on. It needs every penny.

Don Maloney of the Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club called *The Islander* to say the club voted at its Saturday morning meeting to put \$5,000 into the challenge pot and, at the same time, a visiting Kiwanian from Missouli added \$100 for a total club donation of \$5,100.

Bring or mail your donation to *The Islander*, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217, or phone 778-7978 or the Center at 778-1908 for information.



### Blasting in the new year with Island finesse

*The BeachHouse Restaurant in Bradenton Beach blasted and boomed in the new year with its traditional fireworks show over the Gulf of Mexico at midnight Jan. 1. The celebration presented by Bell's Fireworks of Tampa brought hundreds to the shoreline. A smaller crowd enjoyed closeup seats at The BeachHouse, part of the restaurant's annual New Year's Eve Extravaganza featuring dining, dancing and toasting. The fireworks show could be seen far up and down the beach on Anna Maria Island. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

## Volunteer dedicated to aid in Afghanistan

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Dawn Erickson lives a suitcase existence — and she may continue to do so for a while.

Erickson is a volunteer and consultant with a nonprofit organization helping meet medical, economic and educational needs in Afghanistan.

"I think I spent less than 2 1/2 months in the states this year," she said during a recent interview at the Holmes Beach home of her parents, Jay and Terry.

She recently left Kabul for Anna Maria Island to celebrate the holidays with friends and family and to attend a wedding on the beach — her own to geologist Jim Springer.

"The Island is just a beautiful place to be," said Erickson.

Her parents have lived on Anna Maria Island for 30 years. Erickson attended Manatee High School as a sophomore.

Erickson's parents introduced her to Afghanistan in the fall of 1966, when she was 10 years old. Her father taught at a university in the country and Erickson, who has three siblings, attended American International School of Kabul.

"I lived there from 1966 to 1971 and from there I went to Anna Maria Island," said Erickson, a communications specialist with a master's degree in public administration.

While attending AISK, Erickson met the boy who would become her husband and the girl who would remain her best friend, Marnie Gustavson.

Erickson and Gustavson, as children, pledged to work together in Afghanistan as adults. When they reconnected at a reunion in 2000, they started talking about projects and returning to Afghanistan.

Erickson's most recent work in the country was



Dawn Erickson, right, with Jay and Terry Erickson.

with Gustavson at Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Support for Afghanistan (PARSA), a nonprofit organization founded in 1996 to serve disabled and impoverished people and dedicated to "the Afghan spirit."

"My roles are multiple," Erickson said, explaining that her work at PARSA included creating content for a Web site and building a financial structure for the organization.

In mid-November, PARSA hosted an intimate gathering in which 27 female members of the Afghan Parliament met with U.S. Reps. Earl Pomeroy, David Dreier, David Price and Lois Capps. The bipartisan delegation went to Afghanistan to exchange information on legislative procedure with leaders in the first elected national assembly convened since the 1973 military coup that ended the last one.

"I was deeply impressed by the talent and dedication of those who have put their lives on the line to make this new democracy work," Pomeroy said after the trip. "In contrast to what I've seen in Iraq, there seems to be a commitment to resolve differences through the political process rather than through violent conflict."

The U.S. representatives also learned about war, poverty and drought in Afghanistan and about how the United States can help.

"It was wonderful, awesome," said Erickson, who in particular was struck by a statement Parliamentarian Shukria Barakzai made to the U.S. lawmakers. "She said the biggest issue is people come and ask what we need and we tell them and they don't listen."

Much of the international focus directed at Afghanistan in recent years has been on reconstructing the country's political system. PARSA is involved in this work, but the charity is also involved in mending social, economic and educational fabrics after decades of war.

PARSA conducts a literacy and early childhood development program in which women and girls, denied formal educations during the years of Taliban rule, can study.

PARSA conducts a program in Panjao that includes lessons in knitting to help keep people warm through the brutal winters.

"It's one of our remote projects," Erickson said. "There is a lot of poverty there and it is very cold."

PARSA helps at the Allahoddin Orphanage, home to some 600 children, many of whom have suffered the trauma of war.

PARSA also operates the Widows Garden, an economic development project in which women learn to grow crops to feed their families and to sell at the market.

"I love these programs," Erickson said. "They are turning things around."

After a two-day honeymoon at the Harrington House in Holmes Beach and a short visit with relatives in California, Erickson plans to return to Afghanistan, where the snow is heavy, temperatures are harsh, hot water is a luxury and electricity is rationed.

"Showers become something you plan," she said. "Hot water is huge. There are things you take for granted."

# 2006: THE YEAR IN REVIEW, PART 2

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

## July

**Board vs. magistrate:** Holmes Beach officials joined Anna Maria in considering a special magistrate system — an attorney rather than a board — to handle code violations or disputes.

**Mounting fines:** GSR Development LLC's trouble on the Island continued to mount, literally, as the Bradenton Beach Code Enforcement Board fined GSR for a mound of dirt at a property in the 2500 block of Gulf Drive. The board said a \$250 fine would be levied for every day the mound remained. Later in the month GSR declared bankruptcy. Court records listed 115 creditors owed between \$10 million and \$50 million.

**No third term:** SueLynn announced that she would not run for a third term as mayor of Anna Maria in the November general election. She made the decision after discussing another election and another term with family and friends. "The job has consumed my life with very little value added and I do not wish to continue my life this way," she said. "While it's going to be extremely difficult to walk away, I realize it's time to get out." She would later announce plans to serve as the executive director of The Studio in Anna Maria.

**Easy election day:** Island races in November were finalized as the qualifying deadline came and went. Rich Bohnenberger became a sure bet to win mayor of Holmes Beach on election day. No one else qualified to run for the post being vacated by Carol Whitmore, who ran for an at-large county commission seat.

**Rotten's franchise:** The Bradenton Beach City Commission awarded Rotten Ralph's Restaurant of Anna Maria a contract to operate a franchise on the Bradenton Beach Historic Bridge Street Pier. The contract had gone to Harry's Continental Kitchens, which withdrew from the project in late July.

**OK with coastal overlay district:** Anna Maria city commissioners decided to proceed with a coastal overlay district that would control new construction in areas within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's



**July: Quiet ride**  
Ralf Hesseler of the Manatee County Area Transit introduces two of four new Island trolleys July 7. The Island trolley took an estimated 1,000 vehicles off Island roads each day.  
Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

A-1 flood zone and seaward of the coastal construction control line. The decision was made knowing the city might be sued over the COD.

More headlines and highlights:

- Anna Maria city commissioners at their July 13 meeting agreed that a contract to remove some Australian pines in the city's Gulffront Park should proceed.
- An early morning crash into a power pole blocked traffic to and from the south end of the Island for more than 12 hours July 18. More than 3,000 utility customers were left without power, according to Florida Power and Light.
- Citing commercial and private gain for use of public property, Bradenton Beach city commissioners denied a permit to an arts and crafts festival at Coquina Beach planned by its promoter.

## August

**Robbery off the high seas:** Islanders, their representatives and the state insurance commissioner gathered for a town hall meeting on the insurance crisis. One resident characterized the high wind insurance

costs as "legalized robbery" and another said insurance carriers were operating under a "pirate mentality." The message was clear to Insurance Commissioner Kevin M. McCarty, who was gathering information to present to the Florida Cabinet.

**Park promotion:** The Manatee County Commission's plan to expand parking at the Kingfish Boat Ramp found formal opposition as two residents of nearby Westbay Cove formed the Kingfish Wetlands Project. While the county pushed expanded parking, Westbay residents Molly McCartney and Margaret Kelley pushed a park — a small nature trail for the 400-500 foot strip of land.

Oland Hanks, 32, of Bradenton, abducted his ex-girlfriend, Michele Smith, from her home on 102nd Street in Bradenton and forced her to drive to Coquina Beach. Hanks ordered Smith to telephone her relatives to tell them she probably wouldn't survive. Hanks shot Smith with a .38-caliber pistol and, as she lay dying on Gulf Drive, he went into a wooded area and shot himself in the head.

PLEASE SEE YEAR IN REVIEW, PAGE 8

## \$50,000 Matching-Fund Challenge



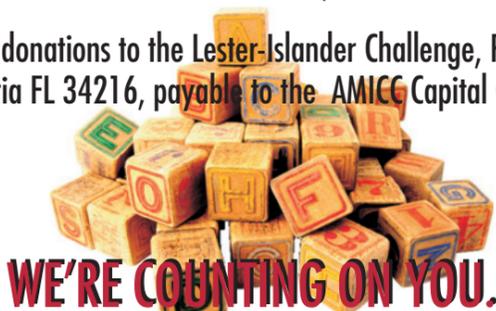
**CHALLENGE DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JAN. 15**

## BUILDING OUR FUTURE!

Holmes Beach residents Charles and JoAnn Lester are offering up to \$50,000 in matching funds for contributions made by **Jan. 15, 2007**, to the Anna Maria Island Community Center Capital Campaign. And your contribution is tax deductible.

The Center provides a critical human service need on the Island and provided more than 1.5 million hours of service to more than 3,400 Island residents last year.

Please send donations to the Lester-Islander Challenge, P.O. Box 253, Anna Maria FL 34216, payable to the AMICC Capital Campaign.



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**The Islander**

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# Our Opinion

## Looking back at 2006, ahead to 2007

Happy New Year!

As we bid farewell to 2006 and look ahead to 2007, some nagging issues remain to be resolved.

Insurance, for instance.

The insurance crisis in Florida has been especially hard-hitting for Anna Maria Island. Through some obscure decision reached decades ago, an apparently arbitrary literal line in the sand was drawn that placed most of the Island outside of the coverage zone for the state's "insurer of last resort" — Citizens Insurance Corp.

Way back when, that line 1,000 feet from the Gulf of Mexico was a moot line. Everybody could get insurance from almost any carrier then. At a reasonable price. No problem.

Then came the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. Insurers had to pay out "gazillions" in claims, and decided in many instances to simply drop policies that homeowners had diligently paid on for years and years without so much as a claim.

And we suddenly found that the insurer of last resort wasn't there for us because of that line in the sand. Or, if indeed we could get a private carrier to handle our wind or flood insurance, the cost grew to be astronomical.

There's a hideous trickle-down with the insurance crisis for Islanders.

As rates skyrocketed, many people just said forget it and went bare — no insurance at all. Thankfully, we had no hurricanes in 2006, so no damages, but if a storm had come, the very real threat of damaged and abandoned houses would have been realized.

As rates skyrocketed, many businesses found that they couldn't make ends meet and decided to close or sell. With a sliding real estate market, some homes and businesses remained on the market for a long, long time.

As rates skyrocketed, more and more of the smaller mom-and-pop motels and resorts on the Island found that they couldn't make it and either sold to developers for big bucks or transformed units to condos. Without the many small motels, much of the charm of the Island is at risk and tourists may seek accommodations elsewhere. And other businesses that rely on our winter friends are starting to suffer economically. The cycle continues, and ... you get the idea.

Fortunately, that scenario hasn't played itself out to its bitter end. Yet.

And fortunately, we're not alone in the insurance crisis.

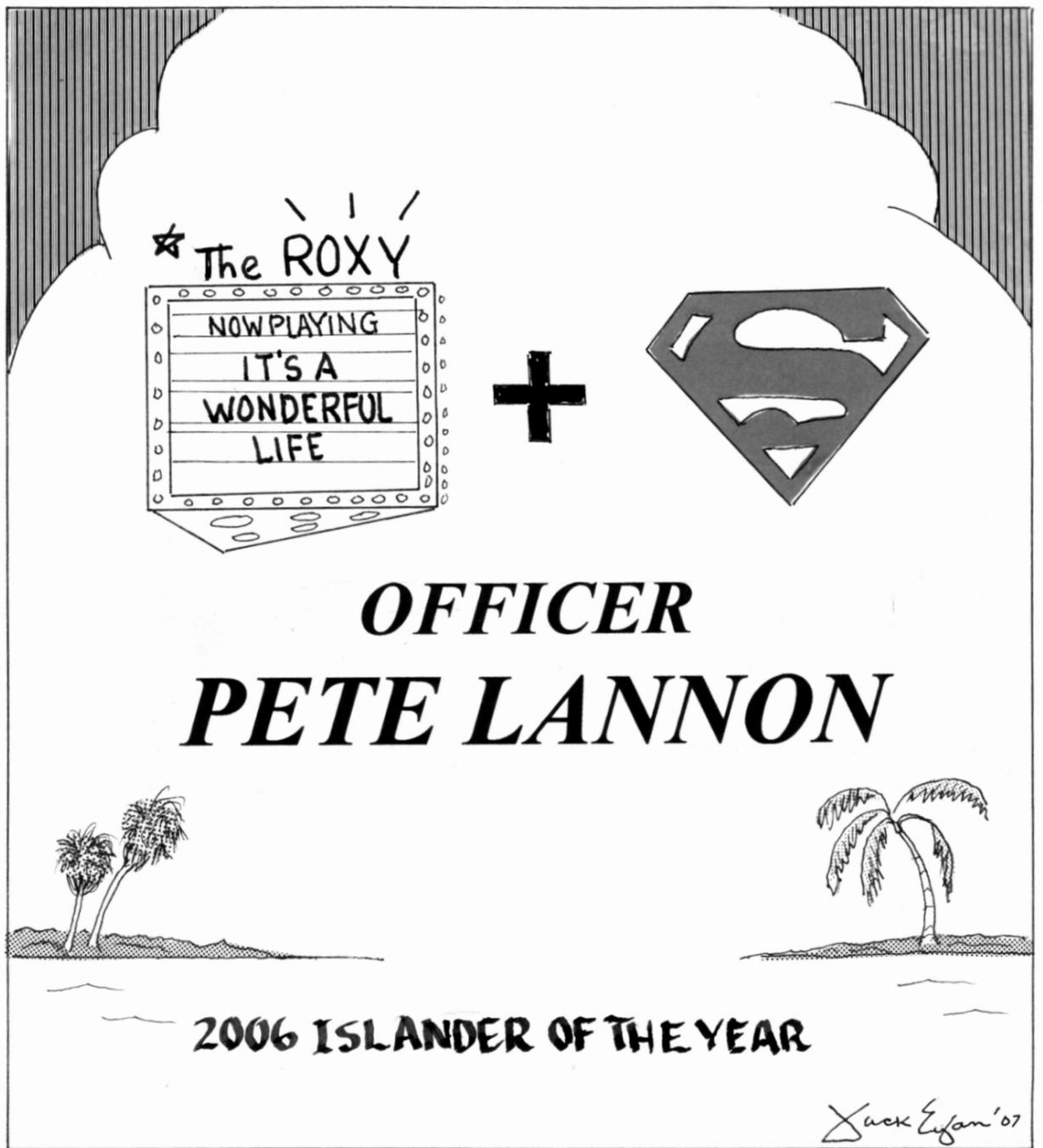
Lawmakers will convene in Tallahassee later this month to address the issue. Firmly on our side in this battle is state Rep. Bill Galvano, who has not only listened to our pleas for relief, but has also offered some suggestions to aid in the fight.

## The Islander

JAN. 3, 2007 • Vol. 15, No. 9

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SLICK

By Egan

Another grim carry-over from 2006 to 2007 is a sagging real estate market. Home sales slumped in 2006 for the first time in many years, and the future is vastly unknown. Granted, some of the market is priced at unrealistic levels, but even the more modest priced homes just aren't "moving and shaking" like in the past.

With that comes the homeowner taxes, another skyrocket that is the result of the balloon prices of 2005 and 2006 — higher prices, assessments, mortgages, rents, taxes.

Let's hope that this trend, too, settles and home-stead exemptions and the "Save Our Homes" legislation continues to provide residents some protection.

For the three Island cities, 2007 will see final adoption of long-range development plans destined to guide growth for several decades. Untold hours of debate and deliberation took place in the remake of these comprehensive plans, and much more work is needed in the design of the implementing document, the land development codes.

If there is one resolution that all Islanders should share, it is that they become more involved in this all-important process. Yes, it can be a little dull and tedious, but it's a true legacy that we owe to our children and grandchildren.

In Anna Maria City, long-awaited capital improvements are planned for the year ahead. The same is true in Bradenton Beach. We hope that reasoned oversight will be provided in the process to ensure that the work is done correctly, on time and at budget.

Holmes Beach has a new mayor and some new and some familiar faces on its commission. We hope they bring some fresh ideas to the city.

At *The Islander*, we resolve to continue to bring you the best news on Anna Maria Island. Please continue to support our advertisers — our neighbors — as the year advances.

And let's hope that we again have a moderate hurricane season for 2007.

### And best wishes

Our very best wishes go to Holmes Beach Police Officer Pete Lannon and his family in 2007, as he battles cancer and strives to improve his health and return to work and to the kids at Anna Maria Elementary School who adore him, if only part-time.

As many of you have observed many times over,

Anna Maria Island cherishes greatly those people who give dedication, determination, purpose and protection to our children.

Officer Lannon has exemplified those qualities and for that we honor him.

For all those in the battle with cancer, and for all their families and caregivers, we wish the best new year.

Happy new year to all from all of us at *The Islander*.

## Your Opinion

### Generosity

Island residents were generous this year to the Salvation Army. Organized by the Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club, the Salvation Army kettle was manned for 32 days, Thanksgiving to Christmas, by 72 generous individuals who rang the bell for 288 hours, collecting a not-quite-record-breaking \$13,245.

The volunteers included 24 Kiwanis members, 10 Island Rotary Club members and 25 members of the Key Royale Club who gave up golf for some serious philanthropy. The remainder of the bell ringers were goodhearted, caring citizens. Many worked multiple shifts with the championship for bell-ringing hours going to our own Bonner Joy.

The Salvation Army thanks you all and Kiwanis thanks you all.

We also thank Publix for the generosity in allowing us to "set up shop" in their store on Anna Maria Island.

Have a great new year!

Russ Olson, AMI Kiwanis, Holmes Beach

### Thanks for the help

On behalf of St. Bernard's Guild, we would like to thank all our parishioners, friends and the guild members for their time and talents extended toward this year's Christmas bazaar. Thanks to all of you, our bazaar was a great success.

Jean Stanley, chairperson

# 2006 mullet run overloads fish house, market, prices

By Jim Hanson  
Islander Reporter

The mullet run may be over, fisherfolk suspect, but while it lasted it was so much of a good thing that it shut down the biggest fish processor in the area.

It drew fishermen from all over Florida and beyond, and they fished until their boats were dangerously loaded and the men themselves exhausted from casting and hauling their nets. And still the mullet ran.

Then they stopped.

Just disappeared, evidently moving south to the waters off Naples, which was the next and newest mullet bonanza.

While they ran here, though, it was overwhelming. "Nothing like it in years," said Karen Bell of the A.P. Bell Fish Co. in Cortez, largest processor.

"The weather was right, the fish were right, the fishermen were right," she said.

The harvest was so huge that the Bell company was glutted, used up all of its ice and had to stop taking in more fish to process. It borrowed a refrigerated semi-trailer from the Taylor vegetable processing company "and it saved us."

"We had just sold too much ice to other processors," she said ruefully.

The big run ran the prices down, from \$1.50 a pound down to \$1.10.

The good news extended in from the sea, too — Thomas "Blue" Fulford, lifelong Cortez fisherman who had to retire with fishing injuries and took to making castnets, "sold every single one, and now I'll have to make more." A fisherman casts his net so it arrives flat on the water surface, its weights pull it down and it traps fish. It is brutally hard work, but with an occasionally big payday. The mullet roe is valued as a kind of caviar in Asian markets.

At one point, curious about the glut of fishermen the glut of mullet was bringing, Fulford drove his pickup over to the Coquina Beach launching ramps

and counted more than 100 boat trailers waiting for their boats and boatmen to return from the Gulf fishing grounds.

Many Cortez castnetters have moved south with their fellow fishermen visitors, following the fish as men have for hundreds of years.

The mullet run traditionally starts around Thanksgiving and lasts until around the New Year, governed by cold fronts that move over the Gulf of Mexico.

It inspired a Holmes Beach poet who writes under the name Gilligan to record his reaction as follows:

**'Mullet Run'**

Run run mullet run  
Long low skiffs are here  
Run run mullet run  
Carolina pirates draw near

Run fast through back waters  
Run fast along the causeway  
Run fast around the tip of island  
Or it could be your last day

Run run mullet run  
Late December is at hand  
Run run mullet run  
Your roe is in demand

Run fast away from Cortez  
Run fast from Egmont Key  
Run fast from Anna Maria  
Or on the smoker's rack you'll be

Run run mullet run  
The market is not slow  
Run run mullet run  
Or on our plates you'll go.



**In the Jan. 2, 1997, issue of  
The Islander, headlines announced:**

• Former Holmes Beach Police Chief Snooks Adams was named Islander of the Year by *The Islander* newspaper. Born in Cortez, Adams moved to Anna Maria Island in 1947. He became police chief of Bradenton Beach in 1952 and took up the same post in Holmes Beach in 1962, serving until 1978.

• Holmes Beach police had an easy time arresting a burglary suspect after the owners of a duplex returned home to find a number of Christmas presents had been stolen. With no signs of forced entry, police searched the attic to find a hole in the drywall separating the two units. Police went to the adjacent unit where they found Jason Slavin wearing some of the stolen jewelry and some of the missing presents strewn about the apartment.

• The Anna Maria City Commission planned to consider several changes to its land development codes when it meets on Jan. 14, said planning and zoning board chairman Tom Turner, including a recommendation to eliminate the requirement for professional plans for minor house repairs under \$500.

Temps & Drops on A.M.I.			
Date	Low	High	Rainfall
Dec. 24	69	84	0
Dec. 25	54	70	1.00
Dec. 26	61	70	0
Dec. 27	51	60	0
Dec. 28	48	78	0
Dec. 29	57	83	0
Dec. 30	67	81	0
Average Gulf water temperature 67°			
<small>24-hour rainfall accumulation with reading at approximately 5 p.m. daily.</small>			

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**Year in review**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

**Lightning strike:** Lightning triggered the fire that ripped through a building at Town & Country Perico Apartments on Aug. 15. While all the residents safely escaped the building, fire destroyed the top floor apartments and water damaged the ground floor units.

**Summer slump:** The Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau released numbers for June and July that put tourism on the Island at a four-year low. "People seem to be cutting back on their vacations, although the last week of July we were packed," said Marge Moran of the Club Bamboo Resort in Bradenton Beach.

**Sign off:** In a split decision, the Anna Maria City Commission voted against a sign ordinance restricting the number and size of commercial signs on residential property. The ordinance — any sign ordinance — could expose the city to a free speech complaint, cautioned attorney Mike Connolly.

**GSR seeks sale:** GSR Development LLC asked a federal bankruptcy court for an emergency order authorizing the sale of its Villa Rosa property in Anna Maria. GSR petitioned the court, claiming the land could be sold for \$11.5 million and that after liens and mortgages were paid, the developer would have some operating capital.

**September**

**To the general:** Carol Whitmore won her primary bid and advanced to the general election race for an at-large county commission seat. Whitmore entered the general election as a Republican facing Democrat Sarah Meaker.

**Tax burdens:** Some Island officials shared concern with the Island's contribution to the county pot — with about 2.7 percent of the county's population, the Island accounted for about 16.2 percent of the county's property tax revenues. Later in the month, the county adopted a record \$582 million budget.

**Bumpers at the beach:** Manatee County and Bradenton Beach officials met in late September to discuss traffic at Coquina Beach, specifically how to improve traffic entering and exiting the park.

**Creditors boo Bon Eau deal:** A committee of unsecured GSR creditors created by a U.S. bankruptcy court complained in late September that GSR's effort to save its \$6.5 million deal with Bon Eau Enterprises LLC was criminal.

**No comment:** With no comment from city commissioners or citizens at a hearing in mid-September, Bradenton Beach took 11 minutes to adopt a \$3,831,315 budget for fiscal year 2006-07.

**Capital work:** On Sept. 20, Anna Maria city commissioners held a 45-minute hearing before adopting a \$3.37 million budget for the fiscal 2006-07 year. The budget is a record for the city and includes \$1 million as a line of credit for capital improvements.

**Big money:** The Holmes Beach City Commission on Sept. 26 approved a record \$12.1 million budget for the new fiscal year.

More headlines and highlights:



**August: Up in smoke**  
 "Great White," an offshore fishing boat, was destroyed by fire in Cortez Aug. 29. Boat owner William L. Turner was working on the boat near Annie's Bait and Tackle. A lighted butane torch started the fire, according to the West Manatee Fire Rescue Department.

• Rhea Chiles announced in late September that her Anna Maria project at the corner of Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive would be known as The Studio and serve to promote the arts and the exchange of ideas.

• Islanders felt slight shudders and tremors from an earthquake in the Gulf of Mexico about 250 miles west-southwest of Anna Maria Island. The quake, measured at 6.0 on the Richter scale, did not cause any damage and didn't generate any major waves.

• A red tide bloom persisted in the waters off Anna Maria Island in late September, but the impact was not close to the damage caused by red tide in 2005.

**October**

**Crime in Cortez:** About 170 people gathered Oct. 12 in Cortez to discuss with area officials how best to combat crime in their community, particularly drug-related crime. Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells said there are few crimes not related somehow to substance use or abuse.



**September: Soccer action**

Morgan Stanley forward Trevor Bystrom shoots and scores as West Coast Surf Shop defender Molly Stoltzfus arrives a split second too late during Division II soccer action. Islander Photos: Kevin Cassidy

**Plane ordinance grounded:** Anna Maria city commissioners voted on Oct. 12 against a daylight plane ordinance after hours of meetings and \$3,000 in consultant fees. The ordinance would have required new construction to conform to increased setback requirements on upper floors as the construction became vertical.

**Registered and ready:** A report from the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office showed that voter registration for the Nov. 7 election went up from last year in the Island cities but down slightly in the Manatee County portion of Longboat Key.

**Friends of officer friendly:** Community groups, business leaders, friends and colleagues united to raise money for Holmes Beach Police Officer Pete Lannon and his family as Lannon battled cancer.

**Festival by the bay:** Pine Avenue in Anna Maria hosted Bayfest, the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce event benefiting local organizations and uniting Islanders in a pre-season day of celebration.

**Lucky Seven:** A slowdown in the real estate market and major changes for St. Joe Inc. of Jacksonville seemed to have no significant impact on the SevenShores project on Perico Island. The company announced plans to exit the Florida building market, but to plow forward with SevenShores.

More headlines and highlights:

• Hundreds turned out on Oct. 28 for the annual Fall Fest at Anna Maria Elementary School. The fest featured magic, a haunted auditorium, tricks and treats and a principal kissing a pig.

• Gregg Allman returned to familiar territory in late October to perform at the Sarasota Blues Festival.

• Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Holmes Beach welcomed a new full-time pastor, the Rev. Rosemary Backer.

• The Island Players opened the new season with the production of "Quartet."

• The landmark building on Marina Drive that housed the Griffith-Cline Funeral Home for four decades went up for sale in early October.

PLEASE SEE YEAR IN REVIEW, NEXT PAGE

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**October: Community campaign**

The panelists at the Oct. 12 community forum on drugs and crime in Cortez includes, left to right, Judge Janette Dunnigan, Manatee County Commissioner Jane von Hahmann, Manatee County Sheriff Charlie Wells and prosecutor Ed Brodsky of the 12th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. The event took place at the renovated 1912 schoolhouse. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

**Year in review**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

• The sea turtle season ended with the best hatch rate in years, with 7,477 hatchlings from 9,778 eggs.

**November**

**To the polls:** Islanders joined the rest of the nation in casting ballots in the Nov. 7 general election. Holmes Beach's Carol Whitmore was elected to an at-large seat on the Manatee County Commission. Rich Bohnenberg changed seats in Holmes Beach — from commissioner to mayor. Holmes Beach voters elected two commissioners — incumbent Sandy Haas-Martens and newcomer John Monetti. The commission then appointed third-place finisher Pat Geyer to finish Bohnenberg's commission term.

**Anna Maria makeover:** Voters in Anna Maria elected Fran Barford mayor, who defeated Tom Turner in the race. Voters also elected two commissioners — incumbent Duke Miller and Jo Ann Mattick. Linda Cramer lost her seat by 22 votes.

**Vote with impact:** On election day, voters in the West Manatee Fire Rescue District, which includes the Island, gave their OK to an increase in impact fees for new construction. Next stop for the district will be the Florida Legislature in 2007.

**Veterans get their day:** About 150 people turned out to commemorate Veterans Day on Nov. 9 in the

butterfly park next to Holmes Beach City Hall. The American Legion provided the honor guard for the program honoring the "Greatest Generation."

**Annexation frustration:** The Manatee County Commission Nov. 7 rejected Holmes Beach's request to voluntarily annex the area around Kingfish Boat Ramp. So the Holmes Beach City Commission drafted Police Chief Jay Romine to help educate the county on safety concerns in the area.

**Under nourished:** Manatee County officials announced that a partial renourishment of several portions of Anna Maria Island beaches would not take place in December as expected. "There was not enough time to get all the plans in place," said Charlie Hunsicker, the county's ecosystems manager.

**Grounds crew:** The Anna Maria Island Community Center held a formal groundbreaking ceremony Nov. 16 to celebrate the work on a new facility in Anna Maria. The new center is expected to open in the late summer.

**Testing the waters:** With warmer than usual weather up north, businesses saw a lukewarm start to the tourist season. Some resort operators reported better than average occupancy, but others saw vacancies that made them cautious about their winter forecasts.

**Comprehensive conclusion:** It may have taken just under four years from start to finish, but Anna Maria revised its comprehensive plan and accompanying evaluation and appraisal report and future land

use map. The city commissioners voted unanimously at the Nov. 30 public hearing to approve the plan, EAR and FLUM and forward them to the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

More headlines and highlights:

• Mote Marine Laboratory released a male loggerhead turtle in the Gulf in mid-November. The turtle, which required treatment for red tide ailments, swam off wearing a satellite transmitter that researchers hope will expand their knowledge of the males.

• The U.S. Coast Guard did not, as expected, implement peak opening times of every 30 minutes on demand for the Cortez and Anna Maria bridges. The change was delayed because of a need to re-advertise notice of it.

• Ooh La La! Bistro staff and volunteers dished up an early Thanksgiving dinner at Anna Maria Elementary School Nov. 14 to raise money for the Officer Pete Lannon Fund and the Bridgit Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund.

• The paddlewheeler "Showboat" in Cortez got new shipping orders — a transfer to the Virginia coast.

• Anna Maria merchants and the Anna Maria Island Historical Society/Museum celebrated the holiday season with an open house on Nov. 24, the day after Island churches shared Thanksgiving with Island residents and guests.

• The federal government pushed back until March 2007 a rule requiring the installation of vessel monitoring systems on certain commercial Gulf fishing boats, including some out of Cortez.

• Bradenton Beach city commissioners unanimously approved a plan to construct a new 92-seat restaurant

PLEASE SEE YEAR IN REVIEW, PAGE 12



**October: Peace hugs**

Holmes Beach Police Officer Pete Lannon and Island Girl Scouts share peace signs during an October fundraiser for Lannon and his family. The officer is battling cancer. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

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## Home tour quilt debuts, contest announced



### Quilters looking for name

Enjoying their work on this year's yet-to-be-named tour of homes quilt are, from left, first row, Marcia Powers, Dolores Harrell, Penny Reinholz and Betsy Smith; second row, Mary Jo Gasperi and Joan Pettigrew.

Folks can view and admire the Eyeland Needlers artistic endeavors for the Anna Maria Island Community Center's March Tour of Homes and participate in giving the quilt a name while it is displayed at the Island Branch Library through Jan. 31.

The "Name-the-Quilt" contest will end Jan. 24 and the official judging will be done by the Eyeland Needlers. The contest winner will receive 50 chances — tickets for the drawing — to win the prize quilt. The drawing for the quilt will be March 17, the day of the tour.

### Artist from China to speak at Island Rotary meeting

Lei Ling, an artist from China who is studying at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, will address the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island Tuesday, Jan. 9.

She is in the United States as winner of the Rotary International district ambassadorial scholarship. The meeting will be at a luncheon at noon at the Beach-House Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach.

Additional information may be obtained by calling 350-4326.

### Center watercolor class expands to second day

The intermediate watercolor class held by the Anna Maria Island Community Center and with Susie Cotton as instructor, meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, is adding Thursdays to its schedule, meeting from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The sessions will be at the activities hall of St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Cost is \$17 per class for members, \$19 for non-members. Details are available at 778-1908.

### Save Anna Maria roundtable discussion Saturday

Save Anna Maria Inc. will meet at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at the West Manatee Fire and Rescue District's Station No. 1, 6001 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

SAM president Sheila Hurst reports that the meeting will be for nomination of officers, with the election to be held in February, and an update on SAM interests. All interested parties are invited to attend and share their ideas about issues that concern the Island community.

### James Pay art show submissions next week

Artists may submit works for the annual James Pay Exhibit at the Anna Maria Island Art League's gallery Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 9 and 10.

There is a three-piece limit and the entry fee is \$10 per work. Awards will be presented at the opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at the gallery, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach.

The exhibit will be open from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays until Feb. 2. Additional information is available at 778-2099.

Chance tickets are \$1 per ticket, or 6 for \$5, and will be on sale at the Center's administrative office, temporarily located in a trailer in the back parking lot of St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Tickets may also be purchased from the sponsor of the quilt, Green Real Estate, 9906 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.

All proceeds from the tour and the sale of quilt tickets benefit the Center.

For information on how to enter the contest, call the Center at 778-1908.

### Rotary's 2007 Extravaganza scheduled in January

"Extravaganza & Casino Night," an annual blowout by the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island, will be Jan. 27, the club has announced.

It will begin at 6 p.m. at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach, and tickets at \$60 per person are on sale now — none will be sold at the door, the club emphasized.

There will be casino-style gaming tables, an open bar, appetizers and buffet dinner, music and dancing, auctions, and a major door prize of three nights at an Island beachfront condo.

Tickets are available at Island Florist, 5312 Marina Drive, and Island Vacation Properties, 3001 Gulf Drive, both in Holmes Beach. They also may be arranged by calling 746-7517, 448-5500 or 524-8969.

### Pancake breakfast Sunday at St. Bernard Catholic Church

A pancake breakfast and bake sale are scheduled from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7., at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

Adults may have "all the pancakes you care to eat" for \$4, children's breakfasts are \$1. Full information may be obtained by calling 778-4769.

### Gulf Coast Writers meeting

The Gulf Coast Writers will meet at 10:15 a.m. Monday, Jan. 8, at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Gene Domienik of Venice, Fla., will be the guest speaker with the topic being his recently published book, "I Remember the Yorktown."

Visitors and potential members are welcome to attend. For more information, call 761-9036 or 778-3209.

### Sunrise breakfast scheduled

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast will be from 7:45 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the Sun House Restaurant, 111 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach, sponsored by Whitney Bank. Cost is \$5. Reservations are required and may be phoned to the chamber at 778-1541.

# Streetlife

## Island police reports

Anna Maria

Dec. 21, 400 block of Magnolia Avenue, criminal mischief. Two concrete bird statues located at the foot of a driveway were reportedly knocked over and damaged.

Dec. 22, 9908 Gulf Drive, Act Medical Supply, battery. Deputies responded to a disturbance caused by an employee that had recently been terminated from her job. According to the report, the former employee refused to return her phone and keys to the company car. As she tried to leave the building she allegedly pushed her former employer who was reportedly blocking the doorway.

Bradenton Beach

No reports available.

Holmes Beach

No reports available.

## 'Sew for Fun' begins again

Embroidery, quilting and other sewing projects are scheduled for the next 11 weeks from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays, starting Jan. 4.

Titled "Sewing for Fun, classes will meet at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. A new project will be introduced each week. Further information is available from Diana Kelly at 795-8945.

## Longboat Center for the Arts sets workshops for January

Workshops led by three artists are scheduled in January at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts, 6860 Longboat Drive, Longboat Key.

Margy Rich will lead workshops in "Still Life in Oil" Jan. 3 and 4 and "Portrait in Oil" Jan. 6 and 7.

Bill Jerdon will be there with "Total Figure Drawing" Jan. 12 and 14.

Robert Liberace will lead workshops on "The Art of Portrait Painting" Jan. 19 to 21, with a special lecture on "The Masters" Jan. 19.

Full details may be obtained by calling the center at 383-2345.

## Applications being received for small business awards

The annual competition for awards to small businesses on Longboat Key are being received by the Longboat-Lido-St. Armands Keys Chamber of Commerce.

Three categories are open: Small business with 10 or fewer employees, small business with 11 or more employees, and rookie business, one that has been in business one to three years as of the first of this year.

Deadline for nominations is Feb. 23. The awards will be made at the annual Small Business Week breakfast June 7. The entrants will be judged on business practices, staying power, market history, innovativeness, management philosophy and community involvement.

Nominations will be accepted from the public, chamber members and civic organizations. Forms are available at the chamber office, 6960 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, or arranged by phone at 383-8217.

## Reservations open for awards breakfast on Longboat

Reservations are being made now for the 48th annual meeting and awards breakfast of the Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce, now expanded to include Lido and St. Armands keys.

The affair will be from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Lido Beach Resort. Deadline for reservations is Jan. 15. Cost of the affair is \$25 per person.

Officers and board members will be introduced, and the "member of the year, ambassador of the year and eager beaver award winner" will be announced, as well as the chairman's award.

Tickets may be purchased at the chamber office, 6960 Gulf of Mexico Drive, or ordered by phone at 383-8217.

## Digital photography Saturday at Island Gallery West

John Bonser will discuss and demonstrate "Digital Photography" at the Island Gallery West from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 6.

The free demonstration will be of use to beginners as well as more experienced photographers, he said. The gallery is at 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Details may be obtained by calling 792-1039.

## Bistro, trio welcome famed musicians



Herb Harris was beating his drum to gather his friends. Richard Drexler was keyed up. And Mark Neuenschwander was down-right elated.

The Herb Harris Trio welcomed Svend Asmussen and other guests to their gig at Ooh La La! Bistro Thursday night and the evening was pronounced to be "grand," even svelt (cool) by all standards for drummer Herb, bass player Mark and keyboardist Richard.

Asmussen is renowned in the world of jazz music for his 60 years of recording and performing. He is a native of Denmark and makes infrequent appearances in the United States, although most notably at the 1967 Monterey Jazz Festival "violin summit" with Ray Nance and Jean-Luc Ponty.

He was joined for a few songs by Dick Hyman on keyboard, known for masterful improvisations in his own piano style — having recorded 100 albums under his own name and many more in support of other artists.

Hyman noted that he had played with Asmussen in the 1950s at a Copenhagen music festival, then again last year at Asolo, and "tonight at Ooh La La."

Ooh La La! Bistro announced this week a new addition to its dinner fare with the addition of pianist Bob Santi, performing on the baby grand piano in the new dining room and wine bar from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

Santi formerly played at the Briarwood Country Club and the Hyatt Hotel in Buffalo, N.Y., and in Sarasota at several locations, including Villa Francesco, Tony's and Bruno's restaurants.

Santi will compliment the Thursday night jazz events at the bistro that feature the Herb Harris Trio and an every-night happy hour that includes reduced-price appetizers and house wine and beers priced two-for-one from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

For information, call 778-5320.

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**Year in review**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

at the city pier. Commissioners also approved, pending Florida Department of Environmental Protection permits, construction of a dockmaster's office, a bait-tackle-tourist kiosk and rest rooms.

**December**

**Principal plans:** Islanders learned that Anna Maria Elementary School Principal Kathy Hayes would be leaving her position at the school Feb. 1 to become the principal at B.D. Gullet Elementary School at Lakewood Ranch. Hayes said she always hoped to open a new school.

**Moving day:** When Cortezians began anticipating the move of the Burton Store, the Soviet Union power structure was crumbling, Diana and Charles were splitting and "Dallas" was headed off the air. Moving day arrived on Dec. 5, drawing crowds into the streets to watch the historic structure travel about 1/2 mile from the A.P. Bell Fish Co. through the Cortez fishing village to the grounds of the Florida Gulf Coast Maritime Museum.

**Yo, ho, ho:** Santa Claus arrived on a sleigh, shouting "merry Christmas" and privateers arrived aboard a wheeled ship, shouting "argh" and "ahoy." Dec. 9 began with the annual Christmas Parade from Anna Maria through Holmes Beach to Bradenton Beach. There, at Coquina Beach, the celebration continued with the Holiday Fun Day, with music, games and prizes, and food.

**Lame-duck action:** The U.S. House, after fierce debate in the final hours of the 109th Session Dec. 8, passed legislation expanding drilling for natural gas and oil in the Gulf of Mexico. The Senate followed with a 1:49 a.m. vote on Dec. 9. The drilling legislation was folded into a tax bill containing extensions for college tuition deduction, a research-and-development credit and a deduction for teachers' out-of-pocket expenses.

**Tourism troubles:** A study released by Smith Travel Research reported that Florida tourism industry is sputtering, particularly in the Orlando area. The study found that while bookings for hotel/motel lodgings have been declining, interest in time-shares is on the rise.

**Office raid:** In early December, agents with the Florida Attorney General's office raided the Acute Care Inc. in Anna Maria, seizing boxes of records for an apparent investigation into alleged Medicare fraud.

**Journey's end:** Early Dec. 18, 25 Cuban migrants arrived to Beer Can Island at the northern end of Longboat Key. A delivery driver saw them, cold and wet, on Gulf of Mexico Drive near North Shore Road and notified police. Quickly Longboat Key Police were working with other area emergency officials to care for the migrants while federal authorities were trying to find out how they came to America. No boat or smugglers were found. Over the next year, the migrants who made the long journey from Cuba to America, take the journey to permanent residency.

More headlines and highlights:

- The Island Players presented the second show of their 2006-07 season, "Breaking Legs," a comedy in



**November: Honor in Service**

Sheila Cassidy, a member of the American Legion honor guard, stands proudly at the ceremony honoring members of the "Greatest Generation" — those veterans who served in World War II. More than 150 people attended the event in Holmes Beach. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*



**December: Holmes Beach blizzard**

Scattered flurries hit Holmes Beach on Dec. 1 during the Downtown Holmes Beach Holiday Open House. As children played in the snow outside The Islander office, adults browsed the offerings — free and for sale — at downtown offices, shops and restaurants. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

which the mob gets tangled in the production of a New York play.

- Santa arrived early in Holmes Beach, making a stopover on Dec. 1 in the downtown commercial district for an open house and tree-lighting ceremony.
- Moviegoers seated on the lawn next to Holmes Beach City Hall Dec. 2 caught a free screening of "It's a Wonderful Life," the second year of the holiday event

for the city.

- All the Island celebrated the season of joy with a Christmas parade presented by the Anna Maria Island Privateers and a old-fashioned Family Fun Day for the Anna Maria Island Community Center.
- Winterfest took place Dec. 9-10 on the field next to Holmes Beach City Hall, drawing appreciators of fine arts, good barbecue and foot-stomping music.



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Anna Maria

# The Islander

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# Citizen scientists conduct bird count

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Citizen scientists on Anna Maria Island set out Dec. 28 to contribute to more than a century of data on birds in the Americas.

On the third day after Christmas, more than a dozen volunteers in the Manatee County Audubon Society's Gulf Circle counted 38 common loons, 667 brown pelicans and seven anhingas. They counted dozens of other species in their Christmas bird count, which began at about 7 a.m. and ended, for some, by late afternoon.

At mid-morning, count coordinator David Williamson stood with counters Charlie and Diane Canniff and Ruth Rowland, all of Anna Maria, at the western end of Magnolia Avenue. Through their binoculars, they scanned the Gulf shore and spotted pelicans, sanderlings, gulls and loons.

"There are a patch of them out there!" shouted Charlie Canniff, pointing toward 10 northern gannets. "Holy Toledo!"

He took up birding 36 years ago and now has a "life list" — a list of birds he's seen over the years — that totals 606 species.

His wife, Diane, began birding as a child in Connecticut five decades ago. She's carried a field guide since 1960 and she got to know Charlie while birding.

"We met as birdists," she said, while noting the gannets on the Christmas count scoresheet.

In some instances, to the casual observer, there was little to see on the beach but thin silhouettes in the sky over the Gulf or small blurs of motion on the sand.

But the birders could solve the mysteries. They listened. They studied movement. They looked for markings.

"Every bird has a shape," Charlie Canniff said.

Rowland, gesturing toward him, added, "I learn all the time from him."

Rowland, who frequently goes on Audubon outings to bird, took up the hobby about 30 years ago.

"It just seeps in slowly," she said of the enthusiasm for birding.

The 107th annual Christmas Bird Count in the Americas began Dec. 14 and was to continue through Jan. 5. The count, coordinated by the Audubon Society, involves tens of thousands of volunteer birders in more than 2,000 circles, which are groups covering designated territories.

A Bradenton count conducted by Manatee County Audubon took place Dec. 16.

The Gulf Circle includes Anna Maria Island, and parts of northern Longboat Key and Perico and Cortez. Next year, Williamson said, he hopes the circle can count Egmont Key as well.

"I'd like to get a sponsor next year," he said, adding that to get to Egmont the circle would need permission and also would have to hire a boat to get there and back.



Birders Charlie Canniff, from left, Diane Canniff, David Williamson and Ruth Rowland scan the Gulf shore in Anna Maria for birds during the annual Christmas Bird Count Dec. 28. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

The Gulf Circle's count is turned in for the Audubon Society to add to its database for the Americas.

Once a complete count is conducted, the data will show what birds were found and in what numbers, from the arctic to southern South America.

Williamson said that in addition to the species counts and individual bird counts, Audubon tracks the weather, the number of miles covered by a circle and the number of volunteers involved.

"We're not seeing every bird," Williamson said. "We know that. So they came up with a formula for your effort. It's our history."

Birders can look at the data and know what they can see in early winter. Scientists can look at the data and, over years, notice changes in populations.

The count also provides an opportunity for birders to engage in some friendly competition.

"There are two things that we strive for," Charlie Canniff said, referring to the counters. "One, a census of the birds in a geographic area. What also has developed is a competition between the circles, a good-natured competition for counting the species."

"I'd say," he continued, "that we're in the top 50 percent."

## For the record

The Gulf Circle of the Manatee County Audubon Society conducted its Christmas Bird Count Dec. 28. The count included:

Nine pied-billed grebes, 76 northern gannets, 214 American white pelicans, 313 double-crested cormorants, one great white heron, 31 great blue herons, 23 little blue herons, five tricolored herons, one black-crowned night heron, two yellow-crowned night herons, 50 great egrets, 27 snowy egrets, six reddish egrets, 112

white ibis.

Twenty-six roseate spoonbills, eight wood storks, 165 black vultures, 888 turkey vultures, 26 mottled ducks, 61 blue-winged teal ducks, 13 northern shovellers, 103 lesser scaups, 65 red-breasted mergansers, 27 ospreys, four adult and four immature bald eagles, two sharp-skinned hawks, two Cooper's hawks, two red-shouldered hawks, three American kestrels, one merlin, two common moorhens.

Twenty-three black-bellied plovers, five killdeers, one American oystercatcher, 13 willets, five spotted sandpipers, nine ruddy turnstones, 66 red knots, 428 sanderlings, seven short-billed dowitchers, four long-billed dowitchers, 1,009 laughing gulls, 202 ring-billed gulls, 74 herring gulls, 1 Caspian tern, 142 royal terns, eight sandwich terns, 38 Forster's terns.

Sixty black skimmers, 115 rock pigeons, 122 Eurasian collared-doves, 188 mourning doves, two common ground doves, nine monk parakeets, 17 black-hooded parakeets, 12 belted kingfishers.

Twenty-one red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, one northern flicker, three blue jays, two American crows, 176 fish crows, six ruby-crowned kinglets, three blue-gray gnatcatchers, 1,027 American robins, one gray catbird, 17 northern Mockingbirds, 213 European starlings, 186 cedar waxwings, 171 orange-crowned warblers.

One yellow-rumped warbler, 57 palm warblers, four northern cardinals, 22 red-winged blackbirds, 50 common grackles, six boat-tailed grackles, 25 house sparrows, one house wren, four purple finches and two peacocks.

Source: Manatee County Audubon Society/Gulf Circle

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# Insurance: Cat fund. Cherry picking. Mitigation. Wind boundaries. The pups.

By Molly McCartney  
Islander Reporter

Get used to the headline terms because they are among the big issues that lawmakers are expected to discuss, argue about and fight over when the Florida Legislature meets Jan. 16 in Tallahassee for a special session on the property insurance crisis.

Legislators "are still formulating" bills, according to state Rep. Bill Galvano, who represents District 68, including western Manatee County. He's been leading an effort to find solutions. The challenge, he said, is for the Legislature to "create an environment for rates to be lower."

In a Dec. 22 interview with *The Islander*, Galvano identified five key issues that go to the heart of the insurance-rate crisis that has gripped Anna Maria Island and the state in recent months, as affordable insurance for homeowners and small businesses vanish from the market.

Near the top of the list of likely reforms, he said, is a reconfiguration of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, also known as the Cat Fund. Created by the Legislature in 1993, the Cat Fund sells reinsurance to insurance companies at a lower cost than the regular private market. This has the effect of lowering insurance premiums for consumers.

"The simple answer is that there is a pot of money that we have all contributed to, and it is this Cat Fund," Galvano said. "And there are certain things, such as hurricanes, that trigger its availability. What we are looking at is giving insurers easier access to those funds so that they can factor it into their rates."

Lawmakers at this point are divided over how to restructure the Cat Fund. Galvano said the proposals to reshape the Cat Fund "range from one extreme to the other."

A second major issue in the insurance debate is "cherry picking," an industry practice that Gov.-Elect Charlie Crist criticized in his campaign. Crist argued that insurers should be prohibited from picking and choosing only the most profitable lines of insurance — the cherries — when doing business in Florida while leaving the state to cover the least profitable insurance.

"If you sell homeowner insurance, wind insurance and auto insurance in Georgia," Galvano said, "then you shouldn't be allowed to come to Florida and just sell what is profitable." He says this issue will "get a lot of debate."

And so will mitigation, the issue of strengthening homes and buildings to be more resistant to storm damage. Florida has a \$250 million hurricane mitigation program to help homeowners fortify their dwellings by installing shutters and making other improvements.

But the controversial legislation known as Senate Bill 1980, passed in May, left it to insurers to factor



*One big issue coming before the special legislative session is how to restructure the Cat Fund, short for the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, which sells reinsurance to insurance companies at a lower cost than the regular private market. Tweaking the Cat Fund could help reduce or hold down premiums.*

homeowner mitigation efforts into insurance rates, Galvano said. "I understand that concept," he said, "but people can't just guess on what makes the rates. If they are going to make that investment in mitigation, they need to know what the savings are going to be, because that makes for an informed decision."

Galvano said he hears complaints from people who upgraded their homes and their rates still went up or their coverage was canceled, so he wants the Legislature "to make sure that insurers recognize the mitigation that people are undergoing."

A fourth issue coming before this special session will involve the state-established wind pool boundaries, which determines eligibility for coverage with Citizens Property Insurance Corp., the state's insurer of last resort.

On Anna Maria Island, a property has to be within 1,000 feet of the Gulf of Mexico shoreline to qualify for Citizens. Residential property can qualify for Citizens, regardless of location, but only if no other regulated insurance coverage is available, but commercial properties must be "in" the wind pool area of coverage.

Property owners who don't qualify for Citizens may be faced with a choice of going without wind coverage because it is not available, or paying much higher prices for coverage from unregulated carriers.

Galvano believes that his proposal to eliminate the wind boundary lines will pass the special session "based on what I presented to the full committee two

weeks ago, and the very positive response that the proposal received."

Fifth and final are the "Pups."

This is the term coined to describe the Florida-only subsidiaries of national insurance companies. "These are the corporations that exist only in Florida and don't show the income they make elsewhere," Galvano said.

Crist opposed the operation of the Pups, as well as the industry's cherry-picking, during his campaign. Gov. Jeb Bush criticized Crist for his position in early November at the height of the campaign for his seat. Bush said that the Crist proposals would "do more harm than good" because they might drive more insurers from the state.

Now, with Bush leaving office in January, the Crist proposals are gaining momentum.

"Two weeks ago when we were in Tallahassee (for a legislative planning session), record profits were announced for insurers," Galvano said. "So lawmakers recognize that the insurers are making money and that helps bring those other issues to the forefront."

Galvano said he would like to see legislators listen to expert testimony "to put people under oath and really get down to what is happening. There are a lot of questions out there that aren't being asked: What are the top CEOs of these insurance companies earning? What are the profits and losses?"

"I would like someone to explain to me what is responsible for the record profits other than record premiums."

## Crist supports national action

Florida's governor-elect sent out a batch of letters Dec. 21 urging top congressional leaders and the governors of every state to support the legislation proposed by U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson to create a Commission on Catastrophic Disaster Risk and Insurance.

Crist, a Republican, said that Senate Bill 3114, introduced earlier this year by Nelson, a Democrat, "would address the rising national problem of affordable homeowners insurance" by establishing a bipartisan task force that would examine proposals to alleviate the insurance crisis facing so many U.S. homeowners.

He described the availability and affordability of property insurance for the citizens of Florida as one of the most critical issues facing the state. Immediate and long-term solutions to this problem are essential, he said.

"Nothing is more on the minds of Floridians than the skyrocketing cost of property insurance," Crist said. "It is vital that we put an end to soaring insurance premiums and protect the dreams of the Florida homeowner."

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# ISLANDER CALENDAR

## Wednesday, Jan. 3

7 to 8 a.m. — Pier Regulars meeting at the Anna Maria City Pier, 100 S. Bay Blvd., Anna Maria. Information: 778-7062.

6 to 7:30 p.m. — "Parenting with Love and Logic" with Anna Maria Island Community Center counselor Shirley Rohmberger at the School for Constructive Play, 305 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

## Thursday, Jan. 4

9 to 10:15 a.m. — Yoga with Preston Whaley Jr. at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. — "Sew for Fun" group meets at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 795-8945.

3 to 5 p.m. — Saltwater fishing course at the Longboat Key Education Center, 5370 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 383-8811. Fee applies.

## Friday, Jan. 5

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. — Anna Maria Island Community Center hosts bridge lessons with Larry Auerbach at the Volunteer Fire Hall, 201 Second St. W., Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

10:30 a.m. to noon — Anna Maria Island Community Center-sponsored line dancing at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Community Center hosts the Food for Life cooking session "Discovering Dairy Alternatives" at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1908.

5 to 7 p.m. — Opening reception for "Two Artists from New York"

at Durante Gallery, Longboat Key Center for the Arts, 6860 Longboat Drive S., Longboat Key. Information: 383-2345.

6 to 8 p.m. — Artists reception for Donna Bednarz and Peggy Potter at the Artists' Guild Gallery, 5413 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

## Saturday, Jan. 6

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. — Anna Maria Island Community Center-sponsored Pilates class with Laura Bennett at the BeachHouse Restaurant outdoor deck, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

10 a.m. to noon — Digital photography demonstration with John Bonser at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 792-7039.

## Monday, Jan. 8

8:30 a.m. — Internet class at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341. Registration required.

9 to 10:15 a.m. — Yoga with Preston Whaley Jr. at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

10:30 a.m. to noon — Anna Maria Island Community Center hosts "Write What You Feel, Feel What You Write" with author Helena Bachmann Milligan at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. — Basic stained-glass course at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

6 to 8 p.m. — Black-and-white photography class at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

7 to 9 p.m. — "The Way of the Heart" with Kenneth Alonso at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

## Tuesday, Jan. 9

10 to 11:30 a.m. — "Financial Workshop for Individual Investors" with Mike Valley, an Edward Jones representative, at 9906 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 779-2499.

10 a.m. to noon — Introduction to oil painting at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. — Friends of the Island Branch Library present "Iraq and Beyond. Can America Rule the World?" with guest

James McCartney at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

Noon — Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island presents Rotary ambassadorial scholar Lei Ling at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 350-4326.

1:30 to 3:30 p.m. — Basic drawing class at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5321 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

4:30 to 6 p.m. — Creative arts and crafts for ages 5-12 at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

7:30 p.m. — "Jazz in the Gallery" featuring the Booker High Jazz Ensemble at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts, 6860 Longboat Drive S., Longboat Key. Information: 383-2345. Fee applies.

## Wednesday, Jan. 10

10 a.m. to noon — Watercolor class at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

10:30 a.m. — Friends of the Island Branch Library book club at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

11:30 a.m. — Off Stage Ladies auxiliary of the Island Players lunch with guest speaker Sissy Quinn of the Anna Maria Island Historical Society at the Bradenton Country Club, 4646 Ninth Ave. W., Bradenton. Information: 761-7374. Fee applies.

1:30 to 3:30 p.m. — Basket-weaving class at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

## Ongoing:

• "The Blue Briny: Mermaids & More" at the Village of the Arts, along 12th Avenue West, downtown Bradenton, through Jan. 6. Information: 747-0823.

• Art by Peggy Potter at the Artists' Guild Gallery, 5413 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, through Jan. 31.

## Coming up:

• Mixed media art demonstration at the Artists' Guild Gallery Jan. 11.

• Sarasota Shell Club meeting at Mote Marine Laboratory Jan. 11.

• "Thoroughly Modern Millie" at Manatee Players Jan. 11.

• Presentation on China at the Island Branch Library Jan. 13.

• "Slavery in 2007?" at St. Bernard Catholic Church Jan. 13.

# Obituaries

## Charles Joseph 'Charlie' Guy

Charles Joseph "Charlie" Guy, 73, of Ellenton and formerly Holmes Beach, died Dec. 21.

Mr. Guy was born in Boston, Mass., and moved to Florida in 1981. He served in the U.S. Air Force. He was an actor on stage on Broadway and locally at Island Players.

For many years, "Charlie the Cat Man," as he was fondly called, traveled from Ellenton to Anna Maria Island to care for wild cats. At one point he was feeding up to 40 of them near the Publix Super Market in Holmes Beach, which prompted some complaints by neighbors until the city administration granted him permission to continue the practice. He was able to capture and place many of the kittens in homes as well.

There were no services. Donations are being sought to care for the 35 cats he had taken to his own home, and the remaining dozen or so that he was feeding behind Publix. Donations may be made "For Charlie" to Julie Royal at SunCoast Real Estate, 5402 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217. Royal welcomes volunteers to help care for Charlie's family of cats, and she can be reached at 779-0202 or 365-1687. Memorial contributions may also be made "For Charlie" to the Manatee County Humane Society, 2515 14th St. W., Bradenton FL 34205.

He is survived by sisters Rita Bucciere and Ellen Gilliam.

## John Prior LeCroy Jr.

John Prior LeCroy Jr., 83, of Bradenton and formerly Holmes Beach, died Dec. 24.

Born in Chattanooga, Tenn., Mr. LeCroy moved to Holmes Beach from Alexandria, Va., in 1979. He was president of Robinson Export/Import Corp. for 27 years, and retired as vice president of Forest Products Supply in Sarasota in 1993. He attended George Washington University, Benjamin Franklin University and Stayer College. He served in the Army Air Corps, where he was awarded the Bronze Star. He was a member of Blake Medical Center Auxiliary and a former chair of the scholarship committee there, as well as the Hospital Corpora-



LeCroy

tion Board of Alexandria Hospital. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club in Alexandria for 30 years. He was a model for several men's shops in the area and a photo model for advertisers. He was a deacon at Roser Memorial Community Church, where he was a member since 1979, and a deacon in the First Baptist Church and an elder in Westminster Presbyterian Church.

There were no local services. Memorial contributions may be made to Tidewell and Palliative Care, 5355 Rand Blvd., Sarasota FL 34205, or to Roser Memorial Community Church, P.O. Box 247, Anna Maria FL 34216.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years Edie; son Steven Craig and his wife Robin of Duluth, Ga.; daughter Patti Marifjeren and her husband David of Bradenton and formerly Holmes Beach; grandchildren Christopher, Stephen Jr. Michael, Jonathan and Rebecca; and great-grandchildren Jared and Ivy.

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# On holiday



Paul and Denise Fletcher, on holiday from the United Kingdom, give a thumb's up to the Island early Nov. 15 in Bradenton Beach. Islander Photo: Edna Tiemann



## Belize bulletin

Paul and Joani Mitchell, of Bradenton, met Islanders Bill and Ursula Stemm in The Green Lizard Restaurant in Belize — and they did more than review the contents of *The Islander*. The couples had coincidentally booked the same Holland America cruise and shore excursions and they say the Belize destination was a nice one — before they arrived.

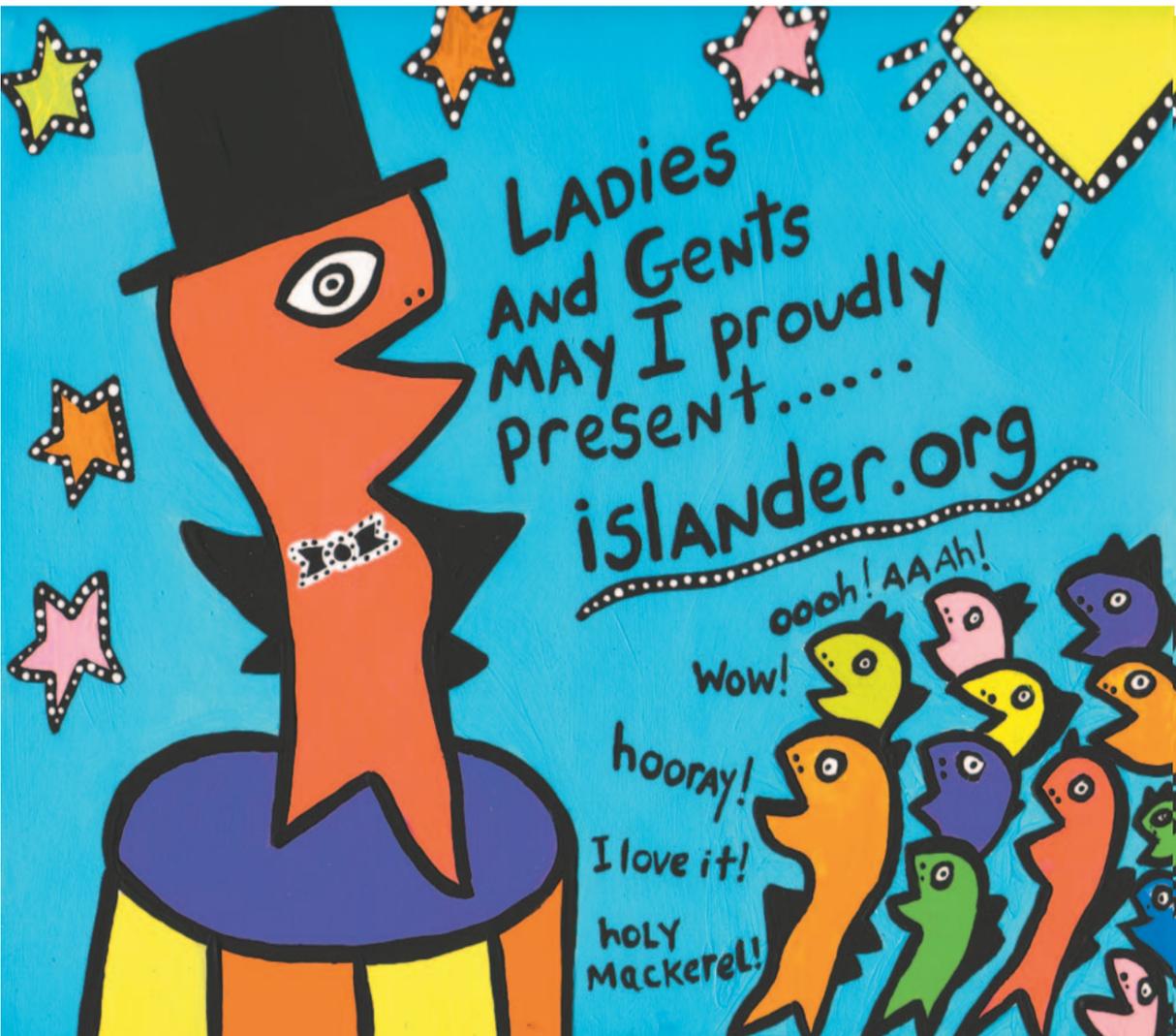


Former Islander David Reid, now of Hollywood, Calif., caught up with former New York City Mayor Ed Koch in the Big Apple recently and shared his Islander newspaper.



## Cruising the news

While aboard the *Sun Princess*, Dolores McComb, of Holmes Beach, and daughter Julie Stewart, of Palmetto, catch up on the news with *The Islander*. The pair took a 10-day Southern Caribbean cruise.



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# Manatee Public Beach fishing pier closed

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

A fence went up to close off the fishing pier at Manatee Public Beach in late December.

Manatee County officials are concerned about structural problems at the pier, which was reconstructed 12 to 15 years ago.

The pier was inspected by an engineer after the failure of a groin on a pier to the south that was built at about the same time and in the same manner as the public beach pier.

"We looked at it," said Tom Yarger, the project

manager with Manatee County Parks and Recreation. "There's some corrosion of metal inside the concrete."

So the fence went up on Dec. 23, as well as signs, cones, tape and a wooden barrier.

County officials are preparing a work assessment for an engineering study and structural testing of the pier.

Once the study and testing are complete, officials will know the extent of the problem and the cost to repair or rebuild.

Any construction would likely need to be approved

by the county commission, said Yarger, who could not say how long the structure would be closed.

Meanwhile, beachgoers seeking a walk on the pier will need to head south or north of the public beach.

"I'm a big fan of the Anna Maria piers anyhow," said Martin Wallace, a seasonal visitor from Chicago who was looking for a location to let out some fishing line.

"A fence beats rusting pipes any day," added his wife, Shelly Wallace, referring to the former beach renourishment pipeline that blocked access to many who couldn't climb over it easily. "At least I don't have to climb it."

## Almeda appeals code decision

Anna Maria resident Frank Almeda has appealed the Nov. 13 code enforcement board decision that found his property at 415 Pine Ave. in violation of city codes.

The appeal was filed by attorney Chuck Webb representing Almeda and asks the Manatee County Circuit Court to issue a stay of the order until the court can hear the appeal.

The code board had found Almeda to be in violation of the city code that prohibits a fourplex and ordered Almeda to convert the property back to a duplex. At the time of the order, the board made no determination of any fine, nor did it involve itself in the question of whether or not duplexes are properly zoned on Pine Avenue if they were built when such structures were allowed by city codes.

The board is waiting for a city inspection to determine if the property has been brought into compliance

## 3-week 'Financial Workshop for Investors' beginning

A three-Tuesday "Financial Workshop for Investors" will begin Jan. 9 in Anna Maria with Mike Valley of Edward Jones Co. helping individuals set financial and investment goals.

The workshop sessions will be at 9906 Gulf Drive from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on three consecutive Tuesdays. Details may be obtained by calling 779-2499.

## Island real estate sales

5315 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, a 14,376 sfla / 15,522 sfur commercial office building built in 1983 on a 52,069 sf lot was sold 12/12/06, Sunrise Landings LLC to Reliance Tidemark LLC for \$2,850,000.

8017 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, a vacant 99x134 waterfront lot was sold 12/15/06, Orlando to Gryboski for \$850,000.

310 61st St., Unit B, Birds of Paradise, Holmes Beach, a 2,114 sfla / 2,867 sfur 3bed/2.5bath/2car condo built in 2005 was sold 12/12/06, Roehl to Busch for \$690,000; list \$749,000.

108 Fifth St. S., Bradenton Beach, a 764 sfla / 1,052 sfur 2bed/2bath home built in 1936 on a 42x98 lot was sold 12/15/06, Brown to Ulgenalp for \$485,000.

Jesse Brisson, broker/associate at Gulf-Bay Realty of Anna Maria, can be reached at Gulf-Bay (941) 778-7244. Current Island real estate transactions may also be viewed online at [www.islander.org](http://www.islander.org). Copyright 2007.

## Fishing classes starting Jan. 4 on Longboat Key

Classes in fishing techniques and equipment will begin Thursday, Jan. 4, and continue for eight consecutive Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Longboat Key Education Center, 5370 Gulf of Mexico Drive, with Capt. Ric Ehlis as instructor. Cost is \$100. Details are available at 383-8811.

## AMBE MENU

Monday, Jan. 8

- Breakfast: Waffle Sticks, Yogurt, Cereal, Toast, Fruit
- Lunch: Pepperoni Pizza or Chicken Nuggets, Carrot and Celery Sticks with Dip, Chips, Peaches

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, Toast, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich, Fruit
- Lunch: Homemade Chili or Burrito, White Rice, Green Beans, Fruit Cocktail

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Yogurt, Cereal, Toast, Fruit
- Lunch: Tacos or Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun, Spanish Rice, Oranges and Pineapple

Thursday, Jan. 11

- Breakfast: Egg and Cheese Biscuit, Cereal, Toast, Bagels, Fruit
- Lunch: Turkey Gravy or Hot Ham and Cheese Sandwich, Mixed Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes, Strawberries and Banana

Friday, Jan. 12

- Breakfast: Blueberry Muffin, Oatmeal, Cereal, Toast, Yogurt
- Lunch: Barbecue Rib Sandwich or Pizza, Corn, Carrot Sticks with Dip, Chilled Pears

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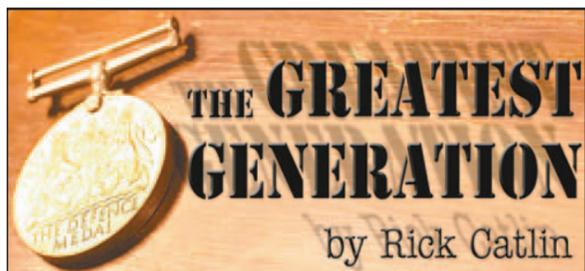
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## Holmes Beach man kept Allies supplied during WWII

Don Davis of Westbay Point and Moorings in Holmes Beach is a quiet and unassuming man, and he's not prone to talk much about his World War II experiences.

Like many veterans of the war, he saw enough combat and lost enough friends that those memories are best left unspoken.

But Don played an integral part in the Allied invasion of Europe, although he was an unlikely candidate for the role.

Don had already graduated with a master's degree from Syracuse University and was teaching high school mathematics near Binghamton in 1940 when the United States instituted the one-year draft.

Don's number was one of the first called, but he was able to get a deferment until the end of the school year.

Called up in July 1941, Don figured he'd do his one year of service, then resume his teaching career. Because of Don's math background, he did his basic and advanced training as an Army engineer.

One morning in the fall of 1941, the entire company was called out into formation and Don was ordered to step aside.

"I was wondering what kind of trouble I'd gotten into. I was a bit nervous," he remembered.

Don, however, wasn't in any trouble. He was promoted to corporal and ordered to stay behind to assist in training new recruits. The remainder of the unit was shipped out to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, arriving just in time to be part of the Japanese sneak attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

After the attack and with America now firmly in the war, Don realized he wasn't going to be getting out of the service after one year.

"I figured I was in for the duration of the war, and I wanted to do the best job possible, so I put in my papers for the engineers officer candidate school and got accepted," he said. Don received his commission in April 1942 and was assigned to the 941st Engineer's Heavy Equipment Company.

He got married in June 1942, fully expecting to remain stateside for at least a year for more training.

But the Army had other ideas. The war in Europe took precedent over the Pacific and the Americans needed to build up its supplies and equipment for the eventual invasion of Europe. Don's outfit was shipped overseas in July 1942, bound for Great Britain. It would be more than three years before he saw his wife again.

"I remember that after the first day out of New York, the escorts left us in the open Atlantic and we were on our own. We knew there were U-boats everywhere, and remember, at that time, the Germans controlled the shipping lanes to Europe. And we heard Axis Sally on the radio tell us the name of our ship and our location and that the U-boats were headed our way. What could



U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Don Davis, center, with members of his engineering team during a break from training in England during World War II prior to the D-Day landings in 1944.

we do?"

Luckily, the ship managed to zig-zag its way to Scotland safely without encountering any Germans. At least, not until the 15,000 troops on board started debarking off the ship.

"This was 1942 and the Germans still had air superiority. We got bombed and strafed as we were leaving the ship. Welcome to the war. That's when we knew we were in the fight," said Don with a chuckle.

The outfit was sent to Cheltenham in England, where it had to room with a unit of the Royal Engineers until it could build its own camp.

The mission of the 941st was to establish resupply bases around England for the buildup leading to the invasion of Europe. Somewhere along the way, Don's commanding officer got sick and was sent back to the States. Don assumed command of the company and received a promotion to captain.

"The idea was to get depots and sub-depots ready for each individual Army and division that was going into the invasion. That meant supplies and resupply, particularly for parts. Replacement parts were going to be a big problem once the invasion started."

It took nearly two years after Don landed in England for the invasion to take place, but finally on June 6, 1944, the Allies invaded Europe. Don's outfit landed in France about three weeks later and began the task of establishing re-supply depots for the entire Allied Expeditionary Force. He was the main man, the guy in charge, the man to see if an outfit needed a spare part for its tanks or machine guns.

By now a major, Don's job wasn't made any easier by Gen. George S. Patton's 3rd Army, which was sweeping across France, moving anywhere from 20 to 50 miles a day.

"We had a tough time keeping up with them. We tried to keep the depots about 10 miles behind the front lines, but Patton moved so fast, we'd no sooner get one depot in operation when we had to tear it down and move out."

Don had a hectic job, one that often brought him at or near the front lines.

"But I was fortunate. The combat engineers were the ones who were actually on the front lines all the time and they took a beating. Where we were, we didn't get

bombed or strafed very much. We were pretty safe."

In mid-December 1944, Don was inspecting his supply bases in Belgium and Luxembourg. Only a few hours after he left the tiny Belgium town of Bastogne, the Germans launched their last major offensive of the war — the Battle of the Bulge.

"It got real hectic real quick," remembered Don. "The first step was to seal off the bulge and we were ordered to move men and equipment as fast as possible. We had to get the troops and supplies to the front real quick and we were pretty busy."

Don and his outfit moved fast and furious to get everything in place. He did his job pretty well and, one day, got a letter of commendation signed by Gen. Eisenhower, the supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

After the Battle of the Bulge and with the start of the spring Allied offensive, Don realized the war wouldn't last much longer.

"We weren't running out of parts. The Germans were surrendering by the thousands and offering little resistance. We knew it was almost over when we moved into Frankfurt to establish a supply depot."

Then came the German surrender in early May 1945, touching off a wild celebration.

"Everyone started counting their points to see if they were ready to go home. I was ready. I knew I had enough points to get home."

But the Army had other plans.

Ready to head home in August 1945, the Army sent him a notice that his departure from Europe was extended another 90 days. Seems the War Department wanted to send some "big shots" to Europe to inspect captured German equipment for comparison to its American counter-parts. Don was tabbed as the "tour guide" for the inspectors.

"That letter was like a knife in my heart. Boy, I was ready to go home after more than three years overseas," remembered Don with a laugh, although it wasn't funny at the time.

"I swallowed my disappointment and spent the next three months shepherding these guys around Europe. It was not exciting duty and all I could do was count the days until it was over." Needless to say, those 90 days seemed like an eternity.

Eventually, however, the Army ran out of extra duties for Don and he was shipped back to New York for discharge.

"Of course, the Army wanted me to stay in the service. They promised me a desk job in Washington and other benefits, but I was ready to get out."

Discharged in December 1945, Don headed back to Syracuse for his old job.

But a funny thing had happened to Don during the war years.

"I'd seen guys with the same or less education who had become very successful and I had a master's degree. I began to think maybe I should consider changing careers."

He made several attempts at establishing his own business, then landed a job with the MRB Co. in his native Vermont. The company had become famous during the war for the development of the Norden bombsight.

Don started as a process engineer and eventually became chief financial officer for MRB. As such, he

PLEASE SEE GREATEST, NEXT PAGE

Today, Don Davis and wife Marge enjoy the comfortable life in Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin



## Library looking for military authors, writers

The Island Branch of the Manatee Public Library is looking for anyone who may have written or published an article, book or story about the military.

Ava Ehde of the library plans to hold a forum on Feb. 20, inviting authors of various subjects to give a brief talk about their writings and the military is one of the topics.

"It could be about war heroes, World War I or II, or anything about the military that someone has written," she said. "It could even be if you are just interested in military history."

Any author or writer interested in making a presentation on military history at the forum should contact Ehde at 778-6341.

The forum is open to the public.

## Greatest Generation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

was in charge of some 3,000 employees. He spent 25 years with the company before retiring in 1976.

Don and his family had visited Florida and Anna Maria Island many times and he had purchased a condominium as an investment. They eventually decided to make Holmes Beach their winter home.

Today, he and his second wife, Marge, have a gorgeous view of Tampa Bay and Anna Maria Sound. Between them, they have four children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

"I wasn't a hero. I didn't do anything spectacular and I'm the first to tell you that. The guys who were the heroes were on the front lines — the combat soldiers and engineers. It's hard to talk about it. I saw enough of what happened to them," remembered Don with a touch of sadness.

"I was just fortunate, one of the lucky ones to get a good assignment. I just did my duty and I'm proud to have done my duty. I'd do it again if I could go with the same guys. The comradeship we developed is something you never forget. It's a cherished memory of the war. The bad things I've tried to forget."

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# Islands, China, Machu Pichu on travel series schedule

The Friends of the Island Library will launch a three-part travel series with a trip to China Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Island Branch Library.

Other destinations on the schedule are Machu Pichu in Peru and the Virgin Islands. All will be discussed and illustrated by local people who have traveled extensively to the places they will be talking about.

All will be at 2 p.m. in the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. They are free of charge, and patrons are asked to be there at least 15 minutes before their program begins.

The opening segment of the program Jan. 13 will be presented by Diana Milesko of Anna Maria. She has traveled at every opportunity for most of her life, she said, and has biked many venues in the United States

and abroad with her husband and children.

She found China the most fascinating of all her destinations, she said, and will share her observations with Islanders in her presentation "The Many Faces of China."

Jerry and Marcy East, California transplants to Longboat Key, indulged a long interest in Incan history with a visit to Machu Pichu plus other sites in Peru. They will tell how they fared Feb. 10 at the library.

Caroline Reed and Dana Cyr were living in the U.S. Virgin Islands when they lost their house to Hurricane Bertha in 1996, when they moved to Sarasota. They will describe their life on the island in their presentation March 10.

Additional information is available at 778-6341.

## Veterans sponsoring cancer awareness dance party

A party to raise awareness and funds in the battle against cancer will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at the American Legion hall, 200 75th St. W., Bradenton.

There will be a 50-30-20 drawing, the sponsors said, along with dancing, door prizes, free snacks, ballroom dance performances and a special musical show by Musical Memories. Donation will be \$5 at the door.

Sponsoring the event are Chapter 199 of the Korean War Veterans Association and American Legion Kirby Stewart Post No. 24. Details may be obtained by calling 756-7272.

## Program on slavery coming to St. Bernard Church

"Human Trafficking and Slavery," a presentation on slavery as it is practiced in the world today, is planned for Jan. 13 at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

The seminar will be from 9 a.m. to noon in the church's activity center, sponsored by local churches and organizations. S. Patrice Colletti will lead the discussion on slavery in the United States and Florida.

Additional details may be obtained by calling 730-3452.

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# Islander promotes pursuit of truth

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Jim McCartney dedicated his professional life to the pursuit of truth, working for decades as a Washington, D.C., correspondent and covering every president from John Kennedy to Bill Clinton.

As an active member of the Sarasota-based Forum Truth and a columnist for The Bradenton Herald, McCartney continues to pursue the truth — because, he says, truth and justice are not always the American way.

“One of America’s most serious problems is that the lie has become an instrument of national policy,” said the Holmes Beach resident, who will deliver a lecture Jan. 9 to the Friends of the Island Library.

McCartney’s library talk is titled “Iraq and Beyond: Can America Rule the World?”

“It’s clear to me that the United States is going to be involved in Iraq for the rest of my lifetime and your lifetime,” McCartney said during an interview Dec. 28.

“I was in Vietnam,” McCartney continued. “I spent a lot of time in Vietnam. I think Iraq is the same kind of situation. And I think it’s a losing situation. I believe we’ve already lost the war.”

Having addressed previous Friends groups, McCartney said he expected a “sophisticated audience,” but also expected to surprise some with his comments.

“They can expect to be shocked by some of the statements and I think they can expect to be disappointed in their country,” he said.

McCartney lives in Holmes Beach with his wife, Molly, a special correspondent with *The Islander*, and he teaches several classes at the Longboat Key Education Center.

He grew up in East Lansing, Mich., where he graduated from Michigan State University in 1949. McCartney went on to Northwestern University, where he earned a master’s degree in journalism.

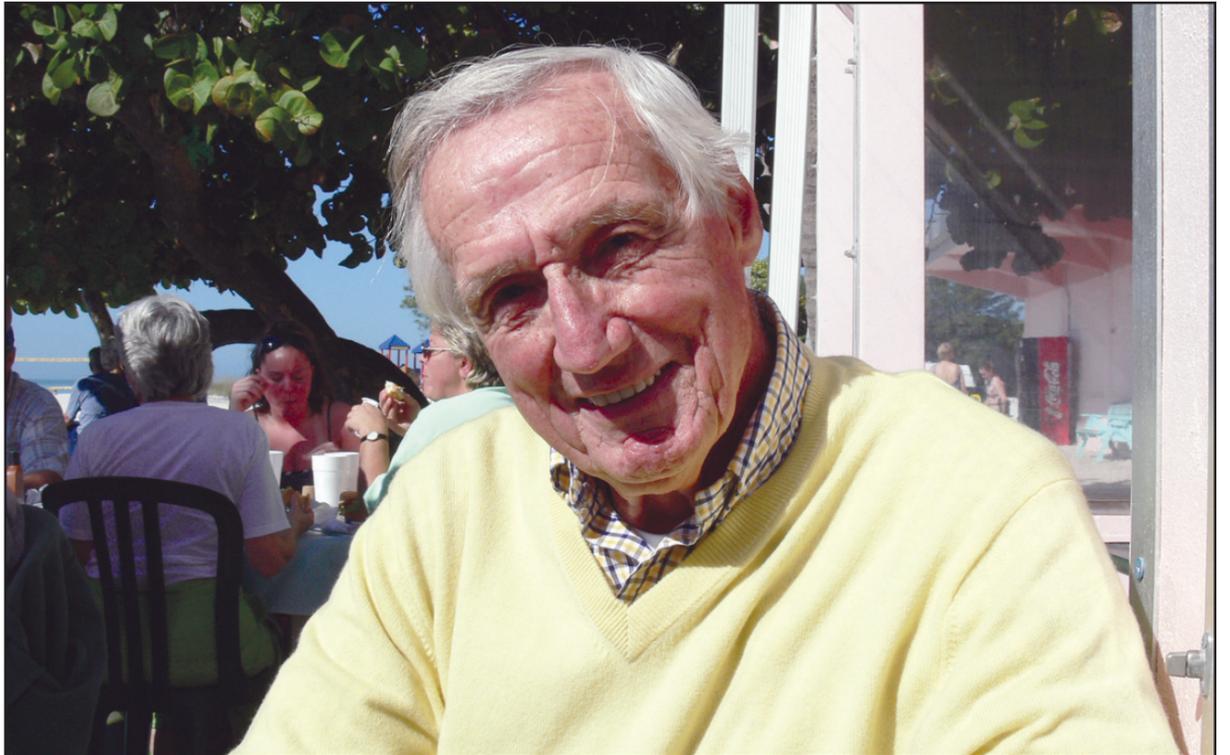
He began his career with the Chicago Daily News in 1952, went to D.C. in 1960, returned to Chicago for several years and then, when the Daily News “expired,” went back to Washington.

From 1968 to 1990, McCartney worked as a correspondent specializing in national security for Knight-Ridder Newspapers.

“I had this incredible job,” McCartney said. “You basically got to go to any place you thought was interesting and write about it and get paid. I’m unbelievably lucky to have made my living this way.”

He traveled, filing stories from more than 30 countries.

He covered the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.



Columnist and former Washington, D.C., correspondent Jim McCartney will speak to the Friends of the Island Library Jan. 9 at the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

And he became familiar with public officials, including many who still made news in 2006— Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney and John McCain.

Reflecting on his career two days after the death of Gerald Ford, McCartney recalled covering press conferences when Ford was the House minority leader and Everett Dirksen was the Senate minority leader.

“We called it the ‘Ev and Jerry Show,’” McCartney said, adding that Dirksen played the comedian role and Ford the straight man.

“I have vivid memories of Jerry Ford,” McCartney said. “He was a wonderful, solid kind of guy.”

McCartney covered Vietnam, and was the first to report soon after Richard Nixon took office that the administration was preparing to withdraw U.S. troops.

He also covered 10 U.S.-Soviet summit meetings, negotiations intended to “wind down the Cold War.”

“That,” McCartney said, “was a most fascinating time for me.”

During those years as a correspondent, McCartney kept his opinions out of his copy. But he had opinions, and now he’s eager to share them, writing op-ed pieces, speaking to local groups, teaching and working with Forum Truth.

Forum Truth brings in speakers to talk about national and international issues and, according to its mission statement, was founded to “explore what we fear are growing threats to liberty, justice, quality of life, peace and prosperity.”

“My wife and I have been deeply involved in the organization,” McCartney said.

“I covered the tail end of the Eisenhower administration on,” McCartney said. “And every president except Jimmy Carter lied about some important policy issue.... The problem is, they think they can do anything they want and get away with it. But they can’t. The truth ultimately comes out.”

McCartney’s lecture Jan. 9 takes place at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Additional Friends lectures are scheduled:

- Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. — Dr. John Mellon, a literary critic and retired professor who plans to talk about Philip Roth’s “Everyman.”

- March 13, 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. — Jeff LaHurd, an author and lecturer who plans to talk about his book, “Spring Training in Sarasota, 1924-1960.”

- April 10, 10:30 a.m. — Suzi Fox, the Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch director who plans to talk about “16 years of nesting data on Anna Maria Island.”

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# Community Center announces baseball tryouts

By Kevin Cassidy  
Islander Reporter

The Anna Maria Island Community Center Little League is having tryouts for a major league team from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Longboat Key Recreational Center field. Players ages 10-12 who make this team will compete against teams from Manatee West Little League, which play its games at G.T. Bray park. Home games for the Islanders will be played at the Longboat Key field.

The Center also will host a baseball clinic along with team registration at the Longboat Key field on Jan. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon. Players can also register any-time at the AMICC trailer behind St. Bernard Catholic Church.

Meanwhile, basketball season is getting under way this week. Center athletic director Andy Jonatzke said uniforms will be distributed Wednesday, Jan. 3, and the season of games will begin Jan. 4.

There is no season-opening banquet, Jonatzke said, but along with the uniform distribution he plans to provide a schedule for team and individual pictures.

While no photo or game schedule was provided by press time, Jonatzke noted that all games will be played at King Middle School. Practices are being scheduled by the respective team coaches at Anna Maria Elementary School, the Holmes Beach outdoor court, outside at King Middle School and at St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church.

For more information, call 778-1908.

## Key Royale golf news

The men of the Key Royale Club played an 18-hole, best-ball-of-foursome match on Dec. 27. The team of Hal Sears, Earl Ritchie and Bob Elliott carded a 12-under-par 52 to edge the second-place team of Chuck Boes, Dan Hayes and Bob Dickinson by one shot and win bragging rights for the day.

The men and women of the Key Royale Club teamed up for a nine-hole, best-ball-of-foursome contest on Dec. 22. The team of Teddy Morgan, Al Morgan, Hal Sears and Jim Finn combined to fire a six-under-par 26 to claim bragging rights for the week. Second place went to the threesome of Terry and Richard Westby and Dottie McKinna, who combined to shoot a 28. Fred Meyer had some good news when he chipped in on hole No. 3.

## Horseshoe news

The team of John Johnson and Bruce Munro won the Dec. 23 horseshoe competition at the Anna Maria City Hall pits. The twosome was the only team out of the eight that participated to go 3-0 in pool play, leaving the rest to battle it out for second place. George Landraitus teamed up with Ron Pepka to defeat son Charlie and Rod Bussey by a score of 21-8 to advance to the final consolation game where they were soundly defeated by the team of Hank Huyghe and George McKay.

The competition on Dec. 27 was much the same, as Sam Samuels and Steve Doyle went undefeated to claim the championship outright. Ron Pepka and Hank Huyghe captured runner-up honors with a 23-7 victory.

Play gets under way at 9 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday at the Anna Maria City Hall pits. Warmups begin at 8:45 a.m. followed by random team selection. There is no charge to play and everyone is welcome.

## Gulf Coast Senior Games

Senior athletes can sign up for the 2007 Gulf Coast Senior Games that will take place Feb. 19-25 at a variety of locations in and around Bradenton. The Senior Games

is entering its 18th year of providing sporting competition for athletes 50 years young and up in 20 events.

Seniors can choose among archery, basketball shooting, billiards, bocce, bowling, bridge, cribbage, cycling, golf, horseshoes, lawn bowling, punt-pass-kick, racquetball, 5K road race, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis, Texas hold-em and track and field.

The cost to register is \$12 with every entrant receiving a Senior Games T-shirt. There is a fee of \$2 for each additional event/activity entered. To register or for more information, call 941-742-5926.

## Island author to host book signing

Island resident and Manatee girls soccer coach Jeff Nelson will be signing his book, *Baby's Breath*, at the Village Bookstore, 1106 11th Ave. W., Bradenton, on Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6

Interested readers can purchase the book at the signing or by logging onto [www.boondogglerspress.com](http://www.boondogglerspress.com).

## Playing sports for your high school team?

Calling all Island athletes. Give us a call or e-mail and let us know about any and all athletic endeavors. Call me at 807-1105 or e-mail me at [kevin@islander.org](mailto:kevin@islander.org).

## Pajama party

Anna Maria Elementary second-graders gathered recently in the school media center for a full day read-a-thon. The morning hours were spent curled up on pillows and blankets with a few good books and friends. In the afternoon students took a break to watch an animated film about Pocahontas. *Islander Photo: Diana Bogan*



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# Boating resolutions for the new year

Happy New Year!

Traditional New Year's resolutions — lose weight, stop smoking, be kinder to small animals and the like — have taken a different turn thanks to a national boating organization.

Boat Owners Association of the United States has offered some yachting suggestions that are worth a consideration for waterfolk.

1. Introduce one new friend to boating this year, and with your supervision, volunteer to let them sit behind the wheel for a little bit (You remember that feeling?).

2. Inventory your safety gear and ensure it's in good condition.

3. A resolution from the BoatU.S. Trailering Club: ensure your boat trailer has tires with an "ST" (stronger sidewalls) designation, are inflated properly and are free of sun rot.

4. Take one educational course or on-the-water class to improve your boating. Many are available year-round and listed in *The Islander*.

5. "Nature deficit" disorder, a combination of over-programmed lifestyles and plugged-in playtime, is conspiring to leave kids no time with nature. Get your kids or grandkids outdoors by taking them boating.

6. A resolution from TowBoatU.S. and Vessel Assist Captains: have an anchor aboard — it could be your best friend if your boat is disabled. And make sure that you have adequate line.

7. Make boating fun for your spouse and family — give clear direction and don't bark orders or eventually you will be a solo boater.

8. Spend at least one night on the hook in a quiet gunk-hole. An overnight adventure with the family away from the dock can give you a new perspective on boating.

9. Try a different kind of boating. If you're a sailor, go powerboating; if you powerboat, go sailing; or, rent or borrow a kayak, canoe or personal watercraft. Changing boating styles is not only fun, but it allows you to appreciate the challenges and pleasures of operating different watercraft.

10. Thank your marina owner for not going condo. Declining waterway access can only be reversed if marina operators and boaters work together to find solutions.

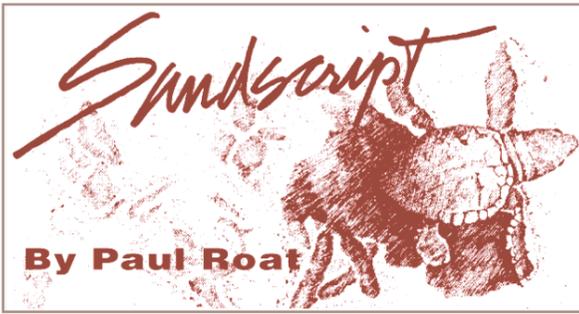
## No change planned in boat registration

It looks like it's status quo for boat registration in Florida.

A boating advisory council of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has voted against making any recommendations to change what vessels should be registered. There was some discussion about having all non-motorized boats plunk down a few bucks to be registered, boats like kayaks and canoes.

In fact, "believe it or not," there was some debate about whether or not inflatable rafts and those water noodles should fall under the state purview, but that discussion was quickly quashed.

However, the council did support "the importance of appropriate boating education for all boater operators regardless of vessel type," according to the FWC, and requested "more detail on mandatory boating education



for all boaters." Further discussion is expected to take place on the matter later this year.

By the way, "current boater education laws pertain only to people who operate motorized vessels," the FWC officials said, "those 21 years and younger are required to pass an approved boating safety course to operate a vessel with a 10-horsepower or greater engine."

## Holiday travel

In a somewhat rare occurrence for me, I took time for a quick "vacation" to one of our neighboring islands to the south during the holidays to Sanibel and Captiva, although there is no longer a distinction between the two islands since Hurricane Charley's passage filled in the pass between them with sand. There are still lots of very expensive homes and a mix of funky resorts and nice shops and restaurants to be found there.

These barrier islands off Lee County are unique in that they run east-west, not the usual north-south alignment we're used to on Anna Maria. The orientation was superb to foster an even greater-than-usual disorientation in my navigation, and getting lost became pretty much a regular event. It's really weird to watch the sun set in what to me seemed the north.

Sanibel is a bike-friendly city in a big way. In fact, the bike lanes are about as wide as the roadbed, and needed since it seems that everybody is on two wheels rather than four. It's a nice approach.

Turtle Watch people would love the islands, too, because there seemed to be no street lights. Sure, parking lots were lit, but not the roads. Traveling at night in the real, real dark was something of an adventure for us navigation-challenged folks, to say the least.

All in all, it was a nice place to visit — sans airlines — to get out of town if all you want to do is go to

another place that features Island time all the time.

## Another travel tale

My longtime buddy Joe Bird reported this week that he, his wife and young twin sons took off to the Rocky Mountains for some skiing over the holidays. Joe worked at a former incarnation of *The Islander* newspaper, and now lives in Jackson, Miss. He offered the following thoughts of his ski trip.

"Colorado is another planet, or the world's biggest beer cooler — I'm still trying to figure that one out," Bird wrote. "The locals are friendly enough and always offered to help me stand up again ... go figure."

"Skiing is really a foreign concept. It goes something like this: Hang around a toasty warm fire pit and socialize with athletic, yet earthy women, drink until you are brave (stupid) enough to strap on high-tech plastic things onto your feet. Also grab these stick/poles that give you the illusion of balance. Now it gets good ... you pay an incredible sum of money to sit in a chair that takes you way, way up out of the range of oxygen. This then makes you fall down the mountain, and then, (I'm not making this up), people get back in line to do it all over again. Dang, that's fun."

"In the evenings you get to sit in a hot tub and thaw out while loosening up muscles that we flat-Islanders never knew we had, or needed. You know, that one that you tense up in your rear end before hitting the ground."

Unfortunately, he messed up his knee during the trip. And, thankfully, all I ended up with over Christmas was a sunburn.

## Sandscript factoid

And to wrap up the travel tales, scientists on the other side of the world have taken what they believe to be the first-ever video footage of a giant squid. Japanese researchers baited a hook near a camera and got the film of a relatively small female giant squid as it squirmed around the bait.

The "baby" was only 24 feet long. Mature specimens grow to more than 60 feet.

The Japanese team also believes that there are many, many more of the deep-sea dwellers than had been previously expected.

## Mote schedules 'Mommy and Me'

Mote Marine Laboratory is starting the new year with a new program for young families, "Mommy and Me," with the first on Jan. 4.

The sessions will all be on Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. at Mote's Marine Education Resources Center, 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota, on City Island off the south ramp of the New Pass Bridge.

They are designed for children ages 2 to 5 and their parents or caregivers, said Jim Wharton, director of the center for school and public programs.

"Every marine scientist I know has a story from their youth that inspired them, some experience with an animal or person," he said. "We hope to inspire a new generation of marine biologists by engaging them

at a young age."

Children will use interactive exhibits throughout the aquarium to "learn about Mote creatures from sharks and eels to dolphins, giant squid and coral reefs."

Pre-registration is required. For information and/or to register call 388-4441, ext. 229, or [www.mote.org](http://www.mote.org). Prices are \$12 per paired adult and child for members, \$15 for nonmembers, per individual program, and four-week and seven-week packages are available, Wharton said.

The topic for January's sessions is "What's New at Mote." Succeeding sessions will cover "Sharks," "Sea of Colors," "Marine Explorers," "Ocean Homes," "Mom and Pop in the Ocean," and "Season's Greetings."

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*Anna Maria Island Tides*

Moon	Date	AM	HIGH	AM	LOW	PM	HIGH	PM	LOW
	Jan 3	—	—	6:12	-0.9	10:40	2.4	—	—
	Jan 4	—	—	6:50	-0.8	11:26	2.3	—	—
	Jan 5	—	—	7:24	-0.7	2:55	1.1	5:35	1.0
	Jan 6	12:11	2.1	7:55	-0.5	3:05	1.1	6:40	.9
	Jan 7	12:56	1.9	8:24	-0.4	3:19	1.2	7:48	.8
	Jan 8	1:46	1.7	8:53	-0.1	3:38	1.4	8:58	.6
	Jan 9	2:43	1.4	9:21	0.1	4:01	1.5	10:13	.5
	Jan 10	3:54	1.2	9:48	0.3	4:28	1.6	11:30	.3

• Cortez High Tides 7 minutes later — lows 1:06 later

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# Grouper, snapper good offshore, sheepshead thick in bays

By Capt. Mike Heistand

It would appear that even the fish took some time off during the holidays, as fishing action slowed a bit last week.

Offshore action for grouper and snapper is still good in the Gulf of Mexico in about 100 feet of water, though, and there are some good amberjack catches coming to the docks.

Backwater fishing for sheepshead is good, too, as well as some small redfish and catch-and-release snook.

Trout season reopened Jan. 1, by the way.

**Bill Lowman** at **Island Discount Tackle at Catchers Marina** in Holmes Beach said sheepshead remain the mainstay for inshore fishers right now, although there are some big redfish around the docks in the bay and whiting off the beaches. Grouper and snapper fishing in the Gulf remains strong, though, in less than 100 feet of water.

**Bob Kilb** at the **Rod & Reel Pier** said fishing action was slow at the dock, but there were a few catches of sheepshead, black drum and small flounder.

**Jesus Rosario** at the **Anna Maria City Pier** said pier fishers there have been catching flounder, mackerel and sheepshead, plus a few snook at night.

At **Annie's Bait & Tackle** in Cortez, **Capt. Sam Kimball** said he's been putting his charters onto snapper to 8 pounds and grouper to 10 pounds, plus banded rudderfish and amberjack. In the backwater, **Capt. Mark Johnson** has been doing good with redfish, sheepshead and catch-and-release trout.

**Dave Johnson** at **Snead Island Crab House** said there are good reports of black drum coming out of the Manatee River, snook at night in the cut, and sheepshead near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

**Capt. Rick Gross** on **Fishy Business** out of **Catchers Marina** said redfish and sheepshead were his top catches.

At **Skyway Bait and Tackle**, reports include sheepshead by the Skyway in Tampa Bay, snapper from the ship channels and a few redfish coming out of Terra Ceia Bay.

**Capt. Zach Zacharias** on the **Dee-Jay II** out of **Parrot Cove Marina** said he took Chris, Steve and Rob Boyer from Indiana to a catch of redfish to 22 inches and sheepshead to 4 pounds. "That catch was pretty representative of the fishing results this last week, with the addition of big ladyfish, some catch-and-release trout, snook and black drum," he said.

On my boat **Magic**, we've been catching lots of small reds and some big sheepshead.

Good luck and good fishing.

*Capt. Mike Heistand is a 30-year-plus fishing guide. Call him at 723-1107 to provide a fishing report. Prints and digital images of your catch are also welcome and may be dropped off at The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, or e-mailed to news@islander.org. Please include identification for persons in the picture along with information on the catch and a name and phone number for more information. Snapshots may be retrieved once they appear in the paper.*



**Awesome amberjack**  
Cameron Frame, 13, of Sarasota, caught this 37-pound amberjack while fishing with his dad Gordon aboard the *Stray Dog* Charters out of Cortez. They caught the fish about 35 miles off Anna Maria Island in the Gulf of Mexico.



**Good day on the water**  
Cameron and Gordon Frame brought back a good catch of amberjack while fishing in the Gulf.

## 'Age of Sail, Age of Steam' model exhibit scheduled

The second annual "Age of Sail, Age of Steam" model exhibition, cosponsored by the Florida Maritime Museum at Cortez, will be Feb. 3 and 4 at the Manatee Civic Center, One Haben Blvd., Palmetto.

Model boats and railroad locomotives will be on display from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days. It is cosponsored by the Florida Railroad Museum in Parrish.

Last year's exhibition in Cortez had more than 150

models on display, from clipper ships, naval vessels, ocean liners, river boats and other vessels of all kinds. This year steam locomotives and stationary engines will be added.

Some of the models will be for sale, demonstrations by the Bay Area Electric Boaters, and a shallow pond for children's "build and sail" program are planned. The Forebitters will sing sea chanteys throughout the exhibit.

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By Rick Catlin

## Baby, we've got what you need

When Victoria Bramel's daughter first took her 3-month-old granddaughter out of town on a trip, Victoria and her daughter quickly realized how many baby items they needed with them. Things like travel seats, a bassinet, stroller and play items were all necessities when traveling with an active youngster.

"We realized other travelers with infants must be experiencing the same dilemma," said Victoria. That gave her the inspiration for Away From Home Baby Furniture Rental.

Victoria's service is geared to the family vacationing with youngsters who need to rent strollers, car seats, walkers, monitors, pool floats, beds, high chairs, bouncy seats, rocking chairs, cribs and even a safety gate, among a host of other items for babies.

"We offer our visitors baby equipment that might be difficult to travel with, but are necessary to keep the baby comfortable. Everything is clean and



Bramel

she added.

A 20-year resident of the Bradenton area, Victoria provides pick-up and delivery service. Interested parties can visit her Web site at [www.afhbr.com](http://www.afhbr.com) or call Victoria at 724-0979.

sanitized after each use, and we offer only new equipment," said Victoria.

"We're also available for emergencies at just about any time of the day,"

## A hurricane for all seasons

Hurricane Liquors recently opened its doors in the S&S Plaza in Holmes Beach at the site of the former Richard's Whole Foods and adjacent to Hurricane Hank's.

Hurricane Liquors is owned by Paul and Marguerite Huffman, who also own Hurricane Hank's, a dining and drinking establishment.

The new store is a full-service liquor store and specializes in a selection of some of the finest available domestic and international wines.

In addition to all the best brands of beer, wine, liquors and spirits, Hurricane Hanks is establishing a "micro-brewery" for its customers.



**Well put**  
Marietta Sophie Loudon is designing and creating custom-made jewelry at Simply Put Artisan Gallery in the Surfing World Plaza at 11904 Cortez Road W., Cortez. Islander Photo: Kelly McCormick

Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon until 6 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, call 779-2337.

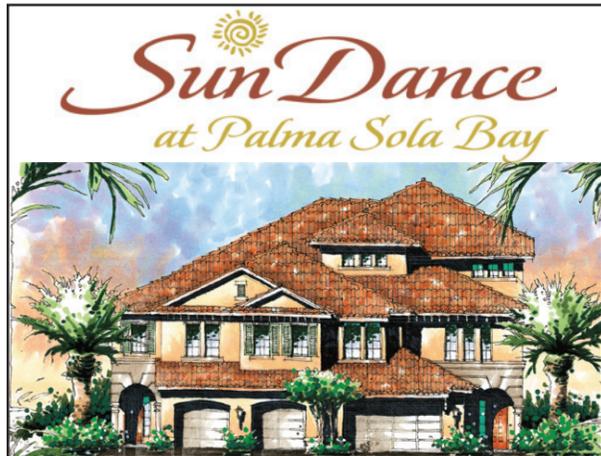
Drive in Holmes Beach.

For more information, call Phillip at 778-2022 or 737-8306.

## New owner at Anna Maria Glass

Phillip Guerrero recently purchased the Anna Maria Glass Co. at 5600 Marina

Got a new business going up in Anna Maria Island, Cortez or Longboat Key? How about a new product or service, an anniversary, a new hire, or an award-winning staff member? Call Island Biz at 778-7978, fax your news to 778-9392, or e-mail us at [news@islander.org](mailto:news@islander.org).



Introducing Sundance at Palma Sola Bay West B'tons newest town homes located on Palma Sola Bay. Introductory prices starting at \$995,000's for 3,700 - 4,300 sf units avail now. Close to beaches & shopping. Limited introductory pricing! Call John Luchkowec, Pat Palmeri-Bates and Jerry Cercone your Sundance Sales Team at 941-751-1155 for more information.

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Thanks for 29 years!

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## Here's your hurricane

Tim Reidy of Hurricane Liquors helps prepare a holiday box of good cheer at the newly opened store adjacent to Hurricane Hank's in the S&S Shopping Plaza in Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin



## FOR SALE BY OWNER



**ACROSS FROM BEACH** on Gulf Drive in Bradenton Beach. Three-unit commercial block building. 12 parking spaces. Stunning permanent Gulf views possible from a second or third floor. 716-983-5648 or 941-866-0242.



"Chances are, if you're an Island resident, you know me either as Capt. Keith, fishing and diving guide, or as "The Blind Guy" from Barnett Blinds. But did you know I'm also a Realtor specializing in waterfront properties, resort and second homes and boating destinations in Florida and the Caribbean? Let me navigate you through a sea of properties to your dream home ... like this one."



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203 70th Street: Duplex, 1BR/1BA ea. side, steps to beach! \$639,000.  
305 63rd Street: New Home, 3BR/3.5BA, den, elevator, pool. \$849,000.  
6301 Holmes Blvd: New Home, 3BR/2.5BA, wood floors, pool. \$749,000.

### BRADENTON BEACH

301 Highland Ave., #5 Condo, 2BR/1BA, heated pool, furn. \$479,000.  
1301 N. Bay Drive, #5B Condo, 2BR/2BA, 1079 sf, pool, furn. \$489,000.  
email: [michellemusto@prudentialpalmsrealty.com](mailto:michellemusto@prudentialpalmsrealty.com)



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# ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

## ITEMS FOR SALE

DELUXE, NORDIC TRACK Treadmill C2000. Folds up for easy storage. Barely used, like-new condition. Paid \$1,000. \$500 or best offer. 941-792-9892.

AERIAL PHOTOS of Anna Maria Island. View and purchase online: [www.jackelka.com](http://www.jackelka.com).

FREE DELIVERY to your home or condo: Shrimp, crabs, native fish. Prompt delivery to your door. Call James Lee, 941-795-1112 or 704-8421.

LONGBOAT KEY HISTORY "From Calusas to Condominiums" by Ralph B. Hunter. Signed copies available at The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. 941-778-7978.

## GARAGE SALES

ROSER THRIFT SHOP: Open 9:30am-2pm Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. 9am-noon Saturdays. Always clothing sales. 941-779-2733. 511 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

SALE: FOR NEW year! Niki's Gifts, Jewelry and Antiques. Lots of bargains. All sterling jewelry 50-75 percent off. Christmas gifts 75 percent off, select art and antiques 30-60 percent off. Open seven days, 9:30am-5pm. 941-779-0729. 5351 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

GARAGE SALE: 9am-noon Saturday, Jan. 6. Fine art, clothes, TV, kitchen and household goods, miscellaneous. 912 N. Shore Drive, Anna Maria.

## GARAGE SALES Continued

GARAGE SALE: 9am-noon Friday and Saturday, Jan. 5-6. Nice furniture, patio, garden, table saw, tools, kitchen, grill. 106 Third St. N., Bradenton Beach.

## LOST AND FOUND

LOST DOCUMENTS: 31 pages left in copy machine. Friday, Dec. 15. Reward for return. Home True Value Hardware in Holmes Beach. Call 941-778-3329.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

KARATE ON THE Island: Ages four through adult. Call 941-807-1734 or visit [www.islanddojo.cmas-direct.com](http://www.islanddojo.cmas-direct.com).



**BEAUTIFUL TORTUGA INN** 2BR unit has a full kitchen and furniture. Garden view and steps to the private beach, pools, bay, and dock. Flexible rental, on-site management. \$450,000.

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2BR/2BA open plan. Vaulted ceiling, wet bar, deck, large lot, fenced yard, pool and hot tub. \$559,000.

**WESTBAY POINT & MOORINGS CONDO**  
2BR/2BA turnkey furnished, tennis, heated pool, water view, near shopping, library and restaurants. \$389,000.

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3BR/2BA home. Tile, pavers, fence, room for pool, new dock, direct access to Tampa Bay. \$759,900.

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3BR/2BA turnkey furnished, tennis, heated pool, beautiful beach, on-site management, excellent rental. From \$869,900.

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3BR/2BA canalfront. Private dock. Direct access to Tampa Bay and Intracoastal Waterway. \$619,000.

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513 56TH ST Holmes Beach. Waterfront full bay-view with custom dock and lift. Features quaint Florida cottage with darling guest apt. above garage. \$989,000

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2716 PALMA SOLA - Exquisite full bay views from every room of this 5,000 sq. ft. custom on over half an acre. Features 5BR, 4 car garage, library, great room, pool and multilevel terrace. Lots of space for family and entertaining. \$2,999,900

**OPEN 2-4 • SUN • JAN 7**



6200 FLOTILLA, # 268. WESTBAY POINT MOORINGS. All new carpet and paint, 2nd floor end unit with water view. Great deal, least expensive unit offered! \$390,000



5208 RIVERVIEW BLVD - 1.93 acres on Manatee River with 250 linear feet on the river. Two buildable lots or one magnificent estate. Dock in place, bring the boat. \$3,300,000

**NEW LISTING**



1207 N. GULF DR. #300 - Darling, turnkey furnished top floor 2BR/2BA with den, offers spectacular views in prime rental location. \$879,000.

# ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

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**BUTTERFLY PARK BENEFIT:** Purchase a personalized brick in the Anna Maria Island Butterfly Park. Two lines, \$40. Three lines, \$50. Forms at The Islander or call 941-518-4431 for more information.

**FREE GUN LOCK.** Yes, free. Just for the asking. Courtesy of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Free at The Islander newspaper office, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Don't be sorry, be safe.

**GUARDIAN AD LITEM** volunteers needed: A guardian ad litem is a trained volunteer appointed by the court to represent and advocate for the best interest of children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected. Make a positive impact! Call 941-744-9473 or visit [www.12circuitgal.org](http://www.12circuitgal.org).

**NEED A MEETING place?** Try the conference room, Tingley Memorial Library. Eveann Adams, 941-779-1208. 111 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach.

## PETS

**AKC MALE AND female English Bulldog puppies** available. These puppies are AKC-registered with champion bloodlines and will come with a pedigree, microchip, vet check with health certificate, a one-year guarantee against congenital defects, and all shots and wormer. The puppies available now are \$500 each. For more information please contact: [evanswalter\\_110@yahoo.com](mailto:evanswalter_110@yahoo.com).

**FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED** for loving homes to foster puppies and kittens until they are old enough for adoption. All food and medical provided. Julie, 941-720-1411.

**ADULT CATS** in desperate need of loving homes. All are current on vaccines. All applicants screened. Please, call 941-922-0774.

## TRANSPORTATION

**2003 SILVER PT CRUISER.** Like-new condition. Under 11,000 miles. Excellent maintenance and condition. \$11,000. Service contract included. 941-792-9892.

## HELP WANTED

**NOW HIRING ALL positions.** Rotten hours, rotten pay. Apply at Rotten Ralph's Waterfront Restaurant, 902 S. Bay Blvd., Anna Maria, or call 941-778-3953.

**HOUSEKEEPER, NONSMOKER:** 10-15 hours in off-season, 20-30 hours in season. Apply at Haley's Motel, 8102 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, or call 941-778-5405.

**BOOKKEEPER NEEDED FOR** west Bradenton CPA firm. Experienced, top pay. Fax resume to 941-778-6230.

**TOP ADVERTISING sales position** open at The Islander newspaper. Great territory, commissions. Previous outside sales helpful. If you possess a willingness for strong community involvement, positive outlook and drive to succeed, fax or e-mail a letter and/or resume to 941-778-9392, [sales@islander.org](mailto:sales@islander.org).

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

**BEACHFRONT RESTAURANT BUSINESS,** \$299,000. Buy building alone for \$1,600,000 or buy both for \$1,690,000. Confidentiality agreement required. Longview Realty, 941-383-6112. For more great business and realty buys: [www.longviewrealty.com](http://www.longviewrealty.com).

**PAW SPA: PROFITABLE** pet-grooming business. Loyal customer base in great Holmes Beach location. \$59,000. Longview Realty, 941-383-6112.

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SELL it fast with an ad in The Islander.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY Continued

**GIFTS/DECOR FOR** patio, home and garden. Enchanting shop, fun items in good resort area location. \$99,000. Confidentiality agreement required for details. Longview Realty, 941-383-6112. For more great business and realty buys: [www.longviewrealty.com](http://www.longviewrealty.com).

**CHARTER BOAT SERVICE:** Eco-tours, sightseeing, more in Cortez. Assets include 26-foot cat, 150-hp outboard. \$70,000. Longview Realty, 941-383-6112. For more great business and realty buys: [www.longviewrealty.com](http://www.longviewrealty.com).

## KIDS FOR HIRE

**14-YEAR-OLD** needs work. Willing to babysit, clean, etc. Red Cross trained in first aid and babysitting. Call Alexandra, 941-778-5352.

**LOOKING FOR A** babysitter, pet sitter, dog walker or somebody to do odd jobs? Call Kendall, 14-year-old, ninth-grader. Certified in first aid! 941-779-9783.

**KIDS FOR HIRE ads** are FREE for Island youths under 16 looking for work. Ads must be placed in person at The Islander newspaper office, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

## HEALTH CARE

**CAREGIVER WILLING TO** provide care for your loved ones in her home 24 hours, seven days a week. 18 years of experience. Call 941-792-0148.

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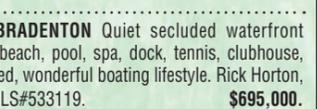
**CORDOVA LAKES HOME.** Nice area close to shopping and hospital, G.T. Bray park and beaches. New appliances and air conditioning. Harold Small, 941-778-2246. MLS#543630. \$249,000.



**FABULOUS GULF VIEWS** Prime end furnished unit offering spacious floor plan with eat-in kitchen, breakfast bar, walk-in closets, fireplace and two balconies. Dave Moynihan, 941-778-2246. MLS#544275. \$497,500.



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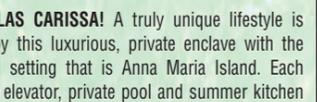
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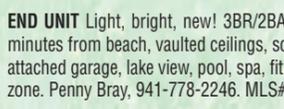
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WATERFRONT: DOCK WITH davits. Short walk to beach, washer and dryer, carport, storage Quiet location. \$1,000/month. 727-784-3679. Bradenton Beach.

WINTER RENTALS AVAILABLE: Monthly starting at \$2,000/month. Weekly starting at \$625/week. Fran Maxon Real Estate, 941-778-2307. www.franmaxon-realestate.com.

ANNUAL 2BR/1BA: AIR conditioning, washer and dryer, water, large pool, cable. Parking only 200 steps to beach. First and deposit. \$950/month. 941-779-1586.

FOR RENT: 2BR/2BA balcony, Gulf view. \$950/month, \$900 deposit, \$50 application fee. 2411 Ave. C., Bradenton Beach. Efficiency, \$750/month includes utilities. \$700 deposit, \$50 application fee. 112, 52nd St., No.1, Holmes Beach. Seasonally, 1BR Gulf view, cute and clean, \$900/week or \$2,400/month. Call 941-746-8666.

CORTEZ COTTAGE: QUIET area. Fully furnished, walk to water. Two people only, no smokers. \$1,700/month includes utilities. 941-794-5980. www.divefish.com.

ANNUAL LARGE 1BR/1BA. Screened lanai, laundry room, garage. No pets, no smoking. \$950/month plus utilities. 941-778-9710 or 847-530-8833.

SUNNY SHORES MOBILE home: 1BR/1BA near beach, clubhouse. Very nice. Turnkey. \$1,200/month. 941-730-4078.

SEASONAL RENTAL: PALMA Sola Park. 3BR/2BA, like new, fresh and clean. Small pet OK, close to beaches. Available January and April. \$2,000/month. 941-778-5445.

FIND IT! BUY IT! SELL IT FAST! In The Islander.

**ANSWERS TO JAN. 3 PUZZLE**

A	T	P	E	A	C	E	J	A	N	D	J	F	U	L	C	R	A								
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# ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

## RENTALS Continued

SEASONAL RENTAL: Westbay Point and Moorings. Bay-front 2BR/2BA, all amenities, close to beach, shopping and trolley. Sharon, Old Florida Realty, 941-713-9096.

ANNUAL WATERFRONT: 2BR/2BA ground-floor at Westbay Cove. Tennis, pool, cable, water included. Sharon, Old Florida Realty, 941-713-9096.

ANNUAL 3BR/2BA: TROPICAL duplex, one block to beach, washer and dryer, some utilities included. No Smoking or pets. \$950/month and \$700 deposit. 941-798-9765. Responsible persons only.

SEASONAL: JANUARY, FEBRUARY. Clean 2BR elevated unit, one block to beach. Newly remodeled with laundry. \$575/weekly, \$1,975/monthly. 941-807-5449.

ANNUAL RENTALS: 2BR/2BA home, Anna Maria, \$1,350/month. 2BR/2BA home, Holmes Beach, \$1,200/month. 2BR/2BA apartment, Anna Maria, \$875/month. 1BR/1BA, new tile and paint, \$775/month. Fran Maxon Real Estate, 941-778-2307. www.franmaxonrealestate.com.

OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE: 1,200 sf, available Jan. 1, 2007. Former Wicked Candle. 8819 Cortez Road. 1-800-952-1206.

ISLAND CASTLE: FABULOUS French Normandy home. 4BR/3BA on best beach and quiet street in Anna Maria. 941-794-8202.

SEASONAL: HOLMES BEACH rental. 2BR/2BA, luxury, furnished, air conditioning, washer and dryer, dishwasher, cable, Internet access available. Gulf view. Available until Jan 2. \$750/week. 941-778-7741.

SMITH REALTORS: LONGBOAT Key 2BR/12BA duplex on canal. Newly renovated. 941-778-0770. www.smithrealtors.com.

NORTH-END DUPLEX: Seasonal or monthly. 2BR/2BA, washer and dryer, two blocks from Gulf. Sleeps six. \$1,800/month. 941-778-7167 or 941-705-0275.

SEASONAL: BRADENTON BEACH. 1BR/1BA, steps to beach and bay. Close to shopping and trolley. \$550/weekly or \$1,800/month plus tax. Call 941-778-7199.

WINTER RENTAL: BRADENTON Beach. 1BR/1BA condo on bay, across Gulf Drive to beach. Walk to downtown Bradenton Beach. Heated pool, turnkey, cable, dishwasher, and utilities. Three-month minimum, \$1,500/month. No pets or smoking. 407-877-7866, or mokie7@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL HOLMES BEACH: Elevated 2BR/2BA house. New decor. Enclosed garage. Two blocks to beach. Call 941-713-2150.

DEEP DISCOUNT FOR last-minute travel to beautiful town of Anna Maria. Quaint Island cottage steps to beach. 203-454-0573.

NORTHWEST BRADENTON annual rental: Great 2BR/2BA home, one block from Palma Sola Bay. Minutes to beaches. \$1,300/month plus utilities. Call Maureen at 941-778-0542 or 941-778-0455.

LAKEFRONT, FISHING, ONE block to beach. Elevated duplex, enormous 1BR/2BA, two-car garage, laundry area, Sub-Zero refrigerator, Jennaire stove, extra, extra nice. \$1,595/month, yearly. 941-962-4933.

## RENTALS Continued

ACTIVE 55-PLUS 2BR/2BA annual rental. Heated pool, clubhouse. \$850/month plus utilities. Call Ursula Stemm of Century 21 Alliance, 941-778-5352.

ANNA MARIA: VERY attractive remodeled house. 150 feet from Gulf. Several weeks available. Call 941-778-7933.

GULFFRONT: 1BR, second-floor condo on the beach, walk to shopping and restaurants. \$650/week, \$2,400/month. 941-713-1983.

ANNUAL RENTAL: 2BR/2BA mobile home. Cortez area, partially furnished, \$750/month plus deposit. Credit check. Call Mary, 941-778-0755 day, or Marissa, 850-621-6822.

ANNUAL: PERICO ISLAND 3BR, unfurnished home. Garage, community pool, tennis courts, clubhouse and exercise facilities. \$1,650/month plus utilities. Call Adele at An Island Place Realty, 941-779-9320 or 941-587-6328.

ANNA MARIA ISLAND Club rental available for January and February 2007/08. Totally remodeled unit, nonsmoking. Two-week minimum. 813-781-7562.

ANNUAL HOLMES BEACH 2BR/1BA: Secluded, fenced yard, separate locked storage. \$850/month includes water, sewer and trash pick up. First and deposit. 941-778-5391.

ANNA MARIA WATERFRONT: Annual 1BR/1BA, \$850/month including water and garbage. 941-778-2113. 510-B South Drive.

HOLMES BEACH: Annual 2BR/1BA, large yard, steps to beach, convenient. \$875/month including garbage and yard service. 941-778-2113.

MIRROR LAKE: NEXT to IMG Academy. Sensational 2BR/2BA condo tastefully furnished overlooking lake. Washer and dryer, cable and DSL. Jan. 15-Feb. 15 \$2,500. Feb. 15-March 15 \$2,800. March 15-April 15 \$2,000. 941-587-1456.

ANNUAL RENTAL: Brand-new 3BR/2BA, Wisteria Park. Maintenance-free living. Community pool, cable and internet, lanai, washer and dryer, two-car garage. \$1,975/month. Northwest Bradenton. 802-295-7613.

HOLMES BEACH 1BR/1BA apartment. Close to bay, includes water, trash, cable, high-speed Internet, washer and dryer. \$795/month. Available Jan 15. 941-813-4900.

TWO BAYFRONT SUPER nice apartments available. See at <http://www.webspawner.com/users/cherieflagg/index.html>.

\$1,050/month. 941-779-9357 or 305-803-4131. 201 S. Bay, Anna Maria.

SEASONAL OR WEEKLY cottage-style rentals. 1BR/1BA or 2BR/1BA with pool. Walk to beach, shopping, restaurants. 941-778-3426. Web site 2spinnakers.com.

ANNUAL HOLMES BEACH large 3BR/2BA duplex. \$1,000/month. First, last and security. 941-778-7812.

## REAL ESTATE

WATERFRONT PROPERTY 2BR/2BA open-plan with great views of Tampa Bay. Canalfront, walking distance to beach and restaurants. \$739,000. 941-779-1512.

**CHRISTIE'S PLUMBING** 778-3924 OR 778-4461  
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**CLASSIFIED RATES - BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL:** Minimum rate is \$10 for up to 20 WORDS. Additional words: Each additional word over 20 is 50 cents, Box: \$3, One- or two-line headlines, line rate plus 25 cents per word.

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# ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE Continued

FIND GREAT DEALS on wheels and everything else in The Islander, 778-7978.

FOR SALE BY owner: Best value on the Island! 2BR/ 2BA, one-car garage, gourmet kitchen, new windows, updated baths and more. Two blocks from beach. \$615,000. 941-778-8677. 406 Bay Palms Drive, Holmes Beach.

3BR/2BA: One bedroom used as a den/office/playroom, enclosed lanai, tiled with carpeted bedrooms. 1,400 sf, county water/sewer, citrus trees, near Brentwood school in Sarasota. Reduced to \$274,900. 941-379-4196 or 941-954-7474.

CPR: COASTAL PROPERTIES Realty needs properties to rent: E-mail: [suzanne@coastalpropertiesrealty.com](mailto:suzanne@coastalpropertiesrealty.com), or call 941-794-1515.

BAYVIEW AND CANALFRONT with pool. 2BR/2BA open plan, new kitchen. Totally upgraded. Dock, three davits. Owner motivated. Not a drive-by, must see inside! By owner. Call Herb Dolan, 941-705-4454. 404 21st Place. Bradenton Beach.

LOT FOR SALE: One block to Gulf. 50x100 feet, cleared. \$539,000. 215 71st St., Holmes Beach. (941) 778-4036.

ALMOST ISLAND HOME: Adorable 1BR/1BA. Brand new furnished, bay windows with water view. Hurricane Force-3 manufactured home. One mile from Anna Maria Island and one block from Intracoastal Waterway with new marina and boat ramp. Land owned. Home owner's association optional. \$159,900. 941-224-6521.

## REAL ESTATE Continued

TRIPLEX: IDEAL LOCATION WITH great appeal. Beautifully updated and maintained, new roof, turnkey furnished. Beach access just steps away, bay views, boat dock, ample parking, great income rental. Room for a pool. Convenient to restaurants and shopping. \$875,000. 111 8th St. S., Bradenton Beach. Bridget Spies, ReMax Properties, 941-308-6763. MSL# 313022.

WEST BRADENTON: OPEN noon-4pm Sunday. Six months condo fees paid! Free-standing, private three-bedroom upgraded condo with two-car garage, new lanai. Call for details, 941-792-0763. \$309,900. 5605 Whipporwill Ct. off 59th Street West, Tanglewood.

OPEN HOUSE: 1-4pm Sunday: New home, 3,746 sf 3-4BR/3BA, granite/cherry kitchen, three screened verandas. \$829,000. Horizon Realty, 941-725-7000. 303 58th St., Holmes Beach.

UPDATED 3BR/2BA: 1,560 sf, tastefully furnished and decorated, sold turnkey. For sale by owner. Buyer's agents, 3 percent. Reduced to \$585,000. 813-818-8314. 8104 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. [www.bohnenberger.homesindeed.com](http://www.bohnenberger.homesindeed.com).

BY OWNER, PURCHASE or lease: Manatee river-front condo, 2BR/2BA, beautiful views, pool, gated, covered parking, fitness. \$325,000 or \$1,050/month. 941-720-0092.

DUPLEX ON LARGE lot, 90x108 feet. Second lot east of Gulf Drive in north Holmes Beach resort area. Annual tenants in place, includes well-known Island architect's plans for complete remodel. \$885,000. 941-704-7729.

## REAL ESTATE Continued

NEW LAKEFRONT CONDOS: Low \$300s. Minutes to beach, no flood, evacuation zone. Hidden Lake Real Estate, 941-761-0444. [www.HiddenLakeCondominiums.com](http://www.HiddenLakeCondominiums.com).

ISLAND CANAL LOT: 75x100 feet, new dock, priced to sell quickly. Below market and appraised value, \$550,000. Call Jake, 941-544-7786. 108 Gull Drive, Anna Maria.

BRADENTON BEACH: 2BR/2BA elevated with covered parking. View of bay from large covered porch. Only two blocks to Gulf, great neighborhood. \$350,000. 941-778-3875.

FOR SALE BY owner: Deep-water canal ranch, \$550,000. Nicely remodeled with granite countertops, tile flooring, and more. Call Scott Wheeler at 614-207-7878, or e-mail [scott@scottincolumbus.com](mailto:scott@scottincolumbus.com).

BY OWNER: 2BR/1.5BA condo. Bath and kitchen need update. \$399,999. 863-412-2612. [www.cf realestateonline.com/condo](http://www.cf realestateonline.com/condo). 5400 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

BRADENTON BEACH BY owner: 2BR/2BA end unit with full Gulf views. Kitchen has stainless-steel appliances, granite counters, nice turnkey furnished. Two large balconies. Amenities include boat docks, tennis court, pool with spa. \$629,000. 941-388-5238.

DIRECT WATERFRONT: Latchkey. 65A Cortez Park, Avenue D. 941-779-CAIN.

LOT: 57.75X114 FEET. One block from beach. \$520,000. Call 941-779-4505 or 941-778-4246. 125 Neptune Lane, Holmes Beach.



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**NORTH BEACH VILLAGE** Best value. Two master suites, updated tile floors and Berber carpet, four porches, two-car garage with bonus room and sun-deck. \$520,000.



**ISLANDER'S RETREAT:** 2BR Gulfwatch condo that is comfortably decorated and turnkey furnished encouraging relaxing Island lifestyle. Attractive rental policy or ideal for your own beach oasis. \$374,900.



**BEACH TREASURE:** Enchanting and meticulous describes this beachfront complex and the location of this 2BR turnkey furnished condo that has front-seat views of the pool and spa. \$700,000.



**SOOTHING GULF BREEZES:** Surprising water views from this updated, large 4BR duplex with an open floor plan, bamboo floors and multiple decks including a roof deck with endless possibilities. \$709,900.



**BOATER'S DREAM:** An exceptional, well maintained and upgraded home with canal views from most rooms that is ideal for waterfront living. New dock, 10,000lb lift. \$559,000.



**GREENFIELD PLANTATION** 2-3BR maintenance-free home in "move-in" condition. Features include all appliances, ceramic tile, home warranty provided and community pool and recreation facilities with close proximity to I-75. \$243,900.



**RUNAWAY BAY CONDOS** - Each sold turnkey furnished, 2BR/2BA, updated, heated pool, tennis courts, fishing pier on the bay, deeded beach access and weekly rentals permitted. \$379,000-\$429,000.



**INTEREST RATE BUY DOWN AND HOME WARRANTY** 3BR meticulously maintained, furnished, wood deck off family room, two-car garage with workshop, fenced backyard with like-new spa and short distance to beach. \$569,000.



**VILLAS BY THE SEA** 1BR condos, centrally located in Bradenton Beach. Updated interior and exterior renovations including new heated pool, new roof, new tropical landscape and turnkey furnished. Ideal investment opportunity. \$299,000-\$319,000.

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**GREAT NEW LISTINGS!**

Affordable ground level 2BR/3BA canal home in a quiet and desirable Anna Maria neighborhood close to the bay. Very open and appealing floor plan with an updated kitchen, newer AC and roof, and a Taylor-Made 6,000 lb. boat lift and dock. Offered at \$649,000. Call Gayle Schulz, (941) 812-6489.



West Bradenton, large updated 3BR/2BA condo in a super location near the beaches boasts new tile in the living, dining, kitchen & den areas. Freshly painted w/new carpeting in the master suite, 2nd bedroom & screened porch. Overlooks the new pool. Ready to move in. Offered at \$160,000. Call Gayle Schulz, (941) 812-6489.

**AVAILABLE VACATION RENTALS IN HOLMES BEACH**

2BR/2BA Gulffront condo with pool. \$3,000/month.  
 2BR/2BA home close to the beach. \$2,900/month.  
 2BR/2BA Gulffront condo with pool at the Martinique. \$3,000/month.



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### Sherry Sasser

Home: 941-778-1820  
 Cell: 941-713-5321  
[sherrys@betsyhills.com](mailto:sherrys@betsyhills.com)



Buy a home for your boat. 2BR/2BA with a 40x19-foot dock and 19,000 lb. boat lift. \$837,500.



3BR/3BA bayfront home, north end of Anna Maria, completely renovated! \$1,895,000 furnished.



**Two Bayfront Lots**

Build your dream home on very large lot, 100x223 sf. Panoramic bay view!



**Canal Home**

2BR/2BA canal home with salt-water pool, north end. Two boat docks. \$849,000.

*Call Sherry for more information.*

**KINGSFIELD LAKES** 4BR/2BA, 3-car garage. ~~\$340,000~~ \$299,900.

**SABAL HARBOUR** 4BR/2BA, 3-car garage. \$384,500.

**VILLAGER APARTMENTS** 2BR/2BA with carport. \$125,900.

**MARINERS COVE** 3BR/2BA with 35-foot slip. \$760,000.

**ISLAND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY!** \$82,900.

**SOLD!** 531 Harbor Point Road, Longboat Key. \$1,595,000.



**Call Laura McGeary**  
**941-704-3708**  
 Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate, Inc





**Gulf Bay Realty of Anna Maria, Inc.**  
**Jesse Brisson - Broker Associate, GRI**  
 (941) 713 - 4755 (800) 771 6043



**SANDY POINTE:** Impeccably maintained 2BR/2BA condo in central Holmes Beach within walking distance to shops, restaurants, and the beach! No rental restrictions make this condo an instant income producer. Heated pool, covered parking, storage, washer dryer, and new water heater! Don't wait come see this tastefully done unit today! \$329,900.



**149 CRESCENT** - Great floor plan, new windows, kitchen was redone recently, private back yard with many fruit trees and room for a pool. Just a short walk to the bay or beach! Can join HOA for dockage. \$ 569,000.

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# ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE Continued

**BRADENTON BEACH MOBILE** home: Bay view updated, cozy 1BR in the Pines Park. Turnkey furnished, boat slip included. \$45,000. 941-962-8220.

**NON-EVACUATION/NON-flood area:** 3BR/2BA, two-car garage. Village Green, quiet street, minutes to beaches, shopping, doctors, hospitals. Tile floors, bedrooms carpeted, screened lanai. \$297,000. 941-794-1640.

**GULFFRONT CONDOS:** 3BR/2BA, 2BR/2BA, 1BR/1BA with breathtaking views. Pools, Jacuzzi, walk to shops and restaurants. Available weekly, monthly, seasonal. 901-301-8299, or e-mail captko462@aol.com.

**ISLAND HOME REDUCED:** For sale by owner. Holmes Beach 3BR, deep-water canal, pool, boat dock, many upgrades. \$799,000. Call 941-778-6474.

**RENT-TO-OWN:** 2BR1BA, west Bradenton, newly remodeled. \$995/month. www.44smart.com. 941-447-6278.

**BEST DEAL ON Holmes Beach, hands down.** Divorce forces quick sale at \$399,000. Adorable beach duplex sold turnkey furnished. Good rental history with tenants in place. Updated with ceramic tile, new kitchen cabinets and low-maintenance landscape. Call Karen Neal at L.Wells Realty, 941-737-7653.

## FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE

**GULFFRONT LOTS:** \$595,000. Homes starting mid-\$300s. New master-planned oceanfront community on beautiful Mustang Island, near Corpus Christi, Texas. www.cinnamonshore.com. 866-891-5163.

## FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE Continued

**WYOMING RANCH DISPERSAL:** 35 acres, \$49,900; 75 acres, \$95,900. Snow-capped mountain views. Surrounded by government land. Abundant wildlife. Recreational paradise. Low taxes. E-Z terms. Call Utah Ranches LLC. 888-541-5263.

**NORTH CAROLINA GATED** lakefront community. Pleasantly mild climate, 1.5 acres, 90 miles of shoreline. Never offered before with 20 percent pre-development discounts, 90 percent financing. Call 800-709-5253.

**NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAIN-view lot.** Top views start at \$50,000. Amenities include club, pool, equestrian facilities, hiking trails and high-speed Internet. One-half to 3.5 acre sites. www.highlandmountain-properties.com. Call 888-625-8950 today!

**GREAT FLORIDA REAL estate auction:** 38-plus properties at auction. Many selling absolute, regardless of price. Houses, condos, farms, acreage, commercial, health food store, marina, building lots, duplexes! All to be sold Jan. 13-Jan.17. Visit www.CampenAuctions.com for details or call Ben Campen Auctioneers. 352-505-0560 or 866-633-4460. Licensed real estate broker. AU201 AB2118.

**NO STATE INCOME tax!** Low property taxes, four seasons, southern hospitality. Tennessee lakefronts starting under \$100,000; views, properties from \$25,000. Lakeside Realty, 888-291-5253. www.lakesiderealty-tn.com 1248-.

**2,000 FEET OF LARGE** trout creek. Two large barns, 22 acres, \$349,900. Great horse farm, private trout stream. Great low rate, long-term financing. Call owner directly. 877-777-4837.

MORE CLASSIFIEDS equals more readers.

## FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE Continued

**NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS:** Log cabin shell on mountain top, view, trees, waterfall and large public lake nearby, paved private access, gated community, \$139,500. Owner, 866-789-8535.

**RARE! DIRECT NATIONAL** forest frontage. 17 acres, \$199,900. Five minutes to Appalachian Trail. Big mountain views. Heavily forested, mature hardwoods. Access to private, stocked trout stream. Call immediately. Only one. 877-777-4837.

**COASTAL GEORGIA:** NEW, pre-construction golf community. Large lots and condos with deep water, marsh, golf, nature views. Gated, golf, fitness center, tennis, trails, docks. \$70s-\$300,000. 877-266-7376. www.cooperspoint.com.

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**WATERFRONT CONDO** Light, bright, ground floor, 2BR/2BA end unit. Heated pool, tennis court. Close to the beach. \$389,000.

**SHOREWALK** 2BR/2BA condo, turnkey furnished. Two pools, two lighted tennis courts, basketball, shuffleboard and clubhouse. \$175,000-179,900.

**Piroska Planck**

For information, call Piroska Planck, 941-730-9667 or e-mail piroska@verizon.net.

**New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword**

**LAY OF THE LAND** BY JOE DiPIETRO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18			19					20		21					22		
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106						107	108	109				110		111	112		
113												115					116
117																	120

**ACROSS**

1 Sharp cheese quality  
4 Center of emotions  
9 Mountain top?  
15 \_\_\_ Club of old TV  
18 Big record co.  
19 Many, many  
21 This puzzle's northern border?  
22 Be in a hole  
23 Access code?  
25 Stockpiles  
26 Fired up  
27 Scruffs  
28 Its clue reads "Unstable subatomic particle"  
30 Treater's words  
32 Key-signature pre-ceder  
33 Family subdivisions  
34 Opposite of post-  
36 Drying chamber  
37 With 33-Down, quickly  
38 More than devotion  
40 Sine \_\_\_ non  
41 Gary \_\_\_, Pulitzer-winning Beat poet  
42 Kind  
43 Plays  
44 Abrasive stuff  
46 Spot for slop

**DOWN**

1 It may glow in the dark  
2 Crater creators, e.g.  
3 Makeshift Frisbee  
4 One taking a big bow  
5 Suffix with Capri  
6 Message in a bottle, maybe  
7 Already chosen for play, say  
8 Mass x velocity measurements  
9 Sound in the middle of Italy

10 Unstable subatomic particle  
11 Minute opening?  
12 Beetle, e.g.  
13 Hall-of-Fame pitcher Joss  
14 Onetime  
15 Spots for some shirts  
16 Matching pair  
17 "Here, maybe I can do it"  
20 They're often dinged  
24 Once called  
29 Suffix with direct  
31 RCA competitor  
33 See 37-Across  
34 Big name in sneakers  
35 Like baba  
39 Bay windows  
40 Ancient Roman financial officer: Var.  
41 Targeted, as with a mailing  
44 Boom  
45 Firms: Abbr.  
48 "Sic et Non" author  
49 Discuss business at a social occasion  
50 Mansion staff  
52 Bay  
53 Hater  
55 Rustic  
56 Often-smoked fish  
57 Metallurgists' supplies  
58 Explorer at Labrador in 1497

47 Prevent from escaping  
49 Breaches of faith  
51 With 97-Across, bearer of edible triangular nuts  
53 Land with monsoons  
54 Not monaurally  
58 Meat, in Madrid  
61 Count with many titles  
64 More faithful  
65 Congresswoman Abzug and others  
67 Vulnerable point  
68 "Awww"-inspiring  
69 It may be indicated by a stroke  
70 Hot  
72 An Untouchable  
73 Mosaic flooring  
75 Restaurateur Toots  
76 Newport Beach sight  
78 Where a bell ringer may stand  
80 Ibsen play  
83 Like some carol apparel  
86 Within reach  
87 Receiver's counterpart  
90 Gave birth to  
92 Drops  
94 Fourth of 12: Abbr.  
95 Eye openers?  
96 Clark of country music  
97 See 51-Across

98 Provided, as a line  
99 \_\_\_ haddie (smoked fish)  
100 Run for dear life?  
102 Cold war draft  
104 Williams's "Popeye" co-star  
105 Attacked in a rage  
106 Unpaired  
107 Missed a golden opportunity  
110 Disagrees  
113 In shape  
114 This puzzle's southern border?  
115 Antarctica's \_\_\_ Coast  
116 French pronoun  
117 "\_\_\_ bad!"  
118 Hot  
119 Water falls?  
120 "\_\_\_ a chance"

77 Cow annoyers  
79 Org. in TV's "Nash Bridges"  
81 Adds as a bonus  
82 State capital on the Tietê River  
83 Started to melt  
84 Home of many talk shows  
85 Opposite of dominate  
87 Supplier of candy and toys for kids  
88 "Shane" actor  
89 Lion, at times  
91 It's used to check septic systems  
93 Asian observance  
95 Shareholder's income: Abbr.

98 Steakhouse selection  
99 Cot alternative  
101 Guitar great \_\_\_ Paul  
103 They were once cloned  
104 Chop up  
108 Prefix with skeleton  
109 Actor Wheaton  
111 Yalie  
112 Take in slowly

Answers to this week's puzzle on page 28

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