



Skimming the news ... Harry Filkins: Greatest Generation, page 18.

The Islander

Anna Maria



Rescued eagle, inside.

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Volume 15, No. 13 Jan. 31, 2007 • FREE

Don't compare Island real estate to mainland

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

A report last week from the Florida Association of Realtors that the average sale price of a home in the Sarasota-Bradenton area fell 17 percent from December 2005 to December 2006 shouldn't be used as a comparison for Anna Maria Island, local real estate agents say.

The FAR reported that the median price for a home in the area in December 2006 was \$284,700 as compared with \$344,400 for December 2005. For the same

12-month period, the FAR said sales in the Sarasota-Bradenton area only declined by 7 percent.

But don't think those numbers are indicative of the Island real estate market.

"That figure doesn't apply to Anna Maria Island," said Mike Norman of Mike Norman Real Estate in Holmes Beach.

Agreed, indicated Barry Gould of Island Vacation Properties. "The Island real estate market has always been different from the mainland."

While Gould conceded that Islandwide sales in November and December of 2006 were down from the previous year, he believes the market has hit bottom.

"January activity is picking up and it's as good as December," he said.

Gould was also encouraged by the fact that sellers are now lowering prices to encourage buyers. He noted that the difference between the asking price and selling price of properties that sold in December 2006

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Trash talk in Anna Maria

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Residents of Anna Maria can expect a rate hike for their garbage and trash-hauling service if a proposed new contract with Waste Management is adopted.

Rose Quin-Barr and Dave Smith of WMI told the city commission at its Jan. 25 meeting that basic residential service would climb to \$16.98 per month under the proposed automation service, an increase of 5 percent from the current base rate of \$16.13.

Commissioner Dale Woodland still wanted relief for duplex owners who pay two separate bills for WMI service, but either do not rent the second unit or occupy both units as one family. Woodland would like to see such owners pay for one service.

"That," said Quin-Barr, "would set a precedent for us," and the city would have to determine the criteria for an exemption. And, she added, "that's not the way we're looking at the proposed contract because then, the entire county would want that. It's never been addressed with other cities and I don't think it's a good idea to give exceptions. It's not something we would want to start."

She noted that company drivers are going to pick up trash in front of a duplex, regardless if one unit has an exception.

Quin-Barr told Commissioner Christine Tollette that if the city wanted to grant exceptions to some duplex owners, the city would have to keep the records and inform WMI when a duplex is rented. At present, WMI gets its information on what properties are duplexes from the Manatee County tax rolls.

Commissioner Duke Miller inquired if a property owner could get a duplex designation rescinded.

City attorney Jim Dye said that would require rezoning and there might be an issue if the property were rezoned, then sold to a new owner who might demand the property be grandfathered back to a duplex.

Miller also asked if WMI could change the current Monday-Thursday pickup days, but Smith said those are the days that WMI utilizes for Island and west Manatee pickups. To change the dates just for Anna Maria would disrupt the entire system.

But the city had other issues with the proposed contract.

City treasurer Diane Percycoc noted that the proposed contract eliminates the spring and fall cleanup dates and WMI will no longer pick up garbage containers at the beach access locations.

True, said Smith. If the city wants a spring and fall cleanup date for WMI to collect garbage, that can be put back in the contract, but the city will have to pay for it. Likewise, the city will have to be charged to pick up the beach access containers.

Commissioners agreed they wanted these services

PLEASE SEE **TRASH**, PAGE 3



Rolling for rotary

Patti Bishop, right, and Barbara Andrews celebrate a good roll at the craps table run by dealer Andy Branco during the fifth annual Extravaganza and Casino Night. The event, presented by the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island on Jan. 27, drew a sell-out crowd to St. Bernard Catholic Church's activity room, which was dressed up in bright lights and tinsel. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

New bridge schedule starts Feb. 21

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

After a nearly five-year effort by the Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials, new draw-bridge opening times for the Anna Maria Island Bridge and the Cortez Bridge are scheduled to go into effect Feb. 21, according to Michael Lieberum of the U.S. Coast Guard Seventh District in Miami.

The new times had been scheduled to become effective in mid-December, but an administrative error delayed implementation until the regulations could be published by the U.S. government in its daily "Federal Register." The publication lists all new orders, regulations and laws of the federal government and announces their date of implementation.

Lieberum said the order was published in the Jan. 22 issue of the *Federal Registry* and the new opening schedule will take effect Feb. 21.

Under the new regulations, the two drawbridges are limited from Jan. 15 to May 15 to raise for boat traffic on the hour and half-hour on demand by boaters between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. From 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. the bridges will be raised on signal from a boater.

From May 16 to Jan. 14, the bridge opening times will be on demand on the hour and every 20 minutes thereafter from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A request by the BIEO to halt drawbridge opening times during the morning and afternoon peak travel times for vehicles going to and from Anna Maria Island was not included in the new regulations.

"The Coast Guard thoroughly examined and con-

PLEASE SEE **BRIDGE**, NEXT PAGE



Ready to read

Robbie Kozash, a kindergartner in Maureen Loveland's AME class, is a new member of the Rotary Reader Book Patch program. Island Rotarians visited the school to distribute logbooks to the new reading crew. Participants in the program earn patches for reading a specified number of books. Kindergartners earn their first patch after having 50 books read to them. Loveland's students all chose to join the program, which other grade levels have been participating in since the school year started. Students are reading toward a schoolwide challenge to have read 10,000 books by April 2 — so far 6,400 books have been read. *Islander Photo: Diana Bogan*

Real estate market improving

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was 10 percent, compared with a 2.8 percent difference in December 2005. "It's encouraging that buyers are getting good prices."

Gould discounted any drop in prices compared with the mainland.

From 2003 to 2005, Island real estate values were increasing 30 to 40 percent annually. Now, a 17 percent drop in the average sale price has to be compared with what prices were in 2003, he said.

"We're still way ahead of just a few years ago, so I believe we are back on track for normal appreciation."

Properties are now "reasonably priced and more consistent with the reality of property values," he added.

February should be a good month for Island real estate sales as more winter visitors arrive and find good values in the market.

Frank Davis of Island Real Estate in Holmes Beach agreed. "You just can't compare the Island with the mainland. It's not the same," he said.

In fact, his office has seen more activity the past two weeks than the previous two months, thanks to a recent article in "Life" magazine announcing Anna Maria Island as one of the best beaches in America.

"It's really picked up. I'm excited about the season. I think if we check in mid-March, we'll have a better idea of how sales are going for the season."

Norman said that sales should pick up by late February, but in his opinion, Island real estate is now "generally over-priced by about 25 percent."

In other words, if sellers would consider lowering their asking price and be willing to negotiate with a buyer, sales should really jump. Right now, however, the Island real estate market is slow.

More and more investors are turning their properties into rentals, he noted.

The Island needs a good winter season with a lot of visitors, particularly those with an eye to buying real estate.

Norman said a good barometer of the industry will be how well sales have gone in February and how many rental units are occupied that month compared with how many are available.

"I think sales will be back to normal. I really expect a very good winter season," predicted Gould.

Cortez to buy remaining lot in Preserve

By Jim Hanson
Islander Reporter

Cortez has made the opening move to buy one of the last remaining independently owned lots

in the FISH Preserve, and has made plans to pay for it.

Meeting last week, the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage directed its president, Allen Garner, and treasurer, Karen Bell, to begin negotiating with Iris LeMasters of Grand Rapids, Mich., for the undeveloped half-acre.

It is in the middle of the 95-acre Preserve, and FISH has had its eye on it for years — ever since the Cortez organization acquired almost all of the rest of the 95-acre Preserve.

At one time, during the boom in property values, LeMasters advertised it as an ideal semi-wilderness building site and priced it at \$1.2 million. With no takers, it has been withdrawn from the market.

Such a price put the lot far out of FISH's reach, but now the picture has brightened. Manatee County has set a value of \$22,000. It has been owned for years by the LeMasters family, and the current owner is heir to the LeMasters estate.

FISH not long ago bought a larger lot with a house along Cortez Road, and notes there are a couple of other independently owned properties that it hopes to acquire eventually.

Also at last week's meeting, the FISH board took up plans for the annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival, set for Feb. 17-18, noting that this has been the vehicle that raised money to pay for the original Preserve and is still paying for the additional lots it bought within the boundaries of the Preserve.

The festival is a huge attraction every year, last year hosting some 15,000 visitors per day. This year's event is its 25th anniversary, and it is being called the Silver Mullet Festival in honor of the fish that built and sustained the historic fishing village.

Over-priced?

Is Anna Maria real estate over-priced?

A canalfront home on the Island recently sold for \$489,000 after the owner dropped the asking price considerably.

A real estate agent involved in the sale told *The Islander* that once the price dropped, the seller had nearly 50 offers in a week. The property was not yet posted with the local multiple listing service.

By comparison, GSR Development LLC plans to put its canalfront home at 403 S. Bay Blvd. in Anna Maria on the market with a list price \$895,000.

Over-priced?

"You be the judge," said the agent, who asked to remain anonymous.

"If it sells, it's not over-priced. If it doesn't sell, then it's over-priced."

Bridge opening schedule changes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sidered all the comments and made adjustments to the final rule," said Lieberum. "These bridges will remain on the 20-minute spring schedule from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the day and both will operate on the 30-minute schedule from January 15 through May 15," he said.

Lieberum added that the Coast Guard "had considered placing these bridges on a staggered schedule," but eventually determined this was impractical.

The BIEO had requested the change to allow traffic during the busy winter tourist season more time to clear the traffic light at the Gulf Drive-Cortez Road and the Manatee Avenue-Gulf Drive intersections before the bridge is raised.

Correction

An article in the Jan. 24 issue of *The Islander* regarding the SevenShores condominium development on Perico Island should have stated there are 40 units scheduled for Building II.



Oh la la!

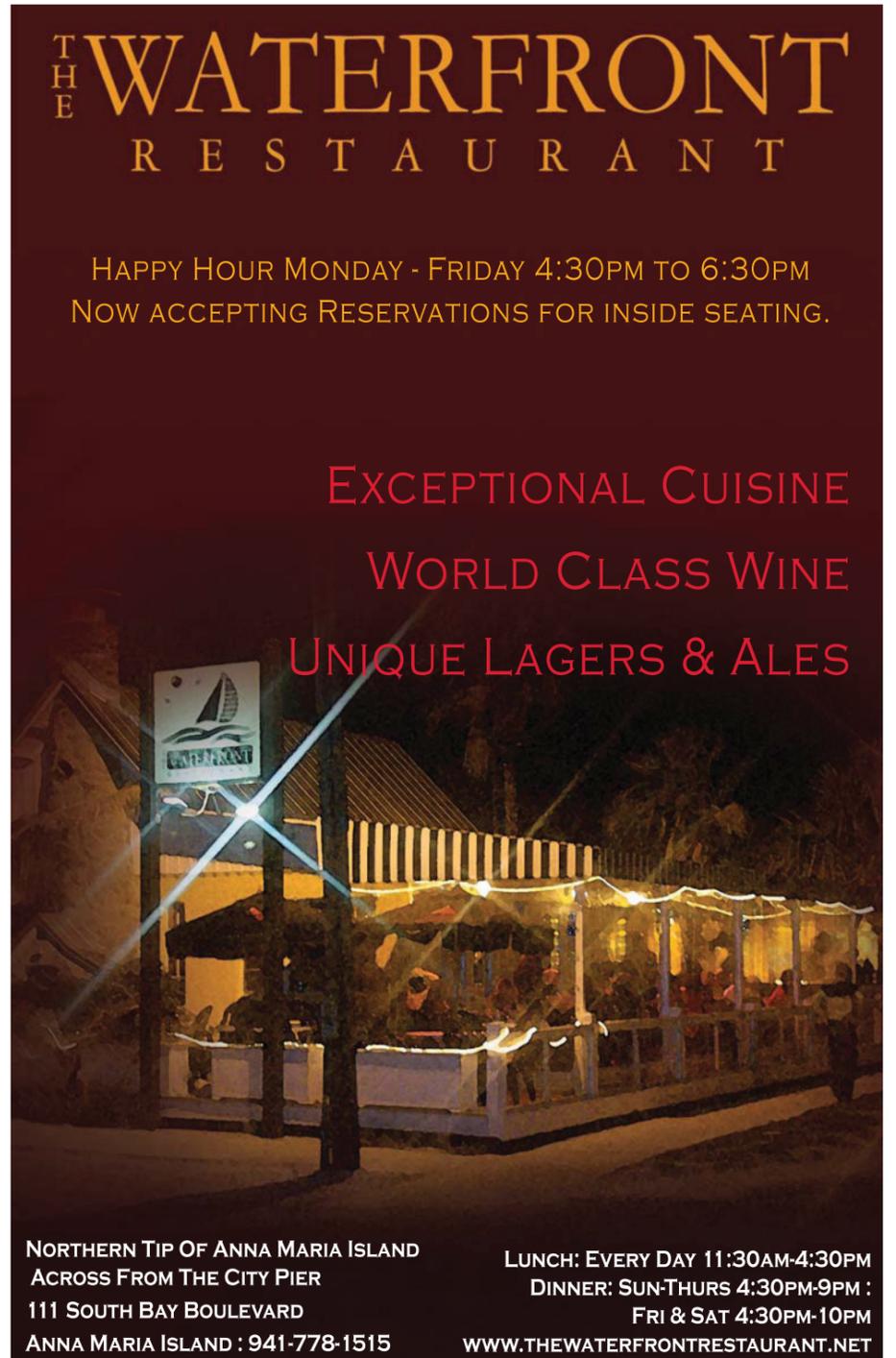
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Parking discussions continue in Bradenton Beach

By Paul Roat

“There is a parking problem in Bradenton Beach, no doubt.”

That assessment from the city’s parking czar/facilitator/consultant Alan Garrett was met with tacit approval from the 30 or so residents and business people in attendance at last Wednesday’s town hall forum on parking problems in the city.

The sticky issue of where to put cars so residents and visitors can easily enjoy shops, restaurants and taverns in the city appears to be the key to unlock the parking problem.

Bradenton Beach, with arguably the largest public park in Manatee County at Coquina Beach, is home to a huge amount of available parking spaces. The problem

is that the parking is inconvenient for shoppers in the “downtown” area of Bridge Street, with its 97 spaces for vehicles, spaces that have to do double duty for business patrons, employees, beachgoers and anyone else who wants to enjoy the area.

Garrett has been charged with trying to wrestle a solution out of the parking dilemma. Last week was the “blue sky” time for those in attendance: Just suggest a plan, cost be damned, to give the critical business core with its critical parking needs a way to accommodate more vehicles.

Solutions involved everything from more trolley usage to public-private parking garages.

“Traffic is here to stay,” said David Teitelbaum, owner of two resorts and developer of a condominium project in

the city. “People are too attached to their cars. They want to come to Bridge Street, but they can’t find a place to park. The solution is to use a parking garage, and camouflage it to accommodate the needs of the community.”

He suggested public-private partnerships to create the facility.

Resort owner Barbara Rodocker of Bridgewalk, also owner of Sun House Restaurant at Gulf Drive and Bridge Street, was more specific in her suggestion. She said a vacant lot on Bridge Street could be used for a parking structure, as well as utilizing the air space above the Beach Bazaar. Retail could be on the first level, with parking above to the maximum three levels that city codes allow.

Resident Carl Parks brought the discussion back from the blue-sky point to earth. Bradenton Beach doesn’t have a parking problem 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, he said, but there is a problem during high season. That time frame is exacerbated by business employees parking in prime spots for lengthy periods of time as well as people going to the beach for extended stays.

“There is so much parking available at Coquina Beach,” said BeachHouse Restaurant owner Ed Chiles. “We need to utilize it.”

Trams from the beach to the downtown core were suggested by others, as were valet parking services, vacant lots transformed temporarily as parking lots and better use of existing parking spaces.

Parking czar Garrett said he would be walking the city in the next few weeks in an effort to provide some “parking-truth” data on what is in place now in terms of numbers of spaces and other areas that could be better utilized for vehicles.

He lauded Bridgewalk for having a compact-car space under a stairwell for parking, and hinted that similar tucked-away areas could be created. Previously, he suggested that one-way traffic for Bridge Street and First Street could enhance the number of vehicles parked in the downtown area, and the extent of the expansion of parking spaces is expected to be addressed when the next meeting is held at 5 p.m. Feb. 7 at city hall.

Former city commissioner Scott Barr offered another suggestion to the group which drew a number of nodding heads.

“We need to plan ahead,” he said. “Not just for the next few months, but 30 and 50 years.”



Slow going

Traffic was slowed at the Cortez Road/Gulf Drive intersection Friday as workers with Ajax Paving Contractor replaced the median island in the intersection. The work was part of a \$472,000 intersection improvement project funded by the Florida Department of Transportation. Major work is expected to begin after April 30 and will include resurfacing and new traffic signal masts. *Islander Photo: Paul Roat*

Trash talk starts in Anna Maria

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the new contract and Smith said he would revise the rate schedule and forward it to Percycoe prior to Feb. 8, when the first reading of the ordinance adopting a new WMI contract will take place.

The new service will be the same automated system currently operating in Holmes Beach and WMI will issue new containers to its residential customers. The containers are either 32-gallon or 64-gallon size, depending on the customer’s preference.

Mayor Fran Barford said that when the new ordinance is passed and the contract signed, the automated service should begin in about six months.

While no commissioner suggested the city look elsewhere for a bid on trash and yard-waste hauling services and recycling pickup, there aren’t many options for the Island.

When Holmes Beach was negotiating its WMI contract two years ago, no other company expressed interest in submitting a bid. In fact, the only other area garbage collection service, BFI, told Holmes Beach that the Island market is simply too small to be of interest.

FEMA/WMI reimbursement

The commission agreed to accept a rebate from WMI for \$17,147 for trash-hauling services provided to the city during the hurricanes of 2004.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency had originally agreed to repay the city at a five-to-one compaction rate. After WMI moved all the debris from the hurricanes, the city paid WMI, then submitted receipts to FEMA for reimbursement. But FEMA changed its mind on the compaction rate, agreeing to repay the city only at a one-for-one rate.

Quin-Barr along with former Mayor SueLynn spent nearly two years negotiating unsuccessfully with FEMA to get that agency to honor its original commitment.

Quin-Barr said she and WMI management

agreed that the company should give back some of the money it collected from the city because payments were based on FEMA’s original promise. The WMI rebate represents a 50-50 split between WMI and the city on the original cost of trash hauling after the storms.

Roser Cottage

Commissioners unanimously approved the preliminary and final site plan for the Roser Cottage at 519 Pine Ave. to be converted from a residence into a real estate office (see separate story).

In other business, the commission continued the public hearing on the lot split and subdivision amendment to Feb. 22 and passed an ordinance pertaining to construction of dune walkovers.

The commission also voted to authorize Barford to sign a contract with the engineering firm of HDR Inc. to begin the design portion of Phase I of the drainage plan approved by the Southwest Florida Water Management District in its matching-fund grant to the city.

Commissioners declined to approve a special event request from the Sandbar Restaurant to have a temporary tent erected on the beach until April 30 while its permanent pavilion is under construction. The commission will again discuss the request at its Feb. 8 worksession.

Commission meetings

Barford took time to thank the city staff for moving city hall to temporary quarters at the Island Baptist Church while the mold problem at city hall is eliminated.

While staff will be at the church for the next few months, all commission and board meetings will take place at the Holmes Beach city commission chambers, she said.

The next scheduled commission meeting is 7 p.m., Feb. 8, at Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive.

Chamber networking luncheon next Wednesday

A networking luncheon that is hoped will become a monthly event of the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce will be at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7 at the Sun House Restaurant, 111 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach. Cost is \$15 per person. RSVPs are invited at 778-1541.

Meetings

Anna Maria City

Feb. 8, 7 p.m., city commission meeting at Holmes Beach City Hall.

Anna Maria City Hall is temporarily housed at Island Baptist Church, 8605 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria 708-6130 — www.cityofannamaria.com

Bradenton Beach

Feb. 1, 7 p.m., city commission meeting. Agenda: approval of Eco Expo, approval of visitor’s guide printing quote, grant request approval for national scenic highway and consent agenda.

Feb. 6, 1 p.m., scenic highway committee meeting. *Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 778-1005 — www.cityofbradentonbeach.org*

Holmes Beach

Feb. 7, 5 p.m., parks and beautification committee meeting.

Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 708-5800 — www.holmesbeachfl.org

Of Interest

Jan. 31, 7 p.m., Manatee County Commissioner Jane von Hahmann District 3 citizen advisory board meeting, Utility Operations Department, 4410 66th St. W., Bradenton.

Insurance: Look for lower premiums

By Molly McCartney
Islander Reporter

Rate relief for Anna Maria Island and its insurance-battered residents, churches and businesses is on the way and should be in place before hurricane season opens in June.

That's the opinion of many insurance experts, as well as state Rep. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, familiar with the massive insurance reform bill that Gov. Charlie Crist signed into law on Thursday.

Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty released a statement describing the reforms as "significant and far-reaching." He said the changes will "bring badly needed rate relief."

Galvano, who has been a leader in the effort to find solutions to the state's insurance crisis, said the new legislation would provide Island property owners with "major benefits." Here are some examples:

- Premiums will decline for many people, although reductions will vary, depending on the individual, the carrier and the coverage. The biggest reductions will be in wind premiums. Some policyholders may actually get refunds.

- Rate increases proposed by Citizens Property Insurance Corp. have been repealed. Citizens, the state insurer of last resort, had intended to raise its Manatee County residential rate by as much as 73.3 percent in March and its commercial rate by 767 percent.

- Under the new rules, Citizens will be allowed to sell wind coverage to any commercial or residential property owner who can't find coverage on the standard market.

Many details about the law remain fuzzy, but *The Islander* has compiled the answers to 10 key questions, based on interviews with insurance experts, including a Tallahassee insurance analyst, a Citizens spokesperson and Galvano.

Here is what they say:

Q: How much will policyholders save under the new insurance law and what makes these savings possible?

One legislative study found that the new law could provide an average premium reduction of 20 percent for homeowner's coverage and 39 percent for wind insurance from companies other than State Farm and Citizens.

These savings of 20-39 percent would be possible primarily because the state is making more cheap reinsurance available to private insurers and requiring them to pass their savings on to consumers.

The state study said that the premium reduction for State Farm policyholders would average only 7 percent for homeowners and 19 percent for wind coverage because State Farm already has access to cheap reinsurance from its mother company.

The study did not include Citizens because it does not buy reinsurance from the private market.

But other changes in the insurance law and in the operation of Citizens are expected to lead to an average reduction in its premiums of 10-20 percent, the experts said.

They agreed, however, that the biggest savings for Citizens' policyholders will come from the repeal of the rate increases — 73.3 to 767 percent — that Citizens had scheduled to begin in March. Lawmakers canceled those rate hikes before they could go into effect.

The new law also rescinded the 31.3 percent



State Rep. Bill Galvano said the new insurance legislation would bring "major benefits" to Anna Maria Island. *Islander Photo: Molly McCartney*

increase that Citizens began to charge its Manatee customers on Jan. 1.

Q: Will there be refunds?

Yes, under certain conditions. Anyone who has paid the premium for a residential policy with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2007, or later, will receive a refund check if the policy contained the January 2007 rate increase. The amount of the refund will depend on the rating territory where the property is located. As for timing, Citizens is in the midst of major organizational changes and doesn't expect to be able to make refunds for several more weeks and possibly several more months.

Q: How does a commercial property owner outside the wind pool obtain wind and other coverage from Citizens under the new law?

Citizens is working to develop a plan and a system to sell multi-peril coverage for commercial property owners on a statewide basis, just as it now provides for residential customers.

The reasoning behind this is to let Citizens write the more profitable multi-peril coverage rather than limit Citizens to the riskier wind-only policies.

Insurance briefing set for Wednesday

State Rep. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, will give an overview Wednesday night on the insurance reform legislation approved this month by state lawmakers and signed by the governor last Thursday.

Galvano will speak at a meeting of Manatee County Commissioner Jane W. von Hahmann's District 3 Citizens Advisory Board.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Utility Operations Department, Central Conference Room, 4410 66th St. W., Bradenton. The public is welcome to attend and participate in a question-and-answer session after the briefing.

Q: What happened to the wind pool system that divided Anna Maria Island in the middle?

The new insurance legislation has the effect of eliminating the wind pool and its boundaries. Instead, any commercial or residential property owner in Florida will be eligible for Citizens.

Q: What are the qualifications for obtaining coverage from Citizens under the new law?

You will be eligible for Citizens if you can't obtain insurance — residential or commercial — from the private market or if you are quoted a premium rate that is at least 25 percent higher than Citizens.

The new law eliminates last year's requirement that Citizens make a distinction between homesteaded and non-homesteaded customers. Under the new rules, Citizens will treat customers with and without homestead exemptions the same.

Q: Are churches outside the wind zone now eligible for Citizens?

Churches, along with any other non-residential commercial property, will now be eligible, if they can't find standard coverage or if the quote they get from a standard insurer is at least 25 percent higher than Citizens.

Q: What happens to the Florida Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association, the state organization created last summer to provide wind insurance to small commercial properties unable to get Citizens coverage or standard insurance?

The PCJUA policies will be transferred to Citizens over a period of time, and the PCJUA will eventually shut down.

Citizens is preparing a transition plan, in keeping with the legislative requirements, to take over the PCJUA business and resolve any coverage issues. One of those issues has to do with the coverage limits. The PCJUA rules provided that it could only insure a commercial property valued at \$1 million or less. The Citizens rules allow Citizens to insure a commercial property valued at more than \$1 million.

It will be up to the Citizens board to establish the limits for its new commercial customers.

Q: What is the time frame for Citizens to expand its coverage under the new law?

Citizens is supposed to have its business expansion plan approved by the Financial Services Commission and the Legislative Budget Commission in March. Citizens hopes to begin offering its expanded coverage sometime in April.

Q: Will the insurance companies cooperate with the state?

That is the expectation of Galvano. "We did hear some murmurings up there that insurers would leave or try to find a loophole," he said, "but the bottom line is that this is the fourth, if not the third most-populated state in the union. There are very profitable lines of insurance in the state of Florida and we are banking on their capitalist instincts. They may have to make some adjustments and maybe their profit margins won't be as great on some lines, but they are not going to leave."

Q: Did the special legislative session resolve all the insurance reform issues or will the regular session meeting in March have more work to do?

Galvano said he was "absolutely" satisfied with the reforms approved during the special session. "I think we accomplished far more than would be typical of a special session, especially given the nature of the issue and the influences that exist. I watched in 2003 when we came back five times to try to hammer out a medical malpractice bill, and it was very, very difficult. So to be able to say we have addressed the Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, building codes, mitigation, regulations and the entire Citizens program is a big accomplishment."

But the biggest accomplishment, he said, was the change he observed in the mindset in Tallahassee.

"There was a total reversal," he said, compared to last year when his proposed amendment to expand the wind pool was defeated by a vote of 57-56.

"There were 57 people last year who were convinced the only way to solve the insurance issue was to let industry do what it wants."

This year, there was near unanimous approval in the special session for passage of consumer-friendly insurance reforms.

"At some point," Galvano said, "you have to realize that it is not a free market when consumers are trapped."

Eagle rescued

Wildlife Inc., of Bradenton Beach, rescued a 3-year-old bald eagle Jan. 25 near Port Manatee. The caretakers hope to soon release the bird, which did not appear to suffer serious injuries, said Gail Straight of Wildlife. A state wildlife officer found the bird in the water near Port Manatee. It had been caught in fishing line. The bald eagle's natural domain is from Alaska to Baja, Calif., and from Maine to Florida. Florida has the largest population of breeding bald eagles of the southeastern states, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



MCAT reluctant to extend trolley route in Anna Maria

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Mayor Fran Barford told city commissioners at their Jan. 24 meeting that she has talked to the Manatee County Area Transit about extending the route of the Island trolley to include North Bay Boulevard and North Shore Drive.

When the trolley first began operating in March 2002, a stop at the Rod & Reel Pier on North Shore Drive was included, but that location was dropped for lack of passengers.

Barford said several residents living near North Bay Boulevard have inquired about the route extension and she's spoken with MCAT director Ralf Hesseler about extending the route. The problem, said the mayor, is that, according to MCAT, the humpback bridge on North Bay Boulevard can presently support the weight of the trolley, but after several months of use, the bridge would become structurally unsound.

"I do plan to have further talks with Hesseler," Barford said, but at the moment MCAT appears reluctant to extend the trolley route in Anna Maria any farther than its turnaround at the city pier.

She also said it's a bit of a misconception to believe that the city has been blocking any extension of the trolley service.

Richard and Alexis Francis of Jacaranda Street wrote Barford and the city commission on Jan. 26 stating they would "like for the City of Anna Maria to stop blocking the extension of the trolley because of a falsely created impression of 'negative resident concern and narrow streets.'"

Francis said he and his wife live about .8 of a mile from the city pier and utilize the trolley on many occasions.

"It is difficult, especially so in the nine months of hot weather, for seniors or anyone to carry their shop-



Anna Maria now in temporary headquarters

Anna Maria City Hall is now fully operational at its temporary headquarters at the Island Baptist Church annex at 8605 Gulf Drive. And mold remediation is under way at the Anna Maria City Hall. Pictured above at work at the church are city clerk Alice Baird, left, along with Mayor Fran Barford. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

ping items .8 of a mile from the trolley drop at the city pier to their homes near Bean Point," said Francis.

"My impression is that only a very few vocal and influential residents near that route have opposed the trolley. I feel that the majority of full-time residents, small motels and the restaurant/fishing pier near the Bean Point area would like to have trolley service closer to their area.

"It is time for Anna Maria to get on board with the rest of the Island and stop blocking the extension of the trolley. I hope the city administration will quit buying into the falsely created impression of 'negative resident concern and narrow streets,'" Francis concluded.

They mayor said the city is not blocking any route extension and has asked MCAT to examine the possibilities of returning a stop at the Rod & Reel Pier to the route system.

Historical museum hosts jazz fest

Jazz Fest at the Anna Maria Island Historical Museum begins Thursday, Feb. 1, with a performance of old standards and new selections by the Gulf Drive Band.

The program will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. in the museum parking lot, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, and features vocalist Judy Lynn Chiaramonte.

There will be refreshments served and limited seating provided — so jazz fans with beach chairs are welcome.

The museum suggests a \$5 donation, which benefits the institution.

Additional performances are scheduled for Feb. 15, March 1 and March 15.

For more information about Jazz Fest, call the museum at 941-778-0492 or go to www.amihis.org. For more information about the band, go to www.gulfdriveband.net.

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Our Opinion

We ARE talkin' trash

Back in the day, before raccoons were for the most part extinct on Anna Maria Island and folks appreciated a quiet lifestyle, well, things might have seemed simpler.

Au contraire.

Folks who lived here more than 30 years ago had to be intuitive about how to beat mosquitoes at their game — sucking blood and causing itchy distress. How to avoid the sun without scorching, blistering and preventing the next day's outdoor pleasures. And how to beat the raccoon at his safe-cracking, er, garbage intrusion that spread chicken bones and other unwanted waste about the yard as the wily critters unlocked our trash receptacles.

If you had fried chicken, you had nocturnal visitors. If you had a loose-fitting, clumsy garbage can, you were sure to have visitors. Keeping garbage in the trash can was a challenge and plenty of Island entrepreneurs were up to meeting that task with raccoon-proof designs — devices, clamps, containers for the containers and, yes, concrete-block toppers.

Most of the devices were useless. The 'coons cracked every sort of "safe," peeling away the lids, knocking the cans over to spill the contents, prying tops sealed like Tupperware with their handy fingers.

Some folks even resorted to feeding the critters, thinking that if they were satisfied, maybe they'd ignore the temptation that awaited in the can. But no.

Others called the police for help, but to no avail. Just removing a few raccoons to a wildlife center or to awaiting peril on Perico Island wasn't enough. The furry little guys' numbers were too many.

But now we have Waste Management to the rescue. So many fewer raccoons, thanks to much more development and few empty lots, and better cans — free cans.

Well, free in the sense that we pay only a little bit more per quarter for handy, sturdy cans that resist critters and meet standards for new, automated pickup.

It's a good thing.

And what, you might ask, became of the little banditos? Unlike the peacocks that used to walk the streets freely and were banished to Longboat Key, the raccoons diminished in numbers as more and more empty lots and fields of brush and trees fell prey to developers ... and their habitat disappeared, replaced by duplexes, condos and homes with pristine waterfronts and few places to hide.

New banditos moved in — developers who, like the carpetbaggers of old, flashed a smile and hoped to sell the natives some swamp land and all the while trashed the economy and the real estate market.

It's time for a cleanup. And time to get back to basics, good values, honest prices and fair deals.

Just put out the trash, even if the raccoons get it. Four-legged bandits are welcome.

The Islander

JAN. 31, 2007 • Vol. 15, No. 13

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Single copies free. Quantities of five or more: 25 cents each.
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SLICK

'Coming to a town near you.'

By Egan

Your Opinion

Kudos for Island police officers

I have just read the article which was posted about Holmes Beach Police Officer Michael Leonard [*The Islander*, Jan. 17, regarding the robbery at the CVS Pharmacy in Holmes Beach]. It was wonderful that the man was caught and arrested, before he had the chance to kill some innocent person on Christmas day.

But are we not forgetting that at least three other officers were also involved? They as well risked their lives to arrest the same gentleman.

The officer from Bradenton Beach was hurt when his patrol car was hit by another vehicle, and had to get treated for a neck injury.

These guys risk their lives every day, and willingly put themselves into situations that most of us cannot imagine. I just hope that the other officers that helped that day also got honored. And if they did not, why not?

Charlotte Raddon, Davenport, Fla., and Indianapolis, Ind.

Insurance thoughts

The domestic insurance industry, at least that portion which is regulated by each state's insurance department, is a politically coddled industry, one of the largest sources of political contributions and is so structured as to be mostly immune to the natural tensions of the private sector marketplace. This includes accounting gimmickry, which would generate a wry and not uncomplimentary smile from the collective denizens on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. This regulated portion of the insurance industry is a national disgrace. In Florida, it is worse, if that is possible.

My background in this industry was centered exclusively in the unregulated sector, comprising mammoth risk, primarily marine and aviation, all levels of general and professional liability which, by its very nature, is extraordinarily capital intensive, yet remarkably efficient with extremely low overhead costs, realistic premiums for exposure and extremely sensitive to market forces. Moreover, this sector has always prided itself in its timely response to claim reporting, claim processing

and prompt claim payment.

By comparison, the domestic regulated insurance sector, especially here in Florida, is notorious and pleads for a comprehensive solution, not the sleight-of-hand we have just witnessed in Tallahassee. The annual premium increase cited just for the shopping center in which *The Islander* offices are located here in Holmes Beach is larcenous given the local history for windstorm over the past 36 or so years.

The Augean Stable-like situation here in Florida could be cleansed thoroughly with the solitary implementation of unfettered deregulation. However, there are large and ominous constituencies of entrenched power and money arrayed against this market-driven idea. The pen is still mightier than the sword, is it not? Do you not remember the high level of national wailing which preceded deregulation of the domestic airline passenger business in the waning days of the Carter administration? Yet here we are, 25 or so years later, and we now have more flights to more places, better aircraft equipment, lower fares in real terms, a continuous stream of new entrants, limitless sources of investor capital and the best safety record period in history per passenger mile traveled. Who says such an outcome is not possible, especially as it already exists in several critical sectors of the insurance industry today? It is a position that is simply not defensible.

Please keep the light shining on this issue.

Harris Wainwright, Holmes Beach

Have your say

The Islander welcomes and encourages your opinion letters.

The Islander accepts original letters of up to 250 words and reserves the right to edit for length and grammar.

Letters are published on a space-available basis with regard to timeliness of the material. Writers are limited to one published letter per month.

Address letters to Editor, *The Islander*, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217, fax to 941-778-9392, or e-mail to news@islander.org.

Longboat chamber honors members

The Longboat Key-Lido Key-St. Armands Key Chamber of Commerce honored members for good will, dedication and enthusiasm during its annual awards breakfast.

The program, sponsored by Comcast, took place Jan. 18 at the Lido Beach Resort, 700 Ben Franklin Drive.

The chamber named Mike Vejins of Raymond James and Associates as Ambassador of the Year.

The Eager Beaver Award went to Cheryl Whitten of Scoopdaddy's on St. Armands Circle.

Nancy Ambrose, of *The Islander*, received the Edwin K. Moran Memorial Award. The award is named for the late Ed Moran, who served on the chamber's ambassador committee. Moran died in February 2000 and, in lieu of flowers, his widow asked that donations be made to the chamber.

"Nancy was chosen for her outstanding contributions to the community and for her work for the chamber through *The Islander*," said Gail Loefgren, chamber president.

The Chairman's Award went to Kerkering Barbario and Co.

Member of the year was Pat Martin, Pampered Moves.

Recipients of the chamber's Good as Gold honor included Cooper, Walters and Associates; Ellen Aquilina of Coast Bank; Andrew Vac of Re/Max Excellence; Town of Longboat Key; Michael Welly of Longboat Key Club and Resort; Jim and Jimmy Seaton of Longboat Limousine/Suncoast Sedans/Liquid Limousine; Matt and Lisa Walsh of the Longboat Observer; Chuck Neubauer of Neubauer's Gulfcoast Photography; Jim Bos of MJB Group; and Comcast Cablevision.

Ambrose earned honor

I feel terrible for all the years I worked on Anna Maria Island at the Club Bamboo that Nancy Ambrose and I did not make contact. At the awards breakfast when Gail Loefgren (president of the Longboat/St. Armands/Lido Keys Chamber of Commerce) started reading all the wonderful things Nancy has done, it made me feel I really missed out on a wonderful friendship.



Nancy Ambrose, sales representative with *The Islander* newspaper, pictured with Marge Moran, receives the Edwin K. Moran Memorial Award from the Longboat Key-Lido Key-St. Armands Key Chamber of Commerce. *Islander* Photo: Bonner Joy

Giving her the Edwin K. Moran Memorial Award for outstanding service to the chamber and the community, she noted Nancy's outstanding service to the American Cancer Society, Audubon Society, the North American Butterfly Association by establishing the butterfly park on Anna Maria Island, the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, organizing massive aid for hurricane victims, posting the bird nesting area on the beach, the Relay for Life cancer benefit, and of course, the incredible organization of the trip here for U.S. Army Major Rick Ely and his family for his service in Afghanistan.

She noted that Nancy is always smiling and cheerful and ready to serve, and ready to do anything to brighten someone's day, although she has been suffering from cancer. She sounds very much like my husband Ed, for whom the award is named. She so deserves the award, and my husband would have been proud to have her represent him.

Marjorie Moran, Bradenton



In the Jan. 29, 1997, issue of *The Islander*, headlines announced:

- Holmes Beach motel owners told the city commission they would like to see a density of 28 units per acre for public lodging in the city's A-1 zoning district, up from the current 10 units per acre. The owners said they needed the increase to expand their properties, but some commissioners countered that this would be an invitation to chain motels.

- An Emergency Medical Committee formed by the Anna Maria Fire District has recommended that the district provide EMS ambulances for its residents. Under the proposal, the district would have three ambulances and nine paramedics on a rotating basis for emergency services.

- A Florida Department of Transportation study predicted that Anna Maria Island would have a population of 26,830, including winter residents, by 2005. The study also said that's the maximum number of people the Island's present infrastructure could support.

Temps & Drops on A.M.I.



Date	Low	High	Rainfall
Jan. 21	55	83	0
Jan. 22	68	76	0
Jan. 23	64	72	.30
Jan. 24	60	68	0
Jan. 25	50	61	1.10
Jan. 26	48	61	0
Jan. 27	54	67	0

Average Gulf water temperature 66°

24-hour rainfall accumulation with reading at approximately 5 p.m. daily.

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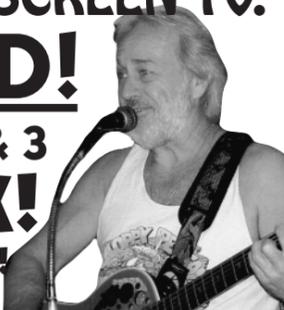


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Islanders rally for revote in congressional race

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

There will be a revote in the 13th Congressional District, Democrat Christine Jennings told dozens of supporters gathered Jan. 26 in Bradenton Beach.

"I feel very confident that we will have a revote some-time in the future," said Jennings, who ran against Republican Vern Buchanan in the November 2006 election. "I can't predict when that will be, but I do believe we'll have a revote. The people of this area will not let this die."

Jennings arrived to the BeachHouse Restaurant at about 4 p.m. Friday, shortly after her return from Washington, D.C., where she met with Democratic allies and attended the State of the Union address as a guest of U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif.

Buchanan also attended the State of the Union address as a sitting member of Congress.

Jennings and Buchanan competed in the costliest congressional race in the United States for the open seat held by Katherine Harris. The race, with seven candidates in two primaries, cost \$13.1 million.

Buchanan was declared the winner with 369 more votes than Jennings. A spokesperson for his campaign said representing the 13th District is now Buchanan's priority.

Jennings, meanwhile, continues to contest the results in Florida courts and the U.S. House, citing a malfunction of the voting machines.

Jennings talked at length about the challenge and election reform at the BeachHouse forum, which was hosted by Pat Benson, Ed Chiles, Suzanne Dickie, Suzanne and John Elsoffer, Leon Harris, Elsa and Lennie Lentz, Bill McGrath and Kathy Regan.

Nearly 18,000 undervotes were recorded on Sarasota County's electronic voting machines. Independent experts — as well as those hired by machine manufacturer ES&S — have said that those suppressed votes changed the outcome of the race.

The most recent research, a study released last week, cited new statistical evidence of machine failure and concluded that the ballot design and voter abstention theories offered so far cannot account for the undervote. The experts also concluded that statistical research alone cannot explain the undervote and more in-depth research is necessary.

About 40 percent of Americans use touch-screen voting systems similar to the machines used in Sarasota County.

Jennings, emphasizing her campaign began questioning the voting in Sarasota County weeks before



Democrat Christine Jennings discusses her challenge to the voting returns in Sarasota County in the 13th Congressional District election in November 2006. Republican Vern Buchanan was declared the winner, with 369 more votes, but the Jennings campaign wants a revote. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

election day, demanded voting reform in order to help prevent Florida or the entire nation from facing another election controversy.

"We are in the spotlight and this is a test case for the entire nation," said Jennings, who received a standing ovation from her Island audience.

She said she wants a state ethics committee to endorse a voter-verified paper trail such as those produced by optical scan systems.

Meanwhile, Sarasota County election officials are preparing to use the touch-screen machines in the March elections, including in elections in the city of Sarasota and the southern portion of Longboat Key. Voters in Longboat Key in Manatee County use the state-certified AccuVote2000 scan voting system also used on Anna Maria Island.

When a supporter asked Jennings what kind of system she would want used in a revote, she suggested using Manatee County's machines.

Jennings thanked her guests and hosts, especially Chiles, who owns the BeachHouse.

"Every time I call on Ed and ask him to help out, he says yes," she said.

Chiles opened the forum at his restaurant saying Jennings "continues to fight the good fight."

Manatee County Commissioner Gwen Brown spoke next, urging Jennings' supporters to ready for a revote.

"Let's talk about getting ready for the vote," she said.

One supporter, Islander Michael Hudson, said he'd enlist in the fight.

"I tell you this is the most precious right we have in America," Hudson said. "People have died to secure and defend the right to vote. I'm not going to see votes denied in Sarasota."

'Huge' rummage sale Saturday at St. Bernard

What organizers say will be a "huge" sale will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

Rickie Arnold of the Council of Catholic Women says there will be a great selection of jewelry, clothing, plants and "white elephant" items offered and a variety of food — chili and hot dogs and more — will be served to benefit CCW.

The council uses the funds to support missions, SOLVE and the church. Details are available from the church office at 778-4769, or Arnold at 778-3224.

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Anna Maria artist finds Costa Rica 'the simple life'

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

When Anna Maria resident and artist Mark Alonso was asked by Bob Erickson to go to Costa Rica for a few weeks in December to create some of his unique works of art for houses Erickson was building on the Caribbean coast, Alonso had no idea what he would find.

Originally from Spain, Alonso would have no problems with the language, but he did find the pace of life slower than even on Anna Maria Island.

"It was a leap back in time, to see how people can have so little, yet live so much," said Alonso.

Even the journey to the tiny coastal town of Puerto Viejo where Erickson has a construction business was exciting in itself.

"It's not even a city or a village," said Alonso. "It's an undiscovered and beautiful part of Costa Rica that the tourists don't know about yet."

There could be a good reason for that. While the location is only about 40 miles from the major port and tourist city of Limon, the trip takes about two hours over mostly gravel and rock roads.

"But once you get there, it's so beautiful. It's the way nature built the land. It's a very relaxed atmosphere and nobody's in a hurry."

Alonso quickly found out that building a house in Puerto Viejo isn't the same as construction on the Island.

Erickson has to get government approval to clear the land and trees from a piece of property. Some trees can't be removed, but the ones that are cut down are used to build the house.

"You actually set up a miniature sawmill on the

property site and use the cut trees for your house. It's really interesting to see how it's done. You can't haul in your materials because of the roads and there's no lumber yard down the street. It's all done on site and it's fascinating to watch them work. Even a bag of concrete has to be hauled up the pathway by hand."

Alonso lent a hand to Erickson as they built a home for a woman and her three daughters, including twin 11-year-old girls.

When finished, the house was two stories with an open-air veranda on the ground floor, with some original Alonso creations added as decorations. Houses aren't air-conditioned in Puerto Viejo, but the cool sea breezes and pleasant climate keep the air refreshed.

But building a home wasn't the only thing different between Anna Maria Island and Puerto Viejo.

"There's only one market and it's not even a supermarket. It's got everything you need, but most people just shop for what food they're going to eat that day. There are only a few cars, so everyone rides a bike. There's nothing like a mall, supermarket or shopping center."

That's not to say, however, that there isn't delivery service.

"Every day, the taco man rides his bicycle to your house with fresh tacos. Then, the fishermen come in the afternoon with the day's catch, and the chicken lady comes around to see if you need anything. It's really the old-fashioned way to do business."

A trip to the general store a few miles away is a planned affair. "You don't just get in your car and drive a few minutes, get what you want and come home," observed Alonso. The family makes detailed plans of

what they need and don't need before making the journey. The girls love riding their bikes to the store over the unpaved roads, and it's certainly a good way to improve your health, the artist said with a laugh.

"You have to be strong to ride a bike over those rocks."

Alonso took to the three girls in their new house as his adopted grand-daughters.

"They are just wonderful kids and so eager to learn anything about America and learn English. And they live a much simpler life than our kids."

The girls don't have cell phones or PlayStations or electrical toys, but use their imaginations to make things for their Barbie dolls. "They are so happy with their lives. They get up each morning and iron their school uniforms, then, after school, help around the house until it's time for homework. They have television, but they don't watch it very much. They prefer to make their things to have fun. They are just amazing girls."

And it's not so bad having a new house about 100 yards from the ocean.

"It's just a gorgeous beach. There are no tourists, the water is crystal-clear and the surfing would be just tremendous," Alonso added, noting that he occasionally spotted a few surfers in the waters.

But all things said and done, Alonso's not ready to leave Anna Maria Island for the simple life of Costa Rica.

"This Island is our roots," he said, but he and his wife Miren plan to go back in April for another visit.

"We just want to help the family. They are just wonderful people."

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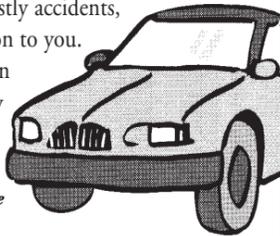
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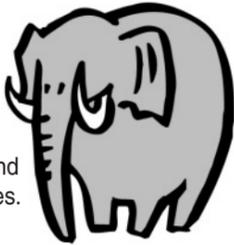


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Holmes Beach commission OKs rezoning for conservation

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach city commissioners Jan. 23 indicated their support for rezoning a set of properties west of the state erosion control line for conservation.

With the OK, commissioners dispensed with the one lingering question they had with a proposed update in the city's land development code.

The next step in adopting the revised code — a draft document that was two years in the making — is to hold public hearings.

The city commission met in its chambers at city hall. The meeting — a regular session and work session — lasted about 20 minutes, with commissioners quickly addressing routine business.

The most significant development during the meeting took place during the work session, when the one outstanding question commissioners had on the proposed LDC was answered.

The question pertained to the proposed rezoning of properties south of 31st Street and seaward of the state erosion control line from R-4 to conservation, which is the present designation for the area on the city's future land-use map.

Bill Brisson, of Brisson Planning Solutions, said he recommended the change for consistency's sake.

He added that the lots are not buildable and should be designated for conservation "as should all other properties occupied by beach soils and lying west of the ECL."

But Brisson, commissioners and the city attorney, Patricia Petruff, wanted to research the nature of a court case out of Walton County before incorporating the change in the draft LDC.

Petruff, in a memo that commissioners reviewed last week, gave the go-ahead for the change.

"I researched whether current case law prohibits the use of erosion control lines as boundaries for conservation zoning districts," Petruff wrote.

The attorney examined the Walton County case involving a dispute between property owners and state and county governments.

Petruff concluded that "the case pertains to a slightly different issue" in that property owners in Walton County "were losing their property boundaries based on where the state and county were going to place the erosion control line.

"The city is not attempting to take property from the current property owners by claiming rights to the property beyond the erosion control line," Petruff continued. "Rather ... the city is merely using the erosion control line as a zoning-district border. Therefore, regardless of how the Walton County case comes out, if the city determines that the erosion control line is a legitimate line to demarcate the beginning of a conservation zoning district, then the Walton County case will not likely affect whether the rezoning is valid."

After reviewing Petruff's memo, Sandy Haas-Martens, commission chair, said, "I think we're OK on that."

City staff, commissioners and the planning board have been working with Brisson on revising the code since June 2004.

"The city wanted the code more easily understandable for the population in general and for the city staff," said Brisson, a planning consultant since 1971. "The primary purpose of what we've been doing is to make it clear."

"We're trying to catch up and clean up the LDC," Bill Saunders, assistant superintendent in the city's building department, said. "We're trying to make it more understandable, to have a consistent plan for the city."

For Saunders and the city building department staff, the LDC serves as a bible.

"It covers everything we do in this department," Saunders said. "It covers your lot size, how you use your land, your heights of buildings and how zoning districts are defined and what you can do in each district. It covers land development."

The process is nearing completion, with the exception of the rules for signs.

"We're very close to finishing everything," said Brisson, who has worked with more than 50 municipi-

palities over the last three decades. "In the sense that it is reformatted, more usable, simplified, updated, made more modern with definitions and procedures."

The first public hearing on the proposed LDC could take place as early Feb. 27, followed by a second hearing in March.

In other business, the commission:

- Appointed Scott Rudacille, Peter Robertson and Allen V. Guy to the city's personnel board.

"We're reactivating the personnel board," Haas-Martens said.

Mayor Rich Bohnenberger said the board is made up of three permanent members and, if a dispute arises over an employee dismissal, two additional members would be added to consider the case.

Bohnenberger said that in all his years with the city the board met only once.

Rudacille's experience includes membership in the Florida Bar Association and the Florida Planning and Zoning Association and service on the Anna Maria Island Community Center board of trustees and the Manatee County Gator Club board.

Robertson is a past president of the Key Royale Resident Owner Association and currently the group's beautification chair. He's also involved in the Kiwanis Club.

Guy is a member of the Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club, a past member of the city's board of adjustment and a board member of Westbay Point and Moorings condominium association.

- Appointed former city commissioner Don Maloney as a second Holmes Beach citizen advisor to the Island Transportation Planning Organization.

"I just want you to know this is the first thing I've won in years," joked Maloney, who was defeated in a race for a seat on the city commission in November 2006.

- Discussed how often public works employees clean the rest rooms for the recreational field in response to a complaint the mayor received. With the facilities near city hall "getting a lot of use," Bohnenberger said he "told public works to double their checks on the property."

- Postponed discussion on several work session topics, including outdoor lodging and an expansion of the number of streets allowing golf carts.

Commissioners cancelled a meeting for Feb. 13, making their next scheduled meeting Feb. 27.

Holmes Beach seeks parks committee members

Holmes Beach city officials are seeking applicants to fill two vacancies on the parks and beautification committee.

Two people recently resigned, leaving five people on the seven-member advisory board. Kim Kuizon resigned to complete a degree at Manatee Community College and prepare for attending the University of Florida in August. Rosann Creed resigned for personal reasons.

The committee generally meets the first Wednesday of each month but takes a hiatus from June through September.

"Because of this interlude, part-time residents are urged to consider serving on the committee," said Jim Dunne, the committee's chairman.

Applications to serve on the committee are available from Lori Kee, assistant city clerk, at Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive.

The committee hopes to review applications on Feb. 7 to make a recommendation to the mayor, who will then formally recommend candidates to the city commission.

For more information, call 708-5800.

Merged grandparents group meets Jan. 31

The merged Love and Logic and Home Again groups, for parenting and grandparenting respectively, will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at the School for Constructive Play, 304 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

Those attending may register by calling the sponsoring Anna Maria Island Community Center, 778-1908.

Island visitor names quilt 'Patches of Paradise'



Contest winner, friends

The winner of the contest to name the quilt made for the Island Tour of Homes in March meets the makers, members of the Eyeland Needlers: from left, Marcia Powers, Joan Pettigrew, winner Dennis Pickett of Chicago, Penny Reinholz, Mary Jo Gaspari, Anne Horne, Betsy Smith and Dolores Harrell.

The big prize at the Anna Maria Island Tour of Homes in March will be named "Patches of Paradise," deemed a fitting title for the handmade quilt.

Sewn by the Eyeland Needlers, it is indeed a patchwork, organized into beauty by the members of the sewing group that meets regularly to put it all together.

The name came out of a contest, whose winner gets 50 tickets in the drawing. There actually are two winners, a visiting couple from Chicago — Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Pickett. He won the prize, but he's sharing it with his wife.

Pickett won over 130 other entrants. The Needlers — women all — expressed delight that a man had won

this year, and noted that wide interest among males was evident in the contest.

Chances to win the quilt are \$1 each, six for \$5, and are on sale at the Anna Maria Island Community Center's temporary quarters in a trailer behind St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach, and at Green Real Estate of Anna Maria, the quilt's official sponsor, 9906 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria City.

The quilt will go to the lucky ticket holder in the drawing March 17, the day of the Tour of Homes. The winner need not be present to get the quilt.

Proceeds of the prize drawing and the home tour go to the Center.

Big book sale is coming up at library

Books of all flavors will be offered at cut rates in the book sale by Friends of the Island Branch Library Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2 and 3.

It will be the headline event of the February library program as it hits its full stride during the winter season. There will be a preview sale from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, open only to current members of the Friends organization. The public sale will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Other items on the calendar:

Family story hour 10 a.m. Feb. 6.

Also on Feb. 6, free lawn-sprinkler tune-up kits will be offered by the Manatee County Extension Service, from 10 a.m. until noon.

Diana Molesko will present "Global Climate Change: Securing the Future" at 2 p.m. Feb. 7.

Internet class for beginners 8:30 a.m. Feb. 5 and 12, with advance registration required by phoning 778-6341.

"Machu Picchu" will be presented by March and

Jerry East in the Family Travel series at 2 p.m. Feb. 10. Also on that day, family origami with Judy Pruitt, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Fishing With Zach Zacharias," longtime fishing guide who lives in Cortez, in the "Local Business" series, 5 p.m. Feb. 12.

Dr. John Mellon will review Philip Roth's new book, "Everyman," at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 13.

Friends Book Club will meet at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 14.

The Friends Board of Directors will meet at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 16.

Rick Catlin, Gene Cominick, Robert Fondes, Jack Hubbard, Jim Kissick and Siegfried Mauritz will appear at a session in the Local Authors series titled "War Heroes," 2 p.m. Feb. 20.

The library opens at 10 a.m. daily, closing at 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. It is at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, phone 778-6341.



County replaces library siding
Manatee County facilities management workers replace the exterior siding on the Island Branch Library in Holmes Beach. The work was expected to take about a month.
Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

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AID marks 25 years of aid, unity

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

All Island Denominations on Sunday celebrated 25 years of helping people weather life's storms on Anna Maria Island.

Along the way, said the Rev. Gary Batey, pastor of Roser Memorial Community Church, the group has shined a light on common ground.

"Because of the churches' different denominational backgrounds, we have some differences of doctrine, practice and emphasis," Batey said. "And yet we know that the things which unite us are more significant than the things which divide us."

The celebration in which AID marked more than two decades of charity and unity took place at Roser in Anna Maria.

The all-volunteer non-profit organization exists to provide charitable assistance to people, as well as to promote interfaith activities. Over the years, the work has included:

- Organizing ecumenical services, holiday programs and prayer days.

- Assisting individuals and families with financial needs. AID distributes more than \$1,200 a month in emergency financial assistance, usually partial payments for rent, utilities, medications, or gasoline, according to Batey.

- Providing storm relief. After Hurricane Charley hit, the community channeled more than \$10,000 through AID to help storm victims in Arcadia and Wauchula.

- Offering scholarships for educations and activities.

- Providing shelter and building a Habitat for Humanity home.

- Operating a food bank and providing holiday baskets to families. Each month AID distributes dozens of bags stocked with groceries, Batey said.

- Honoring humanitarian service.

"AID's role, to me, is to serve others," said Kass Martin, a St. Bernard Catholic Church representative with AID. "This ecumenical group helps the person when he or she is in great need.... And the icing on the cake is that members of AID learn to understand each other more and more."

"We are usually only fearful and bigoted with what we are ignorant of," said Geri Cannon, who learned about AID at her church, St. Bernard. "This organization helps tear down these walls and allows us to get



The Rev. Gary Batey



Flutist Mary Deur performs "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" during the service at Roser. She was accompanied by pianist Debbie Hall. Islander photos: Lisa Neff

to know each other."

A board made up of religious leaders and lay persons from Island congregations governs AID, which operates by bylaws and meets most months at a different house of worship.

"It is unique that all the church denominations have joined hands and pooled resources to cooperate with each other," said AID board member Trudy Horigan. "I am not aware of anywhere in the country that this



The All Island Ecumenical Choir sings the anthem "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" during the All Island Denominations 25th annual celebration Sunday.

takes place."

Frank McGrath, AID's president, said the organization's strength comes from the participation of lay persons and the cooperation of the Island churches. Changes in church leadership have led to changes, year to year, for AID.

"We would like to think AID has grown more responsive to the needs of our community," said McGrath, whose involvement in ecumenical and interfaith activity dates back 50 years to work with the Chicago Archdiocese. "Certainly the organizing concept behind AID, to be a clearinghouse for direct and indirect aid to those in need on the Island, remains our primary responsibility."

AID originated in 1982, founded by the Rev. Myron Bunnell, a pastor at Harvey Memorial Community Church, Joe Kane, a member of Harvey, and Brendan Green, a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church.

The Rev. Frank W. Hutchison Scholarship for Professional and Vocational Training was created in 1995, named for Roser's minister of 14 years.

AID's largest physical project to date involved the construction of a single-family home in Palmetto, part of the Village of the Palms neighborhood that Manatee County Habitat for Humanity is creating.

"We're right at half-way," local Habitat executive director Mary Kay Williams said, referring to the village project. To date, 17 of 34 homes have been built.

AID promoted and coordinated special giving from Island congregations and individual donors to sponsor construction of the Habitat home at 510 11th St. Drive W., Palmetto.

In addition to raising more than \$25,000 for the cost, an amount matched by a Selby Foundation grant, Island churches recruited volunteers to help raise the structure.

An open house took place in November 2006, when Brenda Posada, her children and her father moved into the home surrounded by a picket fence.

"It was a wonderful partnership," Williams said. "The Island churches understood the importance of what having a house means for a family, that it changes people's lives."

"We are very aware that giving assistance in ways that keep people dependent and powerless really is no assistance at all," Batey said. "We do not so much reach out to help people in their weakness as we assist them reach out to their own strength. Our help is not meant to be palliative, but redemptive and restorative."



The Rev. Dr. Frank McGrath

Author writes of good life, good eating

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

The Atlantic coast has its South Beach Diet.

The Pacific coast has its Beverly Hills Diet.

Now the Gulf coast has the Bradenton Beach Diet.

Nurse and diabetic educator Susan L. Parker-Heitel has authored the "Bradenton Beach Diet," a 65-page diet and recipe book under the cover of a Bradenton Beach sunset.

The fifth-generation Floridian grew up in Sarasota and lives in Northwest Bradenton.

She took an interest in nutrition as a healthcare professional and as a mother of two children living

with diabetes.

Parker-Heitel cooked up the recipes and narrative in "Bradenton Beach Diet" from her kitchen near Palma Sola Bay.

"So why do I call this diet the Bradenton Beach Diet?" Parker-Heitel writes in her book. "Maybe because it is only a few miles from my house, but the real reason is because to me Bradenton Beach represents not only the good life, but it is also an affordable place to de-stress."

"This diet is intended to be an affordable alternative to some of the other diets that prove to be quite expensive, and the recipes, albeit wonderful, are quite intricate to prepare."

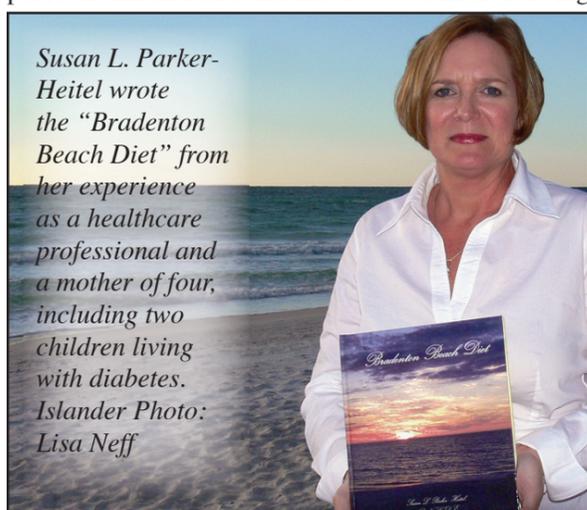
The Bradenton Beach Diet, Parker-Heitel says, is for regular, working folks — "busy people who need a formula to get their lifestyle back on track."

A "Bradenton Beach Diet" day might include berry cheesecake muffins for breakfast, deviled egg for snack, hamburger patty and salad for lunch, and steak, salad and veggies for dinner, including berry pie and milk for dessert.

Sound like a diet? Well, the berry cheesecake muffins are made with Kashi Go Lean cereal. The pie is made with unsweetened fruit, sugar substitute and Fiber One cereal.

"The Bradenton Beach Diet is a diet high in low-fat dairy calcium, high in protein and fiber, it is low in transfat and low in starchy carbohydrate," Parker-Heitel says.

The diet, she adds, is intended to help change lifestyles gradually.



Susan L. Parker-Heitel wrote the "Bradenton Beach Diet" from her experience as a healthcare professional and a mother of four, including two children living with diabetes. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

Obituaries

Robert H. Atwood

Robert H. Atwood, 86, of Anna Maria, Bradenton and Linden, Tenn., died Jan. 18.

Born in Waterbury, Conn., Mr. Atwood came to Anna Maria Island in 1938. He was a pharmacist at Sharp's Drugs in Bradenton for 25 years. He served as a medic in the infantry in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served in the European theater, including the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded two Bronze Stars for bravery and a Purple Heart. He was a graduate of the University of Florida.

Memorial services will be held at a later date in Tennessee. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, 7020 A.C. Skinner Pkwy., Suite 100, Jacksonville FL 32256.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Eleanor; sons Robert and his wife Elaine of Tallahassee, and Cory of Linden; daughter Wendy Advocate and her husband Michael of Sheffield, Mass.; and grandchildren Sarah, Katie, Morgan, Cole, Jessica, Brian and Melissa.

Irma Elizabeth Lewis Heinlein

Irma Elizabeth Lewis Heinlein, of Rockville, Md., and formerly Holmes Beach, died Jan. 21.

Mrs. Heinlein worked for the Royal Typewriter Company, Londontown Clothiers, National Ice Cream Association, Children's Hospital of Washington, D.C., Montgomery County Department of Education and 30 years with the Spanish Main Yacht Club of Longboat Key.

Services were private. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to the Christopher Neal Heinlein Memorial Scholarship Fund, University of Wisconsin Foundation, 1848 University Ave., Madison WI 53708.

The family guestbook can be accessed online at www.pumphreyfuneralhome.com.

She is survived by daughter Carol Soo and her husband Mike of Rockville; son Terrance G. and his wife Andrea of Weston, Mass., and Jonathan of Weston; grandchildren Monica Soo of San Francisco, Erin Crane of Richmond, Va.; and 35 nieces and nephews.

Pancakes, bake sale Sunday

A pancake breakfast and baked goods sale will be from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

The menu includes orange juice, sausage, coffee, milk and "all the pancakes you can eat," said the sponsors. Details are available at 778-4769.



Dead turtle washes ashore

Volunteers Bill Geerts, from left, Trisha White and Anna Maria Schlarp, far right, help Suzi Fox of Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch wrap a dead loggerhead turtle in a sheet Jan. 22. "It's to give the turtle some dignity," Fox, center, said of the covering prior to burial by Holmes Beach public works employees. The turtle was found on the Gulf shore near 66th Street in Holmes Beach and reported to AMITW and the Holmes Beach Police Department. "It'd been sick for a while," Fox said after a brief examination at the water's edge. She said red tide may have been a factor, adding that the turtle was the second found dead here in three days. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

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Athletic stars of yesteryear to be honored

Two great athletes are coming to the Island to help raise money for St. Bernard Catholic Church at "An Evening With Sports Legends" Sunday, Feb. 11.

They are John Lattner, Notre Dame All American and Heisman Trophy winner, and Ken Geiger, former head scout for the Chicago Bears, Indianapolis Colts and New Orleans Saints.

They will be the focus of a festive evening starting with a social hour at 5 p.m. at the church, sponsored by the Women's Guild and the Holy Name Society.

Tickets at \$100 are available at the church office, with proceeds to be used to repair and repave the church parking lot. Dinner at 6 p.m. will follow the social hour and silent auction, then a live auction at 7.

To be auctioned are Notre Dame football tickets, a Mike Ditka-autographed football, paintings, hotel/



Ken Geiger



John Lattner

casino weekend, autographed Andre Agassi tennis racquet, and an all-day fishing trip.

The football greats will speak at the banquet and mingle with guests throughout the event.

Lattner won the Heisman Trophy in 1953 for his performance at Notre Dame, after winning Maxwell Awards for two years, then played with the Pittsburgh Steelers before entering the military service as an Air Force lieutenant.

Geiger was an all-conference guard at Monmouth College in 1952 and then joined the Army to serve with the 101st Airborne. He coached football and wrestling while earning his master's degree, then taught and coached high school in Cicero, Ill. He became a scout for the Bears in 1983 and was with them when they won the 1985 Super Bowl. He also scouted for the Colts and Saints.

Tickets and additional information may be obtained by calling 778-4769.

Islander Thomas' work comes home for showing

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

There's white paint splattered on Richard Thomas' blue jeans.

The paint catches the eye because the eye's drawn to Thomas' legs, which bounce with a nervous energy as he talks about art and his work in his studio in the building he owns that houses the Anna Maria Island Art League Gallery.

"I work very quickly," he says. "I draw very quickly and then I add color later on. ... If I take my time, I kill it."

The Art League will present the "Richard Thomas — Drawings and Paintings" exhibit from Feb. 9 through Feb. 28. An opening reception for guests to meet the artist is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 9

"It's an honor and a privilege to have Richard Thomas' work here," says league director Joyce Karp. "If you've seen his work, you understand."

"His work is amazing," says Daniel Schwertman, owner of Serendipity Gallery in Boca Grande. The gallery features Thomas' work. "Through the years I've seen his work just blossom into an amazing style."

Thomas grew up outside Tampa. "We used to come to the Island from Lakeland. It was the getaway," he says.

Thomas settled on Anna Maria Island about 25 years ago, where he and his wife are raising two children — one now a college student working toward a master's degree and the other a Manatee High School student.

He began seriously drawing and painting in the mid-1980s when he and his wife owned a bookstore on Gulf Drive in Anna Maria.

He still draws in bookstores, sometimes staking out a quiet spot in a Barnes & Noble. He also likes to draw in coffee houses and cafes and outdoors, on the streets of Key West or Boca Grande. Thomas looks for subjects that interest him. "It has nothing to do with beauty," he says. "I don't really want to draw Barbie dolls."

Schwertman met Thomas about eight years ago on

Magic of Manatee annual show coming Feb. 3

Magic of Manatee choral group will stage its annual show and concert Feb. 3 at Neel Performing Arts Center, director Lois VanBeek has announced.

The title of the show is "Glory of Love?" Special guest performers will be the Last Call quartet, 2005 Florida men's barbershop quarter champion group.

Participating from Anna Maria Island will be Ellen Linsley, Judy McClarren, Sharon Rogers-Barron, Marge Malin and Jeanette Rothberg.

The Neel Center is on the Manatee Community College campus at 5849 26th St. W., Bradenton.

Further information may be obtained and tickets arranged at \$16 by calling 794-0218, 779-1416 or 778-5499.



Richard Thomas works in a studio adjacent to the Anna Maria Island Art League Gallery. The Islander's work will be featured in an exhibit in the gallery Feb. 9 through Feb. 28. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

Meet the artist:
Richard Thomas' art opening and
welcome reception 6-9 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 9.

the streets of Boca Grande, where the artist was drawing and painting. The gallery owner says he appreciates Thomas' freestyle approach and his commitment to creating genuine art rather than money-making art.

"I don't think he worries too much about that," Schwertman says in regards to money, though Thomas does have a following and his work can be found in about 600 collections.

"I'm painting for me," Thomas acknowledges.

Over the years, he has drawn and painted landscapes, portraits, collages and figures. He works often in pencil and watercolor and he avoids using photographs for reference.

"I'm after a likeness" rather than imitation or exactitude, Thomas says. Working from photographs can interfere with the impression of the image in his mind, can stifle expression and any abstraction.

He works during the day. "I'm dad at night and on weekends," he says. "That's my No. 1 job anyway."

His studio is arranged for contemplation and con-

versation, as well as for work. Several homey chairs are arranged on a rug for visitors to sit a spell just inside the entrance. Near a back window washed in sunlight are an easel and a paint-splattered sink. Small newspaper and magazine clippings of other artists' work are taped to a wall. "Just things I like," says Thomas.

The studio lacks finished pieces, which have been sent out for frames for the upcoming show. So Thomas pulls from a drawer a brochure containing several examples of his work — pencil and watercolor paintings of an older man, wearing beachwear, resting in a chair. The subject matter is not out of the ordinary — older men in beachwear can be seen daily on Anna Maria. But the images, only copies of Thomas' actual work, draw the viewer close. The man seems so at rest, so at peace in a bed of late-afternoon sunshine that the viewer's impulse is to be quiet so as not to stir him.

"He's a keen observer of human nature," says Mark Ormond, an independent curator who has worked with Thomas in the past.

"There's a psychic content" to Thomas' art, says artist Helen Romeike, a friend and colleague who helped Thomas chose the pieces for the league exhibit. That psychic content, she says, elicits a psychic response from the viewer.

Romeike finds depth and consistency in Thomas' art, especially in his figures. "We are able to feel something in ourselves," she says. "It's the most gratifying thing we can experience."

In the gallery next to the studio, visitors will soon find about 40 pieces by Thomas, most of them small-format paintings focused on a single figure isolated on a geometric ground.

Thomas' supporters say the opening should be inspiring and exciting.

The quality of work, says Romeike, will enhance lives.

Two weeks before the exhibit, Thomas stands in his studio near a bold painting of a pair of old, canvas work gloves. He hasn't decided whether to include the painting in the show. "I thought they were interesting," he says of the gloves as he points out the patterns, colors, shapes and lines.

"I love line more than anything," Thomas says, his legs still bouncing, suggesting an eagerness to get back to work.

Kiwanis 'Sweetheart dance' set for Feb. 8

The 15th annual big band dance celebrating Valentine's Day and featuring the Bob Zimmerman Orchestra, will be from 8 to 11 p.m. Feb. 8 at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

The dance is a benefit for the Anna Maria Com-

munity Center and is being held this year at the church because the Center is under construction.

Everyone is welcome and event tickets are \$12 per person and may be obtained by calling Sandy Haas-Martens at 778-1383 or the Center at 778-1908.

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Three Rotarians to speak in 'Getting to Know You'

Three members of the Anna Maria Island Rotary Club will tell about themselves in the "Getting to Know You" program at the club's lunch meeting at noon Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Beach-House Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach.

Complete details may be obtained by calling 447-5362.

Fletcher 'Artist of Month' at Island Gallery West

Nature photographer Joe Fletcher is February's "Artist of the Month" at the Island Gallery West, and his photos will be on display through the month.

The gallery is at 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Complete details may be obtained by phoning 778-6648.



Featured artist
Genevieve Alban, founding president of the Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island, will be the featured artist at the guild's Valentine opening from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2. The guild is in the Island Shopping Center at 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Details are available at 708-0133.



Young author meets mayor
Rich Bohnenberger, left, Kiwanis Club member and mayor of Holmes Beach, was a winner at the club's Saturday morning breakfast meeting at Cafe on the Beach in Holmes Beach. Bohnenberger was pleased to have his name drawn by young author Matthew Boerner, II, who gave the mayor a copy of his book, "The Great Dolphin Door." Boerner spoke to the 40-plus members and visitors about his writing experience. This Saturday's meeting features another author, club member and retired veterinarian Blake Graham. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

Card party at St. Bernard Wednesday

The annual winter card party sponsored by the St. Bernard Council of Catholic Women will begin at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31.

It will be at the church's activity center, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. It will feature cards, games and homemade desserts, said the CCW, which added "bring your playing cards, score pads or favorite board game."

Tickets at \$10 are available after each mass or by calling 778-4769.



Schedule special Valentines singers now

Personal musical valentines will be delivered again this year by members of the Gulfcoast Sandpipers Barbershop Chorus, including Islander Charlie Caniff, third from left. The barbershoppers will sing to a valentine recipient for \$40 Feb. 13 or 14 at "any location at almost any time of the day or early evening." For your valentine, call 778-4590 or 727-4000.



Saturday demo features watercolor

Island Gallery West in Holmes Beach continues its Saturday morning art program with Jean Ehliis demonstrating "Watercolor" from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 3. The gallery, an artist cooperative featuring the works of many local artists and crafters, is located at 5368 Gulf Drive. There is no charge and the public is invited.

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**Wednesday, Jan. 31**

8 a.m. to 9 a.m. — Longboat-Lido-St. Armands Keys Chamber of Commerce hosts a coffee connection, chamber office, 6960 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 383-2466.

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. — Diana Kelly teaches sewing, embroidery and quilting at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 795-8945.

1 p.m. — The annual Winter Card Party presented by the St. Bernard Guild takes place in the church's activity center, 248 S. Harbor Drive. Information: 778-4769.

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. — A group for parents and grandparents sponsored by the Anna Maria Island Community Center meets at the School for Constructive Play, 304 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 778-1908.

7 p.m. — State Rep. Bill Galvano will join Manatee County Commissioner Jane von Hahmann to talk about the insurance crisis at her district meeting at the Manatee County Water Department, 4410 66th St. W., Bradenton.

Thursday, Feb. 1

9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. — The Anna Maria Island Art League hosts a yoga class, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

9:30 a.m. to noon — Artist Susie Cotton teaches the Anna Maria Island Community Center intermediate watercolor class at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. — The Gulf Drive Band performs for Jazz Fest outdoors at the Anna Maria Island Historical Museum, 402 Pine Ave, Anna Maria. Bring chairs. Information: 778-0492.

7 p.m. — Bingo gets called at the Annie Silver Community Center, corner of 23rd Street and Avenue C, Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-1915.

Friday, Feb. 2

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. — Larry Auerbach offers instruction in bridge play through the Anna Maria Island Community Center at the Volunteer Fire Hall, 201 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

10:30 a.m. to noon — Line dancing sponsored by the Anna Maria Community Center takes place at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Community Center hosts Food for Life cooking session, "Immune-Boosting Foods," at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1908.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. — Sato Real Estate launches the "First Friday Revelry" cocktail hour to meet and greet the neighbors, Roser Cottage, 519 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 778-7200.

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. — The fourth annual Friends of Myakka River Nature-Adventure series kicks off the season with an "Owl Prowl" at Myakka River State Park. The series continues through May 12. Information: 316-8139.

6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. — The Bradenton Village of the Arts hosts an art walk between Ninth Street West and 14th Street West and Ninth Avenue West and 17th Avenue West in Bradenton. Information: 356-3291.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. — The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island hosts a reception for Genevieve Alban, the guild's founding president and featured artist in February, at the gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6694.

Saturday, Feb. 3

7:30 a.m. to noon — Manatee County Audubon Society invites visitors to the Felts Preserve, 4600 24th Ave. E., Palmetto. Information: 737-3169.

8:30 a.m. — The Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club meets for breakfast and to hear veterinarian and author Blake Graham at Cafe on the Beach, Manatee Public Beach. Information: www.annamariakiwanis.org.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — A "white elephant" sale takes place at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 792-7183.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — A "huge rummage sale" takes place at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-4769.

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. — The Pilates class sponsored by the Anna Maria Island Community Center takes place at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The Manatee Convention and Civic Center hosts the second annual Age of Sail, Age of Steam Model Exhibition sponsored by the Florida Maritime Museum at Cortez and other groups at the civic center, One Haben Blvd., Palmetto. Information: 941-722-3244.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Friends of the Island Library hold an annual book sale, Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. — The Bradenton Village of the Arts hosts an art walk between Ninth Street West and 14th Street West and Ninth

Avenue West and 17th Avenue West in Bradenton. Information: 356-3291.

2 p.m. and 7 p.m. — Magic of Manatee Sweet Adelines presents "The Glory of Love?" concert, Neel Performing Arts Center, Manatee Community College. Information: 794-0218. Fee applies.

Sunday, Feb. 4

On Super Bowl Sunday, the Chicago Bears play the Indianapolis Colts in Miami. The pre-game festivities on CBS begin at noon.

8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. — St. Bernard Catholic Church's Holy Name Society holds a pancake breakfast in the church activity room, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Fee applies.

Monday, Feb. 5

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

9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. — The Anna Maria Island Art League hosts a yoga class, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099. Fee applies.

10:15 a.m. — The Gulf Coast Writers meet at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 761-9036.

4 p.m. — Mote Marine Laboratory hosts a Monday@Mote program featuring Dr. John Reynolds of the Center for Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Research, at Mote, 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota. Information: 941-388-4441, ext. 691.

6:30 p.m. — The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island holds a general meeting at the Church of Annunciation in Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6694.

7 p.m. — Mote Marine Laboratory hosts a special lecture, "Carnival of Sea Creatures," 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota. Information: 941-388-4441, ext. 691.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

10 a.m. — Family storytime is at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

10 a.m. — The annual Wisconsin Day event, with a potluck buffet, takes place at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 746-2312.

10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Artist Susie Cotton teaches the Anna Maria Island Community Center intermediate watercolor class at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

10 a.m. to noon — The Manatee County Extension Service distributes free lawn-sprinkler tune-up kits at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 722-4524.

Noon — Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island meets for lunch and a "getting to know you" talk from three members at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 447-5362.

2 p.m. and 7 p.m. — The Friends of Mote Library present author Patricia Gussin as part of the Mystery Author Lecture & Book Signing series at Mote Marine Laboratory's Buchanan Room, 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota. Information: 388-4441, ext. 333. Fee applies.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

7 a.m. to 8 a.m. — The Anna Maria City Pier Regulars meet at Anna

Maria City Pier, 100 S. Bay Blvd., Anna Maria. Information: 778-7062.

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. — Diana Kelly teaches sewing, embroidery and quilting at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 795-8945.

2 p.m. — Diana Milesko speaks about global warming at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

Ongoing:

• The Island Players present "Smell of the Kill" through Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays, 10009 Gulf Drive. Information: 778-5755.

• James Pay Exhibit at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach, through Feb. 2. Information: 778-2099.

• Dr. Kenneth Alonso discusses Christian mystics in "The Way of the Heart," 7 p.m. Mondays through March 26 at St. Bernard Catholic Church, Holmes Beach.

• A variety of classes — from basic drawing to stained glass to oil painting — are under way at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099.

• Horseshoes get tossed in the pits at Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., with warmups at 8:45 a.m.

• The Anna Maria Island Historical Museum, 402 Pine Ave., opens on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. with the smell of "Settler's Bread," available for \$4 a loaf.

• The Anna Maria Island Community Center hosts a variety of programs and classes through the season, most of the adult sessions taking place at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1908.

• In February, the Longboat Key Center for the Arts hosts "Creationism vs. Evolution" — the work of Fernando Madridejos in the Glen Gallery, the work of sculptor Jorge Marin in the members gallery and a fundraising exhibit in the Durante Gallery, 6860 Longboat Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 383-2345. Fee applies.

Coming up:

• Feb. 8 the Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island presents the 15th annual Big Band Dance at St. Bernard Catholic Church. Information: 778-1383.

• Feb. 9 a nature tour takes place at DeSoto National Monument. Information: 722-4524.

• Feb. 10 the Anna Maria Island Privateers hold a Thieves Market, Coquina Beach. Information: 727-214-8903.

• Feb. 11 the Anna Maria Island Community Chorus & Orchestra concert is An Opera Sampler, Island Baptist Church. Information: 794-5507.

Save the Date:

• The third weekend in February, Feb. 17-18, brings the Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival to the historic village. Information: www.fishnews.org/festival/

Send calendar listings to lisaneff@islander.org. Please include time, date and location of the event and a contact number.

**Historical society hosts chamber**

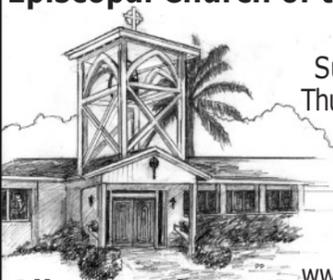
Supporters of the Anna Maria Island Historical Society host members of the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce on a rainy Jan. 23. The chamber's business card exchange took place on the society's museum grounds in Anna Maria. Pictured are, from left, Tom Quinn, Jill Salazar, Ilona Kenrick, historical society director Sissy Quinn, Jeff Kenrick, Lauren Sato and chamber president Mary Ann Brockman. The Sun House restaurant, Publix Super Market and Sato Real Estate donated the food spread on tables under a tent. Inside the museum, chamber members networked and purchased \$5 tickets for the historical society's Carnival Cruise to the Caribbean raffle. A ticket holder will be declared a winner March 3. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

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Veterinarian Graham to tell Kiwanis of experiences

Dr. Blake Graham will discuss his book, telling of his experiences as a veterinarian, when the Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island meets at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

The club's weekly breakfast meeting is held at the Cafe on the Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Additional information may be obtained by calling 778-7646.

AMIE MENU

Monday, Feb. 5

Breakfast: Waffle Sticks, Yogurt, Cereal, Toast, Fruit

Lunch: Pepperoni Pizza or Chicken Nuggets, Carrots and Celery Sticks, Chips, Peaches

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, Toast, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich, Fruit

Lunch: Cheeseburger or Chili, Rice, Green Beans, Fruit Cocktail

Wednesday, Feb. 7

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Yogurt, Cereal, Toast, Fruit

Lunch: Tacos or Breaded Chicken Patty on Bun, Spanish Rice, Oranges and Pineapple

Thursday, Feb. 8

Breakfast: Egg and Cheese Biscuit, Cereal, Toast, Bagels, Fruit

Lunch: Turkey with Gravy or Hot Ham and Cheese Sandwich, Mixed Veggies, Mashed Potatoes, Strawberries and Banana

Friday, Feb. 9

Breakfast: Blueberry Muffin, Oatmeal, Cereal, Toast, Yogurt

Lunch: Barbecue Rib Sandwich or Pizza, Corn, Carrot Sticks with Dip, Pears

Juice and milk are served with every meal.

Roser Cottage now real estate 'cottage'

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The owner of the Roser Cottage on Pine Avenue in Anna Maria plans to convert the nearly 100-year-old structure into a real estate office after an apparent unsuccessful effort the past two years to sell the property as a residence.

Owner Jacob Martin's preliminary site plan to convert the property use gained approval from the planning and zoning board Jan. 22 and the city commission gave final approval to the plan at its Jan. 24 meeting.

By Friday, Jan. 26, Sato Real Estate Inc. was open for business in Roser Cottage, to the relief of Barbara Sato, broker, who anxiously awaited the approval.

Attorney Scott Rudacille, representing Martin, said there would be no exterior changes to the cottage.

"The applicant will maintain this historic structure" that is a great asset for a "walking community," Rudacille told the board.

The board unanimously agreed to the preliminary

'First Friday Revelry' event at Roser Cottage

A new neighborhood series, "First Friday Revelry," will be inaugurated from 5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 2 at Roser Cottage, 519 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

Sponsored by Sato Real Estate Inc., which now calls the cottage "home," it will be "a relaxed cocktail hour with the opportunity to meet and greet neighbors," said Sato agent Iona Kenrick. Details are available at 778-7200.

site plan along with a variance request to build a handicap access ramp outside the building.

In other P&Z matters, the board changed its regular meeting dates from the third Monday of every month to the second Tuesday of every month. The next P&Z meeting will be at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 13 at the Holmes Beach commission chambers.

White elephant sale planned at Annunciation church

The women of the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation have scheduled a white elephant sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.

Also for sale will be the church's homemade pickles, jams and baked goods. The event will be at the church, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

The white elephant sale will include such items as household goods, collectibles, jewelry, books, toys and games. Anyone wishing to make donations may take them to the church's Lowe Hall the mornings of Feb. 1 and 2.

Regina Percy is chairing the sale. Full information may be obtained by calling 792-7183.

Writers to hear Canadian author

Canadian writer Elizabeth Waterston will speak at a meeting of the Gulf Coast Writers at 10:15 a.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

She has written novels and articles and edited a biography of L.M. Montgomery, author of the "Anne of Green Gables" series.

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THE GREATEST GENERATION

by Rick Catlin

Minnesota man went Navy heading into World War II

When Bob Rosas of Holmes Beach was a freshman at the University of Minnesota in 1940, recruiters for the various armed services were lined up to get the incoming freshman to join a reserve officer's training program.

"It was only 1940, but I figured that sooner or later we would be in the war. So I signed up for the Navy ROTC training program. Besides, they paid you every month while you were in school, so it wasn't a bad deal," said Bob. "And I always liked the Navy, even though I grew up in Minnesota."

An engineering student, Bob and his fellow trainees were put on an accelerated graduation program after Pearl Harbor. After most of his class had graduated, Bob had to spend an additional four months in training because the Navy wanted him certified as both a deck and engineering officer.

Commissioned as an ensign in February 1944, Bob applied for destroyer duty in the Pacific and his request was, not surprisingly, immediately granted.

"I wasn't looking to be a hero, but I wanted to be where the action was. I didn't want a stateside desk job or working at some shipyard." The Navy was more than happy to honor his request and Bob sailed for Guadalcanal in 1944 to join the U.S.S. Hailey.

Although the scene of some bitter fighting in 1942, "The Canal" was secure by the time Bob arrived. He joined the Hailey as the assistant engineering officer. The ship sailed the next day to Bougainville, where it engaged in bombarding enemy positions while the Marines advanced across the island.

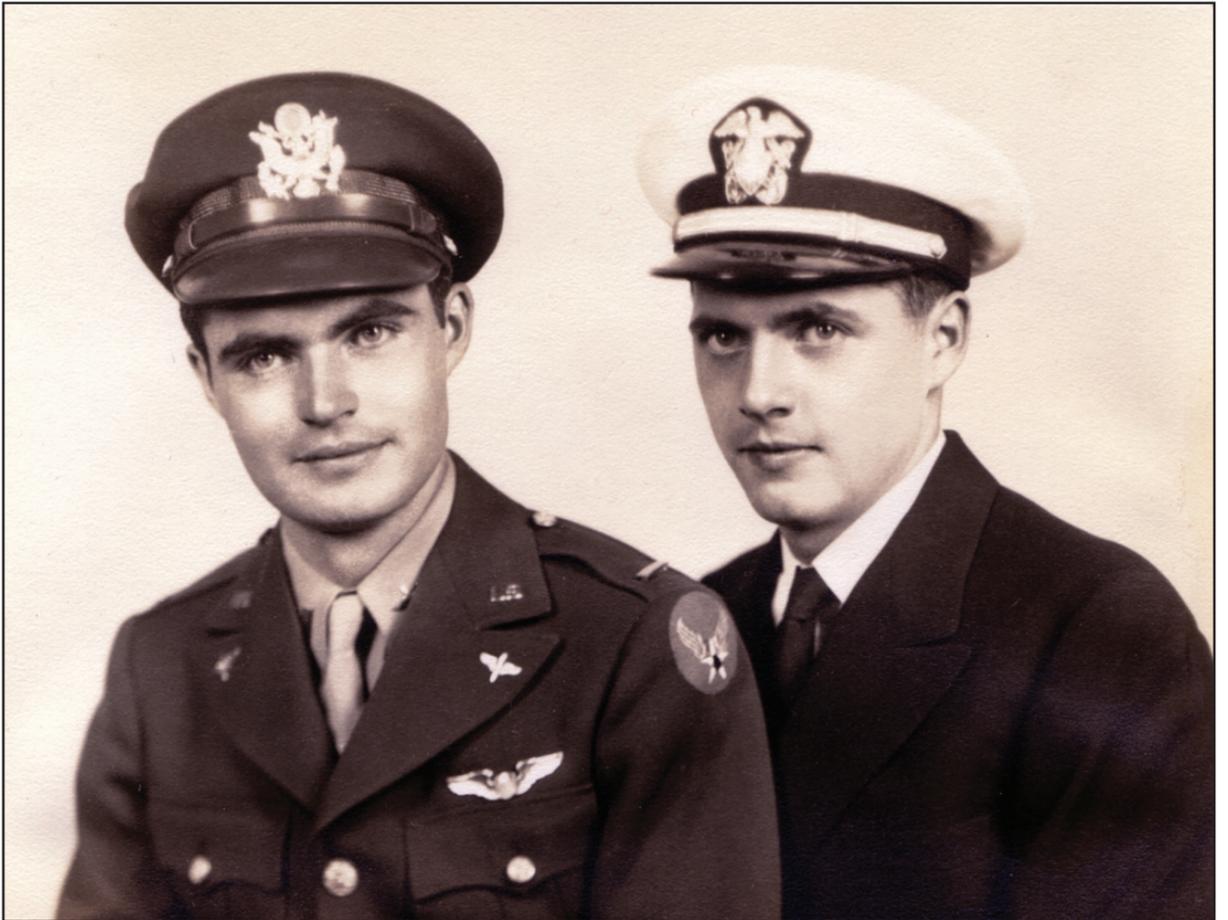
"The ship had already been in action a few months, so I was lucky that I was with an experienced crew. After a few days, I felt at home with everybody."

In fact, Bob's dual designation got him assigned as officer of the deck on many occasions, a rare taste of responsibility for a young ensign.

"The OOD was basically responsible for the ship. If I had been assigned to a battleship, I would never have gotten that duty or experience."

Indeed. Living on a destroyer with just a few hundred men, it didn't take Bob long to know everyone.

"We developed a camaraderie, a friendship. We would do anything not to let our buddies down, and



Bob Rosas, right, was a newly commissioned U.S. Navy ensign in 1944 when this picture was taken with his brother Milton, who had just received his wings and lieutenant's bars as a bomber pilot. Milton Rosas was killed over France on his 23rd mission during World War II.

we would do anything to take care of our men."

After Bougainville, the Hailey aided in one of the numerous invasions of New Guinea, then headed north during June 1944 for the invasions of Guam and Saipan.

Unlike the big battlewagons and carriers, destroyers like the Hailey would operate close to shore during an invasion, bombarding enemy positions. They were the closest ships for the Japanese to fire on and every ship in the Hailey's division was eventually damaged or sunk during an invasion — except for the "lucky Hailey."

"We said we were lucky because we were the 13th hull laid down at the Seattle shipyard when it was built and it was commissioned on a Friday, the 13th. So, we were lucky."

The Hailey was one of the destroyers assigned to participate in the invasion of the Philippines at Leyte Gulf in October 1944. It almost proved the end of the Hailey.

As Japanese battleships approached the main invasion force, the Hailey and several other destroyers were ordered to make a torpedo attack against the Japanese.

The Japanese task force included the world's largest battleship, the Yamato, and the Japanese fired 18-inch guns. A single round striking a destroyer would have blown it to pieces.

"We were going to do our duty, but I think the feeling among a lot of the guys was that we wouldn't survive a direct attack," remembered Bob.

One Japanese battleship opened up on the Hailey and put a salvo of six shells about 500 feet behind the ship. Another destroyer in the division was hit and sunk by the Japanese.

While the Japanese and American ships were in full view of each other and speeding toward a fateful ending for one of the groups, the Japanese apparently got some wrong intelligence. They suddenly changed course and began to withdraw, a move that allowed the American commanders to cancel the torpedo attack.

Talk about a group of happy sailors, said Bob.

"We learned later that the Japanese apparently thought we were with a group of carriers and intended to attack them by air," remembered Bob.

After the Philippines invasion, the Hailey participated as an escort for American carriers as they bombed

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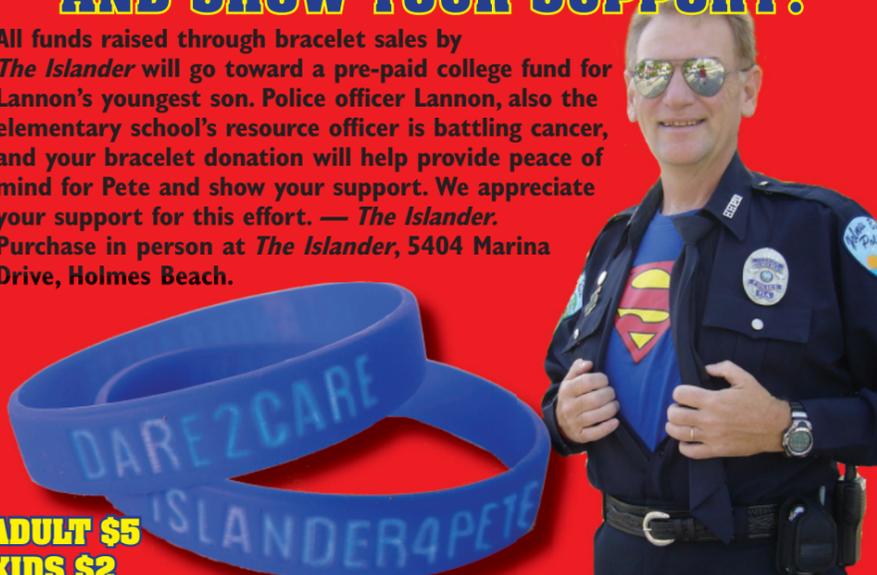
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Greatest Generation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

various Japanese-held islands. That included an operation in February 1945 just east of Tokyo in which 16 American carriers launched a number of air strikes against the Japanese homeland.

“We were a diversion for Iwo Jima so that the Japanese wouldn’t send reinforcements.”

It was during this operation that the Hailey suffered its only damage during the war.

The ship had just gotten a new skipper and the first time he tried to take on fuel, he got too close to the battleship Wisconsin and put a big gash in the Hailey.

“Luckily, it was above the waterline, so we weren’t in danger of sinking.”

The ship dropped out of the task force for a few days while crew members welded steel plates over the damage. As the Hailey was returning to the task force, its radar picked up a Japanese patrol boat. The Hailey, along with some planes from a nearby carrier, finished off the boat and the Hailey pulled a lone survivor out of the water.

Unlike most Japanese, this one seemed happy to surrender. “He was real happy to be rescued,” said Bob.

In April 1945, the Hailey was assigned as an escort destroyer to assist in the invasion of Okinawa. As the aircraft carriers were well offshore, the Hailey was at sea for 61 days without sighting land.

One day, Japanese airplanes attacked the task force and, in the resulting anti-aircraft fire, a friendly ship fired a shell into the Hailey that wounded five crewmen.

“Luckily, that was the most serious damage we took during the war. We didn’t lose anybody to combat.”

It was also the time the Japanese began kamikaze attacks against American ships. During one such attack, the Japanese sunk two destroyers in the task force, but missed the Hailey. “Just lucky again,” said Bob.

After 16 months of combat duty, the Hailey was ordered back to Pearl Harbor in June 1945, then on to Seattle for some major repairs. While heading to Seattle in August 1945, Bob and the Hailey crew learned that an atomic bomb had been dropped on Japan. A few days later, the Japanese surrendered.

But Bob had already signed up for Naval Aviation in hopes of becoming a carrier pilot. The Navy dutifully sent him to Texas for a year to get his wings, but in June 1946, the Navy began to cut back the program.

For Bob, it was time to head home. He received his release into the inactive reserves and headed back



Bob and Betty Rosas live in the Martinique in Holmes Beach and will celebrate their 58th wedding anniversary this year. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

to Minneapolis, where he began work as a civil engineer.

He married his wife Betty in 1949. They have four children and five grandchildren.

Bob and Betty first came to Bradenton in 1989 after he retired as an engineer. He didn’t stay retired long. They bought an orange grove in Hardee County and were citrus growers for 10 years before retiring to Anna Maria Island in 1995.

“The Navy helped me a lot in life in dealing with people and developing people,” said Bob. “It gave me confidence. I was a guy who didn’t know much when I went to the Pacific, but I learned to give advice, how to take care of the men and how to get people to do what you want. I wasn’t a hero, just an ordinary guy trying to do his duty, but what a great experience. If I had to, I’d do it all over again.”

Just another member of the Greatest Generation.

“The Greatest Generation” column is for Island, Longboat Key, Perico Island and Cortez veterans, man or woman, who served in the armed forces of any allied country (U.S., Canada, Britain, Holland, Norway, France, Poland, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, etc.) during World War II. We’d like to hear from you. Please call Rick Catlin at 778-7978.

Wisconsin Day coming again as Island celebration

Wisconsin Day is here again, the 50th time it will have been celebrated on Anna Maria Island, with an old-fashioned polka band to bring authenticity and memories.

It will be Tuesday, Feb. 6, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach, and a special guest will be newly appointed Bishop Frank J. Dewane of the Venice Diocese, himself a native of Wisconsin.

Registration will open at 10 a.m. and end when everyone is danced out and visited out. A potluck luncheon will be about noon, so those attending are asked to bring a hot or cold dish to serve at least eight people, plus a table setting. Baked beans, coffee and hot water for tea will be provided.

There will be door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Admission is \$4 per person. There’s plenty of parking, noted a spokesperson. Additional details will be provided at 708-0149, 746-2312 or 739-1647.

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Streetlife

Island police reports

Anna Maria City

Jan. 20, 301 N. Bay Blvd., criminal mischief. Someone painted graffiti on the outside walls of the rest rooms and on a parked tanker at Bayfront Park. Deputies did not believe the "tags" were gang related.

Jan. 25, Palmetto and Gulf drives, hit and run. Deputies noticed a fire hydrant tilted at a 45-degree angle and suspected it had been hit by a dual-axle vehicle. Damage to the hydrant was estimated at \$1,000.

Bradenton Beach

Jan. 21, 500 block Gulf Drive South, disorderly intoxication and resisting arrest with violence. Police were dispatched to deal with an apparently intoxicated couple on Bridge Street. Police took the pair to Coquina Beach to sober up. Several hours later, police were called again and located the same couple arguing as they walked back from the beach toward Bridge Street. The woman attempted to run away from officers, and was nearly hit by the Island Trolley. She was handcuffed and placed in a patrol car, when she began to kick the windows of the vehicle. She was pepper-sprayed in an attempt to quiet her and then taken to jail.

Jan. 22, 200 block Gulf Drive North, possession of controlled substance. While on a routine traffic stop for a tail light being out on a vehicle, police officers discovered an unlabeled prescription pill bottle in the vehicle and charged Jon Joseph Laframboise, 31, of Flint, Mich., with illegal possession.

Jan. 23, 300 block Bay Drive South, possession of controlled substance. Officers noticed a man lying on a bench near the water. Upon checking his identification, it was discovered he had an outstanding warrant, and while arresting Nathaniel Eugene Hull, 18, homeless, officers discovered a bag of marijuana in his possession.

Holmes Beach

Jan. 20, 500 block Key Royale Drive, drugs. Officers noticed a car speed across the Key Royale Bridge and stopped the vehicle. Noting a strong odor of burning marijuana, officers searched the driver, Kevin Mayer, 18, of Tampa, and discovered a baggie containing marijuana. Also arrested on drug possession charges were passengers Justin Rickrode, 19, and Michael Alexander, 19, both of Bradenton.

Jan. 22, 7100 block Palm Drive, battery. Officers responded to a call of an argument in which a woman was struck in the head by her male friend. Officers noticed some swelling to her ear, but reports as to how the matter began were contradictory. She said she wanted him to leave, and police advised her on how to get legal proceedings under way for his departure, and he then left the house.

Jan. 23, 7100 block Palm Drive, battery. Police again responded to a domestic argument apparently continued from the day before. The man said the woman hit him in the face, and officers noticed a swollen eye. The man then left the house.

Jan. 23, 7100 block Palm Drive, disorderly conduct. Officers responded to a call from a man who said he and his mother had been arguing and he wanted police to try to calm her down. Officers did routine checks on all the people involved and discovered the man, who had phoned them, had outstanding warrants for disorderly conduct. He was taken to jail.

Jan. 24, 3600 block East Bay Drive, driver's license. During a routine traffic stop, officers discovered the driver of the vehicle had outstanding warrants for possession of marijuana and driving with a suspended license, as well as several revocations of his driver's license from other states. He was taken to jail.

Jan. 24, 248 S. Harbor Drive, St. Bernard Catholic Church, fraud. Church members said they were attempting to give a man a check for \$310 to aid him with his rent and medical bills, but upon calling the number allegedly for the man's landlord, it was noticed to be ringing in the man's truck, where another man was sitting. Church members advised the man not to attempt to cash the check they had just given him, and when he left they followed him to a local bank where he attempted to cash the check. He was approached by the church group, and subsequently left the bank.

Jan. 25, 6700 block Gulf Drive, burglary. The complainant said someone had removed his suitcase and two bags of coffee from his unlocked truck.

Jan. 25, 6000 block Gulf Drive, burglary. The complainant said someone had entered his unlocked truck and removed change and a set of keys.

Jan. 25, 5600 block Gulf Drive, burglary. The complainant said someone had removed a set of jumper cables from what he believed was his unlocked vehicle.



Ballpark flight

The Bayflite medical transport helicopter used the Birdie Tebbetts baseball field in Holmes Beach Friday afternoon to pick up and transport a construction worker who fell down an elevator shaft while working at a home on Oak Avenue in Anna Maria. According to West Manatee Fire & Rescue, the man suffered a broken leg and other injuries, and was expected to make a full recovery. *Islander Photo: Bonner Joy*

'Global Climate Change' to be subject at library meeting

Diana Milesko of Anna Maria will discuss "Global Climate Change: Securing the Future" at a program of the Friends of the Island Library at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7.

The environmentalist will speak at the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Details are available at 778-6341.

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Island soccer stars, Her-icanes suffer heartbreaking losses

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

Island residents Christina Papazian and Amber Wright, who anchor the girls Manatee Her-icanes soccer team defense from their goalie and defender positions, and senior Sean Pittman, who starts at mid-field for the Manatee Hurricanes boys soccer team, all recently experienced the agony of defeat during high school playoff soccer action.

On Jan. 19, Papazian and Wright, along with the rest of their Her-icane teammates dropped a heartbreaking 2-1 decision to the Lakewood Ranch Mustangs in the girls Class 5A, District 12 championship game.

Papazian, a freshman goalie from Longboat Key, made eight saves in the game, while Wright, a junior, did a fantastic job of marking Mustang "all-everything" forward Lindsay Thompson throughout the game.

On Jan. 25, the Her-icanes traveled to Seminole and ended their season with a brutal, 2-1 double-overtime loss to Seminole High.

Again, the Island teammates excelled with Papazian making seven strong saves and Wright again was called upon to mark the opposing team's top offensive threat.

Papazian, who registered five shutouts and posted an impressive 0.71 goals against average this season, and Wright, who had the unenviable task of always marking the opposing team's top offensive player, will both be back for another run next season.

On Jan. 26, Pittman and his Manatee Hurricane teammates battled it out for the boys Class 5A, District 12 title against Southeast High. The Hurricanes trailed 1-0 until late in the first half when Pittman's pass found forward Christian Raudales, who finished to tie the game 1-1.

The score remained a tie at 1-1 after regulation and two overtime periods so the game went to a shootout. Pittman's penalty kick tied the shootout at 4-4, but Andres Bustamante's penalty kick won the game for Southeast when Manatee's last attempt went just wide of the goal.

Pittman and his Hurricane teammates now must travel to Seminole High on Thursday, Feb. 1, for a 7 p.m. kickoff in the regional quarterfinals.

Good luck to Sean and his Hurricane teammates — we're cheering for you.



Amber Wright, shown here in an earlier game against George Jenkins High School, has the tough job of always marking the opposing team's best offensive player. *Islander Photo: Kevin Cassidy*

Flag football under way

The Anna Maria Island Community Center's flag football season is under way with games being played at the Holmes Beach field on Fridays and Saturdays in three age divisions. The league is broken down for players in grades six to eight, three to five, and one to two.

Junior Division (third- to fifth-grade): Black 24, White 20

Black defeated White 24-20 on Jan. 19 behind three touchdowns from Josh Zawistoski and a defensive TD from Kalif Mora.

Max Monuese led the White team with two Tds, while Jake Parsons added a touchdown and a two-point conversion in the loss.

Yellow 29, Black 6

Josh Schmidt and Hunter Parrish each scored a pair of touchdowns to lead the Yellow past the Black on Jan. 20. Chris Hightower added a pair of two-point conversions for the Yellow in the victory.

Josh Zawistoski scored the lone Black TD in the loss that evened their record to 1-1 on the season.

Youth Division (sixth- to eighth-grade): White 36, Green 18

Tommy Price scored four touchdowns to lead White to an easy victory over Green on Jan. 20 in flag football action. Chris Pate and Alex Hall each added touchdowns for the victorious Green squad.

Green was led by two touchdowns from Blake

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Sports

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Rivers and one TD from Connor Cloherty in the loss.

Yellow 40, Black 19

Brandon Gengler scored two TDs and a two-point conversion on offense and added a defensive touch-down to lead Yellow past Black on Jan. 20. Alex Burgess and Jack Titsworth each added a touchdown and a one-point conversion for Yellow, which also received a TD from Daniel Janisch.

Garrett Secor scored two touchdowns to lead the Black, which also received a TD from Lee Bergeron and an extra point from Hunter Hardy in the loss.

Three teams sport perfect records in basketball

Three teams are still chasing perfect seasons at the halfway point in the Anna Maria Island Community Center's youth basketball league.

Kumon in Division III, Dips Ice Cream in Division II and A Paradise Realty in Division I have yet to swallow the bitter pill of defeat. Kumon has Ooh La La! Bistro right on its heels with a 3-1 record, but the bistro's only defeat came at the hands of Kumon on Jan. 18. Dips also has a one-game lead in Division II with Air & Energy giving chase, but its only loss was to the division leader as well. Paradise is two games ahead in the loss column with Connect Cycles and Anna Maria Oyster Bar both sporting 2-2 records. Time will tell if a challenger emerges from one of these .500 teams.

The three-team Premier Division is still tight with only two games separating first-place Island Real Estate from last place West Coast Air Conditioning.

Stay tuned!

Premier Division:

IRE 53, WCAC 47

Zach Schield dominated the low post, scoring 25 points and grabbing 18 rebounds as Island Real Estate eased past West Coast Air Conditioning by six points on Jan. 25. Al Barrett added seven points and seven assists for Island Real Estate, which also received five points apiece from Ben Valdivieso and Kyle Aritt and



The youngest group of flag football players prepare their "flags" for their game "kickoff" at the Holmes Beach field. Islander Photo: Jo Ann Meilner

four points each from Vanessa Bradbury and Jordan Graeff.

Fourteen points, 16 rebounds and four blocked shots from David Tyson and 12 points and two steals from Jordan Pritchard paced West Coast Air Conditioning. Chad Reed added eight points and Thomas Ganoy scored seven points in the loss.

IRE 49, Rotten Ralph's 44

Al Barrett scored 17 points and dished out six assists and along with 12 points from Jordan Graeff, the effort lifted Island Real Estate past Rotten Ralph's on Jan. 22. Zach and Forest Schield added eight points apiece while Vanessa Bradbury and Nash Thompson completed the scoring with two points apiece in the victory.

Fourteen points apiece from Jacob Stebbings and Garrett Secor, who also grabbed 15 rebounds, paced Rotten Ralph's in the loss. Zach Evans chipped in with six points while Brandon Gengler added four points.

Division I:

Oyster Bar 43, Danziger 36

Twenty-one points from Ryan Schroeder and 12 points from Brett Rocklein paced the Anna Maria Oyster Bar past Dr. Danziger's Destroyers on Jan. 24. Emma Barlow added seven points and six steals, while Courtney Bristow completed the scoring with two points.

Matt Bauer led the Destroyers effort with 16 points and 19 rebounds, while Kelly Guerin added 12 points and 11 rebounds. Four points from Chris Pate and two points apiece from Joey Garbus and Stephanie Poelsha

completed the scoring for the Destroyers in the loss.

Paradise 35, Oyster Bar 24

Blake Wilson just missed out on a "triple-double" — double-figure scoring, rebounding, assists and or steals — during A Paradise Realty's 11-point victory on Jan. 23. Wilson had 21 points, 12 rebounds and nine steals while also throwing in one blocked shot for good measure to pace the first-place team. Daniel Janisch chipped in with six points and seven rebounds for Paradise, which also received four points from Blake Rivers and two points apiece from Stephanie Shenk and Erin Dolan.

Ryan Schroeder had 17 points, six rebounds and three blocks to lead the Oyster Bar, which also received six points from Emma Barlow and one point from Molly McDonough in the loss.

Cycles 32, Danziger 31

Tommy Price scored a game-high 19 points to lead Connect Cycles past Dr. Danziger's Destroyers on Jan. 22. Kyle Parsons added five points, while Chris Callahan, Patrick Edwards and Breslyn Reiber completed the scoring with two points apiece.

Kelly Guerin scored 18 points and Matt Bauer added seven in the heartbreaking loss. Stephanie Poelsha, Chris Pate and Wyatt Hoffman each scored two points for the Destroyers in the loss.

Division II:

ReMax 24, Duncan 9

ReMax Gulfstream Realty closed on Duncan Real Estate 24-9 on Jan. 24 behind 13 points from Patrick Sheedy. Travis Belsito added six points and seven steals for ReMax, which also received two points apiece from Shawn Steenstra and Max Miller. Jacob Baird contributed one point and six rebounds to the victory.

Helio Gomez scored four points and Josh Schmidt added three points and six rebounds for Duncan, which also received two points and five rebounds from Luke Shackelford in the loss.

A&E 24, Duncan 13

Becca Butler and Stephanie Purnell scored nine points apiece with Purnell also snaring seven rebounds to lead Air & Energy past Duncan Real Estate on Jan. 23. Noell Niemann, Dayle Hoffman and Savannah Schield completed the scoring with two points apiece.

Five points and four rebounds from Luke Shackel-

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Sports

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

ford and four points from Kalif Mora paced Duncan in the loss. Helio Gomez and Brennan Gallagher rounded out the scoring with two points apiece.

Dips 25, ReMax 20

Justin Gargett scored 12 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to lead Dips Ice Cream past ReMax Gulfstream Realty on Jan. 23. Daniel Schroeder added eight points, while Johnny Mattay and Jerry Meyer completed the Dips scoring with three and two points respectively.

ReMax Gulfstream Realty was led by Jacob Baird's 10 points and six points from Travis Belsito. Max Miller completed the ReMax scoring with four points while also pulling down a game-high five rebounds.

Division III

Kumon 24, Jessie's 15

Thirteen points, four rebounds and three steals from Neil Carper helped Kumon to a nine-point victory over Jessie's Island Store on Jan. 25. Four points from Emma Terry, three points from Logan Reiber and two points apiece from Chris Burdick and Nick Valdivieso completed the scoring for Kumon.

Samantha Purnell's 10 points led the scoring effort for Jessie's, which also received three points from Madison Driscoll and two points from Anne Marie Galati.

Publix 16, Jessie's 12

Burke McCampbell-Hill scored 10 points and pulled down four rebounds to lead Publix past Jessie's on Jan. 24. Cameron Brauner's four points and two points from Alexandra Selinas completed the Publix scoring in the victory.

Jessie's was led by Stephanie Purnell's eight points and five rebounds. GiGi Belsito and Madison Driscoll added two points apiece in the loss.

Ooh La La! 28, Ross 0

Josh Zawistoski scored 12 points and had eight steals, while Lauren Sapienza added six points and six rebounds as Ooh La La! cooked Greg Ross Development on Jan. 22. Phillip Dudevoire added four points, while Chase Lewis, Keegan Murphy and Jake Parsons each scored two points in the victory.

Key Royale golf news

Joy Nelles, Hal Sears, Fred Meyer and Ethel

Proxy teamed up to fire a 121 to win the Key Royale Club's coed handicap, low-team-net tournament on Jan. 26. Jane Winegarden, Mary Selby, Jerry Brown and Fred Proxy finished in second place with a 134.

On Jan. 24, the Key Royale men teed it up for an 18-hole, two-best-balls-of-foursome game that saw Chuck Boes, Tom Lewis, Don Ruggles and Dick Ware combine to shoot a 104. Six shots back in second place was the team of Bob Dickinson, Bill Gallachea, Don Latorre and Dan Hayes. The team of Gordon McKinna, Fred Meyer, Mike Selby and Frank Vikingstad finished with a 111 and third place.

The men played a nine-hole, low-net-of-partner's match on Jan. 22. Charlie Knopp and Matt Behan teamed up to fire a two-under-par 62 to claim first place over Dave Kruger and Paul Kaemmerlen, who were one shot back at 63. Gordon McKinna and Tom Warda, along with the team of Jim McVicar and Fred Proxy, finished in a tie for third with identical scores of 64.

More golf news

Attention senior golfers: The Men's Senior Golf Association of Manatee County has openings for golfers over age 55 to play in a twice-weekly league. The association plays at Manatee County golf course and River Run and prizes and a hole-in-one contest are featured.

For more information, contact Hugh Benedict at 761-0702 or Karl Sturtz at 778-2920. You can also get information by e-mailing Benedict at hube860@aol.com.

Horseshoe news

George McKay started out the Jan. 20 horseshoe competition as a walker, but after thumping his first couple of opponents, William Johnson showed up late and McKay took him on as his partner. Together the twosome battled it out with Bob Lee and Fritz Erdrich for bragging rights in a game that saw 22 ringers thrown between the two teams. McKay and Johnson emerged with an exciting 23-12 victory that saw more than half the ringers thrown capped.

The Jan. 24 horseshoe competition saw Tom Rhodes and Gene Bobeldyk edge Bob Lee and Sam Samuels by a 23-18 score.

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.

Anna Maria Island Community Center basketball schedule

Premier (ages 14-17)

Feb. 1 8 p.m. Ralph's vs. IRE
Feb. 5 8 p.m. WCAC vs. IRE

Division I (ages 12-13)

Jan. 31 8 p.m. Danziger vs. Paradise
Feb. 5 7 p.m. Paradise vs. Oyster Bar
Feb. 6 7:30 p.m. Danziger vs. Cycles

Division II (ages 10-11)

Jan. 31 7 p.m. Dips vs. A&E
Feb. 6 6:30 p.m. A&E vs. Duncan

Division III (ages 8-9)

Jan. 31 6 p.m. Kumon vs. Ross
Feb. 1 7 p.m. Ooh La La! vs. Jessie's
Feb. 5 6 p.m. Ooh La La! vs. Ross

Instructional Division (ages 5-7)

Feb. 1 6 p.m. Orthopedics vs. LPAC
Feb. 1 6 p.m. BeachHouse vs. Observer

Center flag football schedule

Grades 6-8

Feb. 3 10 a.m. White vs. Black
Feb. 3 11 a.m. Green vs. Yellow

Grades 3-5

Feb. 2 5 p.m. Yellow vs. Black
Feb. 3 Noon Black vs. White

Grades 1-2

Feb. 3 1 p.m. Pearson vs. Tallucci

Center basketball standings as of Jan. 25

Team	Wins	Losses
Premier Division		
Ralphs	2	3
IRE	3	1
WCAC	1	1
Division I		
Paradise	3	0
Cycles	2	2
Oyster Bar	2	2
Danziger	1	4
Division II		
A&E	3	1
Dips	4	0
ReMax	2	3
Duncan	0	5
Division III		
Kumon	4	0
Ooh La La!	3	1
Publix	1	2
Jessie's	1	3
Ross	0	3

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Shrimping issues: Don't fence me in, please

Florida's east coast commercial fishing industry has taken another federal hit. Instead of the usual suspects — environmental regulators striving to impose more catch limits or out-of-bounds zones — this time the hammer is being wielded in the guise of homeland security.

According to Florida Today newspaper, an article under the great headline "Brevard seafood industry tangled in security net," a shrimp company that fishes out of Port Canaveral may be forced out of business because of a dictate to have 24/7 security patrols to control the flow of illegal drugs into the country.

A Florida law, passed in 2001, requires that docks and berths at government-owned seaports should be regarded as restricted areas. Fencing and guards are required to control access.

Port Canaveral officials are willing to pick up the tab for the fences, but want to charge the Cape Canaveral Shrimp Co. up to \$650 per day for the patrols. The fishery is mostly in the rock-shrimp business.

What is ironic is that the port was created more than 50 years ago as a fish industry mecca, with the port hosting a slew of fish houses. Today, only two fish houses remain, while the other have been replaced by cruise ships, restaurants and gambling vessels.

The new rules are due to go into effect Feb. 1. Fishers question why the rules are being enforced only now, five years after their passage. Port officials said it took them this long to catch up with the laws and they have no choice but to enforce them.

In another ironic twist to this tale, "the Port of Tampa, the only other government-owned port in Florida with fishing operations, introduced similar measures about two years ago," and according to Florida Today, "the Tampa Port Authority has picked up the tab for the extra security."

It's not as if the shrimpers and other commercial folk can just pick up and move up or down the coast a bit. Again from Florida Today: "Port Canaveral is the only port between Key West and Jacksonville with commercial fish houses, say those in the industry. Without a local port to offload catches, fishing boat operators will feel a strong economic incentive to avoid working the waters off Brevard County."

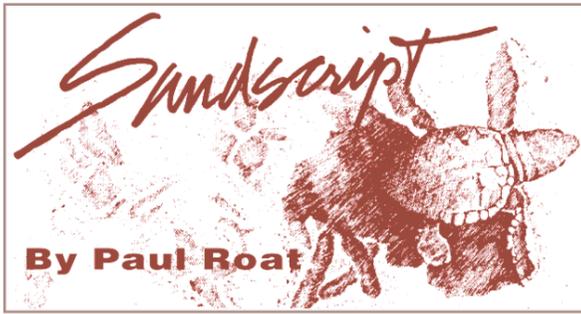
There are some economic factors involved in fishing, like fuel and availability to a port. Some fishing boat captains have said it's just not feasible for them to take a long haul to shrimp in one place, and since the waters off Cape Canaveral have some of the best rock shrimping in the crustacean's range from North Carolina to the Florida Keys, there is a real threat that consumers won't be able to get their lobster-like treats.

And irony No. 3 is that only commercial fishing operations have to adhere to the new security measures. A marina is under construction next to the Port Canaveral fish houses, and it doesn't require guards or fencing.

Another hit on an already battered industry which is at about one-third of its harvest during its heyday 10 years ago. About 6 million pounds of seafood were unloaded at the port in 2004; 1994 saw 19.5 million pounds hit the docks.

Huh?

Sea turtle lovers tend to hate shrimp trawlers. Turtle



fans for years fought the shrimping fishery over the use of TEDs, or Turtle Extruder Devices.

Shrimpers trawl for their catch near the surface in warm waters. Turtles are near the surface in warm waters. Shrimpers often catch turtles in their big nets and, before the catch can be hauled onto the boat, the turtles can drown.

TEDs, to vastly oversimplify the matter, are tunnels in the nets which allow turtles to swim out of the net and return to the freedom of the sea. Shrimpers fought the protection measures, saying the tunnels allowed much of their valuable catch to escape, too, but authorities eventually persuaded the industry to adapt to the rule change.

So based on the longstanding shrimp trawl-turtle controversy, it's a pretty odd thing to read what's happening offshore of southern Siesta Key.

According to my buddy Bob Ardren of the Pelican Press, a shrimp trawler is patrolling the offshore Gulf of Mexico waters with the intent of catching sea turtles. To date, the "take" has been eight, and everybody is happy.

Before you start to fume about those folks in Sarasota, read on.

That part of the key is undergoing a \$12 million beach renourishment project. As Bob puts it, "The program spews thousands of tons of new sand on Turtle Beach. The sand being pumped onto Turtle Beach is coming from a site about 8 miles offshore, where it's being dug up from the Gulf bottom by a huge dredge. Traditionally, a few sea turtles get taken in the course of these projects, meaning they get caught up in the dredge and killed.

"So Sarasota County and the dredging company have a shrimp trawler dragging its big nets in front of the dredge, scooping up any turtles in the area, tagging them and releasing them some distance away.

"In the past, the trawlers were called in only after turtles were killed by the dredge, but this project is taking that process a step forward and trying to be preventive."

As a Sarasota County official put it, "Call it a new industry standard."

Sounds like somebody is actually thinking ahead down south.

Manatee response

Although I'd love to take credit for prompting the following, based on a column a few weeks back regarding manatee mortality and the proposed down-listing of sea cows in the state from "endangered" to "threatened," I believe Rodney Barreto, chairman of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, was speaking to others.

Here are some of his comments regarding manatees.

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"Please allow me to clarify a point of miscommunication that has sparked controversy throughout the state. Over my dead body will the FWC manage the manatee population to follow any path other than full recovery, and I am confident my fellow commissioners would echo that statement.

"Despite widely publicized misinterpretation of parts of the proposed manatee management plan, the FWC does not project a 50-percent decline in the manatee population and does not plan to manage the species to achieve a 30-percent decline. The plan is to identify every realistic measure we can take to enable the manatee population to remain stable or continue increasing.

"The FWC has hundreds of dedicated employees fighting tooth and nail to help manatees recover from past losses. What they are doing is working, and that is why the manatee no longer qualifies for listing as an endangered species. Manatees no longer are in imminent danger of extinction.

"It's true that manatee mortality was at a record level in 2006, but we must be careful not to read too much into that information. That single fact does not mean the manatee is slipping toward extinction. Last year's known deaths of 416 manatees may simply indicate we're getting better at locating carcasses, or it may reflect some other factor, or it may indicate nothing at all.

"The FWC has earned Floridians' confidence. It has a proud history of snatching victories from the jaws of defeat — not vice versa.

"The high manatee mortality rate in 2006 sheds light on where we need to concentrate protection efforts in the future. The FWC will respond appropriately and aggressively."

There you have it.

Sandscript factoid

Brevard and Duval counties lead Florida's rock shrimp harvest. In 2006, Duval had 1,369,442 pounds go through the fish houses there, while Brevard saw 1,208,853 pounds, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Medical suspense author on Mote library program

Patricia Gussin will discuss her book "Shadow of Death" in the Mote Marine Laboratory Mystery Writers with a Florida Connection series at 2 and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7.

She is a medical doctor and draws on her experiences in Detroit in 1967 during the worst civil violence subsequent to the Civil War. Finishing medical school there, she interned at Tampa General Hospital, then practiced medicine and directed medical research for a healthcare company.

She and her husband divide their time between Longboat Key, East Hampton, N.Y., and their vineyard in Marlborough, New Zealand.

The library is on the Mote campus at 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota, on City Island off the south ramp of the New Pass Bridge. Details are available at 388-4441, ext. 333.

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Moon	Date	AM	HIGH	AM	LOW	PM	HIGH	PM	LOW
	Jan 31	1:26a	1.1	5:23	-0.8	10:07	2.2	3:20	1.0
	Feb 1	10:51p	2.1	5:50	-0.7	1:45	1.1	4:14	1.0
FM	Feb 2	11:33p	2.0	6:18	-0.6	1:46	1.1	5:07	0.8
	Feb 3	-	-	6:40	-0.4	1:48	1.2	5:53	0.7
	Feb 4	12:15	1.9	7:05	-0.3	1:56	1.3	6:39	0.5
	Feb 5	1:01	1.7	7:27	-0.1	2:08	1.4	7:28	0.4
	Feb 6	1:49	1.5	7:47	0.1	2:2	1.5	8:17	0.2
	Feb 7	2:40	1.3	8:10	0.3	2:48	1.7	9:13	0.1

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The Islander

Fishing action picks up, reds, trout, sheepies top list

By Capt. Mike Heistand

Wacky weather has apparently turned on the fish. Cool-to-warm and wet-to-dry conditions have made the fish hungry, and good catches of redfish, trout and sheepshead abound in the backwaters.

Offshore fishing for grouper and snapper is about as good as it gets, with some reports of fine catches coming from as close as 4 miles from shore in the Gulf of Mexico.

Capt. Rick Gross on **Fishy Business** out of **Catchers Marina** in Holmes Beach said he's putting his charters onto sheepshead and redfish from the backwater and mangrove snapper and grouper from the Gulf about 4 miles offshore of Anna Maria Island.

Bill Lowman at **Island Discount Tackle** at **Catchers Marina** in Holmes Beach said sheepshead are the mainstay for fishers right now, although there are some good reports of redfish coming off the underwater structures and near the docks and piers. Offshore action for gag grouper and mangrove snapper is excellent, with most of the fish being caught in less than 100 feet of water in the Gulf.

At **Corky's Live Bait and Tackle** on Cortez Road, they report that the mixed-bag of weather — warm and cool, rain, sunshine, and gusts of winds — has produced some great fishing in the waters off Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach and Longboat Pass. Good reports of big whiting, pompano, trout and sheepshead are being caught using live shrimp and/or Mr. Sheepshead's cooked sand fleas and Magic Potion. There is also good action coming from those using Black Salty's, a new brand of live bait, to catch redfish, trout and snook in the Manatee River and Palma Sola Bay.

Tom Cassetty at the **Rod & Reel Pier** said sheepshead are starting to bite a bit better in the past few days as the weather cooled, with some striped fish tipping the scales at better than 4 pounds. There were also a few whiting, pompano and bluefish caught at the pier.

Jesus Rosario at the **Anna Maria City Pier** said he's seeing good catches of sheepshead, a few black drum, bluefish, small mangrove snapper and some small redfish coming onto the deck.

Dave Johnson at **Snead Island Crab House** said he's hearing good reports of big trout — up to 24 inches in length — being caught in Terra Ceia Bay. The Manatee River is producing good catches of black drum and sheepshead, plus some oversize reds. Mangrove snapper to 20 inches are being caught in the ship channels in Tampa Bay as well.

At **Skyway Bait and Tackle**, reports include plus a few redfish coming out of Miguel Bay and snapper from the Sunshine Skyway Bridge area. There are also some big trout being caught with artificial bait in Miguel Bay.

Capt. Tom Chaya on the **Dolphin Dreams** out of **Catchers** said he's catching lots of small bluefish, silver trout and whiting near the beaches, and a few large trout and some nice reds at Joe's Island. "Offshore," he said, "there were lots of big mangrove snapper on the wrecks in 110 feet of water and hitting on live shrimp."

Capt. Zach Zacharias on the **Dee-Jay II** out of



Fishing buddies now 'Super' opponents

Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy and Chicago Bears head coach Lovie Smith were with the Tampa Bay Bucs in 2001 when they returned to Galati Marine in Anna Maria with a super catch after a day of deep-sea fishing with Team Galati. Pictured are, back row, from left, Anthony Manali, James Dungy and Smith. Front row from left, are Wendell Avery, Chris Galati, Rich Gupton, Kevin Roland and then-Bucs head coach Dungy. Dungy and Smith will square off as opposing head coaches in SuperBowl XLI on Feb. 4.

Parrot Cove Marina said he took Richard Fluke and friends to a mixed catch of redfish, sheepshead, bluefish, Spanish mackerel and trout early last week. He also took Nancy and Jim Brill and Betsy Graf out to a nice catch of reds, trout, sheepshead and ladyfish, with most of the fish coming from the bays on a windy day. "The blues, mackerel and sheepshead were found mostly along the beaches," Capt. Zach said, "and the reds, trout, and ladyfish on the inside."

On my boat **Magic**, we've been catching sheepshead to 4 pounds, whiting, black drum, a few mangrove snapper, lots of small redfish and trout to 20 inches.

Good luck and good fishing.

Capt. Mike Heistand is a 20-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.

Free sprinkler tune-up kits to be at library

Free kits for tuning up lawn-sprinkler systems will be distributed Tuesday morning, Feb. 6, at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

They will be available from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. courtesy of a grant from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. If you miss the library's supply, a few leftovers will be available while they last at the Manatee County Extension Service office, 1303 17th St. W., Palmetto. Details may be obtained at 722-4524.

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By Rick Catlin

Hey sweet pea

Sweet Pea Samplings at 5350 Gulf Drive in Holmes Beach has got a lot of items to sample.

Owners **Larry and Patty Geist** have stocked their unique store with some unique items, including one of the most complete collections of Florida fruit wines and champagnes. Available wines and accompanying samples include Mango Momma, Florida White Sangria, Black Gold Blackberry and Orange Sunshine. All the wines are gold medal winners.

But Sweet Pea has a bit more than just wine. Naturally, there are a lot of things for the sweet tooth. Those include an incredible sampling of chocolates, cookies, teas and old-fashioned candies like grandma used to make.

Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information, call 778-8300.

New Island place

Jeanne and Spiros Kambitsis have been in the restaurant business in the Manatee area for 25 years, and always wanted a location on Anna Maria Island.

That dream became a reality when



Sample wines, confections, gifts

Larry and Patty Geist recently opened Sweet Pea Samplings at 5350 Gulf Drive in Holmes Beach. *Islander Photo: Nancy Ambrose*



Welcome back

The Village Barber Shop at 501 Village Green Parkway in Bradenton is welcoming back winter friends with three top barbers and stylists to serve its loyal clients. They are, from left, Merlyn Fish, Debbie Abel and Bob Barnett. The shop is open weekdays 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays. Appointments are available by calling 792-5020. *Islander Photo: Nancy Ambrose*

they recently purchased the Gulfside Grille at 101 Seventh St. N. in Bradenton Beach and renamed it **The Gathering Place Family Restaurant**.

With long-time chef George Kosmas in tow, The Gathering Place has quickly become a favorite place for Islanders and mainlanders to gather for a great meal, be it breakfast, lunch or dinner, at great prices.

The menu features a "gathering" of great food styles, including Italian, Greek and standard American.

Jeanne said that since they've opened, seafood seems to be a favorite item, particularly grouper, which they serve, fried, blackened or broiled.

Another popular feature are the "mini-dinners" starting at \$5.95 and served from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

The Gathering Place is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, call 779-0313.



The gathering

From left, George Kosmas and Jeanne and Spiros Kambitsis recently opened the Gathering Place Family Restaurant at 101 Seventh St. N. in Bradenton Beach, site of the former Gulfside Grille. *Islander Photo: Nancy Ambrose*

Island real estate sales

111 78th St., Holmes Beach, a 1,596 sfla / 2,156 sfur 3bed/2bath home built in 1961 on a 64x80 lot was sold 01/10/07, Becker to 111 78th Street Holmes Beach LLC for \$325,000. This sale is believed not to be an arm's-length transaction.

2401 Gulf Drive N., Unit 4, Sun Isle, Bradenton Beach, a 667 sfur 2bed/1bath condo built in 1950 was sold 01/09/07, Mantilla to Thompson for \$290,000

6006 Gulf Drive, Unit 214, Playa Encantada, Holmes Beach, a 1,154 sfla / 1,322 sfur 2bed/2bath condo built in 1980 was sold 01/08/07, White to White for \$200,000. This sale is believed not to be an arm's-length transaction.

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

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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.

GARAGE SALE: 8:30am-12:30pm Friday, Feb. 2. Lamps, decorator items, computer desk, antiques, boat air conditioner, linens and miscellaneous. 117 and 119 52nd St., Holmes Beach.

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50 PERCENT OFF Everything sale: month of February. "Housewarmings by Horigans" located in "Essence of Time." 5306 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach.

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GREAT LOCATION! Terrific opportunity to be close to the beach without paying beachfront pricing. Sit at your dinette table and watch the waves. Remodel or built up for unbelievable water views. \$775,000. Kimberly Roehl, 748-6300 or 447-9988. 546189

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PLAYA ENCANTADA. Superbly maintained Gulf-front complex complete with all the extras. 2BR, turnkey furnished, built-ins, partial Gulf views, updated kitchen & hurricane shutters. \$700,000. Kimberly Roehl, 748-6300 or 447-9988. 538642

SUNRISE TO SUNSET views overlooking Regatta Pt. Marina & across river to downtown Bradenton off huge balcony. Totally renovated, w/hardwood floors, Corian counters, hurricane shutters & more. No bridges to Bay/Gulf. \$549,900. Cindy Pierro, 920-6818. 541785.

VALUE-PRICED RESORT CONDO! 1st floor unit has stairs from private lanai to Marina. Brand new. Pets welcome. Gated, with parking under bldg. Easy commute to airports & I-75. \$433,000. Barbara Jennings, 748-6300 or 773-0180. 546234.

PALMA SOLA. Tropical 3 BR pool home, end of street hits the Bay. Stone showers and large master. Oversized lot has extra slab for parking. No HOA, CDD or Flood Insurance required. Agent owned. \$324,500. Brian Hamilton, 748-6300 or 779-6464.

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IMPACT WINDOWS AND doors. Exclusive distributor: Weatherside LLC on Holmes Beach. Free, courteous estimates. Jeld-wen Windows and Doors. Lic.# CBC1253145. 941-730-5045.

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EXPERIENCED BUILDING CONTRACTOR: Carl V. Johnson Jr. Inc. New homes, porches, decks, remodel, repairs, etc. Quality work. Fair price! 941-795-1947. Lic. # RR0066450.

GULF CONSTRUCTION INC.: Home remodeling, custom carpentry, kitchens, baths, additions. 28 years experience. Free estimates. Call John, 941-773-6808. License # CBC125512.

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RENTALS

RENTALS available weekly, monthly, seasonal. Wedebrook Real Estate Co., 941-778-6665 or 800-749-6665.

SEASONAL RENTAL: Holmes Beach, 4BR two master suites-/3BA, house on canal. Two minutes to beach. Heated pool, dock, cable TV, washer/dryer, garage, designer furnished with tropical yard setting. One of the finest rentals on Island. \$1,600/weekly. Call 941-713-0034 or e-mail: beachdreams@tampabay.rr.com.

FOR RENT: 2BR/2BA annual, ground floor unfurnished, \$900/month. Seasonals available starting at \$1,800/month. Please call Kim Fisher, Wagner Realty, 941-778-2246. www.wagnerrealty.com.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, townhouse: 2BR/2BA with balcony and view of mountains. Weekly or monthly rental. Call Paige at 941-798-3448.

WEEKLY/MONTHLY/ANNUAL rentals: wide variety, changes daily. SunCoast Real Estate, 941-779-0202, or 1-800-732-6434. www.suncoastinc.com.

1-4BR DIRECT BEACHFRONT, gorgeous views, designer furnished, cable, DVD/VCR, dishwasher, phone, quaint village. \$975-\$2,375/week 9 941-713-0034 or beachdreams@tampabay.rr.com.

RENTALS Continued

PARADISE IN COMFORT at Palm Breeze rentals in Holmes Beach. Two beautifully furnished units in a Key West-style home on a large corner lot. Each unit has 3BR/2BA, washer, dryer and fully equipped kitchen. Heated pool, bikes, grill, etc. Just bring your clothes and a toothbrush and enjoy. www.apalmbreeze.com. 941-730-5126.

MANATEE RIVERFRONT: 2BR/2BA, spectacular views! Gated, pool, covered parking, security, fitness center. \$975/month annual. Call Maria, 941-720-1712.

ANNUAL OR MONTH-to-month: 4BR Island family home in quiet residential area. Bayfront with direct water view. Perfect for family with children. Extra large balcony, covered parking, laundry room with washer and dryer. Park setting, two blocks to Gulf beaches. Fully furnished. \$2,500/month annual, \$3,200 month-to-month. Pets considered. Call 941-704-2993.

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. No smokers. \$1,700/month, \$500/week, \$100/night, includes utilities. 941-794-5980. www.divefish.com.

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.

SEASONAL RENTAL: Westbay Point and Moorings. Bayfront, available February and March. 2BR/2BA, all amenities, close to beach, shopping and trolley. 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.

ANNUAL RENTALS: 2BR/2BA home, Anna Maria, \$1,350/month. 2BR/2BA apartment, Anna Maria, \$875/month. Riverfront condo, 2BR/2BA, \$1,295/month. 1BR/1BA, new tile and paint, \$775/month. Fran Maxon Real Estate, 941-778-2307. www.franmaxon-realestate.com.

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

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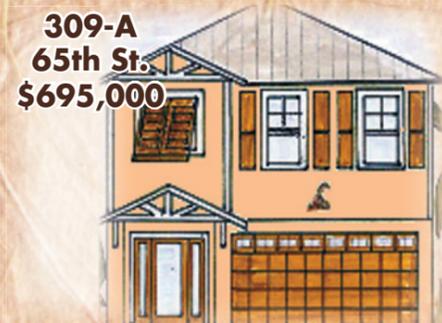
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SANDY POINTE: Impeccably maintained 2BR/2BA condo in central Holmes Beach within walking distance to shops, restaurants, and the beach! No rental restrictions make this condo an instant income producer. Heated pool, covered parking, storage, washer dryer, and new water heater! Don't wait come see this tastefully done unit today! \$329,900.



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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS Continued

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

WINTER GETAWAY: 1BR across from beach, newly remodeled, all appliances, screened porch, Internet, cable. For pictures, look on www.beachesndreams.net. Call 1-513-236-5091.

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.

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

LAKEFRONT, FISHING, ONE block to beach. Elevated duplex, enormous 2BR/2BA, one-car garage, laundry area, Sub-Zero refrigerator, Jennaire stove, extra, extra nice. \$1,395/month, yearly. 941-962-4933.

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

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

PREMIER WATERFRONT 2BR/2BA condo in Riviera Dunes Laguna with 40-foot boat dock. Annual or vacation rental. Call John Luchkowec, Coldwell Banker, at 941-350-4326.

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.

WINTER RENTALS: February and March rentals starting at \$1,600/month, \$750/week. Call Fran Maxon Real Estate, 941-778-2307. www.franmaxonrealestate.com.

RENTALS Continued

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

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

1BR/1BA APARTMENT with patio. Walk to beach. Available one week in January and February and March. \$1,800/month. 941-773-4180.

2BR/2BA ANNUAL: \$1,300/month. First, last and security, or 1BR/1BA annual, \$900/month. First, last and security. Background check, pet OK, heated pool, washer and dryer, fenced, yard care, cable, no smoking. 201-A Peacock Lane or 202-A Haverkos Court. 941-720-1006.

2BR/2BA CONDO on Anna Maria Island with beautiful Gulf views. Monthly, weekly or seasonal rentals. 941-721-4789. www.annamaria-rental.com.

VACATION RENTALS: 2BR apartments across from beautiful beach, \$375 to \$500/week. Winter and spring dates available. Almost Beach Apartments, 941-778-2374.

LOOKING FOR 2008? Gorgeous 2BR/2BA house, just steps to beach. Also available March 1, 2007. \$2,250/month. Open Sun 3-5pm. 2805 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Call 941-545-8488.

ANNUAL 2BR/2BA ELEVATED Holmes Beach duplex. Screened porch, deck, covered parking, washer and dryer hookups. Great location, near beach. \$1,100/month. Available Feb. 1. 941-713-5478.

FURNISHED MOTHER-IN-LAW apartment, canal view with a large deck, dock and saltwater pool to share. Apartment has private entrance, bath and kitchenette. All utilities except telephone included. \$350/week or \$850/month. Perfect for a clean and quiet individual! Please e-mail tlyonsrq@verizon.net or call 941-928-8735. Leave message for information and availability.

SMALL COTTAGE WITH Gulf view directly across from beach. 1BR/1BA plus den. \$800/month. 941-866-0224. 1201 Gulf Drive S., Bradenton Beach. www.bogeylane.com.

RENTALS Continued

2BR/2BA LUXURY CONDO: Runaway Bay, steps to beach. Tennis, sauna, on bay. Weekly rent only \$995 plus tax and clean up. 863-688-3524. E-mail chickenplucker@webtv.net. Check cyber rentals.

ANNUAL 1BR/1BA FURNISHED, washer and dryer, nice bay view. \$850/month plus deposit. 941-545-7109.

VILLAGE GREEN: MINUTES to beaches. 2BR/2BA, two-car garage, large screened lanai, good schools, close to shopping. \$1,195/month. 941-720-2804.

MINUTES TO BEACH: Lakeside South, west Bradenton. Big 3BR/2BA, one-car garage villa. New carpet and appliances, pool, tennis, clubhouse. \$1,195/month. Annual. 941-720-2804.

ANNUAL: HOLMES BEACH second-floor, large 2BR/1BA. Large balconies, updated tile floors, washer and dryer. Includes all utilities and cable. \$1,100/month. 941-545-6118.

MARCH AND APRIL 2007 vacation rental home now available. Extend your vacation or book new. Updated, single-story, 3BR/2BA home near quiet beach. \$3,000/four weeks; \$1,000/weekly. Dogs may be allowed. www.vacationrentalannamariaisland.com. 813-818-8314 to reserve.

GREAT VACATION RENTAL: Single-story, updated 3BR/2BA vacation rental home on quiet, private street. Now reserving through 2008. In-season rates (December through Easter week): \$2,750/month for three months or more; \$3,000/four weeks; \$1000/weekly (no weekly rentals for February or March). Off-season rates: \$100 per night (three-night minimum). Dogs may be allowed. www.vacationrentalannamariaisland.com. 813-818-8314 to reserve.

GULFFRONT CONDO: HOLMES Beach. March and April. Totally remodeled in 2006. Beautifully decorated, stainless steel appliances, carport, two pools, 1-2 bedrooms. \$3,000/month. 941-795-5060.

ANNUAL 2BR/1BA, two blocks to beach, one block to bay. Large kitchen, tile, new carpet, no pets. \$810/month. 941-922-2473 or 941-928-3880.

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SUMMER SANDS BAYFRONT 3,292 sf town-home recently designer renovated, top of the line features throughout 3-4BR/4.5BA plus family room and glassed-in lanai. Complex with private beach, bayside pool/spa. Community dock. Covered parking for four cars. Dave Moynihan, 941-778-2246. MLS#534641. \$1,395,000.



EXCEPTIONAL 2BR/2BA direct Gulf front unit with views of the Gulf. Totally renovated including new kitchen, baths, windows, appliances, furnishings and much more. Secured elevator, pool, tennis court and private garage. Dave Moynihan, 941-720-0089. MLS#543586. \$819,500.



GRACIOUS LIVING in this waterfront, updated 3BR/3BA condo. Loft overlooking great room. Soaring ceilings. Separate breakfast room. 40-foot dock included. Peggy Henger, 941-383-5577. MLS#332186. \$769,000.



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LONGBOAT KEY VILLAGE COTTAGE Unique 2BR/1.5BA well maintained corner home. Near bay, boat ramp, shopping, restaurants and beach access. Great buy on Longboat Key. Cathy C. Meldahl PA, 941-383-5577. MLS#337325. \$424,900.



END UNIT - Light, bright, new! 3BR/2BA Hidden Lake condo, minutes from beach, vaulted ceilings, screened lanai, one-car attached garage, lakeview, pool/spa. Non-evacuation zone. Penny Bray, 941-795-6685 #523475. \$324,900.

CORAL SHORES This house has a beautiful bay view on a deep canal. 100-foot of seawall, three pergolas in front and two in back. Garage, air conditioning, generator, 1,350 sf paver brick driveway. Harold Small, 941-778-2246. MLS#543106. **\$1,175,000.**

UPDATED TOWNHOME 2BR/2BA. New kitchen/granite. New baths. Updated electric and plumbing. Pool. Garage. Private six-unit complex. Steps to beach and sunsets. Joan Oliszewski, 941-761-3100. MLS#546437. **\$439,000.**

UPDATED LONGBOAT CONDO Spectacular sunsets from this updated 2BR/2BA, Gulf view condo. Open floor plan with 1,640 sf of living area. All the extras. Curt Bell, 941-761-3100. MLS#542215. **\$749,000.**

TENNIS ANYONE! Great introductory pricing for this beautiful bayside tennis resort community. Enjoy playing where the pros play! Kelly Belisle, 941-751-0670. MLS#525835. **\$425,000.**

SUMMER SANDS with access to Gulf and bay, unobstructed view of Gulf. Deeded access to beach, pool/spa, parking under building. Community boat dock, resident manager, 1BR plus bath in loft area, second BR plus 1.5BA. Elegant architectural detail in living area. Dixie Ambruster, 941-761-3100. MLS#545175. **\$595,000.**

RUNAWAY BAY Condos now available several 1 or 2BR units, bayfront, poolside, pond and other views. Some updated. Active clubhouse with pool, tennis court, and workout room. On-site rental management. 941-778-2246. Priced from **\$314,000 to \$499,900.**

PARADISE FOUND This beautiful Robb & Stucky furnished unit will beg you to go on vacation! Great weekend retreat or use as seasonal rental! Kelly Belisle, 941-751-0670. MLS#545005. **\$530,000.**

SPANISH MAIN Must see this beautifully maintained 2BR/2BA villa. Bright and sunny. Boating community on Intracoastal waterway. Active 55-plus area. Peggy Henger, 941-720-0528. MLS#336593 **\$339,000.**

HOLMES BEACH clean duplex only three blocks to the beach. 2BR/2BA has newer carpet. 1BR/1BA freshly painted. Great for family or investor or 600 income. Great location. Ceil Kilboy and Sharone Martinelli, 941-761-3100. MLS#546489. **\$469,000.**

ISLAND OPPORTUNITY! One of the last undeveloped lots on Anna Maria Island. Located on a quiet street, close to gorgeous Gulf beaches. Bring your builder! Gina & Peter Uliano/Royal Team, 941-761-3100. MLS#543429. **\$299,000.**

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS Continued

SEASONAL WATERFRONT WITH fishing dock. 1, 2 and 3BR/2BA. Short walk to beach, park. Like-new, best view on Island. Free kayak, bicycles and canoe. 941-779-9074.

CONDOS FOR RENT: Saturday, Jan. 27 to Feb. 3, 2007. On the beach at Resort 66. Heated pool, hot tub. \$560 per unit. Call Gloria or Jack at 941-778-2238. Unit 112, 6600 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

FOR RENT: 2BR/1BA; Half duplex close to beach, utilities included. Partially furnished. Annual \$950/month plus \$950 security deposit, or three-month seasonal, \$1,250/month. Available Feb. 1. 941-704-7729.

VACATION IN SMOKEY Mountains: 3BR/2BA cabin, turnkey furnished, fireplace on 2.5 acres. 30 miles from Cherokee Indian reservation, one mile from town. Book now. \$495/weekly. For information, call 352-516-6908 or 352-314-2333. E-mail: creativesold@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL DUPLEX: 2BR/1BA north-end Anna Maria, four houses from beach. Cathedral ceilings, energy-efficient windows, screened porch, washer and dryer hookups, room for boat. Pet considered. \$950/month plus security. 941-778-4837.

2BR/1BA. NO PETS. \$850/month, annual. First, last and security. 941-773-9122. 2818 Gulf Drive. Holmes Beach.

ANNA MARIA: 1BR/2BA ,gorgeous poolside apartment. 25 feet to beach. Call 786-375-9633, or e-mail cflagg@mindspring.com. Available now. \$950/month. 201 S. Bay Blvd., #3. Next door to Waterfront restaurant.

TERRIFIC, UPDATED 3BR/2BA, single-story vacation rental. 2007-08 weekly and monthly rentals starting at \$625/week. March and April 2007 discounted. 813-818-8314. www.vacationrentalonnannamariaisland.com.

ANNUAL: 2BR/1BA Holmes Beach. Washer and dryer, steps to beach, great quiet neighborhood. Fenced yard. \$900/month. First, last and security. 941-737-9662.

ONE APARTMENT LEFT on Palma Sola Bay. \$720/month, utilities included except electric. Security, \$700. Ready Feb. 1. Call Jerry, 9am-6pm 941-448-8100, one free month.

FEBRUARY RENTAL: MARTINIQUE condo. \$3,000/month, 2BR/2BA Gulf front unit. Heated pool, tennis, elevator, garage. Close to shopping and restaurants. Call Carla Price, 941-720-8746. Bark and Company Realty Inc.

FOR RENT: 2BR/1BA weekly or monthly. 100 steps to beach. Close to Rod & Reel Pier. Call 941-747-3321.

ANNA MARIA: NEWLY remodeled 2BR/1BA. Stainless-steel appliances, granite countertops. 150 feet from Gulf. Available March 16-31. 941-778-7933.

BEACH/SUNSET VIEWS: 3BR/2BA home with large porch. \$750/week or \$2,800/month plus tax. Available for February due to cancellation. 941-730-0688.

GULFFRONT: HUGE 2BR, furnished. Available February 2007. Weekly or monthly. 941-779-2701 or 608-332-9272.

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.

REAL ESTATE

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

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.

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.

REAL ESTATE Continued

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.

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.

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

NEW LAKEFRONT CONDOS: Low \$300s. Minutes to beach, no flood, evacuation zone. Hidden Lake Real Estate, 941-761-0444. 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.

BY OWNER: 2BR/1.5BA condo. West of Gulf Drive, two pools, covered parking. \$399,999. 863-412-2612. www.cflrealestateonline.com/condo. 5400 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

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.

BRAND NEW 2BR/2BA villa with garage. Only \$89/month fee. \$225,000. Bill, 941-518-9300.

RENT-TO-OWN: 2BR1BA, west Bradenton, newly remodeled. \$995/month. www.44smart.com. 941-447-6278.

ANSWERS TO JAN. 31 PUZZLE

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE Continued

MOTIVATED SELLER: ANNA Maria City. 4BR/3BA elevated home. 2,220 sf living area, 4,380 sf air conditioned under roof. Zoned single-family. Residential office, retail, compare at over \$725,000. Offers. 941-773-0706.

CPR: DON'T STRESS out over your property management fees. Low rates and tiered services. Now accepting new rental properties. Call Suzanne, 941-962-0971, or www.coastalpropertiesrealty.com. http://www.coastalpropertiesrealty.com.

PERICO BAY CLUB: Open house 1-4pm Sunday, Feb. 4. 3BR/2BA with full bay views! Granite countertops, 20-inch porcelain tile, carpet, custom closets, plantation shutters, designer furnishings and more. \$575,000. 859-264-8644. barbfreeman@alltel.net. 1167 Edgewater Circle, Bradenton.

WONDERFUL BRADENTON BEACH home: 6BR/4BA, 1.5 blocks from beach. Over 4,000 sf, garage, carport, patio with option to duplex. Live-in or rent. \$720,000. 941-545-5381.

CANAL HOME: PRIME location, listed thousands under appraised value, 3BR/3BA, dock, boatlift, new seawall, large lot. \$830,000. Weichert Realtors, Richard Taylor, broker, 941-756-6300.

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.

LARGE, DIRECT BAYFRONT LOT on Anna Maria Island, unobstructed waterfront, \$1,150,000. Michael Saunders & Company, 941-918-0010. For direct information, 1-800-539-1486, ext. 2093.

BRADENTON 2BR HOUSE: Large lot, lanai, attached garage with opener, available immediately. 3504 46th Ave. Drive W. \$206,000. 941-704-7729.

AWESOME LOCATION: DUPLEX on large lot, includes well-known Island architect's plans for complete remodel and expansion. 203 69th St., Holmes Beach. Shown by appointment only. \$885,000. 941-704-7729.

BY OWNER: 4BR/2BA, two-car garage, cul-de-sac. 2,245 sf, non-flood/non-evacuation zone, fenced backyard, screened porch. Northwest Bradenton, Azalea Park. \$349,000. 941-795-5702.

PERICO ISLAND BY owner. Single 3BR/2BA home, beautifully decorated and maintained. Wide-open views overlooking preserve from heated, caged pool. Buyers agents, 3 percent. \$472,000. 941-794-8360.

BRADENTON BEACH MOBILE home: Bay view updated, cozy 1BR in the Pines Park. Turnkey furnished, boat slip included. \$45,000. 941-962-8220.

DIRECT GULFFRONT CONDO at Club Bamboo South. Incredible Gulf view, all new everything, onsite management, nightly rentals, pool, elevator and more. Priced way under market! \$445,000. George, 312-321-7501.

REAL ESTATE Continued

VILLAS AT PALMA Sola Trace model now open! Come by today to see the best value in west Bradenton. Just minutes to the beaches! Pricing from \$299,900! Call 941-794-6101 or stop by the model at 3803 Bridlecrest Lane on 75th Street between Manatee Avenue and Cortez Road. www.hendersonbrothershomes.com.

BRAND NEW MAINTENANCE-free villas just west of Intracoastal in west Bradenton. No age restrictions. 3BR/2BA plus den and two-car garage, low \$300s. 2BR/2BA plus den and two-car garage, high \$200s. High quality construction, not in a flood zone and only a few miles from the beach. Gorgeous clubhouse with full gym and pool. Finally, everything you always wanted at an affordable price! Free washer and dryer with purchase when you mention this ad. Call Phil Paxton, Remax Gulfstream, 941-920-1363.

ISLANDER'S RETREAT: 2BR Gulfwatch condo with peek-a-boo view of the Gulf, comfortably decorated and truly turnkey furnished, encouraging a relaxing Island lifestyle. \$374,900. Please, call Kimberly Roehl, PA, Michael Saunders & Company. 941-447-9988.

NEW LISTING! KEY West-style home, steps to beach and bay. Breezy 2BR/2BA home with den, open lanai, new wood floors throughout, workshop and room for RV and boat parking with two entrances to property. Offered at \$569,000. Call Deborah Thrasher, RE/MAX Excellence, 941-518-7738. Deborahthrasher@remax.net.

OPEN WATER VIEW and steps to north-end beach and city piers. Mangroves surround this 3BR/2BA home with Florida room, new tile, new kitchen cabinets, hot tub and large boat dock. Offered at \$799,000. Call Deborah Thrasher, RE/MAX Excellence, 941-518-7738. Deborahthrasher@remax.net.

HOLMES BEACH DUPLEX: 4BR/4BA, heated pool, tiki bar, hot tub. Rents were \$30,000 in 2006. Reduced for quick sale \$699,000. Call Mel at 800-778-9599 or 941-809-5565.

OPEN HOUSE: 1-4pm Saturday. Quality built, best value on Anna Maria Island. 3BR/2BA-plus, vaulted ceilings, maple wood floors, granite counters, vaulted screened porch, upgraded baths and showers, crown molding. Truly beautiful and beachy look. Reduced, \$779,000 > \$729,000 > \$709,000. Seller motivated, make an offer. Buy before March 1 and save! 941-778-9485. 309-A 59th Street, Holmes Beach.

VILLAGE GREEN: \$194,900. 2BR/2BA villa, heated pool, new air conditioner, carpet, paint. Pets allowed! The best buy in Village Green. Denise Langlois, Coldwell Banker, 941-725-4425.

CANAL HOME: HOLMES Beach. Immaculate 2BR/2BA, 45-foot dock with electric boat lift, furnished, perfect Island retreat! \$600,000. Denise Langlois, Coldwell Banker, 941-725-4425.

DEEP-WATER CANALFRONT condo in pet-friendly Palma Sola Harbour. 2BR/2BA ground -floor unit, turnkey furnished, with boat dock. \$299,900. 941-795-6699.

DON'T FORGET! The Islander has "mullet" T-shirts. Stop in our office at 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach or order online www.islander.org.

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Run issue date(s) _____
 Amt. pd _____ Date _____ Please indicate: Ck. No. _____ or Cash _____
 For credit card payment: MasterCard VISA No. _____
 Exp. Date _____ Name shown on card: _____
 Billing address zip code: _____ House no. or post office box no. on bill _____
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The Islander Fax: 941 778-9392 Phone: 941 778-7978 E-mail classifieds@islander.org

ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE Continued

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOT in northwest Bradenton, desirable neighborhood near the river. \$216,000. Owner/agent, Bobbie Banan, Michael Saunders & Company, 941-356-2659.

PERICO BAY CLUB: Beautiful turnkey furnished, first-floor unit. Active community with heated pools and spas, nature walks, tennis courts, and award-winning landscape, 24-hour security. \$315,000. Call Mike, 401-339-1730.

UNBLOCKABLE GULF VIEW: Old small cottage across from Coquina Beach. \$50,000 down, assume \$238,000. 941-866-0224. www.bogeylane.com.

MOBILE HOME: 10x55-foot, 2BR/1.5BA double-wide with 10x23-foot glassed-in Florida room. Beautifully decorated and landscaped with fruit trees. Ten minutes from Gulf. \$18,800. Call 941-795-7623.

"COUNTRY VILLAGE" 2BR/2BA villa: Vaulted ceilings, beautifully furnished. \$265,000. For details, call Marilyn Trevethan, 941-778-6066. Island Real Estate.

SPACIOUS 4BR/3BA, two-car garage, large den, fireplace, solar-heated, caged pool. Wonderful family neighborhood near Bradenton Country Club. Minutes to beach, close to everything, west side of Bradenton, \$395,000. 941-685-7035. 5116 10th Ave. W. Directions: Manatee Avenue to 51st Street to 10th Avenue Drive West.

PROPERTY AUCTION: PALMA Sola Park. Viewing 10am, auction 11am Saturday, Feb. 10. Unique west Bradenton home. Mountain feeling in coastal paradise, bike-friendly, convenient neighborhood. Bird sanctuary, manatee habitat. For more information call, 941-761-8525. 615 Casabella Drive, Bradenton.

NORTHWEST BRADENTON: LARGE 4-5/BR home with many upgrades. New carpet and tile throughout. Inground pool. Close to Palma Sola Elementary, Stewart Elementary and King Middle School. Available immediately. \$290,000. 941-778-7000.

OPEN HOUSE: 2-4pm Sunday. Perico Island. 3BR/2BA, built to 2004 hurricane codes. Great master suite, heated pool and amenities. 11103 Willow Dale Ct \$390,000. 941-761-8135.

REAL ESTATE Continued

\$369,900. NORTH END Longboat Key. By owner. ground-level, Spanish Main attached villa. 2BR/1BA, perfect for patio backyard with privacy hedge separating Emerald Harbor. New appliances, PGT Window Windows and 3-ton, high efficiency air conditioning unit with duct work extended to lanai. Overhead storage, short walk to community clubhouse, pool and deep-water marina; Deeded beach access, covered parking. Call 941-383-7626 for more information or appointment.

BAYFRONT HOME ON Anna Maria Sound. Brokers protected. \$1,100,000. 941-778-0029. 517 Bayview Drive, Holmes Beach.

CANAL HOME: 3BR/3BA totally remodeled inside. New roof, air conditioners and all new double-pane windows. Lot is 110x115 feet. Lift and davits. Seven blocks to beautiful Gulf of Mexico. Call for appointment, 941-778-1620.

BEAUTIFUL TURNKEY FURNISHED unit in Perico Bay Club. 3BR/2BA end unit, cathedral ceilings, new appliances, glass-enclosed lanai, water view, 24-hour security at gate. Nicely priced at \$355,000. Jill Sullivan, Keller Williams, 941-232-9783.

GREAT RIVER VIEWS from balcony porch of 2BR/2BA luxury condo on new Riverwalk area. Downtown Bradenton. Corian throughout and many upgrades. \$288,800. 941-807-5449.

FOR SALE OR LEASE: Perico Bay Club: Open house, 10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday. Villa, Grand Cayman. 1,601 sf, Neal Community builder. Two-car garage, 2BR/2BA, den, patio, overlooking canal, great view, lanai, deck, mirrors. Built-ins, many upgrades. Tennis courts, clubhouse. One mile from beach, pools, gated entrance, security guards. Reduced from \$475,000 to \$449,900. 941-962-6117.

FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE Continued

AAH! COOL MOUNTAIN breezes! Murphy, N.C. Affordable land, homes, mountain cabins on lakes, mountains and streams. Free brochure, 877-837-2288. Exit Realty Mountain View Properties. www.exitmurphy.com.

WYOMING RANCH DISPERSAL: 35 acres, \$59,900, 75 acres, \$108,900. Snow-capped mountain views. Surrounded by government land. Abundant wildlife. Recreational paradise. Low taxes. E-Z terms. Call Utah Ranches LLC. 888-541-5263.

NEW LOG HOME: \$69,900. Lake access to Norris Lake with 2,000-sf log-home package. East Tennessee near Knoxville, Gatlinburg and Smokies. 800-770-9311, ext. 1962.

NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAIN view lots. Top views start at \$50,000. Amenities include club, pool, equestrian facilities, hiking trails and high-speed Internet. Half- to 3.5-acre sites. www.highlandsmountainproperties.com. Call 888-625-8950. Today!

GEORGIA/FLORIDA BORDER: Grand opening sale! 20 acres, \$99,900. Pay no closing costs. 20 wooded acres in Georgia coastal region. Loaded with wildlife. Long road frontages, utilities, new survey. Subdivision potential. Excellent financing. Call now, 800-898-4409, ext. 1115.

LAKE-ACCESS BARGAIN: One-plus acres, \$34,900 with free boat slips! Rare opportunity to own land on spectacular 160,000-acre recreational lake! Mature oak and hickory, park-like setting with lake access. Paved road, underground utilities. Excellent financing. Prime waterfronts available. Call now, 800-704-3154, ext. 916.

NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS: Log cabin shell on mountaintop, view, trees, waterfall and large public lake nearby, paved private access, gated community, \$139,500. Owner, 866-789-8535.

NEW PRICE! Ten-plus acres, \$299,000! Upscale, equestrian gated community! 200-year-old oaks. Established lush pastures. Paved private roads, underground utilities. Two miles from HITS! Excellent financing! Call 868-352-2249, ext. 1156.

LANDLORDS: TIRED OF late rent and tenant destruction? Start fighting back! Eliminate headaches and save cash. Get the best land-lording book and tips free! www.section8bible.com.

FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE

BEAUTIFUL NORTH CAROLINA. Winter season is here! Must see beautiful peaceful western North Carolina mountains, homes, cabins, acreage and investments. Cherokee Mountain GMAC Real Estate. cherokeemountainrealty.com. Call for free brochure, 800-841-5868.

SELL it fast with an ad in The Islander.

New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

KAREEM OF THE CROP BY PATRICK BERRY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Fly effortlessly
- 6 Bub
- 9 Unstable
- 14 Talks up
- 19 Raise the proof?
- 21 Think the world of
- 22 Muppet who sang "Rubber Duckie"
- 23 1956 Oscar-winning title role for Ingrid Bergman
- 24 James Stockdale as running mate?
- 26 Terse account of what happened at the Raptor Petting Zoo?
- 28 Remained functional
- 29 Vest wearers
- 30 Tightens a piece, say
- 31 Golfer Ballesteros
- 32 Kind of bar
- 34 Attended without really belonging
- 36 "The child of Pride," according to Jonathan Swift
- 37 Badge awarder: Abbr.
- 40 "___ go brag!"
- 41 Girl who wears hair clips in nonstandard ways?
- 46 Stimpny's TV pal

Answers to this week's puzzle on page 32

DOWN

- 47 Poet/novelist Elinor
- 48 Like a crow or lark
- 49 Morales of "NYPD Blue"
- 50 Half of a longtime country duo
- 52 Impetuous quality
- 53 Forbidding
- 54 Quite often
- 55 Subtly suggest
- 57 Sows with salt, maybe
- 58 Work on logical proofs while dining out?
- 63 Historic Irish city
- 64 Bête ___
- 65 Player's chance to shine
- 66 External
- 67 ___ of Oxford
- 68 Oscar nominee for "Unfaithful," 2002
- 73 "You said a mouthful!"
- 74 Archive's contents
- 76 Subsidized
- 77 Alternative to Rover
- 78 Practice sessions for coercion?
- 81 Sprout
- 82 Infiltrator
- 83 "___ says?"
- 84 Suspicious
- 85 Tries
- 86 One of Emma's lovers in "Madame Bovary"
- 87 Quonset hut material

DOWN

- 1 Seven-time Wimbledon winner
- 2 River of Yakutsk
- 3 "High Sierra" actress
- 4 Sony introduction of 1984
- 5 Impedes legally
- 6 Other: Abbr.
- 7 Inter ___
- 8 Crimson
- 9 Accesses
- 10 Lead-in to further explanation
- 11 Summer sweaters?
- 12 Impel to action
- 13 So far
- 14 City on the Seine
- 15 Cropped up

DOWN

- 16 Hand or foot
- 17 They're spotted in casinos
- 18 Some bird feed
- 20 Whips but good
- 25 Split
- 27 Underground film actress Sedgwick
- 31 Main character in Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past"
- 32 Cousin of a gull
- 33 Vicinity
- 34 General acknowledgment?
- 35 Like the Gobi
- 37 Split, in a way
- 38 Horror film's offerings
- 39 Claude who starred in TV's "Lobo"
- 41 "Here's a pleasant surprise!"
- 42 Fly from Africa
- 43 Ceremonial splendor
- 44 Sporty Mazda
- 45 Another name for vitamin A
- 47 More artful
- 51 1984 Hollywood biopic
- 53 Like diplomatic pouches
- 55 Distinctive Rolls-Royce feature
- 56 Ending with profit or racket
- 57 Some reconnaissance craft

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- 58 Foster, as enthusiasm
- 59 Bistro
- 60 Nonsensical
- 61 NBC newswoman O'Donnell
- 62 In a convenient way
- 63 Witches' familiars, often
- 67 "Conspiracy of Fools" topic
- 68 Cancels, as in an online order form
- 69 Steel grating component
- 70 "Metaphysica" writer
- 71 Swift production?
- 72 They've split
- 74 How things may get washed
- 75 Soup accompaniers
- 79 Ladylove
- 80 Go through volumes
- 81 Make larger or smaller, as a photo
- 85 Clavell novel set in Hong Kong
- 86 Pale purple
- 87 No-goodnik
- 88 Olympians Liddell and Heiden
- 89 Jumper
- 90 Order letters
- 91 Set of standards
- 92 ___ Bowl (postseason game)
- 93 Colorless
- 94 "Hard ___!" (sailor's yell)
- 95 Confined, with "up"
- 96 Walked along
- 97 ___-culotte
- 99 Cereal box abbr.

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24071 JENNINGS ROAD Beautiful views of Lake Manatee from this open 3BR/2BA home on 6+ fenced acres in park like setting directly on the lake. Great fresh water fishing and boating on 2,400 acre Lake Manatee! \$799,000

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