



*Skimming the news ... Marian Tedmon: Greatest Generation, page 14.*

# Anna Maria The Islander



*Flag football fun, page 19.*

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## 7 arrested from Acute Care facility in Anna Maria

By Rick Catlin  
*Islander Reporter*

Agents from the Florida Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Unit in Tampa on Feb. 23 arrested seven women who worked at the Acute Care facility office on Gulf Drive and charged them with \$2.6 million in counterfeit billing claims.

Arrested were Acute Care owners Jeanne Ferguson and Nancy Wood, along with Heidi Rickert, Andrea Suarez, Carla Camacho, Stephanie Nichols and Cynthia May. The women were not arrested at the Anna Maria office, but at various locations including at home.



Ferguson

According to Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum, Acute Care defrauded the state Medicaid program out of more than \$2.6 million in counterfeit billing claims during an unspecified period.

The company came under investigation in April 2006 after the MFU received information that Acute Care, which provides respiratory therapy to children, was submitting substantial billing claims to the Medicaid program that could not be verified by the patients' parents. Parents of at least one child reportedly told investigators they



Wood

had received only one visit from the therapist in a single week, while Acute Care was billing Medicaid for several visits.

In addition, said McCollum, other staff at the facility claim they were pressured to falsify billing for patients they knew were never treated.

MFU agents raided the company's office in Anna Maria in December 2006 and carted off a substantial amount of records, but declined to confirm any ongoing

**PLEASE SEE ACUTE, NEXT PAGE**



### Cleaning up a mess

West Manatee Fire Rescue District firefighters worked diligently to avoid "disaster" while others stood "ready" with hoses when a boat owner erroneously pumped gas into the bilge of his boat at the Pure gas station at the intersection of Gulf and Marina drives in Holmes Beach. For more details, see story, page 3.

*Islander Photo: Bonner Joy*

## Administrative hearings loom on beach seawall removal

By Paul Roat

A convoluted coastal situation has become more complex in Bradenton Beach.

City commissioners agreed last week to file for an administrative hearing on a pair of permits issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for beachfront alterations in the 300 block of Gulf Drive South.

One permit would have allowed Pete Milazzo to remove a seawall fronting his property at 306 Gulf Drive S.

The second permit would have allowed removal of another seawall, this one on city property at Fourth Street South on the beachfront.

Approval to remove the seawall along Fourth Street South street-end was described as a mistake by state regulators, according to city officials. The city apparently did not request removal of the seawall, but

state officials did misinterpret part of a plan that was submitted to them with broader permit application to improve beachfront access from Cortez Road to Fifth Street South.

The Milazzo request, though, is the latest salvo in a battle that has been ongoing since June 2004.

Milazzo at that time asked for permission to remove about 100 feet of the concrete-block seawall from in front of his property. The seawall is far from the water's edge and abuts part of the house.

A former building official issued the DEP a letter of no objection to the seawall removal. The city then apparently decided to reverse itself, rescinded the letter and sent the matter for a hearing before the city's board of adjustment.

BOA members debated the matter in February and March of 2005. The board eventually decided that the

## County commission OKs Perico purchase

By Lisa Neff  
*Islander Reporter*

Manatee County commissioners voted 7-0 to purchase and conserve more than 231 acres of land on Perico Island during a special meeting Feb. 20.

The unanimous vote followed about 10 minutes of discussion but years of consideration and hours of talks.

The special meeting was called on Feb. 15, after officials worked out an agreement between the county and the landowner, Hayden Lane 1 Ltd.

"This is a good deal," said Manatee County Commissioner Jane von Hahmann.

The purchase option was part of a legal settlement involving the county, the city of Bradenton, the St. Joe Co. and Hayden Lane. The dispute was over St. Joe's SevenShores condominium project, approved by the city of Bradenton after the municipality annexed the land from the county.

The controversial SevenShores project located to the north of Manatee Avenue just east of the Anna Maria drawbridge involves the construction of 686 high-rise luxury condominiums built among lakes, walking trails and conservation areas.

St. Joe had entered into a contract with Hayden Lane, a company owned by Whiting Preston of the Manatee Fruit Co., to purchase the Perico Island land and submitted plans to Bradenton for a multi-building, multi-story residential development.

The county, along with ManaSota-88 and the cities of Anna Maria, Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach, objected to the size and scope of the development, some of it involving environmentally sensitive land and a shoreline of mangroves.

In October 2004, the county negotiated a settlement that resulted in a redesign of the project with the county receiving an exclusive option to purchase land adjacent to the pending development.

The property, valued at \$6 million, consists of about 55.62 upland acres and 175.84 wetland acres.

**PLEASE SEE PERICO, NEXT PAGE**



*From the air, the lake under construction at the St. Joe company's SevenShores condominium development on Perico Island looks almost like a series of connected waterways. *Islander Photo: Jack Elka**

## Acute Care workers arrested

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

investigation at that time.

Each of the women arrested was charged with one count of Medicaid fraud, a third-degree felony, and one count of organized fraud, a first-degree felony. If convicted on both counts, each of the women face a maximum of 30 years in prison and a fine of \$15,000. The women were booked into the Manatee County jail and later released pending prosecution of the case. The state attorney's office for the 12th Judicial Circuit in Bradenton will prosecute.

Acute Care Inc. was formed in Anna Maria in 1996 and operated at a Pine Avenue location until moving to the former U.S. Post Office building at 9908 Gulf Drive several years ago.

In addition to providing respiratory therapy to children, the company also provides medical equipment such as hospital beds, electric wheelchairs, orthopedic equipment and a host of other personal medical needs.

## Perico Island property buy OK'd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The county's plan involves conserving the land for public use and possibly a tie-in with the nearby Robinson Preserve.

County commissioners took a preliminary vote endorsing the purchase in early February. In the days that followed, county representatives worked with an attorney for the landowner to reach an agreement that set a closing date of June 6.

During the meeting last week, commissioners asked for a few details about financing the purchase and conditions attached to the sale.

County finance manager Jim Seuffert said the county would probably finance the purchase with a loan and then apply for a Florida Communities Trust grant in the next year or so.

The county's senior assistant attorney, Patricia McVoy, and Hayden Lane's attorney, Kevin Hennessy, explained a provision in the agreement that would result in the county turning over one acre of the property if the city of Bradenton requires a new fire station to serve



### Man injured in trolley accident

*A Holmes Beach man was injured Sunday, struck by a van after exiting an Island trolley on Marina Drive in Holmes Beach. Evan Zappola, 22, of Holmes Beach, was flown to Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, where he was listed in fair condition on Monday. He had stepped off the trolley and was crossing the street in front of the trolley when he was struck by a 1998 Chevrolet van driven by Howard Stewart, 67, also of Holmes Beach. Stewart was traveling northbound behind the trolley and had pulled out to pass the trolley when he struck Zappola, according to Holmes Beach Police Lt. Dale Stephenson. Charges in the incident are pending, he said. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy*

the SevenShores development.

Both lawyers agreed that the provision would be taken into account when an appraisal is conducted.

Letters from St. Joe project manager Joe Romanowski and Bradenton City Clerk Carl Callahan contained no objections to the sale.

"We look forward to working closely with the county to ensure that the option property is used in a manner that is compatible and complimentary to surrounding residential areas," Romanowski wrote.

The county's decision to purchase the property has won endorsements from Anna Maria Island residents.

"I'm pleased, very pleased," said Bradenton Beach resident Paul Shrader, who drives past Perico at least twice a day on his way to and from work. "We have to take care of Florida."

"I think this is what we need to do to be good stewards in our state," said Michael Reece, of Holmes Beach, who often fishes near Perico.

## Seawall removal hearing sought

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"no-objection" letter was warranted. The recommendation by the BOA went to the city commission, which also approved the letter to the DEP. However, the letter did not materialize, and a lawsuit was filed by Milazzo demanding the letter.

The letter was eventually mailed after a circuit court order, and Milazzo earlier this month received a conditional permit for the seawall removal.

However, the city is now contesting the permit before the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings and is requesting a new ruling.

The crux of the issue is a determination by city consultant Karyn Erickson, a coastal engineer, that the seawall fronting the Milazzo property is a vital element of flood protection and is important to maintain sand on the beach, rather than allowing it to wash onto the adjacent roadway.

"I'm shocked that the city is discussing opposing the decision of the state," said Scott Rudacille, an attorney representing Milazzo. "Why is the city opposing this project? The state coastal engineers have no problem with this, and, in fact, they encourage removal of rigid shores on the beaches."

Rudacille also suggested that an administrative hearing is in violation of the court order that requires the "no-objection" letter be provided to the DEP.

City attorney Ricinda Perry said the administrative recourse would probably cost \$20,000, although special counsel to the city, Greg Hootman, would handle the matter.

Milazzo has said that he has spent about \$80,000 to date on the matter.

"To do nothing," said Mayor John Chappie, "would mean that Milazzo would remove the seawall, and we won't have any idea of what will happen [to the shoreline]."

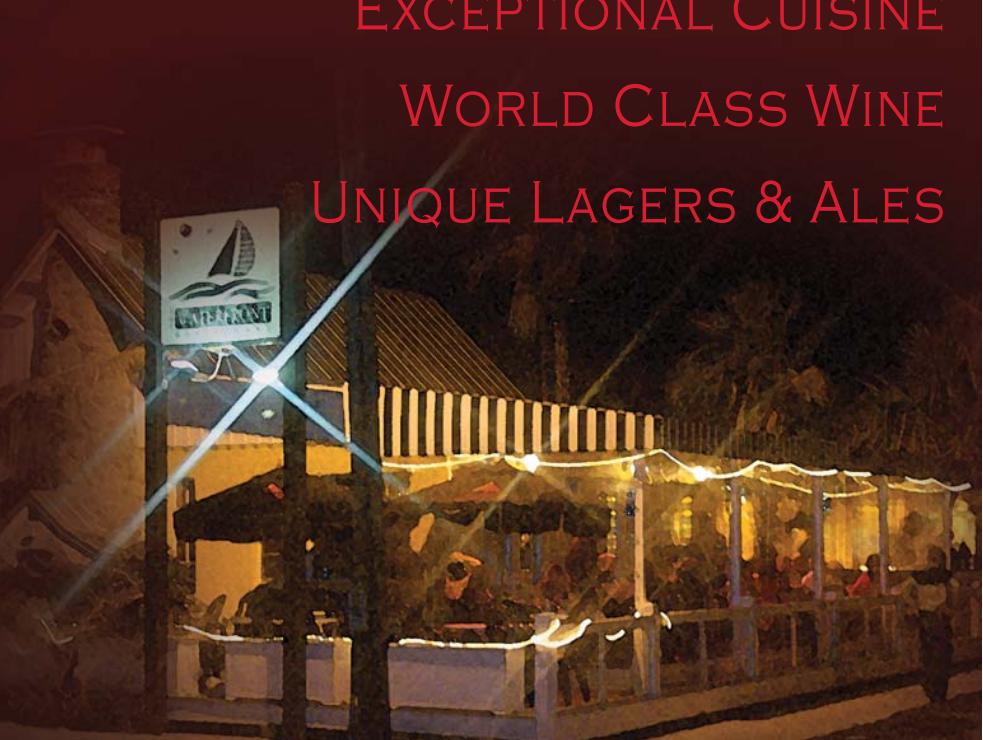
Commissioners unanimously approved seeking the administrative hearing, with Commissioner Bill Shearon — a neighbor of Milazzo — abstaining due to what he claimed is a possible conflict of interest.

Perry said the hearings would probably be held in Manatee County and a final decision reached by fall.

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# Fuel spilled at Pure gas station in Holmes Beach

By Lisa Neff  
*Islander* Reporter

A gasoline spill at the Holmes Beach Pure Station temporarily shut down operations Feb. 22 but the fuel was contained.

The spill occurred shortly before 10 a.m., when a Georgia man put a pump nozzle into a fishing rod holder on his boat rather than into the fuel tank. About 27 gallons of fuel filled the boat's bilge, then was emptied on the ground when the bilge pump started, according to West Manatee Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Rich Losek.

"Just an accident," said Bret Vande Vrede, owner of the station at 5333 Gulf Drive. "It probably happens more often than we know about."

Vande Vrede said he immediately shut down his pumps and notified emergency officials.

"The police came out and did what they do best," said Vande Vrede, who used some absorbent materials on hand to collect a lot of the fuel.



Holmes Beach Police Department and West Manatee Fire Rescue District dispatched aid, as did Manatee County's hazardous materials department, which supervised a full cleanup at the site.

"We had a small spill," said Ed Eartly, solid waste officer for Manatee County and a member of the county's hazardous materials team.

Eartly said the fuel reached two stormwater drains in the immediate area, but was stopped from going farther.

"What we did is we stuffed booms inside the drains," Eartly said. "So we stopped it right there....We

didn't want to lose the product and have it go into the bay. It's not good for the environment."

Other locations including the bay were checked to make sure the spill was contained.

On sight, SWS, a company from Tampa, assisted with the cleanup until about 3 p.m.

The accident, which resulted in no tickets, shut down the Pure station for about 90 minutes, Vande Vrede estimated.

"But everything is good," he added in an interview the next day.

The incident was the first such accident at the station in about six years.

Eartly said fuel overruns at stations are not uncommon, especially when a person leaves a vehicle unattended.

In the incident that occurred at the Pure station last week, the boat owner, whose name has not been released, will be billed for the cleanup. A cost estimate was not available.

## West Manatee impact fee hike wins delegation's vote

By Lisa Neff  
*Islander* Reporter

Legislation to increase impact fees on new construction in the West Manatee Fire Rescue District won its first vote Feb. 21.

The Manatee County Legislative Delegation voted unanimously for the bill during a meeting in Tallahassee.

"That's really good news for us," said Brett Pollock, the district's deputy chief.

The delegation, made up of state Sens. Mike Bennett, Lisa Carlton and Arthenia Joyner and Reps. Bill Galvano, Ron Reagan, Keith Fitzgerald and Frank Peterman also unanimously voted on legislation transferring authority of some underwater land from the state to the Manatee County Port Authority, reauthorizing rules for the North River Fire District, and merging the Cedar Hammock and Whitfield fire districts.

The WMFR bill would allow fees that apply to new construction and go to pay for new facilities and equipment. Past impact fee funds, for example, went to the purchase of thermal-imaging equipment to detect heat sources and laptop computers to improve operations with 911 dispatches.

The current impact fee schedule, set in 1985, is \$100 for residential construction and \$200 for the first 5,000 square feet of commercial construction.

The revised schedule would be \$500 for new residential construction and \$980 for 5,000 square feet of new commercial construction. Additional commercial construction would be charged 25 cents per square foot, after the bill is approved.

District voters on Nov. 7, 2006, backed the change in impact fees. The ballot question asked, "Shall West Manatee Fire & Rescue District be allowed to increase impact fees on new construction only, to pay for new equipment and facilities as necessary to accommodate new growth?"

At last week's delegation meeting, there was no discussion on the legislation since the local bills had been reviewed at a previous meeting.

"This meeting was just for vote," said Cheryl Ennis, Bennett's chief legislative aide.

With the delegation's support, the WMFR measure will be introduced when the legislative session begins March 6, then assigned to a House committee for review and recommendation.

To be put into effect, the measure needs the vote of the Legislature and the signature of the governor. In

## Time's up for Island bridges

Both the Anna Maria Island Bridge and the Cortez Bridge are now operating on a new schedule.

After a near five-year effort on the part of the Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials, the new times were put into effect Feb. 21 by the U.S. Coast Guard's Seventh District in Miami.

Under the new rules, the bridges will be raised from Jan. 15 to May 15 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.

Michael Lieberum of the Seventh District in Miami confirmed the new times are now in effect.

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. BIEO members from Longboat Key had been particularly vocal in calling for the time change.

## Holmes Beach woman absconds with son, arrested

A Holmes Beach woman who did not have custody or permission to be with any of her three children removed her 7-year-old son from her mother's home in east Bradenton and then disappeared.

According to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Nidia Cruz, 30, does not have custody of her three children and may only have supervised contact with her children. The children were placed with Cruz' mother in November 2006.

Cruz removed her 7-year-old son from her moth-



er's residence at 606 60th Ave. Drive E., Bradenton, on Thursday, Feb. 15. Cruz' mother was aware at the time that she took the child.

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, Cruz was located at her residence at 2703 Gulf Drive in Holmes Beach and was arrested for interference with child custody and giving a false name to a law enforcement officer.

The child, who was not with his mother at the time, was located a short time later with the assistance of Cruz' boyfriend and was placed in custody of Child Protective Services along with Cruz' other two children.

The custodial grandmother, who was not named in the sheriff's office report, was taken into custody on an unrelated immigration warrant.

## Short-term parking fixes honed in Bradenton Beach

By Paul Roat

The list of short-term solutions to the parking problem in Bradenton Beach is shorter.

A group of residents, business owners and others have been meeting for several weeks to discuss the parking issues in the city. All have agreed that there are a lot of available spaces in the city, but all have also agreed that the parking spaces are not necessarily where most people want them — in the Bridge Street area.

In a meeting facilitated by Alan Garrett of about 30 people last week, quick-fix solutions to parking were aired and winnowed. Topping the list: develop an employee parking zone at the northern end of Cortez Beach, thereby freeing up parking spots throughout the rest of the business core of the city.

Enforcement of limited parking in the Bridge Street area was another top contender in the list of parking solutions, especially in the city parking lot on First Street North.

And creation of a public-private parking lot on the beach just south of the BeachHouse Restaurant was another viable solution to parking woes, the group agreed. Restaurant owner Ed Chiles has said that up to

40 parking spaces could be created on his property, with more possible by utilizing an adjoining city parcel.

The group agreed that the parking lot at Harvey Memorial Church, off Church Avenue, could be utilized as a place for employee parking, although no one from the church was present to provide input.

And designating motorcycle slots in existing parking lots could scrunch bikes and scooters and such into spaces that otherwise could be utilized by larger vehicle.

There was also consensus to offer a reward system for people who utilized the Manatee Trolley rather than taking a personal vehicle to patronize businesses or restaurants on Bridge Street.

Better signage, identifying parking spots that should be used for business patrons rather than beachgoers, was also suggested, as was better signage at trolley stops identifying both the bus routes and pickup times.

The BeachHouse Restaurant parking lot plan is scheduled to be presented to the city commission March 1 at its regular meeting at 7 p.m.

The parking group will meet again at 5 p.m. March 7 at city hall.

## Meetings

### Anna Maria City

Feb. 28, 4 p.m., special city commission meeting at Island Baptist Church, second floor.

March 5, 10:30 a.m., preliminary budget discussion, Holmes Beach City Hall.

March 6, 7 p.m., planning and zoning comprehensive plan meeting, Holmes Beach City Hall.

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

### Bradenton Beach

March 1, 7 p.m., city commission meeting. Agenda: Proposed parking plan at the BeachHouse Restaurant, approval of Gulf Drive-corridor enhancement project, approval of lighting project on Bridge Street, approval of Island Transportation Planning Organization bylaw changes, approval of scenic highway signage grant request, approval of Florida Department of Transportation landscape maintenance agreement, and approval of WAVES vision plan.

*Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 778-1005 — www.cityofbradentonbeach.org.*

### Holmes Beach

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

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

# Insurance: State softens rate freeze, allows cancellation

By Molly McCartney  
*Islander* Reporter

Melodie Moss thought for a while that the state's tough new rate freeze protected her against the loss of her homeowner's insurance policy.

But last week the state modified its rule in response to a legal challenge from the insurance industry. The result of that deal leaves Moss and other policyholders like her vulnerable to cancellation or nonrenewal.

State Rep. Bill Galvano, who represents Anna Maria Island and western Manatee, described the change in the state freeze order as "unfortunate."

Galvano and Moss spoke at a recent forum sponsored on the Island by the Kiwanis Club and *The Islander* when she brought her situation to light and Galvano used Moss's plight as an example for others of what can happen.

Moss, who says she isn't yet sure how this is going to turn out for her, says her situation is now exacerbated by the "un-ruling."

She received a notice in December from Liberty Mutual saying that her policy would not be renewed when it ends March 31. But then the Florida Cabinet issued a rate freeze order at the urging of Gov. Charlie Crist. Officials said they wanted to keep insurance companies from canceling or dropping policies — non-renewals — before new state insurance legislation could be implemented.

Under the terms of the freeze order announced Jan. 30 and implemented the next day, Jan. 31, no homeowner insurance policy could be canceled or non-renewed on or after that date, regardless of when the policyholder got the notice of non-renewal or cancellation.

Crist urged the order saying he feared the industry would try and take advantage of policyholders unless there was a freeze on rates, cancellations and non-renewals.

Moss was thrilled that the freeze might help her.

But she was troubled by some practical questions. At the Holmes Beach meeting, for example, Moss asked Galvano about the terms of the renewal she would be able to get March 31 when her existing coverage runs out.

"Am I renewed for the year or just a few months?" she wanted to know.

Galvano didn't try to answer that question. Instead, he said the implementation of the new insurance law "will change the entire environment of insurance so your insurer will have more incentive to stay in Florida and change the rates."

A few days later, the Florida Insurance Council, the state's largest insurance lobby, went to court and asked for an immediate stay of the state's freeze order. A spokesman for the lobby group said the order "creates unnecessary havoc and confusion for insurers and policyholders."

On Feb. 19, the state backed down. Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty issued a new interpretation of the freeze rule.

## Anna Maria City eyes roofing company litigation over mold

By Rick Catlin  
*Islander* Reporter

Anna Maria city commissioners agreed unanimously at their Feb. 22 meeting to retain the Bradenton law firm of Ozark, Perron and Nelson to represent the city in any litigation against Roof USA Inc. for the mold and dam-



*John Laurie, Bradenton insurance executive, says the "unintended consequences" of the state rate freeze have been a "nightmare" for agents and others.*

*Islander Photo: Molly McCartney*

Galvano explained the commissioner's interpretation this way: The modified rule is not retroactive and does not cover policyholders who received cancellation or nonrenewal notices prior to the passage of the emergency rule on Jan. 31.

"The Office of Insurance Regulation modified the freeze rule in order to have the law suit [filed by the insurance lobby group] dropped," he said. "So if the notice of cancellation or nonrenewal was proper, and given prior to the enactment of the rule, then there is no retroactive element. That is unfortunate, because I think the governor would have liked to have seen that."

All this turmoil and uncertainty has left Moss confused and concerned about the state of her homeowner's policy and the outlook for future coverage.

"Every week it changes," she said, and the thing is that no one gives her straight answers. "Every time I call them, I get a different person," she said.

And then last week — on the same day that the state announced its modified freeze order — the mystery deepened when she opened her mail and found that Liberty Mutual had sent her a renewal notice.

"I don't know what that means," Moss said. "Who can say if this is going to stick? Who can say if I have coverage or not after March 31?"

If for some reason she is able to retain her Liberty Mutual insurance, it is going to cost twice as much as last year, she said, because the renewal notice calls for a \$4,000 premium, compared to the \$2,000 she paid last year.

"I may have a policy," she said. "And I may be out of luck. I don't know."

## Insurance agents struggle

Moss isn't the only one confused by what is happening in the insurance market.

Insurance executive John Laurie characterized the problems that he and other agents face these days as a "nightmare." He said agents asked the state insurance office and the governor's office for more information about the freeze "because there is so much confusion ... and not everything was answered."

Laurie, who is vice president of BB&T Insurance Services in Bradenton, served as a technical advisor to the blue-ribbon task force on insurance created last year by then-Gov. Jeb Bush.

The uncertainty over the freeze order is having an impact on company billing procedures, Laurie said.

"No one has done any billings for policyholders who had their coverage expire but now are under orders to have it extended," he said. As a result "there will be back billing, meaning the customer will get a back bill [for interim coverage] and a new bill for the new policy."

Laurie described this as one of the "unintended consequences" of the freeze order.

"It is a mess," he said. "I understand that Gov. Crist was trying to do a good job and stop the bleeding and make it so the companies give the new legislation time to work, but there are so many unintended consequences."

Laurie said the freeze order prohibiting cancellations and nonrenewals was so restrictive that several insurance companies stopped writing new business, at least temporarily.

One of those was Auto-Owners Insurance.

Laurie said that the insurance industry is also looking at the expanded state role in the insurance market and the risk factor that represents if a major hurricane hits Florida.

"How do we pay for these potential claims? This has to be evaluated. You will hear people say we will bond it. But we don't have that current bonding capacity, and we need to develop that. We need to develop the fund and the mechanism to pay into it."

"And people are not going to want to hear this, but we basically said that we want to provide you with rate relief now because you are hurting, and there is no question we needed to do that."

"But there is a bigger bill coming, after the storm hits. So we are just gambling right now."

Laurie said a one-cent sales tax would be the best way to build a fund that would pay claims in the event of major storm damages. The fund would provide backup for claims filed with Citizens Property Insurance Corp., the state's insurer, and the Hurricane Catastrophe Insurance Fund, which provides lower-cost reinsurance to insurers as a way to knock down rates to policyholders.

"The question is when does that storm come," Laurie said. "If it comes 20 years from now, we are home free. If it comes in the next three years, we have a big problem. Because we have nothing now."

## Westbay Point fire still under investigation

The investigation into the cause of the Feb. 15 fire that damaged a condominium at Westbay Point & Moorings in Holmes Beach remains open.

The fire caused about \$50,000 in damages to condo unit 242 on the ground floor of a six-condo building at 6200 Flotilla Drive. No injuries were reported.

The fire broke out at about 6 p.m. in the home of Jane B. Smith. Smith, a son and two children evacuated as 22 firefighters rushed to the scene. Occupants in the other condominiums also evacuated.

Kurt Lathrop, a deputy fire marshal with West Manatee Fire Rescue, said the investigation remains open pending additional interviews with the homeowner.

Both Smith and her son told *The Islander* they had no idea how the fire had started.

ages caused by that company to city hall during installation of a new roof on the building last summer.

City Attorney Jim Dye noted the firm has extensive experience in construction litigation and negotiations with Roof USA's insurance company are currently at a standstill.

The city administration has been forced to relocate temporarily to the Island Baptist Church while city hall is undergoing removal and remediation of mold caused by the collapsed roof. Since that remediation effort began, however, an asbestos problem has been discovered at the building. Mayor Fran Barford said it now appears city hall will have to remain at IBC longer than the original estimate of six to eight weeks.

Barford told commissioner's she'd have an objective report on the status of all damages and repairs at the March 8 worksession, which will be held at the Holmes Beach City Hall.

## Lot-split ordinance

In other business, the commission agreed to continue the public hearing on the proposed lot-split ordinance until it had more information on how many properties might not be grandfathered for access under the ordinance.

## Construction moratorium

Commissioners agreed unanimously to the first reading of an ordinance extending the current moratorium on new construction seaward of or on the coastal construction control line to Sept. 4, 2007. The second reading of the ordinance will be at 4 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Island Baptist Church.

## City audit

City auditor Ed Leonard gave the commission some good news after reviewing the city's books for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

The city is in good shape, he noted, and his firm was able to give the city a "clean and unqualified" audit, the highest available award.

The commission also learned that the environmental education and enhancement committee plans to pursue removal of five Australian pines from the Gulffront Park habitat.

# Flora forum focuses on native plantings

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

The specialists assembled on Fat Tuesday at a Holmes Beach forum gushed not about gumbo but about the gumbo-limbo.

They were gathered not to celebrate Mardi Gras but to promote going native — planting local flora in public and private places on Anna Maria Island.

The forum, presented by the Holmes Beach Parks and Beautification Committee at city hall Feb. 20, featured four speakers on the topic of "Go Native with Plants and Trees." The panelists included Island landscaper Mike Miller, nursery owner and Manatee Audubon Society president Tom Heitzman, master gardener Maureen Hirthler and Manatee County extension service agent Peggy Dessaint.

The program began with the introduction of beautification committee members, followed by a welcome from Holmes Beach Mayor Rich Bohnenberger.

Committee member and moderator Kathy King then introduced the speakers and invited Miller, of Perfect Island Indigenous Landscaping, to make the first presentation.



Mike Miller, Peggy Dessaint, Maureen Hirthler and Tom Heitzman listen to a question during a forum on native plantings at Holmes Beach City Hall Feb. 20.

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Miller spoke about his work and his vision for the Island, illustrating his comments with photos projected on a screen at the front of the city commission chambers.

Miller began with a rhetorical question. "If it is these islands on this coast on this particular sliver of earth that we love so much, why have we landscaped them from one end to the other with the vegetation of China, the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, Madagascar, West Africa, Cuba and Brazil?"

He wondered why chambers of commerce promote the Island as "second-rate copies of a Tahitian tropical dream rather than for the unique beauty of the subtropical palm hammocks on the Gulf Coast."

Miller emphasized that locations lose their uniqueness when exotics dominate the landscape. Mother Nature, he said, designed "every corner of this earth with a unique combination of trees and plants and hence a unique beauty of its own."

Dessaint also discussed the unique characteristics of the Island, emphasizing that this is a sub-tropical rather than tropical zone, with soil different from the soil as near as Bradenton.

"The most common soil in Manatee County is Myakka soil and that isn't what's on the Island," Dessaint said. She encouraged gardeners to consider the soil, rainfall, sunlight, temperature and wind when they select plants.

Hirthler talked about gardening, specifically her recent experience landscaping her back yard. She encouraged gardeners to apply Zen principles to landscaping, such as recognizing the divine spark in all living things.

"We're people living in harmony with nature," Hirthler said. "We want to do no harm."

When Zen principles are applied, Hirthler said the

**See related story, "Pine tree removal seeds concerns," page 11.**



Landscaper Mike Miller talks about his Island vision during the public education seminar sponsored by the Holmes Beach Parks and Beautification Committee Feb. 20. Islander Photos: Lisa Neff

gardener naturally will lean toward using native plants — which will need less fertilizer, less water and make less waste.

"You have to go out of your way" to find Florida natives for sale because they are not readily available in big box stores, she said.

Heitzman and the other panelists, in addition to talking up the gumbo-limbo tree, recommended buttonwood, Christmas berry, firebush, Florida privet, Jamaican caper and native palms for coastal planting.

For groundcover, recommendations included beach elder, beach sunflower, yellow Jessamine, coral honeysuckle, golden creeper, railroad vine and sea oats.

"How do we recapture the image of nature's islands, incorporate into it the functions of our lives and end up with a native habitat more beautiful than the artificial exotic one we replaced?" Miller asked.

"Go native," he answered, "so that you could land a boat on our native bay beaches, walk across the Island to our native Gulf beaches and never see along the way the landscapes of somewhere else."

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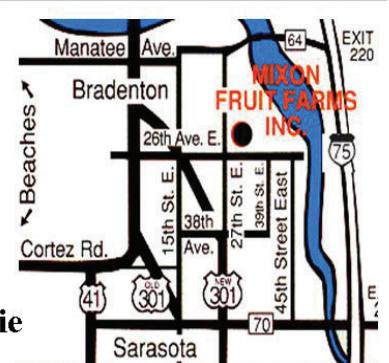
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# Our Opinion

## Disaster averted

Islanders avoided a catastrophe last week.

A boater stopped at the Pure gas station at Marina and Gulf drives to fill up his trailer vessel with fuel. Instead of filling the tank, though, he stuck the gas pump nozzle in his rod holder and pumped more than 20 gallons of fuel into his bilge.

The problem was compounded when the automatic bilge pump kicked on and spewed gasoline onto the parking lot.

Luckily, the station owner acted promptly to swab up and call firefighters, who were quickly on the scene to prevent a greater mishap.

But if the bilge pump had sparked, or someone had struck a match ... well, disaster is probably an understatement.

Kudos to the quick response, and shame on a guy who mistakes a rod holder for a fuel port.

And thank goodness the gasoline was prevented from entering the storm drains and, eventually, Anna Maria Sound.

And perhaps our first responders should be supplied in the future with materials similar to those provided by the gas station to contain potential contamination?

## Pave paradise?

Bradenton Beach citizens have been puzzling over serious parking problems and looking for solutions for the past few months.

It seems that, although there are myriad parking spaces available in the city at Cortez Beach and Coquina Beach, those spaces are inconvenient to the shops and restaurants that comprise the historical area and Bridge Street.

Bradenton Beach is experiencing what it has striven for — business is good. Yet it means parking is at a premium.

Many proposals to ease the parking crunch have been offered. One-way streets with angle parking. Eking out another space or two on side streets adjacent to Bridge Street. Park-and-ride accommodations for employees. Valet parking.

All these suggestions and more have come to light and are under review.

Also offered is a beachfront parking lot adjacent to the BeachHouse Restaurant. Owner Ed Chiles has suggested accommodating 40 parking spots for his business and others — if the city approves his plan.

And then there is the oft-touted concept of a parking garage, although we can't begin to imagine how that would alter the character of this unique, historical area.

Several years ago, city commissioners discussed the concept of elevating Tingley Memorial Library on Second Street to allow up to 50 parking spaces under the building — at a fraction of the cost of purchasing property for additional public parking.

Before the city steps into the area of big, bulky garages or paving paradise for a parking lot maybe we could try just a bit harder to first find and test smaller solutions.

Trolley up, anyone?

# The Islander

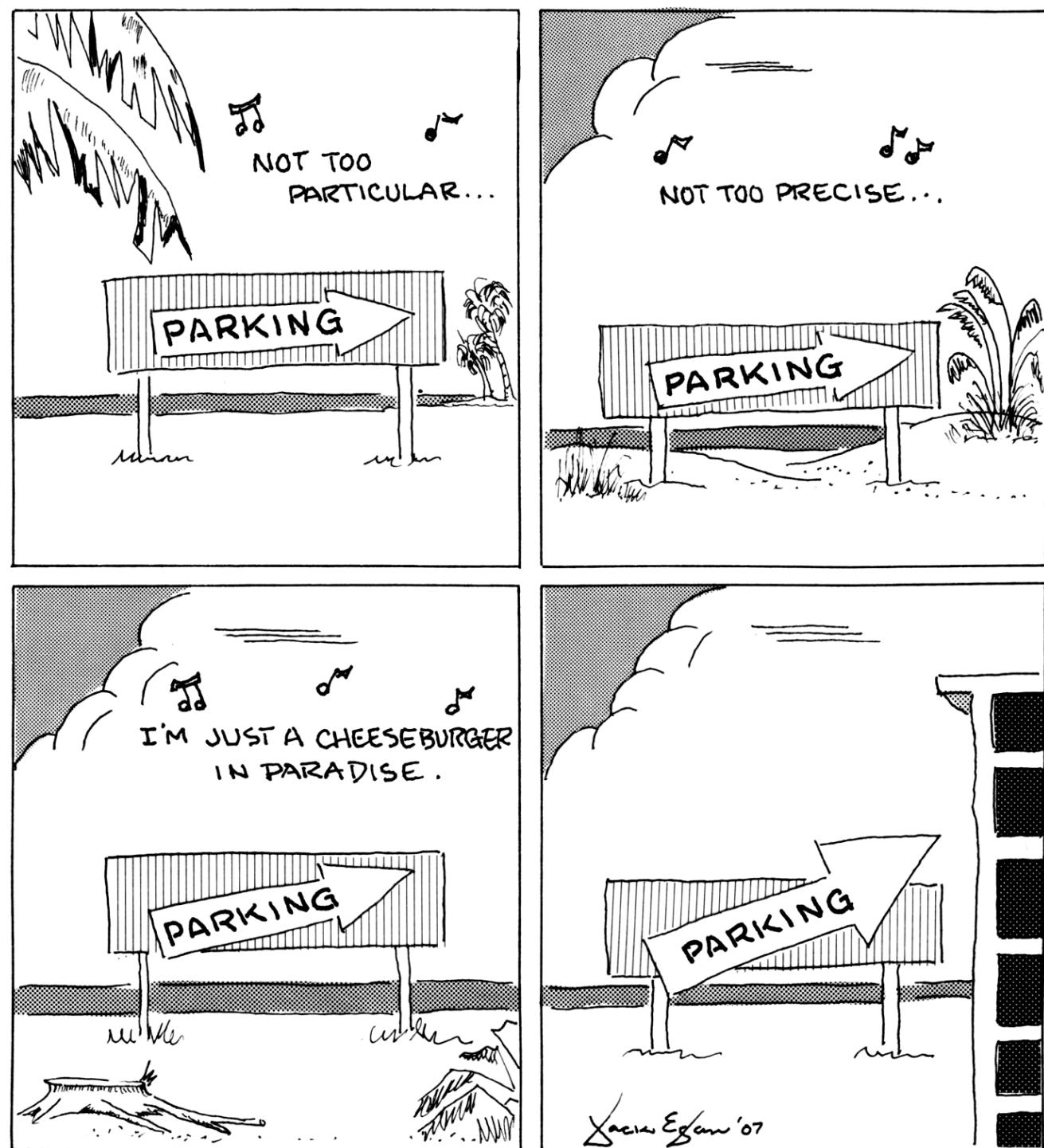
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- ▼ Publisher and Editor  
Bonner Joy, bonner@islander.org
- ▼ Editorial  
Paul Roat, News Editor, paul@islander.org  
Diana Bogan, diana@islander.org  
Rick Catlin, rick@islander.org  
Jack Egan  
Jack Elka  
Jim Hanson  
Molly S. McCartney  
Lisa Neff, lisaneff@islander.org
- ▼ Contributors  
Kevin Cassidy, kevin@islander.org  
Jesse Brisson  
Don Maloney  
Edna Tiemann
- ▼ Advertising Sales  
Nancy Ambrose, nancy@islander.org
- ▼ Accounting Services  
Melissa Burkett, melissa@islander.org
- ▼ Production Graphics  
Kelly McCormick, ads@islander.org
- ▼ Classifieds & Subscriptions  
Lisa Williams, lisa@islander.org
- ▼ Distribution  
Urbane Bouchet  
Ross Roberts  
Lisa Williams  
(All others: news@islander.org)

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**SLICK Give me a cheeseburger... hold the parking garage**

By Egan

# Your Opinion

## Fine trolley service

It's funny how a change in the weather affects Islanders. After nine years, my blood has thinned to the consistency of water. I complain as I go outside, dressed ears to foot to catch the trolley, prepared for a freeze; two hours later the temperature has risen to the 70s, so I return home carrying a bundle of winter clothes.

Some of us take for granted the fine trolley service that we have that runs every 20 minutes, is free and even accommodates bikes. I have gotten to know the select group of people who drive the buses. Many thanks to all of the drivers for their concern for our children and patience for all. They are good ambassadors for our Island.

Eight months ago Dennis, a driver I had gotten to know, was talking to me about his future plans. Dennis looked to be in his 60s. He had a witty, down-home sense of humor.

One night when I was riding with him I said, "Dennis, if you want to do me a valuable service, drop me off at my house." He did and we laughed. Another time I said "Dennis, I'm so tired, I've worked so hard. Would you take my bike off the rack?" He did. Every time I rode with him, my day was brightened by his humor. Dennis died last week. Goodbye, Dennis, and thanks for the laughs.

*Lance, Francis and Lee Bergeron, Holmes Beach*

## Kingfish trees, too

The sad plight of the loon caught in a fishing net and your article about the trees at Coquina brings to mind the plan to desecrate trees across from the Kingfish Boat Ramp.

Our wildlife is being deprived of habitat. While palm trees are picturesque, they will not provide the cover the animals need or the cooling shade for the nearby residences.

Where is our democratic right to choose? If a vote were taken, I'm sure the public would not

agree to removing the Australian pines and the other thick foliage across from the ramp. Trees are not only beautiful, they help absorb pollution and noise. The approach to the Island is lush — welcoming all and protecting our fauna.

If you chop down trees often enough  
Making life for critters tough  
In time you'll see there's no such thing  
As raccoons and possums and birds that sing.  
Which would you rather have,  
Magic trees or concrete enclaves?  
*Barbara Parkman, Holmes Beach*

## Be more open, honest

Once again, before any discussion or disclosure, trees have been removed, going from 37 to 66. I don't recall reading about it until about a week before the event.

It would be nice if those in authority to do this stuff were a little more open and honest. The reasons for not being so are, of course, obvious.

I know that there are lots of people out there that just think (Australian pines) "exotics" are going to kill us stone-cold dead one of these days if we don't get rid of them.

They have been there for at least 50 years and, again, I don't recall having read that these trees have caused a fatality. I could be wrong and I am sure that I will be corrected. That's OK.

So they take out these trees that at least have some root system and replace them with trees that only have a root ball. Do you get the feeling that whomever has the authority to do this is just picking away at these trees until they are satisfied that all or most are gone?

Shame on you for doing this and shame on you for not being able to at least have some discussion. After all, as a taxpayer, I am paying for the pleasure, not this destruction.

Please, will you stop?  
*Susan Hatch, Anna Maria*

# Your Opinion

## Overpricing

Realtors are clueless also. Prices are 25 percent too high, according to a real estate survey recently. Some conscientious analysis of value is showing up in the market.

However, there are seemingly lots of Realtors that still take ridiculously overpriced listings. What's with that? Realtors need to be honest with sellers and stop cluttering up the market with all these overpriced listings.

Mary Werther, Holmes Beach

## Colossal failure

This is an open letter to the mayor regarding this citizen's feeling on the current beach modification:

My wife and I were appalled with what has been allowed to happen to our little town. We are on the road five or six days a week, so we are not always able to stay abreast of all the planning and meetings that shape our community.

What I see from my window on Gulf Drive South is failure, but not just a failure but a colossal failure. The community citizens did not know, or were not asked their opinion, on the scope of the beachfront changes. They have failed to march on your city hall with flaming torches and demand a stop to the ruin.

The citizens seem to have reacted like the goats the political body expected. The political representatives have failed to see how utterly horrible is the plan that has ruined such a scenic and pleasant community we had.

There is no esthetic improvement to destroying those majestic pines that lined the drive, and I doubt it could be repaired in my lifetime.

For what purpose has this happened? A path for skateboarders and bicycle riders to challenge the strolling visitor? And that taxpayer-employed planner responsible for this mess called progress, can there be a bigger failure? Has he never encountered the concept of a meandering path? Is he recently arrived from some major Midwestern city?

What an irresponsible decision to destroy those trees!

Because they infringed on a transit line-built pathway? Just how invasive were those trees? Had they overrun the beach and neighborhoods? I think not. It is claimed they can't survive a 90-mph wind. Just who determined that? On which tree with what branch configuration? How many have blown over in the last decade?

Worried they will fall and block the exodus of our wealthy southern neighbors? Could we have not just topped them instead of ripping them out by the roots? Just what was wrong with a pine-needle path and very small pine cones? Didn't anyone recognize the esthetic beauty they present? Why not bulldoze it and install parking meters and chain-link fences?

How about all the conservation we have come to respect? How much more could you have disrupted that tranquil ecosystem? The dune area we have worked so hard to protect is heaped with boulders, debris and torn-up posts. And what of those old groins that trademarked our beach, to be broken in an effort to keep folks off? Just what scholarly lawyer convinced you to do that?

Why couldn't you all be content with a simple wooden barrier and sign? The people still climb on them in spite of your crazy effort, the only difference is the beach is now just one bit more ugly.

What's next? Shall we shoot the sea gulls because they foul the beach and make noise, or the turtles because they dig in the sand? Why not just pave the whole damn lot and rename us Asbury Park?

Sir, what I see is a total failure, lack of vision and arrogance of position. I am certain in a capital-driven corporation, you would be sacked.

John Sakelaris, Bradenton Beach

## A treat of a meeting

What a great surprise I had when I attended the meeting of the Anna Maria City Commission. John Quam (Big John) did a superb job of running the meeting. It was orderly and quiet and a real treat for me.

Thank you, commissioners, city staff and the beautiful mayor for a nice, productive meeting.

John Bacich, Anna Maria

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- Anna Maria city commissioners engaged in a verbal and accusatory sparring match with public works director Phil Charnock at the Feb. 18 commission meeting regarding some citizen concerns about last year's drainage projects and a recent decision by Charnock to change five addresses in the city.

- Manatee County public safety director Mike Latessa told a meeting of the Save Anna Maria organization that the Anna Maria Fire District would soon get a third EMS ambulance for calls on the Island and in Cortez.

- A delegation of Holmes Beach city residents met with Manatee County Commissioner Stan Stephens to request his helping in getting some funding from the county for a new Key Royale Bridge, estimated to cost about \$800,000. The Florida Department of Transportation had told the city the bridge needed replacing, but it could not fund the project for several years.



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|---------|-----|------|----------|
| Feb. 18 | 54  | 60   | .40      |
| Feb. 19 | 38  | 64   | 0        |
| Feb. 20 | 52  | 72   | 0        |
| Feb. 21 | 56  | 76   | 0        |
| Feb. 22 | 55  | 71   | 0        |
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# Mayor meets civic association members

By Lisa Neff

*Islander Reporter*

Municipal matters dominated Saturday morning conversation at the Island Branch Library, where the Holmes Beach mayor met with members of the Holmes Beach Civic Association.

The meeting Feb. 24 was the first of several planned chats involving Mayor Rich Bohnenberger and the civic group.

HBCA members took the opportunity to learn from the mayor about the workings of city hall.

Audience question: Which department oversees code enforcement? The mayor's answer: Public works.

Audience question: Who checks the lights during turtle nesting season? The mayor's answer: The code enforcement officer.

Audience question: Who oversees the hiring and firing of city employees? The mayor's answer: Depends on the employee. The matter may involve the mayor and a department head or, if the department head is the employee in question, the matter involves the mayor and the city commission.

Audience question: What can be done to help those on a fixed income with tax and insurance woes? The mayor's answer: The Florida tax situation is a taxing matter.

Bohnenerger began the morning talking about taxes and municipal budgets, asking audience members



*Holmes Beach Mayor Rich Bohnenberger meets with members of the Holmes Beach Civic Association Feb. 24 at the Island Branch Library. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

to take a hard look at a proposal from state GOP leaders in the Florida House and then join him in raising concerns.

The proposal involves spending caps for municipal governments, sales tax increases and property tax reductions and eliminations depending on whether real

estate is homesteaded.

Bohnenerger called the concept a "train wreck," though to property owners it might sound like "pie in the sky."

If the proposal becomes reality, the mayor said Holmes Beach would face financial hardships and warned of the elimination of municipal funding for the Anna Maria Island Community Center and beautification projects and slowing down the rate of city-financed road work.

Bohnenerger recognized that property owners need relief. "We're leading the nation in foreclosures in the state of Florida," he said. "This is not a good thing."

But the fix can't be decided too quick, the mayor continued, adding that the Legislature meets for only two months, during which time lawmakers consider hundreds of bills.

"How can we get something good in 60 days?" the mayor said.

Bohnenerger suggested lawmakers review the estimated 600 exemptions to the state sales tax, examine the method for appraising property and re-evaluate a provision that allows a newly constructed home occupied on Jan. 2 to be tax-exempt until the next year.

The civic association meets again March 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Island Branch Library in Holmes Beach.

## Shifting sands in Anna Maria spur city review

By Rick Catlin

*Islander Reporter*

Anna Maria city commissioners at their Feb. 22 meeting were all set to consider reviewing each of the 11 special event permit applications for wedding events submitted by the Sandbar Restaurant on an individual basis, particularly after Commissioner Duke Miller wondered how a private party could be a special event.

But Commission Chairman John Quam noted that under the special event ordinance, the commission could not limit the number of special event permits to a particular business or enterprise.

"We need to review our special event ordinance," Quam said. "Under our current ordinance, we can't limit special events at a location. I feel these should be approved and we should review the ordinance at our next worksession." He also suggested the commission consider charging a fee for a special event permit.

The Sandbar has submitted a special event permit application for erection of a tent on the beach for 11 weddings it has scheduled in the next five weeks.

Miller questioned why the Sandbar needs a tent if it already has a pavilion to accommodate weddings and parties. He also expressed concern about the number of parking spaces for the restaurant during weddings.

Resident Robin Wall said she thought the pavilion was supposed to replace the need for a tent. She also suggested there is a noise problem with the special events.

Diane Caniff suggested greed was a factor in the Sandbar's numerous applications.

Hold on a minute, said Sandbar owner Ed Chiles. He's not doing anything that the Sandbar hasn't done for the past 40 or 50 years. "We've been doing them for a long time and they are very benign to the Island," he said.

Outdoor weddings and the construction of the tent will occur only on weekends and weekend evenings. There isn't a parking problem because he has use of the old IGA building parking spaces if needed, and he's not trying to violate the noise ordinance. In addition, outdoor weddings are "good business" for the Sandbar,

he said, and the community, and he's going to book them whenever he can.

If the weddings are now creating an impact problem for nearby residents, let him know, Chiles added.

Unfortunately, he noted, "There are four or five people I can't please no matter what I do."

Indeed. The law firm of Lobeck and Hanson, representing adjacent property owners William and Barbara Nally, objected to the applications, claiming the commission has no authority to grant a special event permit to the Sandbar.

The commission voted 4-1 to approve the 11 permits, with Miller voting against the measure. Commissioners did agree, however, to examine the ordinance at their March worksession to determine if any changes are needed.

Mayor Fran Barford agreed with the commission's decision to discuss the ordinance. There will be more applications from the Sandbar in the future, she observed, and the city administration needs direction from the commission on how these should be handled.

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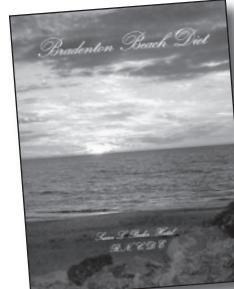


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# BB department head draws ire of resident

By Paul Roat

Concerns have been aired regarding abuse of power of a department head in Bradenton Beach.

Stephanie Cenko said in a letter to the editor to *The Islander* newspaper that Bradenton Beach project manager Lisa Marie Phillips called to her while she was standing near Anna Maria Sound near the city pier last month. Cenko said that Phillips asked why she was standing in the "riff-raff" and then asked her to be sure to properly dispose of a soda can she had in her hand.

"This woman had no right as a city employee to interrupt my solitude at the bay to demean, degrade and upset me while I'm minding my own business," Cenko wrote. "The police don't even do that. I've lived in this area on and off for over 11 years. I do not drink, smoke or do drugs. I am working on my master's of fine arts degree in poetry at Spalding University in Louisville, Ky. I am a graduate of University of South Florida in Sarasota."

Both Phillips and Mayor John Chappie declined to comment on the incident.

"This woman violated my civil rights by approaching and insulting me," Cenko continued in her letter. "I have not seen her job description; however, I'm certain that harassing the public is not part of her job."

"She obviously despises the 'riff-raff' on the bay, including me, but I have every right whether she judges me homeless or whatever, to stand on public property and watch the boats on the bay without public ridicule by any (over) paid city official."

In light of the letter, questions, according to some city residents, have been raised on how Phillips went from a city commissioner to a paid employee.

Phillips took the position in January after the resignation of Dottie Poindexter in October 2006. The job description calls for the project-program manager for the department head to "supervise and manage activities of project engineers, contractors and consultants. Provide direction during the planning, engineering, design, land acquisition and construction phases of assigned projects to assure a quality project is produced in a timely and cost-effective manner. Work directly with local, state and federal agencies to plan, organize and coordinate the writing of specific grant applications."

Ten other applicants offered their services for the position last year, coming from as far away as Indiana and Georgia. Their backgrounds ranged from emergency management directors, construction managers, real estate management, insurance agent — even one man who was a fundraiser for the American Red Cross.

"Lisa Marie knows the system," Chappie said at the time of his recommendation of her hire by the city

in December. "She knows how to write grants and is familiar with the Waterfronts Florida Program."

That program is a key element of the city's project list, including a \$50,000 state grant to develop the city as a waterfront community through enhanced environmental and aesthetic projects.

Phillips, who served for three years as a city commissioner, has a \$45,000 a year salary in the department head post. Chappie said that salary was less than the advertised range of \$47,000 to \$49,000, but due to a lack of some experience in some areas he believed the lower figure was appropriate and could be raised after a 90-day probationary period.

Phillips' "history" with the city involved a "road-

rage" incident shortly after she took office in 2003, in which she was charged with improper conduct by a neighbor. A Florida Division of Administrative Hearings judge later fined her \$2,000 for the incident.

"After a recorded history of poor public relations, Phillips was not voted by the people, but rather handed on a silver platter, the \$45,000-a-year cake position of project program manager by Bradenton Beach city commissioners," Cenko concluded in her letter. "Phillips has already begun to abuse her self-imposed power and does not deserve this position. She is a liability Bradenton Beach can no longer afford."

Cenko was unavailable for further comment on her altercation with Phillips.

## Tax proposal troubles mayors, chamber

By Lisa Neff

*Islander* Reporter

Island mayors and Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce representatives plan to hold a town meeting this spring on tax matters.

The idea came out of a meeting Feb. 23 at the chamber office, 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. The meeting involved chamber president Mary Ann Brockman, chamber chairman Mark Davis, Holmes Beach Mayor Rich Bohnenberger, Anna Maria Mayor Fran Barford and Bradenton Beach Mayor John Chappie.

The gathering was called to discuss how the chamber can partner with municipalities on events such as Bayfest in Anna Maria and a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the pier in Bradenton Beach.

The chamber plans to hold a Jazz Under the Stars concert in Anna Maria Oct. 19, the night before Bayfest takes place on Pine Avenue. Bayfest, Brockman said, is "getting bigger and bigger every year."

In Bradenton Beach, the chamber is working with the Bridge Street Merchants Association on a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the pier in September.

An idea for Holmes Beach, a sort of Taste of the Island, is in the works for 2008.

"My goal is to do something major in each city," Brockman said, adding that the chamber is working on a full year of events on the Island, as well as the Taste festival and a tradeshow in 2008.

The bulk of the morning meeting was devoted to sharing concerns about proposed changes to the tax system in the state.

"We need to alert the membership of the chamber to the dismal consequences of what's being pro-

posed," Bohnenberger said.

A tax-relief plan recommended by a state House committee would involve two phases. The first phase would roll back property taxes across the state beginning July 1. The rollback would apply to residents, out-of-state second homeowners and businesses using 2001 property tax bills and a formula that takes growth and inflation into consideration.

A second phase would involve a constitutional amendment that would eliminate property taxes on homesteaded property and then raise the state sales tax 2.5 cents. The amendment would also limit the annual growth of state and local spending.

"The tourists pay again," Brockman said, referring to the proposed increase in the sales tax and echoing what chamber directors have said across the state in February.

"Is there something we can do as Island mayors?" Barford asked.

From that question developed the idea of an Island town meeting, perhaps in the hall at St. Bernard Catholic Church and involving a representative from the Florida League of Cities, as well as municipal officials and the chamber.

"I think we need to do that," Bohnenberger said.

"The governor thinks we're awash in money," the Holmes Beach mayor said, adding that proposals circulating in Tallahassee could doom the Island's municipal governments.

Bohnenberger also shared his concerns about the state tax proposal with the Holmes Beach Civic Association during a meeting Feb. 24 at the Island Branch Library in Holmes Beach.

  
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# GSR's unsecured creditors aim for 'Targets'

By Rick Catlin  
*Islander Reporter*

Not satisfied with the progress of the attempted sale of any of bankrupt GSR Development LLC's real estate assets, the official GSR unsecured creditors committee has asked the federal bankruptcy court to allow it to take off the kid gloves and strike back at GSR principals Robert Byrne and Steve Noriega along with several other firms and individuals involved in some of GSR's "usurious" transactions.

Creditor's committee attorneys John Anthony and Stephenie Biernacki filed their 19-page motion last week asking Judge K. Robert May to allow the committee to pursue a series of interrelated claims (The Villa Rosa Claims) "in an adversary proceeding" against "The Targets," namely Byrne, Noriega, Randall Bono of Bono Eau Enterprises LLC of Sarasota, Bono LLC, The Real Estate Law Firm LLC (now defunct) and individuals Thomas Coelho and Derek Filcoff. Coelho and Filcoff are Sarasota-based business associates of Bono, the motion claims.

In essence, the creditor's committee wants court permission to file individual lawsuits and other actions against the aforementioned individuals and companies, a lawyer familiar with the case said. The committee believes that avenue holds a better chance for the creditors to get any return on their money than does the effort by GSR chief restructuring officer William Maloney to sell GSR's properties through local real estate companies.

At issue to the committee's claim of "usurious" or fraudulent transactions is the "disputed mortgage lien" of \$7.68 million held by Bono Enterprises LLC against GSR's Villa Rosa property in Anna Maria.

Anthony has called this a "tainted transaction" and has questioned why \$7.68 million was given in 2005 against a property worth \$11.5 million. He also noted that Bon Eau accused Noriega of "contriving the lending relationship as clearly usurious, as he has apparently done in the past."

Under Florida law, if a loan exceeds the maximum annual interest rate of 24 percent, it's considered "usurious" and therefore an illegal transaction that can't be enforced.

But the committee has found little comfort as to the legal and financial result of this "tainted transaction," only noting that the exact distribution of the \$7.68 million is "unclear." What's certain is that none of GSR's unsecured creditors got any of the money.

Anthony also wants to know why a "bona fide effort" to sell Villa Rosa to Gaspar Properties Inc. of Tampa fell through in September 2006, just two months after GSR declared bankruptcy.

## Specific complaints

Anthony said in his motion that the committee is currently drafting a complaint against the "Targets" that will include specific counts and causes of action. The committee, Anthony said, is "prepared to articulate each of the counts" when the court schedules a hearing on the motion.

Efforts to determine if the "specific counts" are criminal or civil charges against "Targets" were unsuccessful.

Coelho, Filcoff and Bono have been involved in other real estate transactions in Sarasota, including the refinancing of a piece of downtown Sarasota property that prompted an investigation by local and state authorities.

As of Monday, Feb. 26, May had not yet set a date for a hearing on the motion.

## Extended deadline

May did agree to a motion by GSR attorney Richard Prosser to extend the deadline to April 30 for the company to file a restructuring plan and a full financial disclosure statement.

It was GSR's third extension since the company filed bankruptcy on July 13, 2006. The original filing deadline was in November 2006.

# Congressman requests \$90 million for red tide research

By Paul Roat

U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Longboat Key, believes red tide is the No. 1 issue in Southwest Florida, and he's hoping that \$90 million of federal funds will help in the matter.

The freshman congressman has co-sponsored legislation with colleagues Connie Mack and Kathy Castor that would "provide much-needed increased funding for peer-reviewed scientific research on red tide," he said at a press conference last week.

"Red tide is a naturally occurring algal bloom that causes respiratory problems in humans and kills fish and manatees," he continued. "It also contaminates and kills shellfish and destroys coral reef and seagrass communities."

The "Save Our Shores Act," (H.R. 1091) calls for an increase in research allocations by the federal government throughout the nation for red tide studies. Red

tide blooms, in other permutations, have been recorded from Seattle, Wash., to the great lakes to Florida.

Buchanan said the red tide problem involves environmental, economic and health issues. He added that he hoped bipartisan support of the measure could ensure its passage in the congressional budget process.

Dr. Richard Pierce, director of the Mote Marine Laboratory Center for Ecotoxicology, said that he believes research into red tide — or "harmful algal blooms" — is an important step toward determining the cause and working toward a cure for eliminating or diminishing the problem.

Pierce said he believes the frequency and intensity of red tide has increased in recent years, but empirical evidence is needed to provide data to substantiate that assumption. "We need to know what the cause and effect is," he said. "We've come a long way, but we've got a long way to go."

Particularly severe red tide outbreaks have struck Southwest Florida in the past few years. In addition to the human trauma of the algal blooms — coughing, sneezing, itchy eyes — there has been an increase in marine mammal deaths, particularly manatees.

Red tide is also the bane of the economy in areas it affects. Dr. Chuck Adams is the Florida Sea Grant Marine Economist in the Florida Panhandle. His studies on the economic impacts of red tide in the Fort Walton Beach-Destin area show waterfront restaurant and hotel/motel sales at a loss of \$2.8 million and \$3.7 million per month, respectively.

In comparison, restaurant sales drop during a tropical storm by about \$532,000 per month, about 5 percent of what happens during a red tide outbreak.

"Tourism-dependent sectors of the local economy experienced a reduction in monthly revenue of 32.3 percent during red tide events," he is reported as stating.

## Annie Silver looking for a few good contractors — cheap

The Annie Silver Community Center in Bradenton Beach is looking for a few contractors willing to work for less-than-regular rates to update the aging building on the corner of 23rd Street and Avenue C.

Electrical, air conditioning and other contractors familiar with bringing structure to code regarding Americans With Disability Act standards are being sought.

The center received a \$3,000 contribution from the city of Bradenton Beach last month for upgrades to the facility.

Anyone interested in helping with the projects should contact City Commissioner Mike Pierce at 778-0643.

# Pine tree removal seeds concern

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

The removal of Australian pines along the beach in Bradenton Beach seeded concern among some audience members in a crowded landscaping forum Feb. 20.

The government-endorsed effort to remove Australian pines is not new to the Island, or the rest of Florida. But the removal of dozens of Australian pines for the construction of a multi-use path along the beach in Bradenton Beach has sparked renewed complaints about the campaign.

The tree removal has been a topic at numerous government meetings in recent weeks, as well as meetings of community groups such as Save Anna Maria. Complaints about the cuttings could also be heard around the tables at Island restaurants, at mailboxes at the Anna Maria post office, on the beach and in store parking lots.

Those who oppose the removal of the trees, which were introduced in the state in the late 1800s and later were recommended to prevent beach erosion, argue that they provide shade, block wind and offer a place for nesting birds.

Federal and state agencies, however, classify the Australian pines as a non-native, invasive species. University-based science programs have published research recommending the removal of the trees. Also, a number of environmental groups, including the Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy, have supported the removal of Australian pines in Florida.

On the 50-acre West Summerland Key, The Nature Conservancy worked with local, state and federal officials, as well as volunteers from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, to remove Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, Asian lather leaf, seaside mahoe, lead tree and bowstring hemp.

According to TNC, the key is now 99-percent free of non-native species and, where the non-natives were removed, 1,000 native plants have been planted.

"Australian pines are proven to out-compete native plants and diminish wildlife habitat quality," said Chris Bergh, director of TNC's Florida Keys program. "Their shallow roots promote shoreline erosion, inhibit sea-turtle nesting and make them prone to blow down during hurricanes. The dense carpet of needles that they produce inhibits native plant growth, undermining the foundation of the food chain and squelching the diversity of life that marks healthy natural areas."

But organized efforts to save the pines exist. On the Island, Stop Taking Our Pines was formed some years ago in an effort to halt the cutting of trees.

"Our contention is that we can co-exist with these trees," said STOP co-founder Marsha Lindsey. "I know the trees are habitat for a lot of birds."

In late February, Lindsey talked with SAM members about the two groups merging.

"I want to do something to stop this," SAM treasurer Billie Martini said of the tree removals.

"I think we ought to start fighting," she added.

However, consideration of a merger and a vote on SAM's position on the tree removals was tabled until after the Go Native forum.

The event, sponsored by the Holmes Beach's parks and beautification committee, provided an opportunity for residents to discuss the issue with experts.

"I want to see how tree-huggers can defend cutting down trees," said part-time Islander Paul Cameron as he entered city hall for the program.

Panelists included Island landscaper Mike Miller, nursery owner and Manatee Audubon president Tom Heitzman, master gardener Maureen Hirthler and county extension service agent Peggy Dessaint.

Responding to a question about the tree removals toward the end of the forum, Hirthler said the Australian pine is not a "bad" tree because it is exotic but rather because it is invasive.

"Each Australian pine seeds thousands more Australian pines" to force out native species, Hirthler said, pointing to an invasion that had occurred at Leffis Key.

Miller, of Perfect Island Indigenous Landscaping, said he once opposed the removal of the pines, that he "enjoyed the coolness of the pine shade" and had "been whistled to sleep by the nighttime bay breezes blowing through their branches."



Government agencies and a number of environmental groups classify the Australian pine as an invasive species in Florida. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

He said his opposition to their removal, however, had been based in his ignorance, arrogance and sentimentality.

"I indulged my own naivety," Miller said. "I evaded the abundant evidence that there is a huge network of well-organized pressure groups and countless departments in the state bureaucracy irrevocably entrenched against the existence of these pines in this state. In entertaining the idea at one time that I could launch a successful campaign to turn that train around, I might as well have tattooed the word 'fool' on my forehead.

"My friends, that train has left the station," Miller continued. "And there is already another train in the station ready to board.... Its ultimate destination and our long-term goal in my view should be to landscape these islands in a way that will provide an experience of the kind we enjoy in national parks. Because, so far, it is only in the national parks that we can experience ideal instances of landscapes specific to the location they are in."

Miller added that while landscaping a lot near Bean Point in Anna Maria, he removed many Australian pines. Because so many native plants grew after the removal of the trees, he reduced the number of plants purchased for the project.

"All these fabulous native plants came up," he said.

Miller encouraged audience members to "stop complaining, get organized and do something that will be meaningful and productive."

Then he invited audience members to help raise gumbo-limbo seedlings to replace the pines removed for the bike path.

"If volunteers from around the Island would organize and pot these seedlings ... in as little as 18 to 24 months you can plant them where pines have been or will be removed," Miller said. "And sooner than you could imagine, you will be parking your cars and vans in their shade."

## Island Art League's student exhibit opening Friday

The annual student art exhibit of the Anna Maria Island Art League will open with a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 2.

The reception and exhibit will be at the league's gallery, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. The exhibit will close April 6. There is a limit of three pieces per artist, and entries are already in place.

They will be judged by Charles Townsend and awards will be presented at the reception Friday.

The works have been done under the instruction of Bill Jerdon, drawing and oil painting; Cheryl Jurgensen, watercolors; Sandy French, youth creative arts and crafts; Giuliana Dole, youth "minimasters;" and Christine Galanopoulos, photography.

Additional details may be obtained by calling 778-2099.

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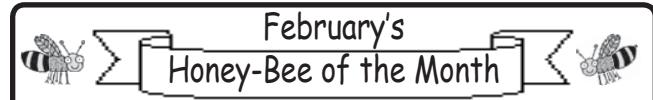
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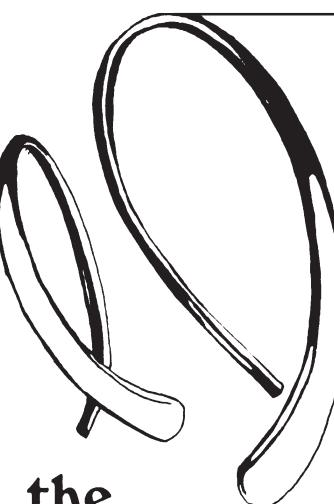
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## Tickets on sale for 2007 Tour of Homes

Tickets are going on sale for the 2007 Tour of Homes of Anna Maria Island and the quilt raffle that goes with it. The tour tickets are \$15 now, \$18 on the day of the tour.

The 14th annual tour will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 17. Six choice Anna Maria and Holmes Beach properties will be open for visitors, to reflect various styles of Island living and benefit the AMI Community Center.

A "boutique and food pantry" will offer original arts and crafts for sale and a wine tasting at the Beach Bistro is \$10 per person, also to benefit the Center.

The handmade quilt is the product of many hours of stitching by women of the Island. Tickets are \$1, or six for \$5, and are available at the Anna Maria Community Center's interim quarters in a trailer behind St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, and at the Publix Super Market, 3900 E. Bay Drive, Holmes Beach, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Tour tickets also are available at those locations and at Lor-Ell's Hair Design, 401 Pine Ave.; Ginny's Antiques and Art, 5602 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, and 9807 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria;

Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, 5313 Gulf Drive; Ace Hardware, 3352 E. Bay Drive; LaPensee Plumbing, 5348 Gulf Drive; *The Islander*, 5404 Marina Drive, all in Holmes Beach;

Crowder Brothers Ace Hardware, 5409 Manatee Ave. W.; Fusion Fitness, 6500 Manatee Ave. W.; Robyn's Nest, 7459 Manatee Ave. W., all in Bradenton; and at the Longboat Key/Lido Key/St. Armands Keys Chamber of Commerce, 6960 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key.

### Reception for three art shows scheduled at Longboat

An opening reception for three art exhibits will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 2, at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts, 6860 Longboat Drive.

One exhibit is under way now, the others will begin with the reception.

Already ongoing in the Members Gallery is the showing of paintings, drawings and costumes by Robert de Warren, artistic director of the Sarasota Ballet. It will be open until March 10.

The Northern Trust-sponsored exhibit in the Durante Gallery will run through March 25.

At the Glen Gallery, the Moshe Horowitz exhibit will be open through March 26.

Additional details may be obtained by calling 383-2345.

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### The writing life

Writer and editor Elizabeth Waterston talks with the Gulf Coast Writers Feb. 5 at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Waterston is the author of essays and novels. She also edited a biography about L.M. Montgomery, the author of the "Anne of Green Gables" series about life on a much colder island. The group meets next at 10:15 a.m. March 5 at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, to hear from former McGraw-Hill editor Alan Borne. *Islander* Photo: Edna Tiemann

## 'Stories You Won't Read in Paper' set at library

"Bonner's Top 10 Stories (you won't read in the paper!)" will be revealed in a presentation by Bonner Joy, publisher of *The Islander*, at the Island Branch Library Wednesday, March 7.

She will appear in the library's free Local Business Series at 10:30 a.m., open to the public with no reservations necessary. The library is at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Eight local authors will be at the library in another event at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 20. The writers are

### Investments topic of Rotary

"Retirement Investments for Today's Retirees" will be the topic of the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island at its weekly luncheon meeting at noon Tuesday, March 6.

A representative of Morgan Stanley will lead the discussion at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Further information is available at 447-5362.

### Stephens reception

The opening reception for the exhibit of artist Joan Stephens at the Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 2, at the guild's gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Details may be obtained by calling 778-6694.



Jolie Bell, Susan Frost, Blake Graham, Patricia Gussin, Robert Gussin, Andrew Clyde Little, Patricia McCroy and Victoria Underwood.

Other features of the March calendar at the library:

Tuesday, March 6, two events scheduled — family story hour at 10 a.m. and "Pink Design Jewelry Making" with Patricia Prior at 2 p.m.

Saturday, March 10, two events featured — family origami with Judy Pruitt from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friends of the Library travel series, "Virgin Islands," by Dana Cyr and Caroline Reed at 2 p.m.

Monday, March 12, "Earthbox Gardening" by Blake Whisenant, 11 a.m.

Tuesday, March 13, two presentations by author Jeff LaHurd on his book "Spring Training in Sarasota, 1924-1960," 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14, Friends Book Club meeting, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 21, two presentations scheduled — "Irrigation Tune-Up Kits" by the Manatee County Extension Service from 10 a.m. to noon, and "Publishing a Community Newspaper" by the Sun, 2 p.m.

The library opens at 10 a.m. daily except Sunday, closing at 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The library phone number is 778-6341.

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# Penny challenge joins 'Fling'

How many pennies do you think the jar holds? And quarters, nickels, dimes and dollars?

It's quite a lot ... and whoever guesses the correct — or closest — amount of money in the jug can be a winner of 10,000 pennies for themselves and Anna Maria Elementary School will win the big prize, the full jug of money.

The winner is to be announced at the school's "Spring Fling," an annual event put on by the AME Parent-Teacher Organization to raise funds for school enhancements.

This year's The Spring Fling dinner and dance will be held May 12 at St. Bernard Catholic Church.

The Penny challenge is sponsored by *The Islander* newspaper with help from Anna Maria resident John Bacich and "friends." Friends like Harold Bergstrom, B. Stott, Ole Olson and others, helped Bacich accumulate the coins and frequently added dollar bills to the "kitty" for several years.

Bacich wanted the money to go to a good cause and to be a "challenge" and so, Kelly Joseph, a Fling committee member and parent of a kindergarten student at AME, helped the newspaper join the PTO and the event at which to announce the winner and the total proceeds. Guests at the Spring Fling will have a "last chance" to guess what the jar holds.

It will be on view and "guesses" can be submitted at *The Islander* office in advance of the event, where contributions to next year's jug will be welcome, too.

Spring Fling tickets — with a "Beach Bash" theme this year — will go on sale April 2. For ticket or sponsorship information, call Holly Connelly at 778-1357.

*The Islander* is located in the Island Shopping Center, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. For information on the penny challenge, call 778-7978.

## Obituaries

### Richard J. Cleveringa

Richard J. Cleveringa, 97, of Bradenton, died Feb. 22. Born in Spring Lake, Mich., Mr. Cleveringa moved to Manatee County from Muskegon, Mich., 30 years ago. He worked for Lift Tech, formerly Shaw Crane, in Muskegon Heights, Mich., for 35 years. He was a member of the Century Club. He was a charter member of East Lawn Reformed Church in Muskegon and a member of Bayshore Garden Community Church, Bradenton. He supported the Robert Schuler Ministries.

Visitation was Feb. 25 and services Feb. 26 at the church. Burial will be in Lake Forest Cemetery, Grand Haven, Mich. Toale Brothers Bradenton Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

He is survived by sons Richard H. and wife Joy of Holmes Beach, and Ronald and wife Norma of Ocala; daughter Juanita Wikman and her husband David of Muskegon; brother David of Grand Haven; grandchildren Ronald, Mary Lynn Nichols, Richard, Debra Stringer, Lori Purnell, Diane Goodman, Kristin Wikman, and Melissa Wikman; nine great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

### James J. Gavin Jr.

James J. Gavin Jr., 84, of Winnetka, Ill., and Holmes Beach, died Feb. 22.

Mr. Gavin retired as vice chairman of Borg-Warner Corp. in 1985 after a career in which he also served as chief financial officer and chief executive officer of the company. He was also the chief financial officer of Indian Head Corp., New York, and served on the boards of Stepan Chemical, Service Corp. International and York International. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He was a graduate of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Visitation was Feb. 26 and services Feb. 27 in Illinois. Memorial contributions may be made to LINK Unlimited, 2221 S. State St., Chicago IL 60616, or Community of the Two Hearts, 313 High St., Hopedale Ohio 43976.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Zita; sons William and his wife Jacki of Olympia, Wash., James and his wife Shawn of Kenilworth, Ill., Kevin of North-

brook, Ill., Steven of Glencoe, Ill., and Peter of New York City; and grandchildren William, Sarah, John, Matthew, Elizabeth, Emily, Catherine and Madeleine.

### William T. Price

William T. Price, 83, of Bradenton, died Dec. 21.

Memorial services were Feb. 26 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bradenton. A jazz memorial will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. March 5 at the Moose Lodge, 100 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Brown and Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

He is survived by wife Grace.

### Kathryn A. Spencer

Kathryn A. Spencer, 84, of Bradenton Beach, died Feb. 19.

Born in Meigs County, Ohio, Mrs. Spencer moved to Anna Maria in 1963. She managed Southern Breeze apartments in Anna Maria for more than 30 years. She was a graduate of Pomeroy High School, Pomeroy, Ohio, a member of the Federated Church and Lincoln Hill Sew Rite Club. She was a life-long member of Harvey Memorial Church in Bradenton Beach, where she served as secretary, treasurer and deaconess. She was a member of Church Women United and was instrumental in the formation of All Island Denominations, where she was on the board of directors. She was a member of the Anna Maria Garden Club.

A celebration of her life will be held at noon Sunday, March 18, at the church, 300 Church Ave., Bradenton Beach. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, Disabled American Veterans, or Harvey Memorial Church, 300 Church Ave., Bradenton Beach FL 34217.

She is survived by daughter Charlesana Kay Sloan of Lakeland; sons Jon and Jim of Bradenton; sisters Lila Mitch, Martha Struble and her husband Joseph and sister-in-law Polly Legar, all of Pomeroy, and sister-in-law Dixie Smith of Portland, Ohio; grandsons Adam, Clay Wolf and Jeff Wolf; four great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

## Anna Maria Island Heritage Day

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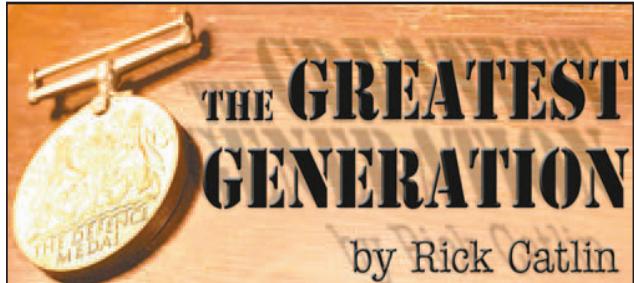
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Drinking Alone





# THE GREATEST GENERATION

by Rick Catlin

## World tour for Army nurse during World War II

Marian Tedmon of Westbay Cove in Holmes Beach was already a registered nurse and working at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

"I had just graduated from Columbia University with my nursing degree that September," she remembered. "The news about Pearl Harbor was a shock, but we all expected to be in the war sooner or later."

It didn't take long for the U.S. Army to mobilize the Columbia hospital doctors and nurses into a field hospital ready for wartime duty. Alas, Marian still had to complete some work at the hospital for her nursing requirements and didn't get to join the hospital group heading into the Army.

After she'd completed her duties at the hospital, however, a classmate who lived in Colorado called her and invited her come to Denver and join the hospital group there as it prepared for Army duty. Marian headed west, her first trip to the Rocky Mountains.

The Army agreed with her plan and in September 1942 in Denver, Marian entered the U.S. Army Nursing Corps as a second lieutenant.

"It was a pretty proud moment. I didn't have any idea what lay ahead, but everybody was joining up and I was a nurse, so I wanted to be in the nursing corps."

Sent to Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colo., Marian joined the newly formed 28th Field Hospital, composed of doctors and nurses from the Denver area. Just after Christmas 1942, she and some other nurses were sent into the Rockies to Camp Hale to attend to infantry troops from the 10th Mountain Division. It was here she would meet her future husband, a soldier in the division.

But the romance would have to wait until the war ended.

Marian returned to the 29th in May 1943, then received orders to Fort Meade in Maryland for basic training.

"Here I'd been in the Army almost eight months and was already an officer and now I had to go to basic training," she said with a laugh. "But all the girls took it in spirit. We knew it would get us ready for overseas duty. Of course, we all thought we were going to Europe."

Basic training consisted of a lot of physical training, 10-mile marches with full backpacks, overnight maneuvers, and more physical training, in addition to ward duty at the base hospital.

Marian and her colleagues were a bit surprised when the Army ordered them to San Francisco for deployment in the South Pacific.

In San Francisco, Marian and the nurses came in for more training, particularly learning how to climb up and down the ropes leading from a ship.

"We thought we were training to land with the troops," she said with another laugh.

But the lights of nearby San Francisco always beck-



*Westbay Cove resident Marian Tedmon (nee Hollenbeck) as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps during World War II.*

oned. One night, Marian and about 10 other nurses hit the town until about 2 a.m. When they got back to their base, they realized they had to be ready for more rope training at 7 a.m.

"We got a few hours sleep. We were dead tired, but we made the formation," she remembered.

From San Francisco, Marian sailed to the South Pacific with about 3,000 other service personnel on an old Dutch troop ship. The journey took 30 days and eventually, she and the rest of the 29th General Hospital were deposited on New Caledonia island in the south Pacific.

Although New Caledonia was secure from the Japanese, there was still a hospital to be built to accommodate wounded from current campaigns.

The duty was long and hard and the worst indignity — at least for someone in the U.S. Army — was that while Marian and the 29th were in the Army, they were under the command of the Navy's Admiral Halsey.

Marian received several temporary duty assignments on nearby islands, then was transferred to Fiji in late 1944 to join the John Hopkins University medical team, which comprised the 18th General Hospital unit. The hospital had been ordered to the China-Burma-India theater of the war.

The 18th shipped out to India on a 30-day voyage, eventually landing in Bombay where they were turned over to the British Army. Marian likes to joke that she "spent three years in the Army and two of them were on a ship."

From Bombay, the hospital group traveled by train across India to Calcutta. India was a "culture shock" to the Americans.

"We learned quickly you don't dare drink the local water. You take the tea, which has been boiled. Even on hot days on the train, we drank the tea, which was quite good."

From Calcutta, the group boarded yet another train, this one headed to Burma. After a few days, Marian and the group were transferred to river barges for the journey upstream from Rangoon into the jungle heartland of Burma.

"It took us three days to get upriver. Luckily, there was a rest room, of sorts, for the girls," Marian recalled, but not exactly a luxury cruise accommodation.

Eventually, the 18th reached Myitkyina, about 20 miles from the front lines. This was a designated

combat zone. Marian felt like she had been sent back in time.

"Burma was the hottest place in the world. It was 120 degrees every day and it rained every day. We had to build another hospital, but we stayed in tents that had dirt floors. When it rained — which was every day — the floors turned to mud and the snakes would come crawling in. We hired a local boy to catch the snakes. My bunk-mate, a nice girl from New York, was scared to death of the snakes. She wasn't worried about the Japanese."

The majority of patients at the hospital had succumbed to one or several of the myriad tropical diseases that plagued Allied soldiers in Burma. The severely wounded cases were flown back to India. In addition to the troops, the hospital also catered to the local population.

"Malaria, dysentery and typhoid fever were just some of the cases we saw. There were so many diseases you could catch."

The standard Army nurse uniform of starched whites and a crisp hat disappeared quickly in the jungle heat.

"We wore fatigue slacks and combat boots on duty and had a special wash-and-dry dress uniform made. It was so wet and hot that if you didn't change your boots and dry them out every day, they'd rot in a week."

It was nightmarish duty, but Marian and the other women didn't complain. Some of the replacement doctors, however, were clearly unhappy about getting assigned to a remote hospital in Burma, not one of the plush hospitals in England or Europe.

"I had one replacement doctor who said he was going to write me up for taking a nap on duty. I told him to go ahead. It was so hot, everyone had to take a nap. He never did write that report," she said with a laugh.

The enterprising Marian, however, found a way to keep her cool in the jungle. Not a smoker, she traded a



*Today, Marian Tedmon enjoys the quiet life of Holmes Beach and Westbay Cove during the winter months. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

carton of Camel cigarettes for an old electric fan that managed to keep at least her tent a bit cooler.

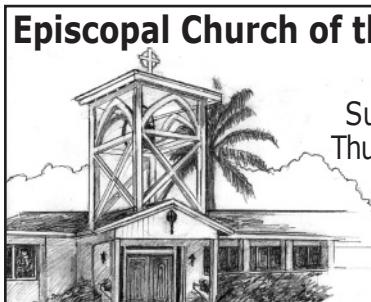
"Burma was hellish duty because of the conditions, but the original nurses and doctors at the hospital really bonded. We became like sisters and brothers. I can't say the same about some of the replacements, but we were all just doing our duty."

Her duty also called on her and her colleagues to treat local civilians and even Allied soldiers who had succumbed to the dangers of the nearby poppy fields.

"We were in the golden triangle. Poppy grew every-

PLEASE SEE GREATEST, NEXT PAGE

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**The Islander**

# Anna Maria Elementary FCAT testing under way

By Diana Bogan  
Islander Reporter

"Rest and relax." That's the advice Principal Tom Levengood has for his students at Anna Maria Elementary School as they embark on two weeks of standardized testing.

"Our students have been taught and studied hard — they know what they need to know," Levengood said. "Now it's a matter of eating a good breakfast, arriving to school on time and paying close attention to the test questions. If you relax, take a deep breath and read the question, the answer will be there."

All grade levels will engage in some form of statewide testing, which began Feb. 26 and ends March 8, be it taking the national Stanford Test or the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.

Levengood noted that it is important for students to arrive at school on time, due to the strict testing timetable. "Students arriving late will not be allowed to join their classroom until the first testing session is completed," he said.

Testing sessions can last a minimum of 20 minutes to as much as an hour for upper grade levels. To accommodate the time required for uninterrupted testing, Levengood said there would be no morning news broadcast, so that testing sessions can begin promptly at the start of the school day.

Student lunch and specials (art, music and technol-

ogy class) schedules will be adjusted around testing.

To provide students an added performance boost during the testing period, Levengood said, the lunchroom is providing free snacks, including healthy choices such as a high-protein doughnuts, peanut butter and crackers, yogurt tubes and juice.

During that break, students will be given "brain gym"

## Players open 'Drinking Alone' March 15

With the cast chosen and now deep into rehearsals, the Island Players are almost ready to open their production of the romantic comedy "Drinking Alone" on March 15.

It will be onstage at the Island Players, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays until April 1.

The play by Norm Foster follows the twists and turns of a dysfunctional family together for the first time in years at a rare reunion, with its patriarch revealing disturbing secrets but finally helping heal emotional wounds.

"Their revelations leave you smiling a lot and crying a little," said Phyllis Elfenbein, director, who has directed many productions on the Island stage.

Her cast includes John Durkin, Elaine Levin, Dianne Brin, Gabe Simches and Laura Morales.

Tickets are \$15 at the box office, which opens 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday starting March 5, or information is available by phone at 778-5755.



### A new coat

The Anna Maria Island Historical Museum gets a primer coat Feb. 13 courtesy of former city commissioner and professional painter Linda Cramer and Gary Thorpe of the city of Anna Maria. The color scheme, according to Cramer, will be "adobe dust" with "antique cream" accents. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

activities to help them regain focus. Brain gym activities are physical actions in which a person crosses the midline of his/her body — reaching with the left hand to touch the right toe, or the right hand to tug the left ear. "Exercises that cross the over the midline of your body have been shown to wake up and refresh the brain," explained Levengood, "without getting students wound up."

AME students have typically done well on the FCAT and Levengood said the staff has been trained in how to administer the test and the answer booklets. "We take it seriously," he said.

## Center gets parking lot use for 16 Pirates games

The Anna Maria Community Center will get the use of a parking lot nearby to McKechnie Field during the 16 home training games of the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Center has announced.

The lot is across the street from the stadium at the first-base side, and the \$5 fees from people parking there during that time will go to the Center.

To make the plan work, volunteers are needed to help direct drivers to spaces and collect the parking fees. Volunteers will get one ticket to a game as a reward.

To sign up as a volunteer and receive further information, call 778-1908.

## AME MENU

### Monday, March 5

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

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

### Tuesday, March 6

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

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

### Wednesday, March 7

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

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

### Thursday, March 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, March 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.

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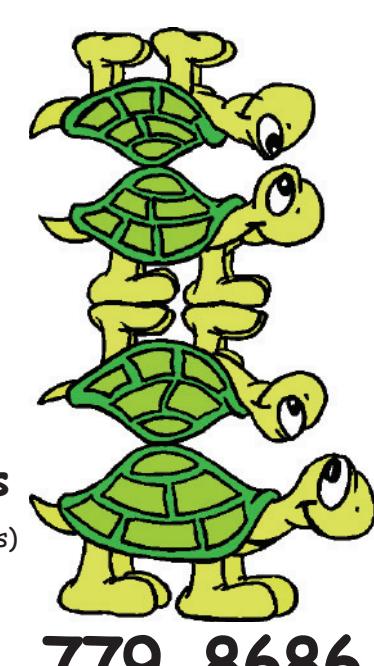
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# Historical Society heritage celebration Saturday

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

The Anna Maria Island Historical Society is planning to turn on its time machine March 3.

The non-profit will host the annual Island Heritage Days Festival on the grounds of the historical museum, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. The night before, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Sato Real Estate will usher in Heritage Days with free cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the historic Roser Cottage, 519 Pine Ave.

AMIHS board members refined plans for the annual celebration during a meeting in February. Gathered in the historic Belle Haven Cottage on the museum grounds, members discussed recruiting volunteers to cook and serve food, help set up and take down tents, sell tickets and assist with other chores.

The festival, scheduled early in a month of activities celebrating history in Manatee County, will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Last year, a section of Pine Avenue was closed for the event. This year, avoiding the need to seek a permit to close the street and security costs, the historical society will hold the event on the museum grounds.

Activities include museum and cottage tours and crafts demonstrations.

More than 50 arts and crafts vendors are expected, said Sissy Quinn, AMIHS director.

Quinn said many of the vendors participated last year. "They're really happy to be coming back," she said. "They're happy to be doing it for the historical society."

## Streetlife

### Island police reports

#### Anna Maria City

No reports available.

#### Bradenton Beach

Feb. 14, Coquina Beach, drug possession. While on patrol, officers noticed people trespassing at a life-guard stand and noticed a strong smell of marijuana when they approached the station. After a search, police charged a juvenile girl and Katerina Susan Bouchard, 18, of Bradenton, with possession of marijuana.

Feb. 17, 200 Gulf Drive N., traffic. Officers noticed a man who was known to have a suspended driver's license driving a vehicle and charged him with the infraction.

Feb. 18, 100 Gulf Drive N., Circle K, trespass. Officers issued a trespass warning for a man the store clerk said was giving cigarettes to minors.

#### Holmes Beach

Feb. 15, 4800 Second Ave., driver's license. Offi-

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## Island Heritage kickoff

Anna Maria Island's share of the Manatee County Heritage Days program will be an open house and celebration Saturday, March 3, at the historical museum, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

Also scheduled is a "spur of the moment soiree celebrating the Anna Maria that George Bean and John Roser dreamed of," said Sato Real Estate, which is sponsoring a free public event to kick off Heritage Days at its office at the Roser Cottage on Pine Avenue from 5 until 7 p.m. Friday, March 2. The event will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and those attending are encouraged to dress historically correctly "if they are so inclined."

The entertainment lineup includes clowns, the Anna Maria Island Privateers and the Gulf Drive Jazz Band.

The cuisine will be served from the Old City Jail — hot dogs and pulled pork. Also, the Anna Maria Island Community Center will sell beverages and AMIHS' bakers will sell homemade "settler's bread.

About 4 p.m. the winning raffle ticket will be drawn for a cruise for two aboard a Carnival Cruise



"Settler's bread" will be available during the annual Island Heritage Days Festival at the Anna Maria Island Historical Museum, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

Lines ship, a seven-night trip worth \$3,538 but costing the winner only the \$5 price of a ticket.

Complete information may be obtained by calling 778-5120.

In addition to discussing festival details, AMIHS board members last week adopted amended bylaws, including a statement that they will give "priority" to donated artifacts connected to the Island over general period items.

Quinn also told the board that a volunteer, Frank Whitney, plans to help archive videotaped material and paper documents onto DVDs.

## Arrest linked to nude photo circulated at Island party

A Bradenton man faces two felony charges in connection with the circulation of a nude photo of an ex-girlfriend.

The photograph, according to Manatee County court records, was circulated on the Internet and in print, including on fliers distributed at an Anna Maria Island house party last year.

Anthony Daniel Rich Jr., 19, of Bradenton, was arrested in mid-February on a charge of sexual performance by a child, a second-degree felony, and a charge of computer porn, a third-degree felony.

Rich, according to court documents, had dated

the subject for about two years.

Authorities allege that after the break-up, Rich circulated a nude picture of the ex-girlfriend. The picture was allegedly taken with Rich's cell phone when the two were still dating, and when Rich was 18 and the girl under 18.

Rich allegedly posted the photograph to the girl's page on MySpace.com, then sent an e-mail bulletin to about 500 friends inviting them to view the picture.

Rich is also accused of printing the picture on 200 fliers that were handed out at an Island party.

cers stopped a vehicle for running a stop sign and charged the driver with operating a vehicle with a revoked driver's license and the traffic infraction.

Feb. 17, 5600 block Carissa, trespass. The contractor at a construction site said someone had been dumping trash in the job-site Dumpster.

Feb. 17, 5351 Gulf Drive, Niki's Island Treasures, shoplifting. The clerk saw three teenaged girls and a boy enter the store, and noticed two rings missing when the youths left. The rings had a total value of \$57.

Feb. 18, 2900 Gulf Drive, drugs and open beverage. During a traffic stop, officers noticed a case of beer in the bed of the pickup truck. The driver said

he was holding the beer for his father. After a search of the vehicle, officers discovered a small amount of marijuana and charged Bradley R. Timms, 18, of Bradenton, with possession of drugs and alcohol.

Feb. 20, 100 block 49th Street, criminal mischief. The complainant called police when he heard glass breaking outside his home. Officers discovered that someone had draped his landscaping and car with toilet paper and had broken two jalouse windows of his front door. Damage was estimated at \$75.

Feb. 21, 4700 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria Elementary School, theft. The complainant said she left her camera in the cafeteria and, when she returned for it several hours later, it was missing. It was valued at \$130.

Feb. 21, 100 block 81st Street, burglary. The complainant said someone had entered her house through a window while she was asleep and took her purse. Credit cards, a cell phone and \$120 in cash was reported missing.

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Wednesday, Feb. 28

8 a.m. to 9 a.m. — The Longboat Key-Lido Key-St. Armands Key Chamber of Commerce holds a Good Morning LBK Breakfast at the chamber office. Information: 383-2466.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. — The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce holds its business card exchange at Walker Title, 5914 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1541.

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. — The Longboat Key-Lido Key-St. Armands Key Chamber of Commerce holds a Business After Hours program at Fred's Restaurant in Sarasota. Information: 383-2466.

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.

**Thursday, March 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 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.

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. — The Jazz Fest with the Gulf Drive Band takes place outdoors at the Anna Maria Island Historical Museum, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Bring a lawn chair. 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, March 2**

Noon to 9 p.m. — Legacy Fine Art & Productions in conjunction with Yoko Ono showcases "Come Together: The Artwork of John Lennon" in St. Armands Circle in the Park. The show continues through the weekend. Information: 388-1554.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. — The Longboat Key Center for the Arts hosts an opening reception for "The Paintings, Drawings and Costumes of Robert de Warren" at the gallery, 6860 Longboat Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 383-2345.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. — Sato Real Estate hosts a first Friday and pre-Heritage Days free cocktail reception in its offices at the Roser Cottage, 519 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 778-7200.

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. — The opening reception for the student exhibit, which runs through April 6, at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099.

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. — The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island hosts a reception for March's featured artist, Joan Stephens, 5413 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6694.

6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. — The Arts Council of Manatee County hosts a reception for "A Collector's Collection," an exhibit of work collected by the council's executive director, Robin Kaecher. The reception takes place at the gallery, 926 12th St. W., Bradenton, during the Village Artwalk in Village of the Arts. Also during the walk, an outdoor screening of "The Devil Wears Prada" takes place at the corner of 12th Street West and 11th Avenue West in Bradenton. Information: 746-2223.

6:30 p.m. — Harvey Memorial Community Church members present a talent show and refreshments, 300 Church St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-2983.

**Saturday, March 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.

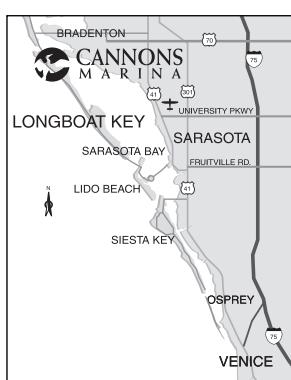
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8:30 a.m. — The Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club meets at Cafe on the Beach for breakfast and a program, Manatee Public Beach. The program had not been announced at press time. Information: www.annamariakiwanis.org.

9 a.m. to noon — The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island holds a yard sale at a residence at 521 75th St., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6694.

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. — A Pilates class is held outdoors on the deck at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-1908

9:30 a.m. — Church Women United join in the World Day of Prayer, sponsoring a program at the Church of the Annunciation, 4415 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6483.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The Anna Maria Island Historical Society Museum hosts Heritage Days with food, entertainment, arts and crafts and history on the AMIHS Museum grounds, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 778-0492.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The Tingley Memorial Library Annual Book Sale takes place at the library, 111 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 779-1208.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The Longboat Key Garden Club hosts the 31st annual Home and Garden Tour at select homes. Information: 383-8030. Fee applies.

10:30 a.m. — Save Anna Maria holds a general meeting at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, to discuss native and exotic plantings with lands caper Mike Miller. After the program, Miller will conduct a tour of the landscaping at Anna Maria City Hall.

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. — Legacy Fine Art & Productions in conjunction with Yoko Ono showcases "Come Together: The Artwork of John Lennon" in St. Armands Circle in the Park. Information: 388-1554.

**Sunday, March 4**  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Legacy Fine Art & Productions in conjunction with Yoko Ono showcases "Come Together: The Artwork of John Lennon" in St. Armands Circle in the Park. Information: 388-1554.

**Monday, March 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.

10:15 a.m. — The Gulf Coast Writers will hear from former McGraw-Hill editor Alan Borne at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-3209.

2 p.m. — The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island hosts a general membership meeting at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6694.

4 p.m. — Mote Marine Laboratory hosts a Monday@Mote program featuring Dr. Kenneth Leber of the Center for Fisheries Enhancement, 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota. Information: 941-388-4441, ext. 691.

7 p.m. — Mote Marine Laboratory hosts a special lecture, "Spirit Dive: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie," 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota. Information: 941-388-4441, ext. 691.

**Tuesday, March 6**  
8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. — The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce sponsors a seminar with Richard Todd Duran on customer trust at the Sun House Restaurant, 111 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-1541.

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

Noon — Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island meets for lunch and to hear a speaker from Morgan Stanley discuss retirement investments at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 447-5362.

2 p.m. — The Island Branch Library offers a lesson in making jewelry with Patricia Prior of Pink Design, at the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. — All Island Denominations continues the "Inquiring Minds" discussion with a talk about the Church of the Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-4579.

**Wednesday, March 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.

10:30 a.m. — The Island Branch Library hosts a talk — the top 10 stories you won't read — with The Islander publisher Bonner Joy as part of the Local Business Series, at the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce holds its networking lunch at Stonewood Grill, Cortez Road and 75th Street, Bradenton. Information: 778-1541. Fee applies.

**Ongoing:**

- Throughout March the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive in Holmes Beach, will feature Artist Guild member Joan Valenza's "The Light-houses of the East Coast" in a display case near the library entrance.

- Throughout March, the Artful Waters Gallery at SevenShores, a partnership with ArtCenter Manatee, hosts an exhibit of artist Shirley Rush Dean's work. The gallery, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays, is located at the SevenShores sales office, 12320 Manatee Ave.

- 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 gallery and studio, 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. Also, the museum hosts an array of 30 antique hand mirrors in February while an exhibit of World War I sheet music, wood decoys and antique tools is set up at the nearby Belle Haven Cottage. Information: 746-4556.

- The Anna Maria Island Community Center hosts a variety of programs and classes through the season at various locations. Information: 778-1908.

- Through March 25 the Longboat Key Center for the Arts hosts a Northern Trust Art Exhibit in the Durante Gallery and the Moshe Horowitz Art Exhibit in the Glen Gallery at the center, 6860 Longboat Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 383-2345.

**Coming up:**

- On March 9-10 The Relay for Life benefiting the American Cancer Society takes place at Coquina Beach. Information: 518-4431.

- On March 10-11 the Anna Maria Island Art League hosts the 19th annual Springfest Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts in the Holmes Beach City Hall Park. Information: 778-2099.

- March 12 Mote Marine Laboratory hosts a special lecture, "Red Tide Research: Progress Through Collaboration," 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota. Information: 941-388-4441, ext. 691.

**Save the Date:**

- On March 30 the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce holds its spring fashion show at the Bradenton Yacht Club, 100 Oak Ave. on Snead Island. Information: 778-1541. Fee applies.

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

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## Harvey presents local talent

The Harvey Memorial Community Church in Bradenton Beach will present a fun evening of entertainment at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 2, when members present a talent show.

Performances will include fun spoofs and musical entertainment including "Sea Notes," a local band.

"Everyone is welcome," said Bernice Wortman, "and we invite everyone for refreshments, too."

Harvey Church is located at 300 Church St. in Bradenton Beach. For more information, call Wortman at 778-2983.

## Center's pilates class moving

The Saturday pilates class led by Laura Bennett will meet on the deck of the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach, at 9:30 a.m. on March 3, 24 and 31, the Center has announced.

All other Saturday classes in March will continue to be in the activity hall of St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach, as work continues on the Center's quarters in Anna Maria. Details are available at 778-1908.

## 'Customer Trust' seminar Tuesday

A free seminar titled "12 Steps to Customer Trust" will be from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Sun House Restaurant, 111 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach.

Sponsored by the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, it will feature Richard Todd Duran, who will outline "crucial behavioral guidelines for establishing and maintaining customer relationships."

RSVPs are required by 5 p.m. Monday, March 5. Full details are available at 778-1541.

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*Super Bowl Sunday brought success in Island houses of worship as well as on the Miami football field. All Island Denominations churches collected \$3,170.80 in donations for AID on Feb. 4. Representatives of AID member churches presented a check to AID treasurer Rein Mueller. Pictured are Olga Ippedico from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church; Monica Fleisch and Kass Martin from St. Bernard Catholic Church; Mueller; and Janet Robinson from the Church of the Annunciation. For more information about AID, call 778-4579. Islander Photo: Nancy Ambrose*

## Food drive gets under way

The annual food drive by Curves fitness center will begin Thursday, March 1, and continue through the month, said JoAnn Swan, owner of Curves of Holmes Beach.

A special incentive is offered to full-time residents in the form of waiving Curves service fee for a new member who brings a bag of nonperishable foodstuff to Curves at 5366 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, for the first 10 days of the drive. Some restrictions apply, Swan said. Additional information may be obtained by calling 778-2878.

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## Resources for writers to be discussed at meeting

Alan Borne, former McGraw-Hill Publishing Co. editor, will discuss free resources available to writers when the Gulf Coast Writers group meets at 10:15 a.m. Monday, March 5.

The meeting will be at the Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Borne has retired from McGraw-Hill and is a consultant, career coach and training facilitator in Orlando.

Further information is available at 778-3209 or 761-9036.

## 'Lighthouses' exhibit coming

"The Lighthouses of the East Coast" will be the subject of an exhibit by Joan Valenza at the Island Branch Library through March.

Under glass in the foyer will be her collection of miniature lighthouse replicas, and in the library she will display oil paintings of lighthouses and tall ships.

The library is at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. It opens at 10 a.m. daily except Sunday, closing at 8 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Further information may be obtained by calling 778-6341.

## Chamber lunch announced

The monthly networking luncheon of the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, at the Stonewood Restaurant, 75th Street and Cortez Road, Bradenton. RSVPs are necessary at 778-1541.

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# Flag football season moves to playoffs

By Kevin Cassidy  
Islander Reporter

The Anna Maria Island Community Center's inaugural foray into flag football has been deemed a "huge success" by the organizers, with more than 60 players in three divisions playing football.

Feb. 23-24 started off the league's "Superbowl" tournament, where each team in each division plays one another, with the resulting top two teams set to meet in the Flag Football Superbowl on March 3.

On Feb. 24, Yellow blasted White 30-13 in junior division play behind a huge day from quarterback/defensive back Christian Hightower. Hightower opened the scoring with an interception that he took to the house from 40 yards out to give Yellow an early 6-0 lead.

After stopping White defensively, Yellow got the ball back and struck again. This time Hightower found Josh Schmidt behind the White defense for a 25-yard touchdown pass and a 12-0 lead.

Yellow got another defensive stop, but White answered with one of its own when Blaine Jenefsky intercepted Hightower to give the ball back to White. White then drove down the field and scored when quarterback Max Moneuse found Lexi Moore for a seven-yard touchdown pass. Moneuse then connected with Jenefsky on the extra point pass to pull to 12-7.

Yellow answered right back with a drive that ended when Hightower again found Schmidt and he made 28-yard catch and run for an 18-7 lead.

Yellow put the game away when Hightower opened



White defensive back Max Moneuse breaks up a pass intended for Josh Schmidt during junior division flag football action. *Islander Photo: Kevin Cassidy*

the second half with an electrifying 70-yard TD run that gave Yellow a 24-7 lead.

White fought hard in an attempt to get back in the game, but things looked dark after Schmidt intercepted a pass and returned it to the White 20-yard line. The White defense held and got the ball back. Unsuccessful plays on first, second and third downs did nothing to the White team's confidence as Chris Galati took the ball on a sweep

on fourth down and scored on a scintillating 70-yard run to pull the White to 24-13 with time winding down.

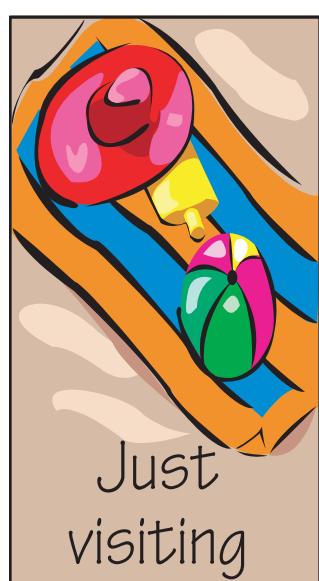
Unfortunately for White, a 40-yard run by Hightower that would have been a touchdown — if not for the great flag grab by Moneuse — was followed by a 25-yard TD pass from Hightower to Hunter Parrish. Hightower then drove the nail into the White coffin when he connected

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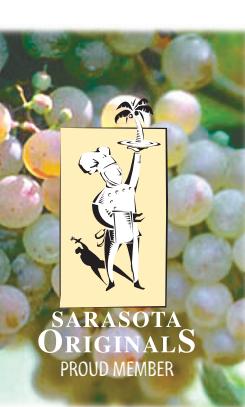
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**Sports**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

with Mikey Ellsworth for the extra point to close the game out with Yellow on top by a 30-13 score.

**Basketball dishes up season awards**

The Anna Maria Island Community Center held its awards party on Feb. 23 and handed out trophies in four categories: sportsmanship, most valuable female and male players and defensive MVP.

Zach Schield won the sportsmanship award in the Premier Division. Premier defensive MVP was Jordan Pritchard, while David Tyson and Nash Thompson won the male and female MVP awards respectively.

Molly McDonough captured the Division I sportsmanship award, while Tommy Price grabbed the defensive MVP award. Blake Wilson won the male MVP award, while Kelly Guerin and Emma Barlow shared female MVP honors.

Division II sportsmanship winner was Zach Guerin with Travis Belsito taking the defensive MVP award. Justin Garrett captured the male MVP, while Becca Butler and Stephanie Purnell shared female MVP honors.

Joselin Presswood earned the sportsmanship award in Division III, while Josh Zawistoski snagged the defensive MVP award. Male MVP was Neil Carper with Anna Maria Galati earning the female MVP award.

Last, but not least, Cailey Aspril was named as the most valuable cheerleader.

Playoff champions will be crowned on Feb. 28 in Division III, while March 1 looms large for Premier teams and Division I. Division II's championship game isn't until March 6.

Good luck to all of the remaining teams.

**Soccer news**

Islanders Stephen Thomas, who plays for the U15 IMG soccer team and Christina Papazian, Erin Mulrine, Ally Titworth and Martine Miller of the U14 Mana-

tee Magic girl's soccer team all had good showings in recent tournaments.

Thomas and his IMG mates captured the Disney Classic Tournament held Feb. 17-19 at the Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando. The Disney Classic fielded soccer teams from all over the United States. IMG defeated West Pasco United 5-2 in its opening game and followed that with a 1-0 win over IUS Elite. They dropped a 1-0 decision in their third pool-play game but advanced to the semifinals. There they captured a 3-2 win over E United of Connecticut before winning the tournament with a 2-1 overtime victory over FSA Lightning.

The U14 Magic girls finished in second place at the Gator Classic soccer tournament Feb. 17-19 in Gainesville. They lost to Sunrise, the second ranked team in Florida by a 2-0 score.

The Magic girls advanced to the finals by defeating a team from Georgia 1-0. They defeated Jacksonville 3-0, Palm Beach 2-0 and tied Naples 1-1 in other games that weekend.

Papazian was solid in net over the weekend as were her defenders, Jordan Ponto, Nicole Dixon, Shelby Rae and Mary Isminger. Miller, Erin Mulrine, Madison Bradley and Ashley Nelson notched goals for the Magic,



Stephen Thomas (first player from left, back row) and his IMG Academies soccer teammates pose for a photo after winning the Disney Classic soccer tournament in Orlando. *Islander Photo: Courtesy Susan Thomas*

which also received strong performances from midfielders Titworth, Katherine Byrne and Corey Nolan.

Both teams now turn their focus to Florida State Cup and Region C Cup finals.

**Key Royale golf news**

There was another full week of golf action at the Key Royale Club in Holmes Beach starting Feb. 19 when the men teed it up for a nine-hole individual-low-net competition.

Matt Behan lapped the field, firing a 4-under-par 28 to capture a three-shot victory over Tom Warda and Dough Maynard, who each shot 31 to tie for second. Gino DiClementi, Jim Yates, Fred Meyer and Bob Dickinson each managed an even-par 32 to tie for third place.

Jean Holmes and Cindy Miller both fired 1-over-par 33s to tie for first in flight AA during ladies' golf action on Feb. 20 at the club. Penny Williams was a shot back in third place with a 34.

Grace Sayles and Mary Selby both shot one-under 31 to tie for first place in flight A, which had Meredith Slavin alone in third place with a 33.

Flight B winner was Sue Christianson, who fired an even-par 32 to finish one shot ahead of Barb Mason and two shots in front of Frankie Smith-Williams.

The men were back to hack their way twice around the Key Royale track in a low-net-of-partner's game. The team of Earl Ritchie and Bill Melvin managed a combined one-under 127 to capture the day's bragging rights, one shot ahead of two teams. John Atkinson and Dick Grimm along with Tom Lewis and Dick Ware who both managed an even-par score to tie for second place.

The week that was in Key Royale ended on Feb. 23 with a weekly nine-hole coed tournament. The team of Teddy Morgan, Al Morgan, Jeanette Cashman and Gordon McKenna fired a 6-under-par 26 to win the best ball of foursome tournament. There was a two-way tie for second place with the team of Jane Winegarden,

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**Sports**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Joyce Brown, John Shey and Jim Finn matching the team of Dottie McKinna, Mary Selby, Jerry Brown and Fred Proxy with identical 27s.

**More golf news**

Tony Webb, a 10-year resident of Holmes Beach, won gold on Feb. 21 in the Gulf Coast Senior Games at Buffalo Creek Golf Course. Webb shot a 4-over-par 76 to take first place and the gold medal in the 65-69 age division. Webb's 76 was the second lowest score of the



Webb

division. Only Ed Schied, who is the reigning Manatee County and National Senior Games champion managed to shoot a better score with a 75.

On Feb. 20, Webb warmed up for the golf tournament by competing in basketball free-throw shooting, hitting 23 of 30 shots to win the silver

medal in that competition. On Feb. 23, Webb entered the tennis doubles competition and captured another medal, the bronze.

**Horseshoe news**

Ron Pepka teamed up with Rod Bussey to capture the Feb. 21 horseshoe competition at the Anna Maria City Hall pits. They emerged from a six-team playoff and defeated the team of Gene Bobeldyk and Hank Huyge 23-12 in the finals.

Fourteen teams were whittled down to three after Feb. 17 pool-play action. Tom Skoloda and Fred Huyge battled it out with the team of Al Norman and George McKay in the first playoff match, but fell 22-19 in an exciting game that saw several lead changes. Norman and McKay then battled their way past the team of John Johnson and Leo Hutton by a 22-18 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.

**AMICC basketball playoffs****Premier (ages 14-17)**

March 1 6:30 p.m. Feb. 26 winner vs. IRE

**Division I (ages 12-13)**

March 1 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27 winner vs. Paradise

**Division II (ages 10-11)**

March 6 6:30 p.m. Feb. 27 winner vs. A&amp;E

**Division III (ages 8-9)**

Feb. 28 6:30 p.m. Feb. 26 winner vs. Kumon

**AMICC Basketball League standings as of Feb. 15**

| Team                    | Wins | Losses |
|-------------------------|------|--------|
| <b>Premier Division</b> |      |        |
| IRE                     | 6    | 2      |
| Ralph's                 | 5    | 3      |
| WCAC                    | 1    | 7      |
| <b>Division I</b>       |      |        |
| Paradise                | 9    | 0      |
| Oyster Bar              | 5    | 4      |
| Cycles                  | 3    | 6      |
| Danziger                | 1    | 8      |
| <b>Division II</b>      |      |        |
| A&E                     | 7    | 2      |
| Dips                    | 7    | 2      |
| ReMax                   | 4    | 5      |
| Duncan                  | 0    | 9      |
| <b>Division III</b>     |      |        |
| Kumon                   | 7    | 1      |
| Ooh La La               | 6    | 2      |
| Publix                  | 4    | 4      |
| Jessie's                | 2    | 6      |
| Ross                    | 1    | 7      |

**Center Flag Football standings**

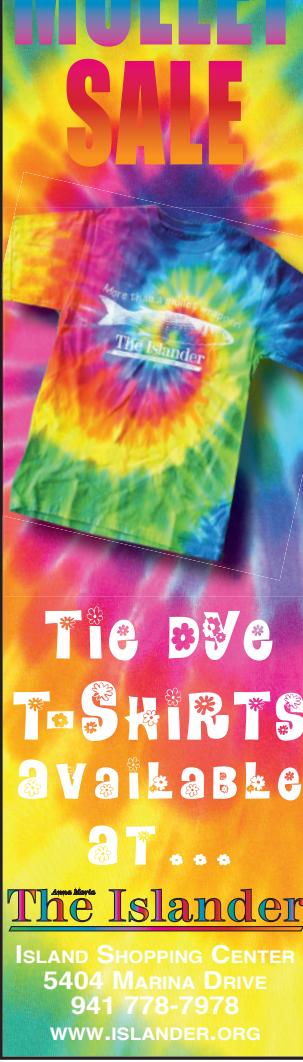
| Team                                | Won | Loss | Points For | Points Against |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------|------------|----------------|
| <b>Youth Division (Grades 6-8)</b>  |     |      |            |                |
| Yellow                              | 3   | 0    | 103        | 63             |
| White                               | 2   | 1    | 84         | 70             |
| Green                               | 1   | 2    | 83         | 89             |
| Black                               | 0   | 3    | 61         | 109            |
| <b>Junior Division (Grades 3-5)</b> |     |      |            |                |
| Yellow                              | 4   | 1    | 152        | 97             |
| Black                               | 3   | 2    | 108        | 92             |
| White                               | 0   | 4    | 66         | 147            |

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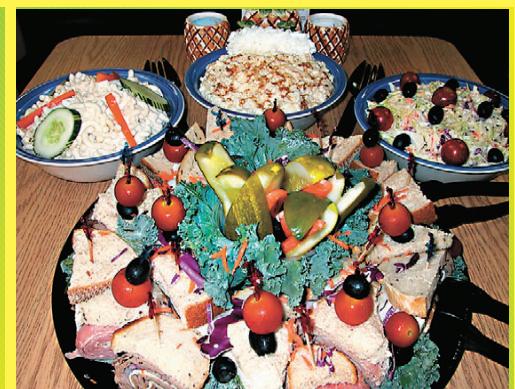
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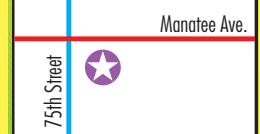
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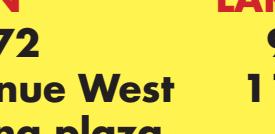
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**COMING SOON TO  
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# High season is definitely here; squid catches colossal attention

"Welcome back, winter friends!"

Based on an unscientific survey conducted while driving up and down the Island last week, "the season" is definitely here.

Now is the time to prepare for 20-minute trips just to cross a bridge to or from Anna Maria Island.

Now is the time to gird yourself for long, long delays getting anywhere when weather is nice and our winter friends are availing themselves of our beautiful beaches, quaint shops and wonderful restaurants.

Several years ago, I wrote what I'd hoped was a tongue-in-cheek article about how to survive the high tourist season. It drew a slew of comments, few favorable, and at least one call to police to escort one gentleman from the office who had more than a few choice words to say about the column.

In an effort to avoid such confrontations in light of the recent, wonderful weather, here are some thoughts which might brighten the upcoming weeks of wackiness that lots of people crowded in a not-so-big place can cause.

First, be nice.

No, you can't expect to get into your favorite restaurant or lounge or shop without some kind of a delay. It's the Season, for goodness sake, the time of year that all of our friends in the hospitality business need to make their annual bankroll. Sure, they still love us, and sure, they love us patronizing their establishments, but hey! Give 'em a break if they don't give us all big hugs right now. They're busy making money!

Second tip, take your time.

A five-minute jaunt to the store just ain't gonna cut it for the next month. Traffic is jammed, store aisles are jammed, checkouts are jammed. Plan ahead, be patient, and enjoy the crowds of sunburned folks while you just chill.

Remember the joys of making reservations at your favorite restaurants. Actually, it's always amazed me that people don't always make reservations, but for the next few weeks, make it a practice and perhaps a promise in the future to call ahead and book a table. Everyone welcomes it, some places require it, and it's just a neighborly thing to do. See "be nice" above for more information.

Third tip, remember that timing is everything.

Here's the average day on the beach: Sun comes up about 7 a.m. It's kinda chilly. People on vacation are sleeping in. Then they go to breakfast. Then they go sightseeing. Then they go to the beach, probably around 11-ish. They sun, they sand, they have fun, they grab lunch, they clean up later and then go to dinner.

Why must we run our errands at 11-ish? Beachgoer traffic is atrocious, if the last few days are any indication at that hour. Why try to fight it?

Why go to lunch at the stroke of noon or 1 p.m.? If recent excursions to Island restaurants are a clue, the noon-to-2 p.m. hours are wickedly packed, but at 11 a.m. or 2:30 in the afternoon there are empty tables galore and a great sigh from the servers.

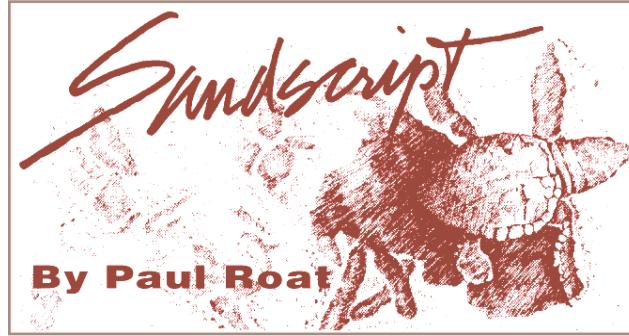
Ditto dinner at the prime 6-8 p.m. hours. Try earlier, or a bit later — after making reservations, of course — and avoid the crowds.

## Best 'insider' tip on the Island?

The best way to circumnavigate the crowds is to utilize one of the best things the Island has going for it — the trolley.

Did I mention that the trolley is free?

Saunter to the road — see tip No. 2 above — wait a bit, and jump on a free ride to pretty much anywhere you want to go. It's the best way to avoid the



By Paul Roat

traffic, let somebody else worry about hitting something, and enjoy the scenery from a view other than over your clenched, white knuckles on the steering wheel.

The second insider tip to travel around the Island is one that I can't quite recommend at this time of year: bikes or scooters.

There are just too many people with big cars and a small case of confusion to be able to safely scoot around the Island right now on something smaller than a big vehicle.

Any other time of year is great for bikes and scooters, but they quite frankly scare the bejeezus out of me right now.

But riding in one of those big, green buses is definitely the safe way to go right now.

## Calamari, anyone?

Fishers off New Zealand reeled up an unexpected catch last week — a colossal squid, weighing almost 1,000 pounds and stretching out to a length of about 40 feet.

The colossal squid, *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni*, isn't the same as the giant squid, *Architeuthis sp.* The

colossal squid is, well, more colossal in size and weight, and is found throughout the southern oceans off Antarctica.

Seems a fishing boat was catching Chilean sea bass, or toothfish, when they caught the squid and eventually got it onto the boat. It was the biggest such critter ever spotted, let alone caught.

According to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, "Unlike the giant squid, whose tentacles are equipped with suckers lined with small teeth, the suckers at the tips of the colossal squid's tentacles have sharp swiveling hooks. Its body is wider and stouter, and therefore heavier, than that of the giant squid. The beak of *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni* is the largest known of any squid. The colossal squid is also believed to have the largest eyes in the animal kingdom."

"Many sperm whales carry scars on their backs believed to be caused by the hooks of colossal squid. Colossal Squid are a major prey item for Antarctic sperm whales feeding in the Southern Ocean; 14 percent of the squid beaks found in the stomachs of these sperm whales are those of the colossal squid, which indicates that colossal squid make up 77 percent of the biomass consumed by these whales."

So you've got a critter the size of a school bus that puts up a good fight with a sperm whale, and those New Zealand fishers actually brought it up to their boat? Jeez.

## Sandscript factoid

Mote Marine Laboratory scientists are looking at a big squid — well, if 13 feet is considered big after our view of the colossal squid world — captured off the Florida Keys last week. No word yet as to what species it is.

## Washing up

*Mary Bellows, left, and Lauren Wickman, both 16 and from Bradenton, soap up a car at the Island Baptist Church Saturday afternoon. The church youth group washed cars and sold baked goods to raise money for a trip to Panama City Beach in June. The youth group members hope to attend the BigStuf Christian Camp. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*



## High-flying proposal

A plane chartered out of Ohio trails a message for one unsuspecting diner at the Sandbar Restaurant Feb. 22: "I love you Anthony. Will you marry me? Jo Ann." "Anthony" is Capt. Anthony Manali Jr. of Anna Maria City and "Jo Ann" is Jo Ann Fumerelle, a Bradenton business owner. Fumerelle flew the question and Manali replied: "I said yes immediately." Islander Photos: Lisa Neff

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# Whiting, sheepsies hit the hooks in a big way

By Capt. Mike Heistand

Whiting and sheepshead are the fish du jour to go after right now for backwater action, with lots of hookups being reported just about everywhere. Other inshore reports include redfish, trout and a few snook.

Offshore action is producing some really big amberjack, some at better than 70 pounds, plus snapper, triggerfish, grouper and an occasional cobia.

At **Corky's Bait & Tackle Shop** on Cortez Road, reports are good with the rising air and water temperatures and abundant sunshine. Fishers are heading out in droves and the fishing has been "tremendous." In the waters of Palma Sola Bay, anglers have reported lots of redfish and trout being caught using live shrimp and Black Salty's. In Sarasota Bay near the docks and seawalls, fishers have reported catching lots of sheepshead using Mr. Sheepshead's cooked sand fleas and "Magic Potion," as well as redfish, trout, whiting and pompano on live shrimp. There are also reports of big snook caught with Black Salty's — a new bait available on the west coast of Florida. Offshore, there are good catches of whiting, pompano, snapper and some redfish on live shrimp, as well as some cobia and snook.

**Capt. Thom Smith** said he's putting his charters onto small redfish, sheepshead and some good-sized trout.

**Bill Lowman** at **Island Discount Tackle at Catchers Marina** in Holmes Beach said it's sheepshead and reds in the backwater right now, with shrimp being the bait of choice. Offshore action is good for mangrove snapper, triggerfish, lane snapper and some really big amberjack, some of the latter coming in at 70 pounds. There are also good reports of porgies, mutton snapper and yellowtail, Bill added.

**Bob Kilb** at the **Rod & Reel Pier** said fishers have been catching "tons" of whiting and a few sheepshead.



## ... and now, one of each

Kurt Whitenack caught both gag and red grouper while fishing with Capt. Larry McGuire. The fish were caught prior to the federal grouper fishing prohibition taking effect Feb. 15, said McGuire.

| Anna Maria Island Tides |         |           |           |           |           |  |  |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
| Moon                    | Date    | AM HIGH   | AM LOW    | PM HIGH   | PM LOW    |  |  |
| Feb 28                  | 9:28p*  | 2.0       | 4:22 -0.6 | 12:32 1.2 | 2:38 1.1  |  |  |
| Mar 1                   | 10:17p* | 2.0       | 4:54 -0.5 | 12:28 1.2 | 3:42 0.9  |  |  |
| Mar 2                   | 10:59p* | 1.9       | 5:19 -0.4 | 12:27 1.3 | 4:28 0.7  |  |  |
| FM Mar 3                | 11:37p* | 1.8       | 5:38 -0.2 | 12:27 1.3 | 5:10 0.5  |  |  |
| Mar 4                   | -       | 5:56 -0.1 | 12:31 1.4 | 5:52 0.3  |           |  |  |
| Mar 5                   | 12:16   | 1.7       | 6:18 0.1  | 12:40 1.6 | 6:28 0.2  |  |  |
| Mar 6                   | 12:58   | 1.5       | 6:36 0.3  | 12:55 1.7 | 7:10 0.0  |  |  |
| Mar 7                   | 1:44am  | 1.4       | 6:51 0.5  | 1:14 1.9  | 7:52 -0.1 |  |  |

\*Cortez High Tides 7 minutes later — lows 1:06 later

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**The Islander**



## Grouper goodies

Matt Whitenack, 16, and brother Drew, 12, caught some nice-sized gag and red grouper, respectively, while fishing offshore with Capt. Larry McGuire.

**Jesus Rosario** at the **Anna Maria City Pier** said anglers there have been doing well with sheepshead, mangrove snapper, whiting and a few mackerel, and he added that fishing should start to "really pick up" as the weather improves.

**At Annie's Bait and Tackle** in Cortez, **Capt. Mark Johnson** said sheepshead have "invaded the bays," with catches up to 6 pounds being common. He's also catching small redfish, and snook fishing is "OK, but most are small." **Capt. Sam Kimball** said his offshore trips are producing mangrove snapper to 6 pounds, triggerfish and grunts.

**Dave Johnson** at **Snead Island Crab House** said there are good reports of mangrove snapper and sheepshead coming from the artificial reefs, with some of the sheepsies topping 5 pounds. There are also some mackerel and whiting being caught, but snook action is scarce.

**Capt. Rick Gross** on **Fishy Business** out of **Catchers Marina** said he's catching lots of sheepshead, mangrove snapper, triggerfish and lots of small grouper. Snook action shouldn't start to really heat up for another month or so, he predicted.

**At Skyway Bait and Tackle**, reports include small redfish coming out of Terra Ceia Bay and sheepshead off the Sunshine Skyway Bridge area in Tampa Bay. There are also reports of lots of whiting being caught.

**Capt. Zach Zacharias** on the **Dee-Jay II** out of **Parrot Cove Marina** said his charters have been enjoying great weather and great angling action the past couple of days. "The Gulf has been giving up huge sheepshead and lots of 'em," Capt. Zach said, "and also mangrove snapper and gag grouper. Most of the action has been in about 35 feet of water over hard

bottom. Inshore it has been more big sheepsies, a handful of reds and snook, and some really nice speckled trout to 20 inches." He said he took Dennis Waterson and his wife from Illinois out last week and the couple "slayed some sheepsies up to 8 pounds just offshore. Lloyd Johnston and his crew from Minnesota also did well with the sheepsies, mangrove snapper and the best flounder catch I have seen in recent memory. The foursome also did well with speckled trout to 20 inches in Palma Sola."

On my boat **Magic**, we've been getting into all the sheepshead you could want, some up to 5 pounds in size, plus mangrove snapper to 3 pounds, black drum to 5 pounds and lots of whiting.

Good luck and good fishing.

**Capt. Mike Heistand** has been a local fishing guide for more than 25 years. 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.

## Two-day 'America's Boating' course set by auxiliary

A two-day course on "America's Boating" is being offered by Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 81 March 10 and 17 at the flotilla's building in G.T. Bray Park, 5801 33rd Ave. W., Bradenton.

Devoted to boating safety and seamanship, the classes will be from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. both days. Cost is \$30 for materials. For information and registration, call 795-6189 or 761-4847.

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## GARAGE SALES

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

YARD SALE: 9am-noon Saturday, March 3. Items from several attics. 521 75th St., Holmes Beach.

GARAGE SALE: 8am-noon Saturday, March 3. Thule car-top carrier, trailer hitch, kayak, dehumidifier, etc. 6250 Holmes Blvd., No. 51, Holmes Beach.

SELL it fast with an ad in The Islander.

## GARAGE SALES Continued

ANNUAL FLEA MARKET: 9am-3pm Saturday, March 3. Baked goods, clothing, jewelry, linens, tools, books, white elephants, furniture. Mt. Vernon's clubhouse. 4701 Independence Drive, South off of Cortez Road.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE sale: 8am-? Saturday, March 3. Furniture, electronics, clothing, surfboard and more. 302 73rd St., Holmes Beach.

FLEA MARKET: 9am-4pm Saturday, March 3. Lots of antiques, jewelry, furniture, household, gifts, books, bric-a-brac. Parking lot of Niki's Island Treasures. 5351 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

STOREWIDE SALE: NIKI'S Island Treasures. All sterling jewelry 50-70 percent off, collectible porcelain dolls 40-70 percent off, seaside oil paintings 40-50 percent off. Select furniture, gifts, antiques, crystal, steins, cups and saucers, vintage and costume jewelry 40-90 percent off. Hummel collection 25-50 percent off. Open seven days, 9:30am-5pm. 941-779-0729. 5351 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

GARAGE SALE: 9am-noon Saturday, March 3. Dishwasher, stove, furniture, stereo, miscellaneous household and kitchen stuff. 400 20th Place, Bradenton Beach.

ONLINE SERVICE: Did you know you can place classified ads and subscribe online with our secure server? Check it out at [www.islander.org](http://www.islander.org).

**Kathy Caserta**  
Realtor, GRI, CRS

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

FLORIDA'S OWN RODNEY Dangerfield: Available to entertain for corporate events, golf tournaments, and private parties. Cell 781-367-0339.

SAIL AWAY AS Low As \$99 per day. Private sails to Egmont Key, Cabbage Key, Cayo Costa, Everglades, Key West, Dry Tortugas aboard 65-foot sailing vessel Lex-Sea. 10 percent off trips before March 15, 2007. [www.annamariaislandsailing.com](http://www.annamariaislandsailing.com). 941-713-8000.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM program: 30-hour training class for new child advocate volunteers begins March 12. To volunteer to represent in court the best interest of children or for more information, call 941-744-9473 or visit the Web site, [www.12circutgal.org](http://www.12circutgal.org).

TINGLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: Accepting donations of new and good condition books for upcoming annual book sale. 111 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach.

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

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

**PETS**

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

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

FREE FISH TANK: 150 gallons, great for large reptile or snake. Won't hold water. Includes stand. 941-778-4076.

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2004 CAROLINA SKIFF: 198DLX Yamaha 90, four-stroke, live well, fish finder, trailer, low hours. \$13,200. Call 518-365-2701.

WANTED: TWO SINGLE kayaks, sit-on-top type preferred. Call 1-902-521-0466.

BONUS! CLASSIFIEDS ADS are posted early online at [www.islander.org](http://www.islander.org).

**HELP WANTED**

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

REAL ESTATE AGENTS wanted: SunCoast Real Estate LLC. Floor time and generous split. Confidential. Call Mary Ann Schmidt, 941-779-0202 or 941-778-4931.

NURSES: PRIVATE DUTY. Long-term home care assisting quadriplegic. Morning, 8am-1pm and overnight, 10pm-8am, shifts available. Travel opportunity. 941-383-6953.

SHARKEY'S NEEDS: COOKS, dishwashers. Apply in person at 2519 Gulf Drive or call 941-779-9151.

HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED: PART and full-time. Own transportation a must. Great per-job rate. Call Rhonda, 941-920-3882 after 7pm.

CHURCH COORDINATOR OF Finance and Administration. Monday-Friday, average 35 hours/week. Proficient in QuickBooks, oversee administrative details, general office skills. Reply: Church Co-ordinator, Box 683, Anna Maria FL 34216-0683.

MASSAGE THERAPIST NEEDED at local day spa. Looking for someone part-time or on-call basis. Call 941-794-1501 or 941-761-8644.

CASHIER NEEDED: 2-3 days per week. Experience preferred. Start immediately. Apply in person at Home True Value Hardware, 5324 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

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

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

RESTAURANT AND MORE: 50-seat restaurant with great ambience also retails select items. Beer and wine license. Any menu OK. \$120,000. Confidentiality agreement required for details. Longview Realty, 941-383-6112. For more great business and realty buys: [www.longviewrealty.com](http://www.longviewrealty.com).

GIFTS/DECOR FOR patio, home and garden. Enchanting shop, fun items in good resort area location. \$89,000. Confidentiality agreement required for details. Longview Realty, 941-383-6112. For more great business and realty buys: [www.longviewrealty.com](http://www.longviewrealty.com).

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

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY Continued**

BEACHFRONT HOT SPOT: Two storefronts, one side rented. Great for gift shop, clothing, jewelry or as-is, a restaurant. Owner financing available. \$1,295,000. Longview Realty, 941-383-6112.

**KIDS FOR HIRE**

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

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

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

**HEALTH CARE**

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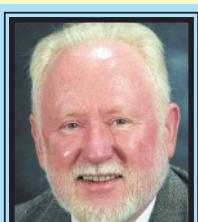
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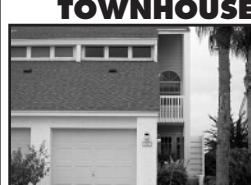
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**Club Bamboo**  
**IBR/IBA condo, Gulffront complex.**  
**\$389,000.**



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**KEY ROYALE** - This outstanding 3BR/3BA canalfront home has been renovated, updated, and added on. Extensive pavers, brick walk and patios, new barrel roof 2004, 75-foot seawall, 50-foot dock with 13,000 lb. boatlift, this home is lovely inside and out. A 27-foot Sport Craft with twin 150s will stay with full price offer. Offered at \$1,650,000. Call Zee Catanese, Realtor, 941-742-0148 evenings.

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2BR/2BA, large lot with saltwater pool, north end of Anna Maria. Two boat docks. \$795,000.



3BR/3BA bayfront home, north end of Anna Maria, completely renovated! \$1,895,000 furnished. Owner will consider trade of lot, condo or home as a down payment.



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## BIMINI BAY

Spacious 4BR/3BA pool home with 253-foot waterfront. Deep water, two docks and lushly landscaped. \$1,850,000.

## GULF PLACE CONDO

2BR/2BA turnkey furnished, large master suite with Jacuzzi tub, screened porch, heated pool, tennis. \$969,900.

## ANNA MARIA CONTEMPORARY

4BR/2BA open plan, vaulted ceiling, elevator, four-car garage. Bamboo flooring, turnkey furnished. Near beach. \$1,350,000.

## NORTH BEACH VILLAGE

3BR/2.5BA townhouse. New tile and carpet. Freshly painted. Two-car garage, storage area could be office, pool. \$499,900.

## BAY PALMS WATERFRONT HOME

3BR/2BA canalfront. Private dock. Direct access to Tampa Bay and Intracoastal Waterway. \$599,000.

## PLAYA ENCANTADA TOWNHOUSE

2BR/2.5BA turnkey furnished with direct view of Gulf. New kitchen, tile, heated pool, tennis, garage. \$899,900.

## WESTBAY POINT & MOORINGS CONDO

2BR/2BA turnkey furnished, tennis, heated pool, water view, near shopping, library and restaurants. \$389,000.

## HOLMES BEACH WATERFRONT

3BR/2BA home. Tile, pavers, fence, room for pool, new dock, direct access to Tampa Bay. \$699,900.

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- **SUN PLAZA WEST CONDOS** - 2BR/2BA. From \$529,900.
- **PERIWINKLE COTTAGE** - 2BR, Close to Beach. \$649,900.
- **GULF PLACE CONDO** 3BR/2BA direct Gulf view. \$995,000.
- **ANNA MARIA NEAR BEACH** House and cottage. \$848,000.
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- **SEASIDE BEACH HOUSE CONDO** Direct Gulf view. \$799,900.
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- **TRADEWINDS RESORT VILLA** - 1BR/1BA, Pool. \$325,900.
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**Four Great West Wide Properties at Terrific Prices**

**7826 Seville Circle** – This 3BR/2BA pool home in popular Palma Sola Park is just a few yards from the bayfront park. A greenbelt area across the street means permanent privacy. \$445,000.

**7820 San Juan Ave.** – Rarely available Palma Sola Park lot. \$275,000.

**8012 3rd Ave.** – Great curb appeal on this 3BR/2BA home just a few feet from Palma Sola Bay. Terrific location, great schools, beautiful landscape. \$315,000.

**1321 63rd Ave.** – This terrific looking 3BR/2BA Village Green home features a wood burning fireplace, spacious den, and a large wrap around screened lanai that overlooks a well landscaped and private back yard. \$279,000.



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**CANALFRONT:** 1,358 sf corner unit near pool with private dock at Flamingo Cay. This low price includes car, boat, trailer and even a motorcycle! Just \$345,000.

**BRADENTON BEACH BARGAINS:** Gulf and/or bay views starting at \$259,000.

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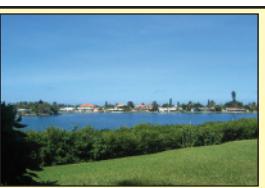




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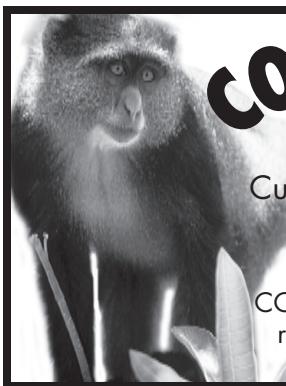


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**The Beaufort** - Lot 7 - \$499,000 **\$375,000**  
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**RENTALS**

RENTALS available weekly, monthly, seasonal. Wedebrock Real Estate Co., 941-778-6665 or 800-749-6665. [www.wedebrock.com](http://www.wedebrock.com).

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.suncoastinc.com).

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

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](mailto:captko462@aol.com).

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.apalm-breeze.com](http://www.apalm-breeze.com). 941-730-5126.

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2BR/2BA with miles of white sandy beach out your doorstep! \$670,000. Call Sue Carlson, 941-720-2242.

**RENTALS Continued**

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

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](http://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.

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2BR/2BA ANNUAL: \$1,275/month. Pet OK, heated pool, washer and dryer, fenced. 201-A Peacock Lane. 941-720-1006.

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](mailto:tlyonsrq@verizon.net) or call 941-928-8735. Leave message for information and availability.

ANNUAL: HOLMES BEACH. 2BR/2BA, four-car garage. Two blocks to beach. Pet friendly. \$1,400/month. Call 941-713-2150.

ANNUAL: 2BR/1BA GROUND-level duplex. Near community center. Fridge, stove, microwave, washer and dryer, screened lanai, large yard. Pet OK. \$975/month. 941-580-3393.

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](mailto:creativesold@yahoo.com).

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Braden Crossings 3BR/2BA. Updated! \$285,000.

Villager 2BR/2BA end unit villa, carport! \$125,900.

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Kingsfield Lakes 4BR/2BA. Huge lot! \$299,900.

Pointe West 3BR/2BA Heated pool! \$360,000.

Mariners Cove 3BR/2BA Full bayview, 35' slip! \$760,000.

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Panoramic views of Skyway Bridge and Tampa Bay with 135-foot seawall, heated pool and deep-water dock with boat lift. 3BR/3BA, 3,000 sf on two lots in private setting. Entirely updated. Large master suite added and kitchen is top of the line in every way. A short walk to the Gulf. Must see to appreciate. Lots of extras. \$2,295,000. Virtual tour at [www.flrealtour.com/020806236/realtor](http://www.flrealtour.com/020806236/realtor).

**Call John Zirzow, Agent/Owner**  
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**RENTALS Continued**

YOU CAN HAVE the beautiful white sand and Florida west coast sun outside your door. One bedroom condo (sleeps six) for rent at Resort 66. Full housekeeping, linens provided, full kitchen. Available March 10-31, Saturday to Saturday only. \$950/weekly. 315-868-2813.

AFFORDABLE SEASONAL RENTALS still available. Weekly, monthly, bayfront, Gulffront, big, small. Call Sato Real Estate for availability. 941-778-7200.

NORTHWEST BRADENTON: LARGE 3BR/2BA, two-car garage. Big screened lanai, huge fenced yard, excellent schools, quiet area. \$1,595/month. Annual. 941-720-0793.

200-FEET TO ROD & Reel Pier: Ground floor, fully furnished, 2BR/1BA duplex. No pets or smokers. Seasonal, \$1,500/month, annual, \$1,000/month. Available April 1. 941-387-8610.

VACATION: AVAILABLE MARCH 2007 only. 2BR/1BA mobile, very clean and comfortable. Two miles to beach. \$1,100/month. 941-779-1112.

TERRA CEIA: WATERFRONT 3BR home with dock. Lease with option, \$1,800/month. 941-447-6278. [www.44smart.com](http://www.44smart.com).

SEASONAL: ANNA MARIA lovely ground-level home. Approximately 1,000 feet to beach. Can be rented as 2BR/1BA or 3BR/2BA with carport. Family and living room, washroom, all with air conditioning. Nice kitchen and patio. Available March through May 2007 and September 2007 through May 2008. \$3,500/month plus utilities, discount for longer terms. 214 Palmetto Ave. Call John, 813-690-9762.

SEASONAL: HOLMES BEACH. Available now. 1BR/1BA, all utilities included, furnished, one block to Gulf. \$1,400/month. 941-721-6090.

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

FOR RENT: ANNUAL. Recently renovated 2BR/2BA house in quiet neighborhood. All appliances upgraded. \$1,400/month plus utilities. Phone 941-545-7109 or 941-795-1132.

ANNUAL: 2BR/2BA, ELEVATED duplex in Bradenton Beach. One block to beach. High ceilings, clean. Pet considered. \$950/month. 941-725-2549.

RETIRE COUPLE LOOKING for owner-managed rental house on Anna Maria Island. Need 2-3BR/2BA, January through April 2008. Must be in quiet neighborhood. 941-778-1591 or 507-321-0977.

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# ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

**RENTALS Continued**

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

**WATERFRONT:** SEASONAL OR annual. Beach, dock. Free use of kayak, pool, exercise room and bicycle. 941-779-9074. E-mail: gwalker43@hotmail.com.

**ANNUAL:** 1BR/1BA, ground-floor. Fireplace, water, cable, yard maintenance, washer. Steps to beach, large yard. Holmes Beach. \$800/month. 727-540-9294.

**LOOKING FOR 2008?** Lovely, refurnished 2BR/2BA house. Steps to beach. Also available April 2007. Offering discounted rates. 2805 Gulf Drive. 941-545-8488.

**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.

**ANNUAL 2BR/1.5BA:** Washer and dryer hookups, covered carport, updated kitchen, tile floor throughout. Living room and family room, large bedrooms. First, last and security deposit. \$1,100/month. 941-779-2265.

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**MINUTES TO BEACHES:** Lakeside South, West Bradenton. Big 2BR/2BA, one-car garage villa. Pool, tennis, clubhouse, quiet area. \$1,700/month. Seasonal, 941-720-2804.

**ANNUAL BRADENTON BEACH:** 1BR duplex. Beach across street. Washer and dryer. Clean! 2204 Ave. C. \$750/month. 216-469-2857.

**RENTALS Continued**

**STEPS TO BEACH** and bay: 1BR/1BA, patio, utilities paid. March, \$1,200/month, \$325/weekly, Annual \$750/month. 2BR/1BA, lanai, furnished water, garbage, April through December, \$875/month. 2BR/1BA doublewide, patio, bay view, Sandpiper Mobile Resort, 55-plus, clubhouse, laundry, shuffleboard. 941-778-3051.

**WANTED: VACATION AND** annual rental properties. Coast Line Accommodations is 100 percent booked. If you need tenants, we have leads. Call Mandi, 941-779-9500.

**3BR/2BA SINGLE-STORY** rental. Off-season rentals available from \$625/week. April 2007 discounted to \$500/week. Call Tricia, 813-818-8314. www.vacationrentalonannamariaisland.com.

**ANNUAL RENTAL: SPACIOUS** villa, 1,300-plus sf living area! 2BR/2BA, plus family room, large utility, garage. New carpet and paint, close to beach. Available approximately March 15. \$1,300/month. 941-778-1589.

**ANNUAL RENTAL: UNFURNISHED.** Near Tidy Island, canalfront. First-floor condo, 2BR/2BA plus den. Open floor plan, covered parking, canalfront with boat dock. Sailboat water. \$1,500/month. Anna Maria Gulf Coast Properties, 941-782-5609.

**TEN MINUTES TO BEACH:** 3BR/2BA, garage, covered patio, three-years-old. \$1,300/month. Call 941-773-6581. Evenings, 941-794-9921.

**SHARE HOME IN QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD,** two blocks to beach. Great situation for responsible person. Call for details, 941-778-0714 or 941-730-6349.

**ANNUAL RENTAL: 2BR/1BA,** two blocks to beach, half-block to bay. Cathedral ceilings and tile throughout. Cable, water, trash included. \$900/month. 941-778-2928 or 941-730-6349.

**RENTALS RENT** fast when you advertise in The Islander.

**RENTALS Continued**

**ANNUAL BAYVIEW:** 2BR/1BA, newly decorated duplex. Quiet neighborhood, wood and ceramic floors, laundry. Furnished or unfurnished. \$850/month plus utilities. 941-779-9470.

**BRADENTON BEACH WATERFRONT** duplex: 3BR/2BA, dock, davits, three blocks to beach. Large rooms, quiet location. \$1,200/month. 727-784-3679.

**RENTAL ON SARASOTA** Bay and Cortez. 2BR furnished mobile home. Restricted, over 55. No pets. Available April 20 through Dec. 30, 2007. \$650/month. 231-775-8051.

**LOVELY 2BR/2BA** for 2008. Large porch, boat friendly, three-month rental. 941-962-0817 or 941-778-2695. 210 81st St., Holmes Beach.

**NORTHWEST BRADENTON:** LARGE 3BR/2BA, two-car garage. Big, screened lanai, huge fenced yard, excellent schools, quiet area. \$1,495/month. Annual. 941-720-0793.

**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. Canalfront, walking distance to beach and restaurants. \$739,000. 941-779-1512.

**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.

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

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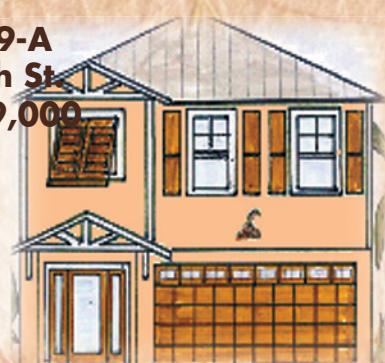


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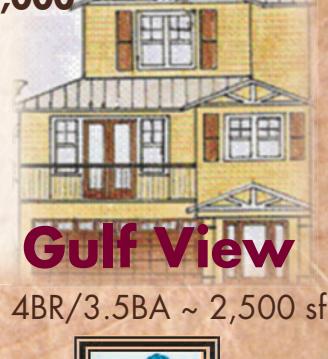
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**LONGBOAT KEY WATERFRONT** Key West-style home on sailboat water. Boatlift, open floor plan, four-car garage, workout room and 30-foot screened balcony. Becky Smith or Elfi Starrett, 941-778-2246. #520397. \$1,049,000.

**DIRECT GULFFRONT 2BR/2BA** apartment with fabulous views. This top floor end unit is offered turnkey furnished. Great walking beach, heated pool and weekly rentals permitted. David Moynihan, 941-778-2246. #548224. \$799,000.

**ENJOY SPECTACULAR SUNSETS** and Gulf views from this exceptional Gulffront unit. Newly repainted and new carpeting and vinyl installed. Close to shopping and dining. 2BR/2BA. Karen Day, 941-778-2246. #546305. \$759,000.

**MARINERS COVE** Direct bayfront, top floor, 3BR/2BA, 2,000 sf, gated community, two pools, tennis, elevator, protected deep-water 35-foot boat slip. Peter Mancuso, 941-545-6833 or Dave Moynihan, 941-778-2246. #543600. \$629,900.

**OLD FLORIDA CHARM ABOUNDS HERE!** End unit light, bright, new! 3BR/2BA Neat cottage, lush landscaping, and bay views from your front porch! Beautifully vaulted ceilings, screened lanai, one-car attached garage, lake view, pool, spa, fitness. Non-evacuation zone. Penny Bray, 941-778-2246. #524793. \$379,900.

**END UNIT** Light, bright, new! 3BR/2BA Hidden Lake condo, minutes from beach, vaulted ceilings, screened lanai, one-car attached garage, lake view, pool, spa, fitness. Non-evacuation zone. Penny Bray, 941-778-2246. #523475. \$314,900.

**MOTEL/RESORT OPPORTUNITY** Anna Maria Island Great 11-unit resort/motel. Only one short block to the beautiful sandy beaches of Anna Maria Island and view the spectacular sunsets. Many restaurants, specialty shops and fishing pier. Possible conversion potential. Jim Zoff, 941-778-2246. #539134. **\$2,575,000.**

**ESCAPE TO PARADISE** at Longbeach on Longboat Key. Unobstructed views of the Gulf and amazing sunsets from this 2BR/2BA newly furnished condo. Florida living at its best! Gina & Peter Uliano/The Royal Team, 941-920-0276. #547583. **\$799,000.**

**RESORT IN PARADISE** Tropical landscaping surrounds six charming units steps from beach. Immaculate, family-owned, and clientele keep coming back. Possible owner financing. Karen Day, 941-778-2246. #529518. **\$1,650,000.**

**ELEGANT BAYFRONT** Spacious 2BR/2BA unit with 1,909 sf of living area. Exceptional Gulf to bay complex with private beach, bayside pool/spa, resident manager, secured elevator lobby. David Moynihan, 941-778-2246. #534725. **\$750,000.**

**COASTAL LIFESTYLE CONDO** Wonderful bayside tennis resort and community. Great seasonal rental opportunity or just a relaxing weekend getaway condo! Kelly Belisle, 941-751-0670. #538853. **\$479,900.**

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

**EXCEPTIONAL 2BR/2BA** direct Gulffront unit with outstanding views of the Gulf. Totally renovated. Secured elevator, heated pool, tennis court and private garage. Near shopping and restaurants. Dave Moynihan, 941-778-2246. #543586. **\$819,500.**

**ISLAND GROUND-LEVEL CONDO** Well-kept, partially updated, turnkey furnished, beach access, bay fishing pier, heated pool, tennis court, tiled throughout, carpeted bedrooms. Jim Zoff, 941-778-2246. #533783. **\$359,000.**

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### REAL ESTATE Continued

ISLAND CANAL LOT: 75x100 feet, new dock, priced to sell quickly. Below market and appraised value, \$535,000. Call Jake, 941-544-7786. 108 Gull Drive, Anna Maria.

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.

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 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.

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

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! \$429,999. George, 312-321-7501.

PERICO BAY CLUB: 3BR/2BA with full bay views! Granite countertops, 20-inch porcelain tile, carpet, custom closets, plantation shutters, designer furnishings and more. \$550,000. Brokers protected. Easy to show. 859-264-8644. barbfreeman@alltel.net.

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.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOT in northwest Bradenton, desirable neighborhood near the river. \$216,000. Owner/agent, Bobbie Banan, Michael Saunders & Company, 941-356-2659.

BAYFRONT HOME ON Anna Maria Sound. Unobstructed view, southern exposure. Private. \$1,100,000. Brokers protected. 941-778-0029. 517 Bayview Drive, Holmes Beach.

HELL HAS FROZEN over! Price reduced for a quick sale from \$395,000 to \$359,000. 4BR/3 BA, two-car garage, den with fireplace, solar-heated caged pool near Bradenton Country Club. Great family neighborhood, close to everything. 5116 10th Ave. Drive W. 941-685-7035. Directions: Manatee Ave. to 51st to 10th Ave.

DUPLEX: HOLMES BEACH. Raised 2BR/1BA each side, under building parking, screened lanais, laundry rooms. Only \$499,900. Call Jerry Cercone, Coldwell Banker, 941-720-1575.

LOT: 57.75x114-feet, one block to beach. \$520,000. Call 941-779-4505 or 941-778-4246. 125 Neptune Lane, Holmes Beach.

UNBLOCKABLE GULF VIEW: Old small cottage across from Coquina Beach. \$50,000 down, assume \$238,000 at \$950/month. 941-866-0224. www.bogeylane.com.

BRADENTON BEACH: 2BR/2BA end unit. Huge Gulf views from most rooms. Beautiful Tommy Bahama-style furnishings. Pool, hot tub, tennis, docks. Great vacation home and rental income. By owner. \$615,000. 941-388-5238.

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### REAL ESTATE Continued

ISLAND HOME REDUCED: For sale by owner. Holmes Beach 3BR, deep-water canal, pool, boat dock, many upgrades. \$775,000. Call 941-778-6474.

ISLAND HOME FOR sale: By owner. Deep-water canalfront with dock, 3BR/2BA, short walk to Gulf. \$780,000. 941-792-1214. 230 Oak Ave., Anna Maria. Please do not disturb tenants.

CLOSE BY MARCH 26, 2007, and save. 4BR/3BA home, zoned residential, office, retail. 4,380 sf air conditioned. under roof. Reduced to \$595,000. 941-761-2457.

NORTH BEACH VILLAGE townhouse: 2BR/2.5BA, open floor plan, two-car garage, large storage area. Hurricane shutters. \$499,900. Call 941-722-0640.

PRE-FORECLOSURE SALE: \$499,999. My loss is your gain! Selling \$50,000 below purchase price. 3BR/2BA beautiful home, recently remodeled and redecorated on quiet drive. 413 Bay Palms Drive. Contact owner/broker, Fisher Real Estate Inc. 941-932-0480.

DESIRABLE LEWIS PARK-area home with separate 1BR/1BA guest quarters. Lovely fenced yard. \$319,000. 941-720-1121.

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.

REDUCED \$50,000! 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. New price, \$749,900. Call Deborah Thrasher, RE/MAX Excellence, 941-518-7738. Deborahthrasher@remax.net.

HOLMES BEACH, ANNA MARIA ISLAND: Ideal condo, 2BR/2BA, spacious, elevated, turnkey furnished, carport, pool. Steps to beach and shops. \$369,000. Call 941-779-0853.

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### ANSWERS TO FEB. 28 PUZZLE

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# I S L A N D E R C L A S S I F I E D S

## **FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE *Continued***

**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.

**MID-WINTER SALE!** Golf homesites just \$89,900. Make no payments until 2008! Pristine wooded homesites. Spectacular golf community. Mountains of South Carolina. Limited time offer. Call 866-334-3253, ext. 1185.

**NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS:** Large two- to 10-acre tracts in last phase of popular, gated, mountain community with great view, trees, waterfall and large public lake nearby, paved private access, \$69,500 and up. Call now, 866-789-8535.

**VIRGINIA MOUNTAINS:** My dream rustic two-story log cabin on 13 acres with barn, pastures, woods, creek, adjoins Jefferson National Forest with miles and miles of trails. Have to sell. \$389,500. Owner, 866-789-8535.

**LARGE TROUT STREAM:** 17 acres, \$199,900.  
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## **FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE *Continued***

**MAINE OCEAN ACCESS:** Bargain, only \$115.29/month. Nicely wooded three-plus-acre lot with deeded rights to private sand beach and dock. Only \$24,900. Private, gated community along Maine coast. Owner financing to qualified buyers. 20 percent down \$4,980, 4.9 percent fixed rate, 25-year term. Only \$115.29/month. Call Lands Realty, 207-781-3294.

**NEW PRICE! 10-PLUS acre, \$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 866-352-2249, ext. 1156.**

**OWNER SAYS SELL!** 36-plus acres, \$197,000. 50 percent below recent certified appraisal. Nicely wooded acreage in private, secluded setting. Mature oaks and pines, abundant wildlife, gated community. Registered survey, power and phone. Excellent financing. Must see! Call owner now, 866-352-2249, ext. 1179.

RARE! NATIONAL FOREST frontage and trophy trout stream. Large acreage, parcels new to market. [www.nationalforestland.com](http://www.nationalforestland.com).

**SOUTH CENTRAL FLORIDA.** Owner says sell! Five acres, \$99,000. 50 percent below recent certified appraisal. Unbelievable opportunity to own five acres of meadows and woods in excellent location. 50 percent off recent appraisal!! Great financing. Call now, 866-352-2249, ext. 1097.

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## **FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE *Continued***

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A black and white photograph of Cindy M. Jones, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. To the right of the photo is her name "Cindy M. Jones" in large, bold, black letters. Below her name is the text "GRI, CRS, Sales Associate". To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a palm tree on a beach. Below the graphic is the company name "DUNCAN Real Estate, Inc." in a serif font. To the right of the company name are two phone numbers: "779-0304" and "773-9770". At the bottom right is the address "310 Pine Avenue • Anna Maria".

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new Sunday Magazine Crossword

**MAGIC WORDS** By DAVID KWONG AND KEVAN CHOBST / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

1 Treat for a dog

6 California's \_\_ Woods National Monument

10 Near eternity

15 Runner's place

19 Moses' brother

20 " \_\_ cost to you!"

21 Civil War signature

22 Sinatra's "Meet Me at the \_\_ "

23 Organisation des \_\_ Américains

24 Calls the shots?

25 Einstein's asset?

27 Acerbic rock/folk singer?

30 Plenty

31 Like some garages

32 Jim Palmer, notably

34 Graf \_\_

35 " \_\_ Tu" (1974 hit)

37 Interminably

39 Shell alternative

43 Protest gone bad?

48 The Henry who founded the Tudor line

50 Faulkner character  
Vernon

---

*Answers to this  
week's puzzle*



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**ACROSS**

- 116 Post-accident inquiry
- 120 Troupe of suspects from "The Fugitive"?
- 122 Tennessee offense and defense?
- 124 Lead-in to girl
- 125 "\_\_\_ Dream" ("Lohengrin" piece)
- 126 Space: Prefix
- 127 Chocolate, e.g.
- 128 Fed
- 129 Fix, as a bow
- 130 Sore, with "off"
- 131 Ones picking up things?
- 132 Psychiatrist's appt.
- 133 Detect, in a way

**DOWN**

- 1 Modern workout system
- 2 Bring home?
- 3 Make a delivery
- 4 Saw
- 5 Tangle up
- 17 Anthony Mann's "The Fall of the Roman Empire," e.g.
- 18 Any King Christian I-X
- 26 French flag color
- 28 Lady Jane and Zane
- 29 Blessings
- 33 Ballade ending
- 36 Onetime French fleet
- 38 Dagger
- 40 "Yow!"
- 41 Word in many a Nancy Drew title
- 42 Hops-drying oven
- 43 Boxer nicknamed "Hands of Stone"
- 44 Año starter
- 45 Good \_\_\_
- 46 Admission of defeat
- 47 "A Confederacy of Dunces" author
- 49 "\_\_\_ come as no surprise ..."

|                                    |                         |                                    |                               |                              |                             |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| director Allégrét                  | Woody Allen film        |                                    |                               |                              |                             |
| 7 Unborn, after "in"               | 55 River rental         | 72 Where an echograph is used      | 82 "___ of the Thousand Days" | 99 Beams                     | 113 Devastate               |
| 8 About to receive                 | 56 Sequentially         | in measuring                       | (1969 film)                   | 100 "No ___!"                | 114 Slowpoke                |
| 9 "The Barber of Seville" composer | 58 Dict. info           | 73 Tricks are played in it         | 84 Run ___ (owe)              | 102 ___ Society              | 115 Citation of 1958        |
| 10 Sock pattern                    | 59 First name in comedy | 74 Words with house or move        | 85 Literally, "instruction"   | (English debating group)     | 116 Rat follower?           |
| 11 Ending with ballad              | 61 Hammer user          | 75 Polite refusal                  | 87 Rings of plumerias, e.g.   | 103 Jumps                    | 117 Progress                |
| 12 Cooking staple                  | 65 Some German imports  | 76 Soap time, maybe                | 90 Napa sight                 | 105 Hen cages                | 118 Suffix with major       |
| 13 Certain tides                   |                         | 80 Georgia and others, once: Abbr. | 91 Cut off                    | 108 Tours can be found on it | 119 Orthopedic specialty    |
| 14 Cons                            | 67 Relative of -ian     | 81 Sen. McCarthy ally              | 93 + part                     | 110 Wonderland cake message  | 121 Staffs                  |
| 15 Airport worker                  | 69 Logical start?       |                                    | 98 Defeats, in a way          | 111 Sp. women                | 123 What barotrauma affects |
| 16 Cadger's request                | 71 Font feature         |                                    |                               |                              |                             |

# 29 YEARS Simply the Best



**GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD** Priced to sell, this duplex features 3BR/2.5BA across from bay. \$479,000.



**LUXURY GULFFRONT** The finest condo Anna Maria has to offer. 3BR/3BA beautifully furnished. High ceilings, windows on all four sides. Enclosed secure garage, pool and spa. \$1,925,000.



**KEY ROYALE** Unheard of price. Beautiful home in perfect condition. Overlooks boat basin with dock. 2BR/2BA, large patio.



**CORTEZ FISHING VILLAGE** Five minutes to beach and great restaurants. Hardwood floors, 1BR/1BA, large workshop and garage. \$249,900.



**\$269,000 FOR A 2/BR** Island condo! Large unit in the center of Holmes Beach. Even has a large garage!



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## NEW LISTINGS



1811 NW 72ND ST, SHAWS POINT New! Custom Kendar home, 4BR/3BA, with 13-foot double tray ceilings, spa pool, so many fine touches and half a block to park right on Tampa Bay!



718 89TH CT NW, MAHOGANY BAY – NEW! 4BR/3BA custom contemporary Kendar home with soaring 13-foot double tray ceilings, spa pool with water feature, gourmet kitchen, wood, tile and granite throughout! Gorgeous.



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



BRADENTON-1960 E STATE ROAD 64 EPICUREANS TAKE NOTE! Old Mission Vineyard, a unique home on 20 acres with mature grapes and spring-fed stream. \$1,299,000



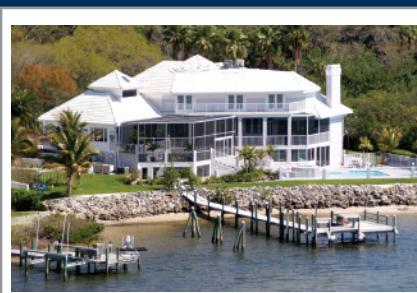
715 89TH CT, MAHOGANY BAY, NW BRADENTON – New custom Kendar Home 4BR/3BA on quiet cul-de-sac. Great family home, sweeping verandah's, 3 car garage and many extras. \$799,000



408 S. BAY BLVD., ANNA MARIA ISLAND. Watch the cruise ships go by! Magnificent views of Tampa Bay from this darling beach house with vaulted ceilings, gourmet kitchen and two-car garage. \$1,600,000



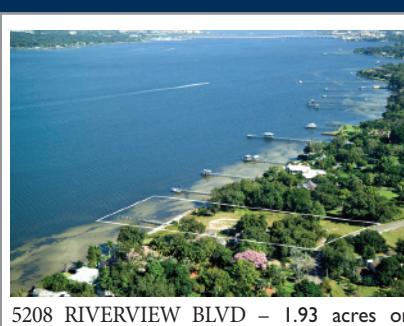
243 17TH ST. N, BRADENTON BEACH CLUB – Runs from Gulf to Bay in the heart of Anna Maria Island. Darling turnkey furnished 3BR/2BA townhouse with private elevator and garage, offers beach access and two pools on a quiet cul-de-sac. Wonderful for year-round living or second home. \$674,900



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



6200 FLOTILLA, # 268. WESTBAY POINT MOORINGS. All new carpet and paint, 2nd floor end unit with water view. Great deal, least expensive unit offered! \$369,000



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



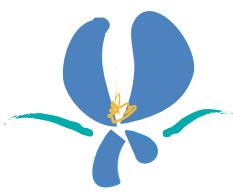
1207 N. GULF DR. #300 – Darling, turnkey furnished top floor 2BR/2BA with den, offers spectacular views in prime rental location. \$879,000.

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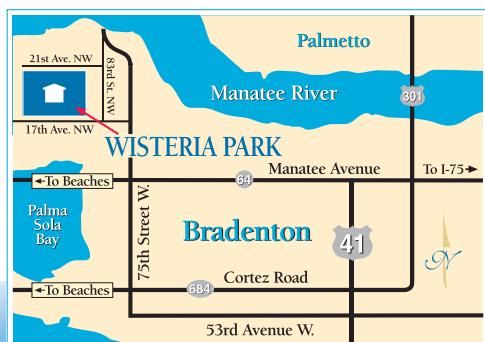


## WISTERIA PARK

Brand new homes by Southwest Florida's most experienced builder.

Wisteria Park is a new neighborhood in Northwest Bradenton offered by Neal Communities. There is something for everyone with maintenance-free and traditional single-family homes and twelve floor plans with two-story options, ranging from 2,015 to 3,341 a/c square feet. Visit Wisteria Park today and tour our four beautiful new models.

*A place where memories will be made,  
family will gather,  
friends will feel welcome,  
and private moments will be cherished.*



**Blue Ridge Collection:** Traditional homes from the \$500s including homesite.  
941-792-5333, Toll-free: 866-792-5333

**Chesapeake Collection:** Maintenance-free homes from the high \$400s including homesite. 941-792-3366, Toll-free: 877-792-3366

1726 86th Street NW, Bradenton, Florida 34209  
Models open daily: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sunday: Noon - 5:00 p.m.



1. Perico Harbor
2. Anna Maria Island & Gulf Beaches
3. Robinson's Preserve
4. Botanical Garden Park
5. Rivertown Marina
6. Stewart Elementary School
7. Geraldson Farms Produce
8. King Middle School
9. U.S. Post Office
10. Urgent Care Medical Center

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