



Skimming the news ... Steve Raymond: Greatest Generation, page 18.

Anna Maria
The Islander



Springfest fun, inside.

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Mc Adam resigns over sex harassment complaint

By Paul Roat

Ed Mc Adam has resigned as building official in Bradenton Beach after a sexual harassment charge was levied against him by the city's code enforcement officer.

In a terse, undated letter to Mayor John Chappie, code enforcement officer Gail M. Garneau wrote, "Please be advised that I am filing a formal complaint against the city of Bradenton Beach for sexual harassment by the building official, Ed Mc Adam."

Mc Adam was placed on administrative leave Feb. 23,

and Garneau took leave from her job a few days earlier.

Mc Adam tendered his resignation March 8, which city commissioners accepted without comment in an emergency meeting.

City Clerk Nora Idso was directed to begin the process of advertising for a new building official at that same meeting, with salary and other benefits yet to be determined.

City attorney Ricinda Perry conducted the investigation into the Mc Adam-Garneau matter. She did not respond to repeated requests by *The*

Islander to comment on the matter, and neither did Mc Adam or Garneau.

"I have been proud to be a part of the city of Bradenton Beach government," Mc Adam said in his resignation letter, "most importantly, working for excellent city commissioners, who have dedicated many hours of their time for the benefit of city residents."

"On Oct. 28, 2004, Mayor Chappie asked me to come out of retirement to utilize my management and professional skills to renew confidence in the planning,

PLEASE SEE MC ADAM, NEXT PAGE

Acute Care team in court March 30

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The seven staff members of Acute Care in Anna Maria arrested Feb. 23 on state charges of Medicaid fraud will be arraigned at 9 a.m. on March 30 in the Manatee County Circuit Court.

Arrested were Acute Care president Jeanne Ferguson, chief financial officer Nancy Wood, office manager Heidi Rickert, supervisor of respiratory therapy Andrea Suarez, respiratory therapist Carla Camacho, respiratory therapist Stephanie Nichols, and chief operating officer Cynthia May.

All seven have been released on bail, but as of press deadline only Suarez and May have entered not guilty pleas. The remaining five defendants have not yet filed pleas.

Each of the seven are charged by the Florida Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Unit with one count of Medicaid provider fraud, a third-degree felony and one count of organized fraud, a first-degree felony. The total amount of fraudulent claims is \$2.6 million, according to the FAG's office. If convicted on both counts, each of the women could face a maximum of 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000.

Manatee County Circuit on-line records indicate Wood and Ferguson live on Dundee Lane on Key Royale in Holmes Beach, while the remaining defendants live on the mainland.

Acute Care Inc., a medical supply and therapy company, 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.



Relay for Life participants gather
Nicole Ward, left, and her mother, Rae Ward, of Bradenton, pictured above, share a moment during a victory walk for caregivers and cancer survivors during the Relay for Life of Anna Maria Island March 9. Rae Ward is a 12-year survivor of ovarian cancer. An estimated 200 people participated in the two-day event on Coquina Beach. Cancer survivors take the first walk around the track at the Relay for Life March 9, pictured at left. More on page 13. *Islander Photos: Lisa Neff*

Anna Maria special event diet: can of worms

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The Sandbar Restaurant is famous for a lot of things: a scenic atmosphere, sunsets and lots of good food. One item customers won't find on the menu, however, is a can of worms.

That specialty was apparently left to the Anna Maria City Commission at its March 8 meeting when it began discussion of plans to change the special event ordinance.

After hearing a host of draft changes to the ordinance proposed by city planner Alan Garrett, Commissioner Dale Woodland said the commission needs to identify "What's the problem we are trying to fix?"

The problem, at least according to some adjacent and nearby residents, is the Sandbar Restaurant, which received 11 special event permits for outdoor weddings from the commission Feb. 22 that include erection of a tent on the beach for each wedding.

But Woodland cautioned that trying to change the ordinance just because a few people are dissatis-

fied with the Sandbar "will bring up a whole new set of problems."

In fact, said Woodland, "The pro and anti-Sandbar people will never come together. We can pass ordinances until the cows come home and won't satisfy everyone."

Commission Chairman John Quam noted that everyone is "always talking about one restaurant." He was concerned with the future, particularly on Pine Avenue. Quam also observed that with a special exception permit, violations of the noise ordinance are permitted.

Palmetto Avenue resident Robin Wall said that she and her husband are subject to loud noises at night from parties. The noises include yelling, music and disc jockeys. They have complained to the police, but nothing was ever put in a police report, she said.

"Our quality of life should not be degraded," Wall added.

But Mayor Fran Barford said that only two noise
PLEASE SEE SPECIAL, PAGE 3

SPECIAL SECTION THIS WEEK

2007

ANNA MARIA ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

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The Islander
PREVIEW

Mc Adam resigns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

building and code enforcement aspects of the city government. Hopefully, I have achieved that goal.

"In December 2006, at the age of 68 years, I completed over 50 years of public service in a wide variety of major management and professional positions in state, county and city governments," Mc Adam continued in his letter. "There is never a good time for any of us to resign or retire. There are always new challenges, new projects and new assignments to be done, and new deadlines to meet."

Mc Adam lauded city staff in his letter, "especially the fine staff of the planning and development department."

Mc Adam, was employed by Manatee County government in a variety of administrative positions, including head of public works, project management, wastewater and project engineer departments, from 1985 to 2003. He received outstanding remarks on his personnel evaluation forms during his tenure with the county.

At Bradenton Beach, he received \$83,200 a year in salary, or \$40 per hour.

Garneau, 51, was hired by Mc Adam in July 2005 and received excellent marks by him in a recent job evaluation. She is paid about \$23,300 annually.

The construction, inspection, testing and consulting firm of M.T Causley Inc. has been retained by the city for "supplemental plans review and inspection services" for the city for "as long as needed."

The company, based in Homestead, Fla., will provide its services to the city on a staggered scale of pay, depending on the services requested, ranging from certified building official tasks on a part-time basis at \$85 per hour to plans examiner from \$68 to \$78.50 per hour. If licensed professional architects-engineers are required, the hourly charge to the city will be \$140.

"I hope that we won't drag this out a year like the last time," Chappie said of the hiring of a new building official.

Bradenton Beach has been through numerous building officials in the past few years, including a long vacancy before Mc Adam was hired.

During that period, the services of the city of Holmes Beach and Manatee County were utilized at an hourly rate of pay based on the staff salary of the person providing the service.



'Drinking Alone' opens Thursday at Island playhouse

The Island Players opens Thursday night, March 15, with its fourth production in a season of five shows. "Drinking Alone," a romantic comedy, includes four "players" shown here in a game of Trivial Pursuit, from left, Elaine Levin, Dianne Brin, Laura Morales and Gabe Simches, and John Durkin, standing behind the "players." 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 through April 1. Tickets are \$15 at the box office, which opens 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and one hour before performances. For ticket information, call the box office at 778-5755. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

Nally lawsuit hearing scheduled at presstime

Oral arguments in the lawsuit by William and Barbara Nally against Anna Maria over the city's approval of a final site plan for the Sandbar Restaurant were scheduled for 3:30 p.m. March 13 at presstime for *The Islander* before Judge Paul E. Logan of the Manatee County Circuit Court.

The law firm of Lobeck and Hanson is representing the Nallys, while the firm of Dye, Deitrich, Petruff & St. Paul of Bradenton will handle the city's interests.

Although not a party to the lawsuit, Sandbar owner Ed Chiles said he will have his attorney present at the hearing.

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AM board P&Z approves comp plan, FLUM

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

It may have taken slightly more than four years of preparation, but Anna Maria now has a new comprehensive plan and future land-use map heading to the city commission for a public hearing and eventual transmission to the Florida Department of Community Affairs. The commission earlier this year approved the evaluation and appraisal report portion of the comp plan.

The city's planning and zoning board held its public hearing March 6 on the proposed plan and FLUM and, surprisingly, made a few last-minute changes in its recommendations to the city.

By a 4-2 vote, the board eliminated language that would have limited the height of construction in a commercial land-use area to a maximum of 27 feet and kept the commercial height limitation the same as that for residential areas — 37 feet.

That came after new P&Z board member Robert Hinton noted that there are only a few commercial areas in the city and a 37-foot-high structure is "not a giant."

"Let's keep what we've been allowing," he said.

Galati Marine owner Mike Galati had made an impassioned and convincing plea for new commercial construction to be allowed the same height as residences because of the staggering insurance cost of a two-story structure.

In another departure from the proposed FLUM that has been under consideration the past three years, the board voted unanimously to allow the land-use designation on the FLUM of the six lots on the northwest corner of the Pine Avenue-Bay Boulevard intersection owned by LBK Realty changed from commercial to retail-office-residential.

But a motion by Hinton to change the land-use designation of the property at 110 and 111 Spring Ave. and 9702 Gulf Drive from residential to ROR died for lack of a second.

Former city commissioner Linda Cramer, who was in Atlanta for medical care at the time of the hearing, had a letter from her attorney, Michael Connolly, read into the record. Cramer noted that a city ordinance

shows her property at 9702 Gulf Drive is zoned commercial and she asked the board for clarification. She also requested the land-use be changed to ROR.

Professional planner Tony Arrant, who has guided the city through the comp-plan and FLUM revision process the past four years, said that the official FLUM presently on file with the DCA and adopted in 1992 shows the land-use for Cramer's property is residential.

There has been no error and no mistake. That's what the city adopted and that's what the DCA goes

by and what the city has to abide by, he said. The comprehensive plan takes precedence over any zoning ordinance, Arrant observed.

But the most surprising move by the board was to ask Arrant to "investigate" the properties on the beach-end of Maple, Beach, Oak and Park that are classified as "conservation" areas on the proposed FLUM.

Property owner John Cagnina said he remembered years ago when a "Dr. Walker" had a house on that property and he believed Walker was the owner of the property that the board wanted to designate as conservation land.

Arrant said that according to the Manatee County Property Appraiser's Office, there are no platted lots on the property in question and no owner, other than the city.

"And we have given public notice" about the proposed conservation area, he added.

But to be safe, the board asked Arrant to re-investigate any possible private ownership.

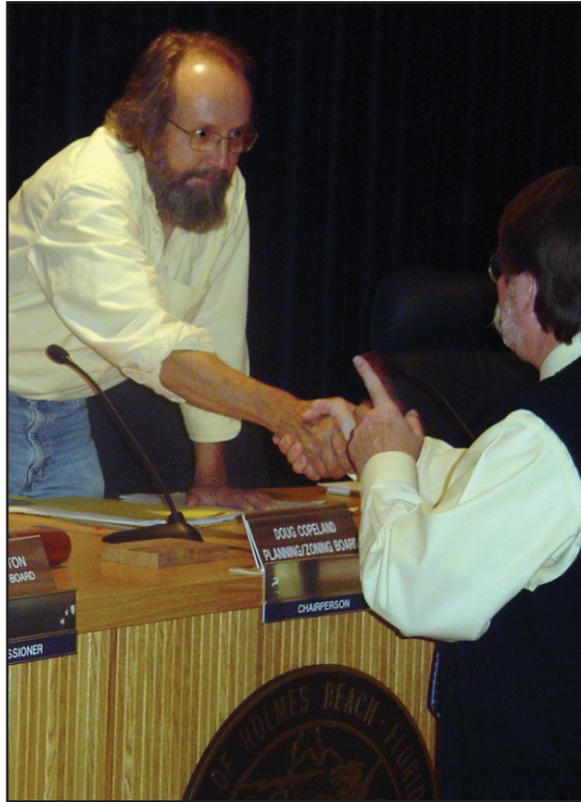
If Arrant does discover any platted lots, the board requested Arrant to change the land use on the FLUM in the affected area to residential.

The P&Z board will meet again at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, to approve the minutes of the public hearing. After the minutes are approved, the proposed comp plan and FLUM — as approved March 6 — will be forwarded to the city commission for another public hearing.

The P&Z board is only a recommending body, said board chairman Doug Copeland. The city commission can still change any portion of the comp plan or FLUM by a majority vote following that public hearing.

Once approved by the city commission, the comp plan and FLUM are sent to the DCA in Tallahassee for recommendations and approval. The DCA will return the documents to the commission for any needed changes, a final public hearing and another approval.

Once the FLUM and comp plan are approved by both the DCA and city commission, the city then must pass appropriate ordinances, including zoning, to ensure the required land use in the comp plan, and the FLUM, and that the required elements of the plan are met.



Long time coming

Anna Maria planning and zoning board chairman Doug Copeland, left, shakes hands with professional planner Tony Arrant following the board's approval of the comprehensive plan and future land-use map that took more than four years to put together under Arrant's guidance. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

permit ordinances from three or four cities, not just the Sanibel ordinance that Wall provided in February, and send those to commissioners to provide an opinion of what changes should be put in the city's ordinance.

"Until then, we don't have much to work with," he said.

Commissioners agreed.

They will send their comments to Garrett, who will re-draft his amendments for discussion and bring permit ordinances from other Florida cities to the April worksession.

The commission also gave consensus for Garrett to include a fee schedule for special event permits that would vary for non-profit organizations and for profit-making ventures.

Lake LaVista

In other commission business, the commission discussed whether or not the city should spend an estimated \$65,000 for a study of the Lake LaVista channel depth and bottom and decided to wait on more information from engineer Tom Wilcox.

Uniform setbacks and lot coverage

Commissioners agreed to send suggestions to Garrett on lot coverage and setbacks for all zoning districts in the city, including retail-office-residential.

The commission is looking to get "uniform" standards in all districts and Garrett recommended the same setback requirements for construction in any zone.

City hall

Barford said it will be "months" before the mold and asbestos problems at city hall are fixed and the city can move from its temporary quarters at the Island Baptist Church back to city hall.

The city does have four bids for the project and the mayor will bring those bids, along with a spreadsheet and timeline, to commissioners to study this week prior to approving a contract. She'll ask for a special city commission when all the paperwork is ready.

Anna Maria special events

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

complaints have been lodged with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office sub-station in Anna Maria for many months. She said she'd check again with the MCSO and ask that a log be kept of any noise complaints.

Marie White, who lives adjacent to the Sandbar, chimed in that she believed that when the Sandbar got permission to build a pavilion for weddings, that would eliminate the need for outdoor weddings, outdoor noise and erection of a tent on the beach.

A special event should not be held at the restaurant every weekend from March to September, she said, noting that she's just "trying to keep the village great and beautiful."

Attorney Brendan Rowe, representing William and Barbara Nally who also live adjacent to the Sandbar, said limiting the frequency of special event permits would "go a long way to eliminating problems."

He also threw Garrett's proposals under the bus, particularly Garrett's call for a "major" and "minor" special event permit application process. Rowe said Garrett had "missed completely" the reasons for when and why a special event permit should be issued.

But Anna Maria resident Mark Alonso chimed in on the side of the Sandbar, saying the commission was "on a wild goose chase." By this action, the city is "not people friendly or business friendly."

Commissioner Chris Tollette even wondered if having an "awareness" party with about 75 people at a home would require a special event permit. The same question was asked about a Super Bowl party at a private house or even a restaurant. A party of just a few people might require a special event permit.

Enough, said Commissioner Duke Miller.

The ordinance should at least define what a special event permit is, he said. Miller also thought there should be a limit on the number of special event permits received each year by an establishment or organization, but said he didn't have enough information yet to make any decision.

He suggested that Garrett look at special event

Meetings

Anna Maria City

March 20, 7 p.m., planning and zoning board meeting, Holmes Beach City Hall.

March 22, 7 p.m., city commission 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 14, 1 p.m., shade meeting of city commission.
March 15, 1 p.m., city commission meeting. Agenda: approval of paving contract, approval to purchase recycling truck, city hall renovation approval, conflict of interest waiver approval for city attorney, approval of street development refund deposit, and city commission reports.

March 19, 4 p.m., WAVES committee meeting.

March 20, 1 p.m., scenic highway committee meeting.

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

Holmes Beach

March 15, 10 a.m., code enforcement board meeting — CANCELED.

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

Of Interest

March 15, 6 p.m., West Manatee Fire and Rescue Commission District meeting, Fire Station No. 1, 6001 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Agenda: presentations, fiscal year 2005-06 audit report, memorial towers discussion, impact fee legislation discussion, consolidated dispatch discussion and commission comments.

March 19, 3:30 p.m., Island Transportation Planning Organization meeting, Holmes Beach City Hall.

March 21, 1 p.m., Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials Meeting at Holmes Beach City Hall.

Contempt charges filed against city over seawall

By Paul Roat

A long-standing issue has come back to haunt Bradenton Beach, this time in the form of a criminal contempt of court lawsuit from Pete Milazzo.

In an ongoing saga that began in June 2004, Milazzo, of 306 Gulf Drive S., fired off his latest salvo of legal charges last week against the city and Ed Mc Adam, the city's now former building official.

Some history is needed first to grasp the nature of the matter.

Milazzo, in 2004, asked for permission to remove about 100 feet of the concrete-block seawall fronting his Gulffront property. The seawall is far from the water's edge and abuts part of the house.

A former building official in Bradenton Beach issued the Florida Department of Environmental Protection 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 "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 to demand the letter.

The city's letter was eventually mailed after a circuit court order, and Milazzo last month received a conditional permit from the DEP for the seawall removal.

However, the city contested issuance of the DEP permit before the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings and requesting a new ruling.

The crux of the matter lies in 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 last month, 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."

Fast-forward to last week's actions and the criminal contempt of court charges.

Attorney Scott K. Petersen, on behalf of Milazzo, wrote in his motion, "The city's almost three-year assault on Milazzo's property rights, seemingly driven by politics rather than any basis in law or fact, continues. The city's appeal of the DEP final order is a contemptuous act. It is but another stall tactic designed to force Milazzo to spend yet more money contending

against the same objections the city has been making for three years. The city, apparently undeterred by this court's order, now seeks to do the very same thing that this court ordered it not to do, i.e., once again reassert its objections to Milazzo's permit."

Peterson said that the proper course the city should have taken would have been to appeal the circuit court ruling to an appellate court rather than through the administrative hearing process.

"It is a clear attempt to make an end-run around this court's order," Peterson wrote in his brief. "The city's actions are both an affront to the dignity of this court and to the orderly administration of justice. Such actions should not be countenanced."

Rudacille said, "The better question is what the actual municipal purpose is for the city in continuing the opposition at this point. The court has found there is no legal basis for their opposition, and the coastal engineers at DEP have found that the removal [of the wall] will cause no significant adverse impacts to beaches, dunes or adjacent properties. They state they are acting on a public safety issue, based on the coastal engineer's reports, but the city's opposition began long before the engineer was ever hired."

City attorney Greg Hootman received the documents filed by Milazzo's attorneys and declined to discuss the on-going matter.



Beach view now and later

Anna Maria resident and native landscape expert Mike Miller offered "current and tomorrow" pictures of Cortez Beach as it appears now and as it could in a few years after planting native Florida landscaping. *Islander Photos: Courtesy Mike Miller*

New hurdles in path of Coquina Beach Trail construction

By Paul Roat

Progress on the controversial Coquina Beach Trail in Bradenton Beach has come to a screeching halt, thanks to bureaucracy.

Construction on the 1.3-mile-long trail, from Fifth Street South to the base of the Longboat Bridge on the west side of Gulf Drive, began last month. The 8-foot-wide asphalt path meanders under some trees, has bollards to keep trailgoers and vehicles separated, and will have water fountains, benches, bike racks and other amenities along its length.

The \$391,500 project is funded by Manatee County

and Bradenton Beach.

Controversy erupted when a change order on the job spurred the removal of 66 Australian pine trees along the trail's route, more than the 37 trees that were originally marked for removal.

The latest snafu in the project was one of a permitting nature.

Tom Yarger, the county's parks and recreation project manager in charge of the trail work, said that permit requests had been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District in a "clearinghouse" move.

The various agencies reviewed the plans about a year ago. The Corps waived jurisdiction, Yarger said, as did the DEP. Swiftmud ended up with the plans, and determined it would exempt the project from any permits.

Once work began, though, a DEP representative called for a halt on the work.

"The DEP claimed jurisdiction and halted the project," Yarger told the city's scenic highway committee last week. "They admitted they were at fault [for waiving jurisdiction], and are reviewing the project. We expect to have a permit in the next few weeks."

Yarger said that the DEP's Fritz Wettstein halted the project. Wettstein is with the department's beaches and coastal systems division, which should have taken the authority on the trail project but for some reason did not until the project was under way.

Work was halted Feb. 14.

Another problem resulting from the delay is that the contractor, Billy Hay Excavating, had to pull crews and equipment off the job, and will have to re-mobilize equipment and resources once the permit is in hand.

Cost of that re-mobilization is estimated at \$46,000,

Yarger said, "although we are working with the contractor to get that number down."

Australian pine tree removal has prompted an outpouring of commentary from residents and others. Some of those comments have been pro-pine, while others have applauded the removal of what is generally considered by state officials to be a non-native, noxious tree.

"The charm of the area is in the Australian pines," Gail Blackmore said last month. "It seems sad. They aren't native, but there are lots of things in Florida that aren't native."

Yarger said that the trail configuration was somewhat constrained, and to keep parking at the public beach, the extra tree removal was required. He added that he hoped to draw trees from a special "tree trust fund" within Manatee County to replace the pines with native Florida shade trees after the trail work is completed.

Native plant expert Mike Miller of Anna Maria presented the scenic highway group with a list of Florida plants that he said would thrive in the high-salt, low-water environment of the trail's path.

He suggested that with initially judicious watering, trees and understory plantings could flourish in a short period of time.

"Coquina Beach should be a forest," he said, "stretching from the dunes back to Leffis Key. I don't think that 3,000 cabbage palms would be too many."

Miller even donated the first of the native-Florida plantings to the city — a 12-foot Gumbo Limbo branch, which he said merely needed to be stuck into the ground and watered frequently to grow into a leafy shade tree.

Yarger said he hoped the Coquina Beach Trail would be completed by its expected deadline of April 30.

Schools host helmet giveaway

The West Manatee Fire Rescue District is working with local elementary schools to provide students with bike helmets.

A helmet giveaway for children who do not have them will take place Wednesday, March 14, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Palma Sola, Stewart and Anna Maria elementary schools.

"The project was initiated as part of our community risk reduction program," said WMFR Capt. Tom Sousa. "Our firefighters noticed on the first week of school in August that many kids were not wearing bike helmets on the way to school. They initiated a program through Safe Kids to issue bike helmets to kids that did not have one when they reached school."

Sousa said firefighters will also talk with students about bicycle safety.

Chiles ushers in Children's Week this week

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Island restaurateur Ed Chiles on March 12 helped usher in Children's Week, a statewide campaign to promote the well being of children.

The campaign reaches from the courthouse steps in Bradenton to the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee.

Chiles, as *The Islander* went to press, was holding a press conference at the Manatee County Courthouse to talk about Children's Week and the areas where change is needed in Florida to better serve the state's children.

Areas for change include healthcare, child protection, early learning, after-school programs and juvenile justice. Recommendations are detailed in an action agenda developed from a summit meeting last fall involving more than 1,000 legislators, community

leaders and child advocates.

At the top of the agenda for this legislative session is a proposal to create a children's cabinet.

The action plan also calls for creating a rating system to promote quality childcare, creating a blue-ribbon committee to study after-school needs and examining "zero-tolerance" policies for effectiveness.

The Children's Week schedule in Manatee County included a display of child-crafted handprints in the county chambers and throughout the county building on March 12, followed by the county commission's issuance of a Children's Week Proclamation on March 13.

A "Party in the Park" for parents and children will be at 10 a.m. Friday, March 16, in G.T. Bray Park and Amphitheatre, Bradenton.

Children's Week also includes the presentation of

the Chiles Advocacy Award, which is given each year to a leading children's advocate.

The award takes its name from one of Florida's first families. "Because of the paramount importance that Lawton and Rhea Chiles attached to early childhood and family issues while Lawton Chiles was in public office and because of Rhea Chiles' continuing efforts in this arena, Children's Week Partners, a coalition of more than 20 statewide non-profit, private and public sector organizations — annually present the Chiles Advocacy Award to a Floridian who has dedicated his or her life to improving the lives of children and families."

This year's award winner is scheduled to be announced March 26 in Tallahassee during a dinner hosted by Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente.



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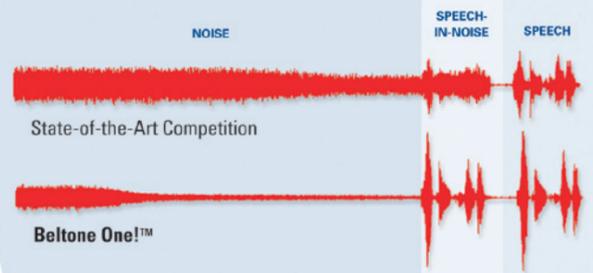
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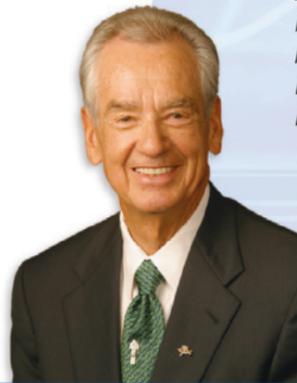
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— Zig Ziglar



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Our Opinion

Dark days in Bradenton Beach

It may come as no surprise to loyal readers of The Islander newspaper that we are devout “believers” in Florida’s Government-in-the-Sunshine laws.

We congratulate both Anna Maria and Bradenton Beach for hosting Government-in-the-Sunshine training sessions for staff and officials.

However, it can’t happen TOO SOON (March 13) in Bradenton Beach.

Unfortunately, in the situation that unfolded after we learned that two city employees, the building official and the code enforcement officer, were on unexpected leave, the city could have used some Sunshine Law expertise.

Requests for public information in the ensuing days were greeted by staff and other officials with remarks such as, “No comment” and “I know nothing.” While their comments may have been “true,” they are inappropriate responses for public record requests, according to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes.

The fact that the city clerk expressed displeasure over the official requests — but failed to either provide records or cite the statute that allows the records to be exempt — is unacceptable.

As the primary person responsible for public records, the clerk should know the Sunshine Law requires delivery of the requested document in a timely manner or a response citing the legal exception. To flatly deny the request is a violation of the Sunshine Law and we loathe to overlook this abuse.

The bad state of affairs was worsened by the means in which the city refuted inquiries and the media.

Further exasperating matters is the fact that the mayor and the city’s attorney still have not seen fit to return our phone calls.

Also disparaging was the “gag order” on city staff, which amounted to a limit on each individual’s freedom of speech.

Finally, the lack of knowledge on the part of the commissioners — if they truly knew nothing of the circumstances — amounts to poor representation for the citizens of Bradenton Beach. Secrecy and privacy are different matters and should be handled accordingly.

The subsequent resignation of the building official in the wake of a sexual harassment complaint from one of his staff was not unexpected, but a better result, if the claims are true and to protect the city, might have been to fire the building official.

As elected officials, Bradenton Beach’s mayor and commissioners should also examine the risks — liability and exposure — if the complaint is not made public. In fact, documentation of the complaint is still being withheld.

As your watchdog over government matters, we’re appalled by the breach of trust in Bradenton Beach.

Remember, you’re entitled to know.

It’s just coincidental that this is Sunshine Week all over the United States, and that Florida Gov. Charlie Crist began his term in January by heralding a new Office of Open Government.

Maybe the sun’ll come out tomorrow.

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
Rebecca Barnett, rebecca@islander.org
Paige Wolfe, paige@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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Island Shopping Center, 5404 Marina Drive
Holmes Beach FL 34217
WEB SITE: islander.org
FAX 941 778-9392 PHONE 941 778-7978

HEY! WERE YOU BROUGHT
UP IN A BARN??! CLOSE
THAT DOOR. YOU MIGHT LET
SOME SUNSHINE IN.



SLICK

By Egan

Your Opinion

An overdue revolt

The tax revolt in Tallahassee is long overdue. Anyone who does not realize that is living in a dark closet.

Whatever the outcome in Tallahassee, local governments are destined to face some serious adjusting to budgets that have been grossly overfed for the past decade by a tax system gone awry. The bureaucrats who have grown accustomed to the windfalls urge us to protest the “irresponsible actions of a legislature that’s not listening to local governments.” I beg your pardon: The legislature is listening — to mad-as-hell constituents who are not going to take it any more.

Hindsight is 20/20. Looking at the extreme scenarios being considered by the Legislature, had we in Anna Maria, and elsewhere, authorized only inflation-adjusted increases to our budgets, we wouldn’t be borrowing money today to pay for routine infrastructure needs.

We will survive. We just have to be realistic and understand that some changes will need to be made that will affect all of us.

Duke Miller, commissioner, Anna Maria City

Homestead exemption

This letter is in response to an article concerning Holmes Beach Mayor Rich Bohnenberger’s comments about the proposed tax-relief plan and his opposition to it.

I think he might try giving up his homestead exemption and see if his attitude changes regarding Part 1 of the plan. When my property taxes were doubled in 2001, his probably increased 2 percent.

My property tax since then has increased from \$2,400 to \$4,800 and now \$6,500 in five years. Has he seen that much of an increase in his property taxes? Have the expenses of the Island’s municipal governments increased that much? If so, that needs to be examined.

Real estate here is said to be overvalued by 25 percent. Will people like me see a comparable decrease in our property taxes and appraisals without this bill? Not likely.

Who does he think must shoulder the burden of these large increases? Some of it will be the same tourists he worries about with the sales tax increase proposed in Part 2 which would, incidentally, be borne by all of us. Landlords cannot do anything else but pass the cost of these increased taxes on to the tourists.

It’s easy to let those without a homestead exemption shoulder the bulk of the property tax burden; they don’t get to vote.

A town meeting? How would the non-homestead owners be represented?

Lawrence J. Zimmer, M.D., Anna Maria

About those pines ...

I want to clarify Save Anna Maria Inc.’s position regarding Australian pine removal on Anna Maria Island.

SAM opposes the unconditional removal of Australian pines from Anna Maria Island.

SAM does not support future plantings of pines on the Island. SAM does not oppose the removal of pines from the Island for immediate health, safety or other bona fide reasons.

SAM opposes the killing and removal of pines solely because they are Australian pines. SAM opposes killing and removing pines without any consideration of the benefits the particular pine or grouping may provide.

SAM opposes the efforts to kill all Australian pines solely because they are Australian pines.

SAM supports other organizations’ efforts relative to opposing pine removal insofar as they are consistent with SAM’s policy.

Sheila Hurst, president, Save Anna Maria Inc.



Your Opinion

A special night

Something special happened Saturday night, Jan. 27, that I wanted your readers to know about. The event was the Rotary Extravaganza Casino Night organized by the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island. The setting was St. Bernard Catholic Church auditorium. The spirit of giving ruled the night.

Was it the fabulous decorations handmade by Island volunteers? Was it the culinary artistry of Ezra, Brandenton's award-winning eatery and master caterer that followed the Sandbar Restaurant's appetizers? Was it music of the ever-popular entertainers RPM that filled the hall and lured revelers to the dance floor? Or was it the exciting casino table action that generated screams of triumph again and again? It was obviously all of the above that created an electricity rarely experienced.

The giving started with a sellout crowd of 250, the hall's maximum capacity generating more than \$13,000. Then the raffle ticket sales for the week's stay in a Hawaiian villa added \$3,100. Advance cash donations generated another \$9,500.

The highlight of the evening was two live cash calls stimulated by two anonymous matches of \$2,500 each. Generous attendees responded by raising their paddles, resulting in more than \$14,000 in donations that brought tears to the eyes of auctioneer and longtime Rotarian Don Fernald.

The live and silent auction sales drove the total net event proceeds over the \$35,000 mark, nearly 70 percent more than last year's event totals.

I wish to thank all the many volunteers who donated their time and money to put the event together in the last six months. Sincere thanks to those donating items for the auctions and the many in-kind donations, including advertising space in this newspaper.

AM South Bank's \$5,000 cash donation was greatly appreciated, as was that of other major donors — LaPensee Plumbing, BrightHouse Networks, Timesaver, Beachway Liquors, Hurricane Liquors, and so many others too numerous to mention.

Most importantly I want to thank the many gen-

erous Islanders who helped make the event a raging success.

Barry Gould, Extravaganza Chair

Ought to be a law

It appears that this recent trolley related accident in which a young man is truly lucky to be alive has set a new precedence legally and a new low morally. For anyone to even suggest that it was this young man's fault is just astounding! Of course most people know and expect pedestrians to be getting off and on trolleys. This was a Sunday morning, at a busy church intersection, in season. All reasons to stop and wait behind a trolley, like most people do.

If this was a young child or an elderly person exiting a trolley, who would dare say, "They didn't look?" Even better, no one ever asked. This young man is my life, my only son and could easily have been you or your child. Of course, my son wouldn't go in front of the trolley without notifying the driver, who looked and told him that it was clear. Thanks to God that a doctor and nurse happened to be there. Many thanks to them, and all the great neighbors and strangers who came to help my son. It's a true miracle that my son is alive.

We need to ask why a careless, selfish, impatient jerk who slammed into a pedestrian was rewarded by not even being charged or fined! Why are there so many "yield pedestrian" signs, some with fines of \$118.50 for violations?

An inexpensive solution would be to make all trolley stops no passing lanes with a little yellow paint.

If this were a police officer's child, I'm sure he'd feel differently. Then perhaps he'd enforce the law and help change it instead of so cavalierly dismissing this tragedy.

My phone now rings frequently with medical bill collectors and insurance claim people calling, yet no police or reporters have called to hear my son's side or condition. Thanks for the great picture of the damaged van, though. I guess next they'll say it didn't hurt. Blame the victim. Obviously.

A.M. Zappola, Holmes Beach

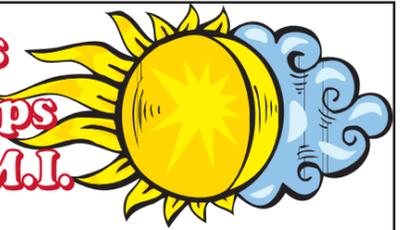
In the March 12, 1997, issue of *The Islander*, headlines announced:

- Holmes Beach city commissioners Don Maloney and Luke Courtney were returned to office in the city's general election March 11, while former mayor Pat Geyer also won a commission seat. Courtney gained his seat by a mere four votes over Mercedes Thornburg.

- Holmes Beach City Commission candidate Irma Bachelant-Lanning filed charges with the state ethics commission against Mayor Bob Van Wagoner after she claimed he criticized her at a commission meeting.

- Officials from Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach met with representatives of the Southwest Florida Water Management District to discuss drainage problems and solutions in both cities. Following the meeting, Swiftmud's Steve Minnis agreed to meet with the Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials at its next meeting.

Temps & Drops on A.M.I.



Date	Low	High	Rainfall
March 4	54	70	0
March 5	54	70	0
March 6	60	72	0
March 7	58	76	0
March 8	62	71	0
March 9	61	76	0
March 10	62	76	0

Average Gulf water temperature 68°

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

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Insurance: Crisis, ripple effect continues on AMI

By Molly McCartney
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Islanders are still hurting from the ripple effect of the state insurance crisis.

One of the latest victims is Ginny's Antiques and Art at 5602 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Owner Ginny Dutton said she will close that store May 15 because business is so bad from the combined impact of soaring property insurance, higher property taxes, hurricane threats, past years' red tide and the slow-down in the real estate market.

"You can't have 900 homes on the Island for sale and not have it have an effect," she said. "We price our things to sell and we are not selling. There are too many houses for sale and too little occupancy in hotels and rentals. We used to sell volumes of furniture for people buying condos and furnishing their homes, and that is not happening anymore."

Dutton said there has been a downward trend in the local rental and real estate market since 2004 "when we were hit with storms and red tide" along with higher insurance and property taxes.

Closing the Marina Drive store is a "very emotional" experience, Dutton said. "I had customers crying yesterday, and that makes it very hard," she said.

A second store that Dutton operates with her sister Jane E. Joyce at 9807 Gulf Drive in Anna Maria City will remain open. It isn't that the Gulf Drive store is doing so well, she said. "It is that it is profitable and the one (on Marina Drive) is not."

The difference is the inventory, she said.

Dutton said the Marina Drive store, which opened in 1998, specializes in furniture and home furnishings. The Gulf Drive store, which the sisters named Ginny's and Jane E's At the Old IGA, opened in July 2004, "meets many needs" and features a bakery with a wide assortment of treats made from scratch, coffee bar, gourmet grocery section, Internet cafe, flowers, antiques, art and various other products and services, including some furniture.

"We also cater private parties," she said.

"If I was selling furniture only [at the Holmes Beach location], it wouldn't be enough to keep it open," she said.

No coverage for Pine store

Another island business that continues to suffer from the insurance crunch is the Pine Avenue General Store in the city of Anna Maria.

Owner Sandy Mattick lost her wind insurance coverage last year and has been unable to find a replacement policy.

Mattick said she wasn't able to get Citizens Property Insurance Corp. coverage in 2006 because the store was located outside the state-designated wind zone. She said the store didn't qualify for the Florida Property and Casualty Joint Underwriting Association coverage because that excludes residential and she lives there.

She is hopeful that the state's new insurance regu-



Jane E. Joyce, left, and sister Ginny Dutton, will continue to operate their popular store, Ginny's and Jane E's at the Old IGA on Gulf Drive at Magnolia Avenue in Anna Maria, but Dutton is closing her Marina Drive store in Holmes Beach, Ginny's Antiques and Art, on May 15 due to higher insurance premiums, taxes, hurricane threats and red tide. Islander Photo: Molly McCartney

lations will allow her to obtain wind insurance from Citizens, but it isn't clear yet if she will qualify or if she will be able to afford the premium if she is eligible.

"I'm hoping this is going to work out," Mattick said. But she admits being nervous about the cost of the premium if she does qualify.

Manion insurance lesson

Island homeowner Mary Manion told state Rep. Bill Galvano at the Kiwanis Club meeting in February that her USF&G insurance premium had tripled in price since last year and she wanted to know if she would get any relief from the new state law.

Galvano, who represents Anna Maria Island and western Manatee County, said she should get some relief but the amount would depend on the company and the policy.

Since then, Manion has learned from her insurance agent that USF&G operates as an unregulated surplus-lines carrier in Florida and is not subject to the state's new law.

Manion said she also learned that the \$3,700 pre-

mium for her USF&G coverage included an estimated \$1,100 in unrefundable fees.

"My agent said the only place I could go other than USF&G was Citizens but I don't want to go to Citizens because it is the last resort, and I don't want to get into something like that," she said.

Manion thought she was stuck with USF&G. And as of February she had paid \$2,100 of the \$3,700 due on the policy. Then a repairman doing some work at her home referred her to an agent who was able to place her with Universal, which is based in Fort Lauderdale.

The premium for the Universal policy is about \$1,300, Manion said.

The Manions dropped the USF&G policy and switched their coverage to Universal.

ManaSota-88 warning

The chairman of ManaSota-88 says that it shouldn't surprise anyone that Florida has been hit with an insurance crisis.



Compton

"For decades, state and local governments have permitted inappropriate development in hurricane-prone areas and continue to do so today," Glenn Compton stated in the group's February newsletter.

ManaSota-88 is a not-for-profit public health and environmental organization founded in 1968. It has 1,500 members in Manatee and Sarasota counties.

Compton, a member of the group for 22 years and chairman for four years, said he has received "quite a few e-mails and phone calls" in response to his article in the newsletter. "People are concerned about insurance rates and most agree we have overdeveloped the coast," he said.

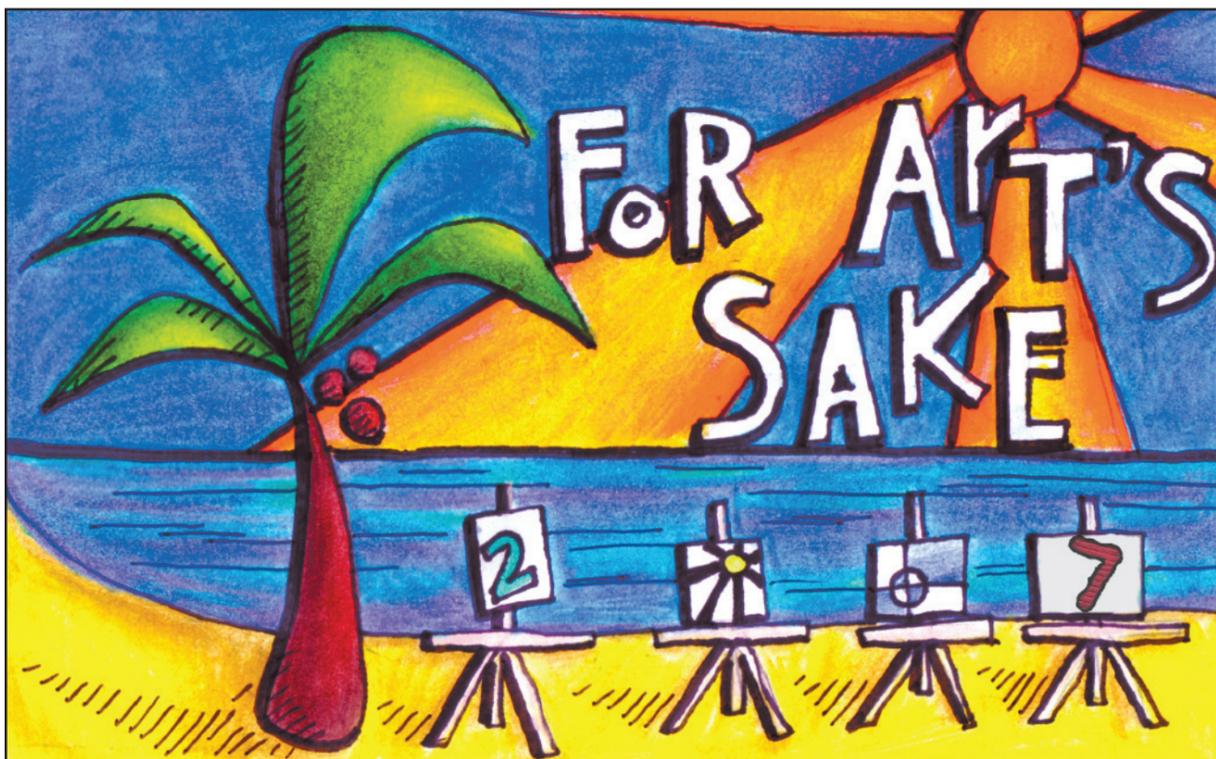
Recent examples of development approvals in risky coastal areas, he said, include high-rise condominiums on Perico Island in Bradenton and in the city of Venice, as well as waterfront developments along the Manatee River.

"There appears to be little consideration given to the overall problems associated with land-falling hurricanes when approving developments in this area," he said.

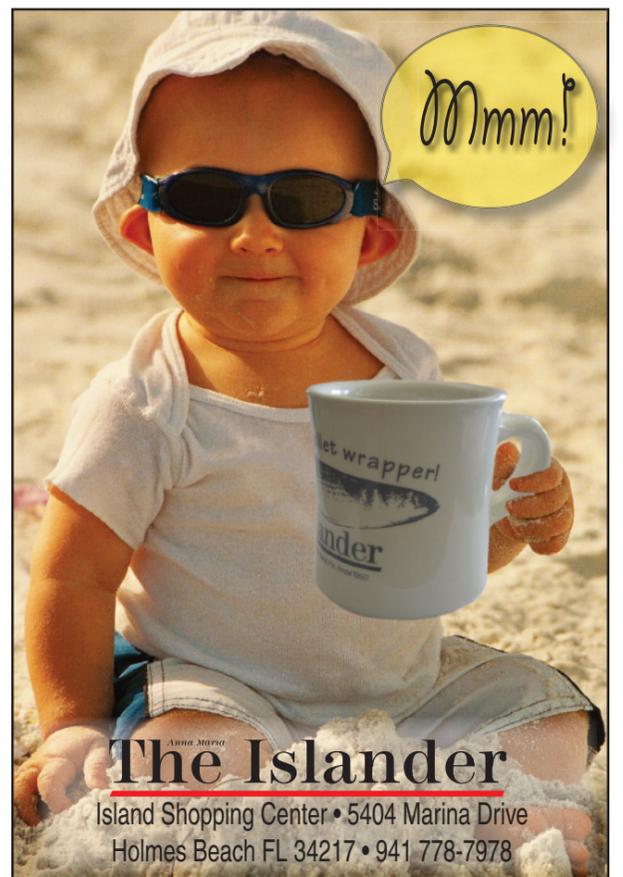
Compton said there is one obvious solution to the insurance crisis – stop density increases in the Coastal High Hazard Zone, which must be evacuated in the event of a Category 1 hurricane, and reduce density in flood-prone areas.

State leaders, including Gov. Charlie Crist, have called for a national commission on catastrophic disaster risk to address the Florida insurance crisis, but Compton argued that "it is almost laughable that Florida's political leaders expect the rest of the nation to bail us out of problems we have created for ourselves as a result of decades of improper coastal development."

PLEASE SEE INSURANCE, NEXT PAGE



Art Lovers: Silent Auction of donated works and reception hosted by The Islander newspaper, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 23, outdoors on the sidewalk at The Islander office, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. (Art donations welcome.) Info: 941.778.7978.



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Obituaries

Dr. Rafael J. Barreda

Dr. Rafael J. Barreda, 76, of Tampa and formerly Bradenton Beach, died March 2.

Dr. Barreda was head of mental health at MacDill Air Force Base for 42 years and preceptor of various medical staff. He was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church.

Wake service was March 8, and Mass March 9.

He is survived by wife Dahlia C., a former city commissioner in Bradenton Beach; sons Peter T., a former city commissioner in Bradenton Beach and wife Marisela, Ralph J. and wife Melody, and Mark A.; daughter Julie Barreda Bruyn and husband John; two brothers; and grandchildren Emily C. Maria N., Benjamin A., A. Zoe and Sidney.

Insurance woes continue

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Compton said that risk assessments show that Florida has nearly \$2 trillion in insured coastal exposure, with nearly 80 percent of Florida's total insured exposure on the coast.

"The Insurance Information Institute states that a repeat of the Great Miami Hurricane of 1926 could cause \$500 billion in damage by 2020, given current demographic trends," he said.

Compton said that there is an increased threat of extensive loss of life and property damage as additional people move into Southwest Florida.

"It is critical that residents understand the dangers of living in a hurricane-prone area," he said.

"Currently there are no hurricane evacuation clearance-time standards for new or existing development. Legislation needs to be passed that would require the disclosure of hurricane evacuation times when potential buyers are purchasing residential property. Prospective buyers and renters have the right to know, and should be informed, whether they can or cannot safely evacuate from property they are considering purchasing or renting."

In the meantime, what should coastal property owners on Anna Maria Island and elsewhere do to protect themselves against storm damage?

Compton's advice: "Keep your fingers crossed and hope we don't get a storm."

Citizens and the Cat Fund

Contrary to what was reported here last week, Citizens Property Insurance Corp. does buy reinsurance from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.

Louis William 'Lou-Lou-Lou' Blourne

Louis William "Lou-Lou-Lou" Blourne, 77, of Bradenton, died March 8.

Born in Woodbury, N.J., Mr. Blourne moved to Florida in the early 1970s. He was a police officer and singer, performing with the Sons of the Beach, Ruby's Pearls at the American Legion Post No. 24, and the Elks Club. He was three-time governor of Moose Lodge 1223.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota FL 34238. Manasota Memorial Funeral Home, Bradenton, is in charge of arrangements.

He is survived by wife Joanne; step-son Arthur Scott and his wife BethAnn; stepdaughter Diane Dietch; and step-grandchildren Arthur Scott, Brody Scott, Amy Scott, Boone Scott and Alexis Colmorgen.

Mary June Bugher

Mary June Bugher, 84, of Bradenton, died March 6.

Born in East Lansing, Mich., Mrs. Bugher came to Bradenton from St. Petersburg in 1970. She was a homemaker. She was a member of Christian Retreat.

Visitation was March 8 and services March 9. Memorial contributions may be made to Christian Retreat, 1200 Glory Way Blvd., Bradenton FL 34202. Griffith-Cline Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

She is survived by sons Michael Alexander of Biddeford, Maine, Billy Thomas of Anna Maria, and James C. of Bradenton; daughters Betty June Francis of Atlanta, Ga., and Missy Fodor of Clearwater; sisters Pat Chase of Norfolk, Va., and Ruthella Parker of Talmo, Ga.; and six grandchildren.

Joe Perricone

Joe Perricone, 80, of Anna Maria, died March 6.

Born in Tampa, Mr. Perricone was retired as president of Power Kleen Corp. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Muir during World War II. He worked in the tile business. He was an avid fisherman and loved boating. He was a member of the American Legion.

Memorial services were March 10. Brown and Sons Funeral Home, 43rd Street Chapel, was in charge of arrangements.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Dorothy; son Allen Leigh; daughters Michele Romeo and Renee; brother Bob; sister Rose Lee; grandsons Douglas Leigh, Joe Leigh, Brent Romeo, Scott Romeo, Eric Romeo and Eric; and great-grandchildren Mackenzi, Grace, Ethan Leigh and Alivian Leigh.

Island real estate sales

1453 Gulf Drive N., Bermuda Beach Club, Unit 4, Bradenton Beach, a 1,524 sfla / 2,622 sfur 3bed/2bath condo built in 2000 was sold 02/23/07, Fellner to Abitabilo for \$785,000.

1105 Gulf Drive S., Blue Horizon, Units 2 & 3, Bradenton Beach, two 600 sfla 1bed/1bath Gulfview condos were sold 02/22/07, Hewett to Blue Horizon Condo Developers LLC for \$439,100. This sale is not believed to be an arm's length transaction.

117 Seventh St. N., Bay View Terrace, Unit 40, Bradenton Beach, a 864 sfla / 912 sfur 2bed/1½ bath condo built in 1973 was sold 02/21/07, Edmiston to Booth for \$300,000; list \$295,000.

203 70th St., Holmes Beach, a 1,540 sfla / 2,016 sfur 2bed/2bath duplex built in 1955 on a 90x102 lot was sold 02/22/07, Allen to Kaleta & Powers for \$525,000; list \$625,000.

1105 Gulf Drive S., Blue Horizon, Unit 1, Bradenton Beach, a 586 sfla 1bed/1bath Gulfview condo was sold 02/22/07, Blue Horizon Condo Developers LLC

to Berger for \$237,000; list \$249,000.

Note: In real estate, "arm's length" refers to the relationship between buyer and seller, not at arm's length would indicate familiarity with regard to the "deal."

Jesse Brisson, broker/associate at Gulf-Bay Realty of Anna Maria, can be reached at (941) 713-4755 direct, or at Gulf-Bay (941) 778-7244.

Current Island real estate transactions may also be viewed online at www.islander.org. Copyright 2007

Social news welcomed

The Islander welcomes photographs and notices of the milestones in readers' lives — weddings, anniversaries, travels and other events.

Please send items, photographs with identities and notices — along with contact information — to news@islander.org or 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217.



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Police to spotlight red light running later this month

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Local police are concentrating efforts to curb motorists who see red and go ahead.

Island police departments are working with state and county law enforcement agencies to curb aggressive driving and red light running in the area, said Holmes Beach Lt. Dale Stephenson.

The campaign gets under way March 19 and continues through March 23. During that time, a task force of 20 police officers and sheriff's deputies will patrol roads focusing on enforcing laws against running red lights and aggressive driving.

"We're going to target 10 to 15 areas around the county," Stephenson said, though he didn't disclose the specific locations.

Officers will also focus on enforcing speed laws and the "Move Over" law that requires motorists to move over when they approach a traffic stop or crash scene.

About a year ago, area officers stepped up efforts to educate motorists on the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

The sheriff's office reported last week that the number of alcohol-related fatalities in Manatee County decreased from fiscal 2004-05 to fiscal 2005-06 from 18 deaths to three deaths.

Still, 75 people died in traffic-related fatalities in Manatee County last year. The campaign next week is intended to reduce the number by educating motorists about the risks in running red lights and aggressive driving, said Sgt. Paul Fieber, of the sheriff's office. Aggressive driving usually involves a motorist violating several traffic laws at one time.

Partners in the effort include the sheriff's office, the state highway patrol, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Bradenton, Palmetto, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach and Longboat Key police departments. The Stop Red Light Running Coalition of Florida also is involved.

Stephenson said Holmes Beach would dedicate two officers to the task force.

"Every now and then the county asks us to assist in traffic-related situations," he said, adding that about once a month the Holmes Beach Police Department helps with a checkpoint for drunk driving.

"Hopefully this might make more motorists

think twice," Stephenson said, referring to the stepped-up enforcement.

The lieutenant noted that Holmes Beach officers closely watch the busy intersection at Manatee Avenue and East Bay Drive for red light violations. The addition several months ago of white lights to signal which motorists are facing a red light helps officers monitor the intersection.

"Since the white lights have gone up, we've written a lot of citations and warnings," Stephenson said.

While law enforcement officers pursue red light runners on the road, a campaign resumed last week in Tallahassee to catch red light runners on camera.

Florida state Rep. Ron Reagan, a Republican lawmaker representing portions of Manatee County, has filed the 2007 Uniform Traffic Control Act.

The measure, which at press time had not yet been assigned to a committee, would create the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Program to be administered by the state motor vehicle department and provide counties and municipalities the authority to enforce traffic control signals using traffic infraction detectors such as cameras. The measure would also require an annual report on the effectiveness of cameras.

The program is named for a Manatee County man killed when a motorist ran a red light on State Road 70 on Oct. 24, 2003. Mark Wandall was 30 and he and his wife, Melissa, were expecting their first child. Madison Grace Wandall was born two weeks after her father died.

Reagan introduced a similar bill last year, but it did not pass.

Two recent studies, one conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety using data from Philadelphia and one from researchers at Old Dominion University in Virginia, show that cameras deter red light running.

In the insurance institute study, researchers tracked signal violation rates before and after an extension of yellow light time and again after the installation of cameras. After extending the length of time for yellow lights, violations fell by 36 percent. After the addition of cameras, violations fell by 96 percent.

In the Virginia study, researchers analyzed data from before the installation of cameras, during the operation of cameras and after cameras had been turned off. Violations more than tripled in the first year after the cameras were deactivated.

Peter Pan purged from shelves, homes

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Stores across the country purged their shelves of the Peter Pan and Great Value peanut butter that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns may be contaminated with Salmonella.

Consumers, including some Islanders, continue to find jars in their homes — sitting in cabinets and refrigerators and even stashed away in their hurricane kits. The jars came from stores on the mainland, some brought down from the north, packed along with the swimsuits and tropical shirts. The jars came from groceries in Bradenton. And, at least one jar came from the Publix store in Holmes Beach.

Janice Dingman, manager of the Pines Trailer Park in Bradenton Beach, said she bought a jar at the Island Publix in January. The store, she said, offered to refund her money.

The FDA in mid-February warned consumers not to eat Peter Pan or Great Value peanut butter from certain jars due to contamination with *Salmonella* Tennessee. The bacterium can cause foodborne illness. Symptoms include fever, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. In people with poor underlying health or weakened immune systems, Salmonella can invade the bloodstream and cause life-threatening infections.

The peanut butter jars have product codes located on the lids that begin with the number "2111" and were sold since May 2006.

Both brands are manufactured in a facility in Georgia by ConAgra.

The FDA encouraged consumers who have this peanut butter to discard the product.

The FDA based its warning on an epidemiological

study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local health agencies, which links 288 cases of foodborne illness in 39 states to consumption of varying types of Peter Pan peanut butter. The outbreak appeared to be ongoing and the first consumer may have become ill in August 2006.

As the FDA issued its warning, ConAgra recalled the product, offering full refunds to consumers who send in the lids from "2111" jars to ConAgra Foods, P.O. Box 3768, Omaha NE 68103.

"Although none of our extensive product tests have indicated the presence of Salmonella, we are taking this precautionary measure because consumer health and safety is our top priority," said Chris Kircher, spokesperson for ConAgra Foods. "We are working closely with the FDA to better understand its concerns, and we will take whatever additional measures are needed to ensure the safety, quality and wholesomeness of our products."

Many grocery stores also are accepting returns. The day the FDA issued the warning, Publix authorized its stores to offer refunds. A local Publix representative said he could not comment.

Consumers with questions should contact ConAgra at 866-344-6970. For more information about Salmonella, go to www.ific.org.

Publisher to meet with Kiwanis at breakfast

Julie Howell of the Sarasota publishing firm Peppertree Press will speak at the weekly breakfast of the Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island Saturday, March 17.

It will be at 8 a.m. at the Cafe on the Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Details are available at 778-4865.

Irish entertainer coming to Island March 21 at St. Bernard

Irish star Tony Kenny will bring his "Irish extravaganza" to Anna Maria Island March 21, appearing at 7 p.m. at the St. Bernard Catholic Church activity center, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

Titled "Tony Kenny's Ireland," the show also features comedian Richie Hayes, singer/dancer Victoria Kenny and the Dublin City Dancers.

Tickets at \$50 are available at the church office or by calling 778-4769 or 778-2508.

Kenny has starred for more than 20 years on "Jury's Irish Cabaret," and was named "entertainer of the year" for three consecutive years starting in 1998. He has led the casts in "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and several other stage productions.

He is also a recording artist, with 25 records to his credit, including seven gold and two platinum discs.

Two other Kennys are part of the big show — daughter Victoria, who has been singing and dancing since age 3, and his wife Joan, choreographer, producer and director.

Artists Guild to host St. Patrick's Day Sale

The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island will have a St. Patrick's Day Art Show and Sale outdoors in front of the gallery from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Artists will show their works in jewelry, woodcarving, pottery and painting and will be there to discuss the works and the show.

Hours at the gallery are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Additional information may be obtained by calling 778-6694.

Roser to host Kids Night Out

A Kids Night Out will take place Friday, March 16, at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

The event, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., is the first session of Roser's Kids Night Out Program, formerly known as Island Baptist Church/Parents Night Out.

Children — and the adults who drop them off — can expect the Kids Night Out to feature games, movies, crafts and treats, such as pizza and popcorn.

The free program, sponsored by Roser's board of religious education and intended to provide a "safe, Christian environment," is open to children from "potty-trained age" through fifth-graders.

Teenagers are invited to volunteer, including for service hours.

For more information, or to register children because space is limited, call 778-2979 or 713-3390.



Gallery West exhibit

Nancy McClure Law has been named Artist of the Month for March at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. She spent her childhood in Argentina, grew up in New York, and lived in the West Indies before moving to Longboat Key. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Details are available at 778-6648.

Chamber plans 'Mad Hatter' show

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce will hold its "Mad Hatter Island Fashion Show and Luncheon" on March 30.

The event will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bradenton Yacht Club, 407 Snead Island Road, Palmetto.

The event will include a prize for the most creative hat, as well as a raffle and an auction. The cost to attend, including lunch, is \$35.

Tickets are available at the chamber office, 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

Also this month, the chamber hosts a monthly business card exchange at Bayside Banquet hall, 4628 118th St. W. from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. March 28.

Throughout March, the chamber is conducting a membership drive and waiving the administrative fee to join the Island organization. Membership includes a link on the chamber's Web site and advertising space in the visitor's center.

For more information about chamber events or membership, call 778-1541.



New officers

New officers and board members of the Anna Maria Island Democratic Club announced at the club's February meeting are David Zaccagnino, board member (and Holmes Beach city commissioner); Sue Dickie, secretary; Harry Kamberis, board member; Dale de Haan, president; Wilma Warren, board member; Bill Mc Grath, vice president; Francis Slack, board member; Sue Maddox, treasurer. Not pictured is board member and Holmes Beach City Commissioner Pat Geyer. The club meets again March 19. Islander Photo: Molly McCartney

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Alternative rock 'Concert in the Park' Saturday

A "Concert in the Park" featuring alternative rock by "Smilin' McGee" will be at Coquina Beach from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 17.

Sponsored by the Manatee County Parks and Recreation Department, the family concert will be dedicated to "preserving lifelong memories," said Karla Gibson, department special events supervisor. Details may be obtained by calling 742-5974.

Barbershop music coming to Neal hall for concert

The Gulfcoast Sandpiper Barbershop Chorus will sing "the old songs" in a concert at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 17, and Anna Maria Island will be well represented.

The concert will be at Neel Performing Arts Center on the Manatee Community College campus, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton. Tickets at \$16 may be arranged by calling 752-9475.

Islanders singing with the aggregation are Charles Caniff, Arnold Hansen, James Graham and Charles Blouin. Another Islander, Lynn Hineman, will perform also, with the Talk of the Town quartet.

Health care coalition chief to address democrats

The president of the National Coalition on Health Care will discuss "The National Health Care Crisis" at a meeting of Island Democrats Monday, March 19.

The session will be a noon lunch of the Anna Maria Island Democratic Club at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. It is an open meeting with no reservations required.

Dr. Henry Simmons will be the speaker. His organization is "the largest alliance working to improve America's health-care system," with former Presidents Bush and Carter as honorary co-chairs.

Additional details may be obtained by calling 778-9287.



Thrifty business
Margo Malin, Eloise Brower, Iris Trapp, Chris Kornoelje, Sis Littlehale and Betty Birchall show off their thrift-store style during a recent "Second-Hand Rose" luncheon at the Imperial House condo community room. Birchell, Brower, Malin and Bess Dascoulias organized the event, with prizes presented for originality, humor, elegance, creativity and thrift. Imperial's "Dream Queens" provided entertainment. Islander Photo: Ron Matthys

Sale Saturday at Gloria Dei

The annual "Craft and Clutter" sale of household items, clothing, and miscellany will be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17.

It will be outdoors at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Tables are still available for display of articles to be sold, a spokesperson said. Details may be obtained and table space reserved by calling 778-1813.

Bible study group under way

A cross-denominational Bible study delving into the Old Testament meets weekly on Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Each session includes video clips from scholarly lectures and documentaries, said the Rev. Frank McGrath, of All Island Denominations.

The series, currently on the Book of Exodus, is an ecumenical project of Inquiring Minds. Details may be obtained by calling McGrath at 778-4579.

Streetlife

Island police reports

Anna Maria City

March 7, 11101 Gulf Drive, theft. The complainant said someone took her wallet.

Bradenton Beach

Feb. 28, Coquina Beach, theft. The complainant said someone had entered their van and took wallets and purses with a value of about \$160.

Holmes Beach

March 8, 6900 block Holmes Boulevard, theft. The complainant said that someone had been stealing potted plants on several occasions from the front of her home during the past few days. Total plant loss was estimated at \$25.

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Team Euphemia Haye to walk for diabetes cure

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Team Euphemia Haye goes from the kitchen to the beach March 17 to "Walk to Cure Diabetes."

Spring brings a season of marches and walks, when warming temperatures draw out passions for campaigns for cures and causes. At 8 a.m. March 17, Team Euphemia Haye will join in a walk at Siesta Key to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The team will also join in the Manatee County Walk to Cure Diabetes that takes place April 13 at 5 p.m. at the Prime Outlets in Ellenton.

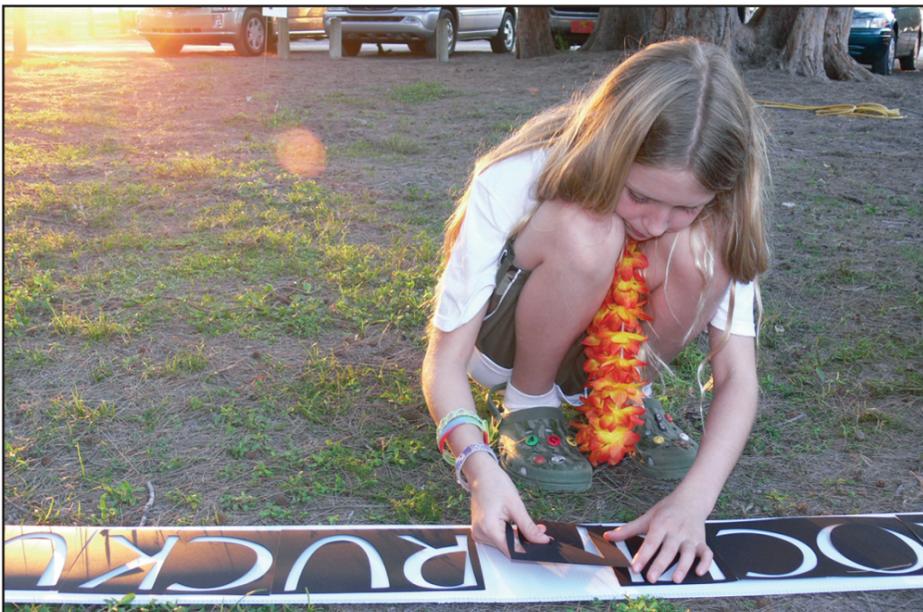
The JDRF is the world's largest charitable funder of type 1 diabetes research and was founded in 1970 by the parents of children with juvenile diabetes.

In type 1 diabetes, the pancreas stops producing insulin, the hormone that enables people to get energy from food. To survive, people with type 1 diabetes must test their blood sugar levels up to four or more times a day by pricking their fingers to draw blood and then administering insulin through multiple, daily injections or the use of a continuous infusion insulin pump.

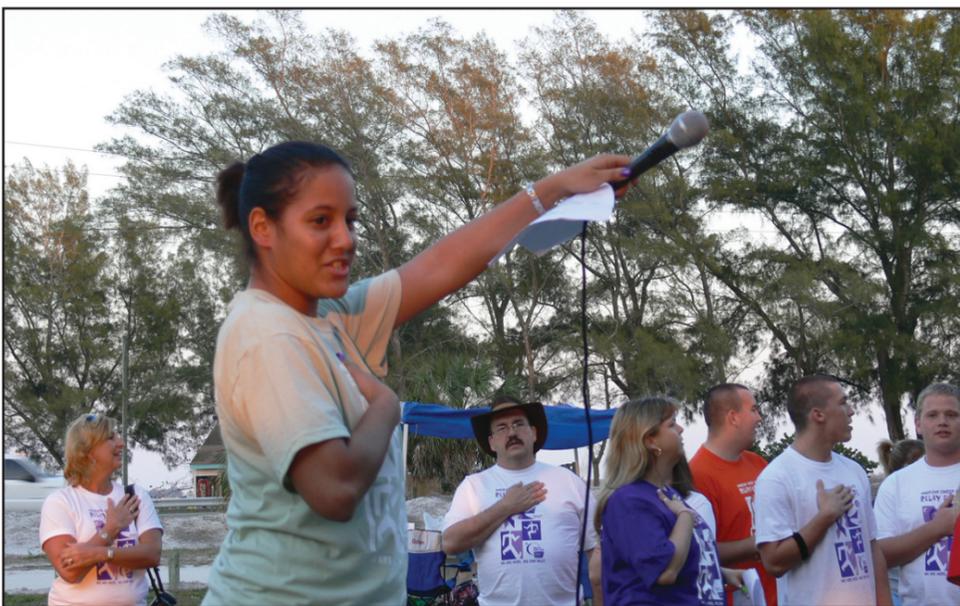
While trying to balance insulin with the amount of food eaten and exercise, people with type 1 diabetes must be prepared for potential life-threatening low or high blood glucose levels. The long-term complications of diabetes include blindness, heart attack, kidney failure, stroke, nerve damage and amputations.

Like many walkers, the members of Team Euphemia Haye share a personal motivation to walk. The owners of the Longboat Key restaurant, Ray and D'Arcy Arpke, have a nephew, Parker, 13, and a daughter, Katie, 28, living with the disease. Parker was diagnosed at age 7 and Katie at age 21.

"We love our daughter Katie and would stop at nothing to find a cure for this terrible disease," Ray Arpke said. "Unfortunately, I'm a cook and not



With care and compassion
Ashley Peterson, 10, of Bradenton, works on a "Rockin' Ruckus" sign to promote her booth at the Relay for Life. Ashley and a friend, Maddie Oliszewski, 7, of Bradenton, planned to camp out at the event March 9-10. "And probably stay up all night," Ashley said, "to raise money against cancer. I think it is a really bad disease." *Islander Photos: Lisa Neff*



Relay for Life committee member Brandy Booth leads the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the Relay for Life at Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach. Committee members hoped to raise more than \$30,000 in the relay and related events by month's end.

a scientist, so in my feeble way, the best I can do is to try and raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation."

The Arpkes believe a cure will be discovered, but financing for research is a factor.

"I truly believe that with your help 'type 1 diabetes' will become as absent as polio," the couple wrote in a fundraising letter. "Remember, 94 percent of every dollar collected for the local walk goes directly to research."

The Arpkes encouraged people to both walk with

Team Euphemia Haye and to pledge financial support to the team.

For more information, call the Arpkes at 383-1180 or go to JDRF at www.jdrf.org and click on the "green tennis shoe."

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FPL clearing lines, trimming trees on Island

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach homeowners Pat and Austin Rice were stumped on their return home after a day trip to Punta Gorda.

They say a crew contracted by Florida Power & Light had so damaged a black olive tree in their front yard that it needed to be removed.

They now want other property owners to know about the tree-trimming process and how to safeguard against damage. They don't want others to get stumped.

"If you have some trees, don't just say 'yes' to trimming," Austin Rice said from his home in the 500 block of 74th Street last week. "If you say 'yes,' say 'we want to know exactly what you're going to do.'"

Over the last several weeks, FPL has notified property owners and city officials that line clearing in preparation for the 2007 storm season has begun in Holmes Beach.

"Trees which have overgrown and may make contact with our power lines will be trimmed away from the lines or removed entirely," reads the letter. "This is a very important proactive maintenance program that helps prevent outages to your electrical service. Your support in allowing us access to trees that are on your property is essential to help prevent lengthy interruptions that are caused by trees and other vegetation, especially during windy weather."

FPL's external affairs manager, Mel Klein, summed up the effort saying the utility's top priority is to keep the lights on.

The line-clearing work is part of FPL's "Storm Secure" program created after the hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005.

FPL launched "Storm Secure" in 2006 and has inspected about 96,000 poles and trimmed vegetation along 11,000 miles of power lines.

This year, FPL plans to inspect about 500 poles a day in the state.

Meanwhile, the budget for clearing vegetation from lines has increased more than \$15 million from 2006



A contractor for Florida Power & Light trimmed this black olive tree on 74th Street in Holmes Beach as part of its line-clearing work. Islander Photo: Courtesy Austin Rice

to \$65 million this year. A budget specifically for the Island work could not be calculated, Klein said.

He said the bulk of the Island work would take place along lines in Holmes Beach and then in Bradenton Beach. Anna Maria City saw trimming last spring — what Klein described as a "feeder" trim because of the type of lines cleared.

The primary contractor for the work is Asplundh Tree Expert Co. "They are a nationwide company," Klein said. "They've been working for FPL for a number of years."

He said the contractors consider the tree species, growth rates, the tree's health and the location to the power lines before trimming.

"We may remove entire branches that are growing

toward the lines and branches that could re-sprout and grow toward the lines," reads a statement at FPL's Web site. "Branches growing away from power lines are usually not trimmed."

The trimmers use a technique endorsed by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture called "directional pruning" to reduce the stress placed on trees.

"We use standards," Klein said.

As an Asplundh crew trimmed trees along Palm Drive in Holmes Beach last week, some residents watched and had no complaints. Some said the trimmers worked with precision.

"They aren't required to be landscapers, but I think my yard looks better than ever," said Patsy Metcalf, a Palm Drive resident.

No complaints about trimming have been filed with city hall's public works department, according to public works superintendent Joe Duennes. Nor have any complaints been registered with the city's parks and beautification committee.

But FPL received at least one complaint — from the Rices.

The couple said they understand the need for trimming, they just don't understand what happened to their olive tree.

"They just came in and 'whack, whack,'" said Pat Rice. "It wasn't hurting the power lines at all."

"Every year we trim them," Austin Rice said.

He said a contractor came to the house on Feb. 25 and said a crew would need to trim on Feb. 26.

The Rices agreed, but the crew didn't arrive on Feb. 26.

The next day, the Rices left Holmes Beach for a visit to Punta Gorda. Austin Rice remembers seeing the orange Asplundh trucks on the road headed for Anna Maria Island.

When the couple returned home, two of the three olive trees had been "trimmed" — one had been trimmed of about a quarter of its leaves and branches.

A complaint was registered with FPL and several days later, on a Saturday, a crew returned to the Rices' yard to rectify the complaint.

"The only thing left to do was cut it down," Austin Rice said.

PLEASE SEE TREES, NEXT PAGE

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The line on FPL's tree-trimming

- Florida Power & Light has trees and other vegetation trimmed away from power lines to protect against outages, especially in storms.
 - Crews are trained to use a practice called "directional pruning" to reduce stress and are to take into consideration the type of tree, the health and the location when pruning.
 - Crews are not directed to "shape" trees, but they are directed to move trimmings to the curb and take away any debris.
 - Homeowners should receive notice of trimming about two weeks before crews arrive in their neighborhood.
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- For more information, go to www.fpl.com.



A stump is all that remains of the black olive tree that shaded a front yard in the 500 block of 74th Street in Holmes Beach. The tree was removed after a crew contracted by Florida Power & Light trimmed it from the power lines. The homeowners say the tree didn't threaten the lines and the trimming damaged it so it needed to be removed. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

Trees whacked on Island

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Klein said pruning can impact the appearance of trees and FPL tries to work with property owners to take a tree down if that's preferred.

"Sometimes, if you've got a palm and it's under a line, it's topped," Klein said. "It will come back, but some people will say to us they'd rather see the tree gone. We work with them."

Austin Rice, on March 9, looked at a photograph taken at Christmas several years ago showing a neat line of three well-rounded trees. Outside his window two olive trees remained and there was a dirt circle where the third tree once stood.

He said the trimming team worked hard to remove the tree and trimmed the remaining two in an effort to create balance.

But the stump, which the crew couldn't remove, was left behind.



Causeway cause

Kiwanis Club of Bradenton members John Brown and Arlene Thomas brush a coat of white paint on a cement trash can along Palma Sola Causeway March 10. Brown, of Simple Living home health, and Thomas, a retired teacher, created a canvas for volunteer artists who followed. The project was part of Better Manatee Day 2007 and involved the Kiwanis, Keep Manatee Beautiful, the Village of the Arts and area students. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*



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Record numbers, great weather, art show winners

The patrons were plentiful, the weather perfect, and while sales are what many of the artists count on at the Anna Maria Island Art League's 2007 Springfest, awards are the pinnacle.

"Best of Show" was awarded to two artists in two- and three-dimensional arts, Jay Canterbury for photography and Pamela Chevalier in sculpture. Coincidentally, both are local area artists, although the show included artists and crafters from all across the United States.

First place in two-dimensional art was awarded to Linda Molto of Cortez, and in three-dimensional work Mary Ann Wurst took first place for her pottery.

The juried show also produced second-place prizes in each of the categories of art featured at the show, including creative crafts, Kim Liu/Liew; Jean Yao for fiber; Carol Lahy in glass; Lawrence Packard in graphics/pastels; A. Defrank, jewelry; Linda McAdams for mixed media; Kathleen Green in oils/acrylic; Jon Boring in photography; Geoff Walsh in pottery; Fernando Mosquera in sculpture; Stephanie Graves in watercolor; and Jim Smith in wood.

Judging the show were Joseph Loccisano, manager of the gallery and art instructor at Manatee Community College, and artist Shirley-Rush Dean, who now works in watercolor and acrylic and has many years of experience and numerous awards, teaching experience and works in hundreds of collections.

The two-day event included live music Howie Banfield, the Anna Maria String Band, Ricky B and the Gumbo Boogie Band, plenty of food choices and raffle drawings for select artwork donated by some of the 100-plus participating artists. For the first time in many years, the Art League welcomed local restaurants



Saak Marlo, left, of Saak Designs, talks about fashion style and structure with women visiting his booth at the 19th annual Springfest Festival of Fine Arts and Fine Crafts. The Anna Maria Island Art League sponsored the two-day event in Holmes Beach. Marlo has participated in five juried Springfests. "This is a good show for me," he said Saturday morning. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

and non-profit organizations to the "food court," and promises to encourage more local involvement in future shows.

This year's show was the 19th annual event for

the Art League at the Holmes Beach city field adjacent to city hall and the city's Birdie Tebbetts Field. For information on future shows or the Art League, call 778-2099.

Young volunteers start K-9 Rescuers

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Lucky the dog has had some good fortune — courtesy of Manatee County volunteers.

Lucky, who works as an arson detective with the West Manatee Fire Rescue District, is the beneficiary of new training and equipment to guarantee his safety on an emergency scene.

The project, K-9 Rescuers, involves the Volunteer Services of Manatee County, ManaTeens volunteer youth group and Volunteers In Service To America working with emergency agencies such as WMFR.

The effort involves 17 K-9 teams with the sheriff's office and police and fire departments in Manatee County with canine first-aid training and emergency aid equipment.

"The plan is to outfit each team with a trauma kit ... filled with bandages, an oxygen tank and regulator, Epi pens and other supplies," said Rosie Wiley, of Volunteer Services of Manatee County.

The plan also includes sending the dogs' handlers to Canine Down – Are You Prepared classes. "With training under their belts, handlers are then able to treat their four-legged partner in case of a crisis in the field," Wiley said.

The campaign is the sequel to the award-winning Big Breath and Bark project led by ManaTeens sis-



ManaTeens president Altina Fenelon, ManaTeens volunteer Kelleigh Hall and VISTA volunteer Debbie Walsh join to help provide training and emergency equipment for West Manatee Fire Rescue's deputy fire marshal, Kurt Lathrop, and "Lucky" the dog.

ters Ashley and Alycia Bower. That project equipped local emergency officials with canine and feline oxygen masks.

Through Big Breath and Bark, VISTA volunteer Debbie Walsh and ManaTeens volunteer Kelleigh Hall came to know Lucky and Lathrop and to spearhead K-9 Rescuers.

The K-9 Rescuers training and equipment costs

about \$1,100 per team. So the volunteers hope to raise about \$18,000 through tax-deductible private donations and grants.

Lathrop has already completed the training and WMFR has been supplied with the aid kit for Lucky.

Like most canine arson detectives, Lucky is a Labrador. According to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, "this breed is hearty, intelligent, can readily adapt to changing environments and possesses a non-aggressive disposition that is necessary for the required work."

The first dog trained to detect flammable accelerants worked for the New York City Police Department bomb squad. Nellie, a yellow Labrador retriever, had been trained to detect explosives. In the early 1980s, Nellie worked in a pilot program involving NYPD and the ATF to learn to also detect flammable accelerants.

Nellie was such a good student that the ATF started a new canine accelerant detection program. Mattie, a black female Lab with the Connecticut State Police, was the first graduate. In one test, Mattie even identified the "arsonist" standing in a crowd of onlookers at a fire.

Since 1986, dozens of dogs have graduated to become arson detectives across the country.

For more information about K-9 Rescuers, call 761-3207 or go to www.manateens.org.

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GSR auction sale proposal withdrawn

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

A proposal submitted by bankrupt GSR Development three weeks ago to the federal bankruptcy court to allow the company to hire an auction firm to sell its Villa Rosa property in Anna Maria was withdrawn March 2 by GSR attorney Richard Prosser.

In the same notice to the court, Prosser withdrew GSR's previous motion to have the court approve inclusion of Villa Rosa lots in the previously approved Rose-Bay Real Estate marketing plan for GSR properties.

Prosser had originally asked bankruptcy court Judge K. Rodney May to allow the company to hire the international auction firm of GoIndustry Michael Fox International to market Villa Rosa and Rosa del Mar at a public auction.

Under the proposal, "Fox" would spend \$50,000 of GSR's money to advertise the properties, then hold a public auction to sell each property in its entirety. Previous efforts to sell Villa Rosa have been by advertising the 14 lots at 401 S. Bay Blvd. in Anna Maria separately and with individual price tags.

According to the proposal accompanying the motion, Fox had set a minimum price of \$10 million for the Rosa del Mar property in Bradenton Beach and \$9.5 million for Villa Rosa.

Oddly, \$9.5 million is reportedly the sale price that GSR principals Robert Byrne and Steve Noriega rejected last September when Gaspar Properties Inc. of Tampa attempted to purchase Villa Rosa. Gaspar had originally been interested at \$11.5 million, but subsequently lowered its offer after re-appraising the property and the Island real estate market.

But several unsecured creditors of GSR, including Paul Gallizzi, said it's possible that the motion was withdrawn because Gaspar Properties is still interested in Villa Rosa, particularly at \$9.5 million.

Efforts to reach Prosser and GSR chief restructuring officer William Maloney for comment on the withdrawal notice were unsuccessful.

Also in the GSR bankruptcy, the court approved a motion by the creditor's committee to extend the deadline to file a claim against the company to March 24.



Guild selects student of the month

Southeast High School senior Kathy Tran, left, stands with art teacher Barbara Tapley Kenney and Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island president Shirley O'Day. Tran is the guild's student of the month and her work is featured in the gallery at 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Tran plans to study art at University of South Florida in Tampa, as well as study to become a Chinese-language interpreter.

Property tax relief to be topic at Rotary meeting

Holmes Beach businessman and civic leader Don Schroder will discuss prospects for property tax relief in Florida when the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island meets Tuesday, March 20.

The meeting will be a lunch at noon at the Beach-House Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Further information may be obtained by calling 447-5362.

Historical society cruise winner selected

Mike LaPensee won the Carnival Cruise to the Caribbean raffled by the Anna Maria Island Historical Society.

The non-profit sold \$5 chances in the raffle and then named a winner during the annual Heritage Days festival March 3.

The cruise is a seven-day trip for two that LaPensee said he and wife Karen would be taking soon.

"They are wonderful supporters of AMIHS," Sissy Quinn, historical society director said, of the prize-winners.

Input sought for 2007-08 school start date

The next school year is to begin Aug. 20 and end June 5, 2008 as proposed by Manatee County School District officials. The calendar reflects a new Florida law that states the earliest schools may start the school year is 14 days before Labor Day.

The Manatee County School Board will be asked to approve the proposed calendar in the near future. Members of the public who wish to provide input prior to its approval should contact Dr. Lyn Boyer at BoyerL@ManateeSchools.Net, or call 708-8770, ext. 2072.

Significant dates in the proposed calendar include:

- School begins – Aug. 20.
- Thanksgiving Break – Nov. 21-23.
- Winter Break – Dec. 22 through Jan. 8, 2008.
- FCAT test dates – March 12-26, 2008.
- Spring break – April 5-13, 2008.
- School ends – June 5, 2008.

The current school year started Aug. 7, 2006, and concludes on May 24. The earlier start date was scheduled in accordance with previous school years so that students and teachers could complete exams and finish the first semester prior to the winter break.

With the change in the law, the new calendar proposal calls for the first semester to end in January next year. The proposed calendar provides for first semester exams in December at the request of the district's secondary principals and members of the district's calendar committee, which convened to make recommendations for the new calendar.

AMIE MENU

Monday, March 19

• Breakfast: Pancakes, Yogurt, Bagels, Cereal, Toast
• Lunch: Ravioli or Popcorn Chicken, Breadstick, Peas, Peaches

Tuesday, March 20

• Breakfast: Egg and Cheese Biscuit, Cereal, Toast, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich, Fruit
• Lunch: Hamburger Gravy or Grilled Chicken Patty Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli with Cheese, Juice Bar

Wednesday, March 21

• Breakfast: Breakfast Burrito, Super Donut, Toast, Cereal
• Lunch: Corn Dog or Nachos, Steamed Carrots, Fruit, Applesauce

Thursday, March 22

• Breakfast: Cheese Omelet with Toast, Oatmeal, Cereal, Fruit
• Lunch: Rotini with Meat Sauce or Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Bananas and Strawberries, Birthday Cupcake

Friday, March 23

• Breakfast: Muffin, Grits, Cereal, Toast, Fruit
• Early Release Lunch: French Toast Sticks or Cheese Omelet, Tator Hashbrown, Fruit Cup, Oranges and Pineapple Slices

Juice and milk are served with every meal.

Island Liquor sale

Island Liquors in the Island Fitness Center building at 5319 Gulf Drive in Holmes Beach is in the process of being sold to another Island entity, but current owner Don Haggerty said he was not at liberty to identify the purchaser. The same Island company is reportedly buying D.Coy Ducks in the Island Shopping Center at the corner of Marina and Gulf drives in Holmes Beach. Efforts to reach Ducks' present owner, Al Robinson, to confirm the sale were unsuccessful.

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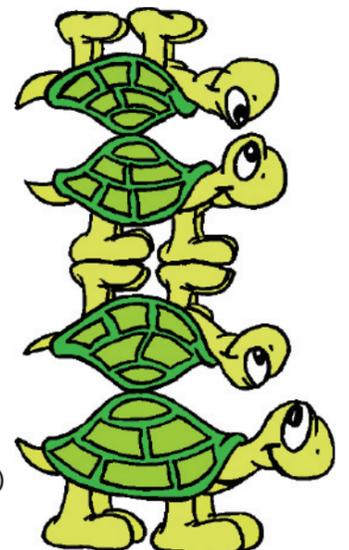
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THE GREATEST GENERATION

by Rick Catlin

Island native, Bataan Death March survivor: 'Too Dead to Die' in WWII

If you are one of those people who believe that the Japanese military of World War II considered Americans a worthy opponent and deserving of decent treatment in combat or as prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention, do not read this column. In fact, you probably won't want to read Anna Maria native Steve Raymond's recently published book, "Too Dead to Die," about his experiences as a POW of the Japanese. This story and Steve's book could shatter your conception of how "civilized" soldiers act in war time.

Unlike many other WW II veterans, Steve Raymond has no pictures of himself in uniform during the war.



Raymond

You see, where Steve was "stationed," there were no cameras. There were also no latrines, no uniforms, no telephones, no medical care, no food and no compassion. There was only disease, cruelty, inhumanity and death. On rare occasions, there was survival.

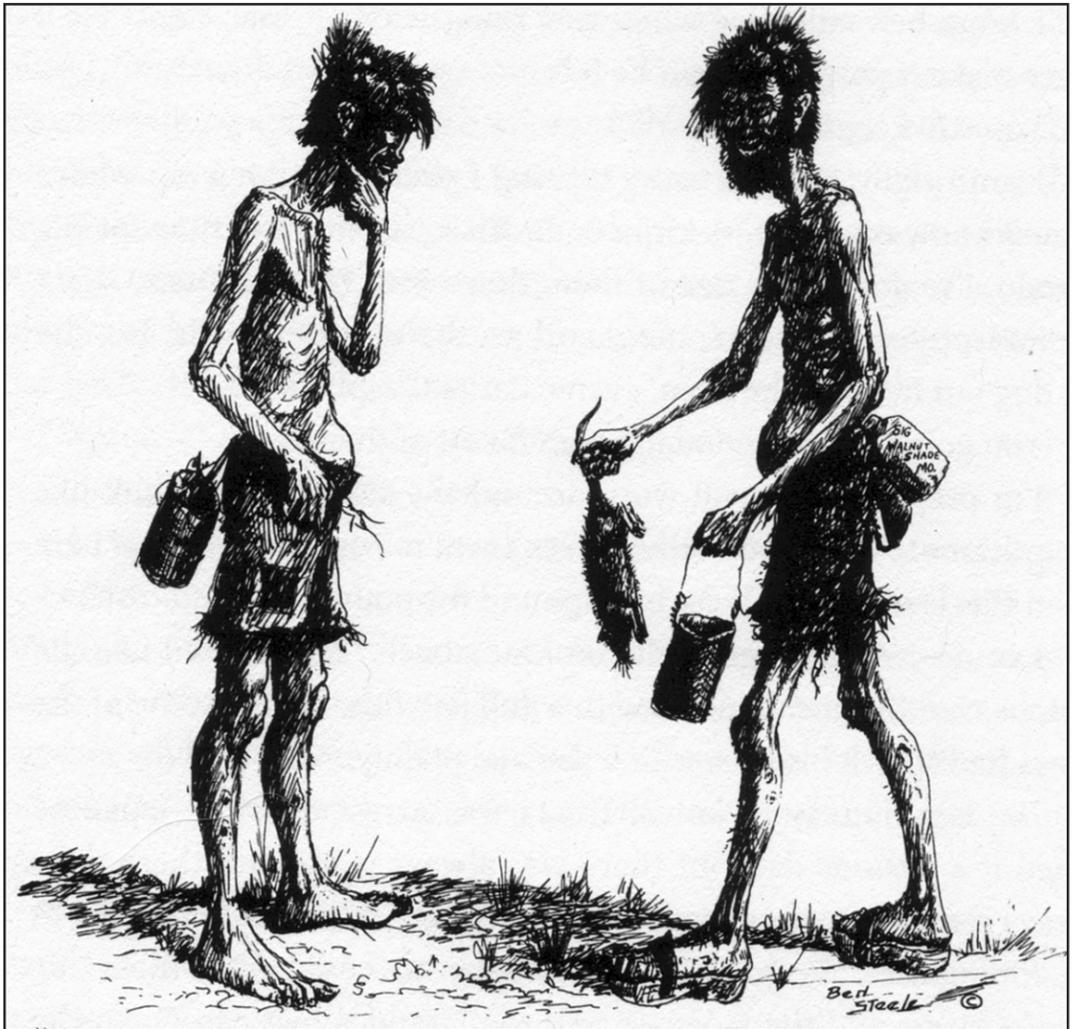
Steve Raymond was a POW of the Japanese for nearly three-and-a-half years. Steve Raymond is a survivor of the Bataan Death March, one of the greatest atrocities ever committed in a war.

Steve Raymond was one of the war's rarities, one of the lucky ones. He lived to tell his story. More than 100,000 other Allied personnel captured by the Japanese during the war died at the hands of their captors. That was out of about 250,000 POWs held by the Japanese. In other words, Steve only had a 60 percent chance of survival from the day of his capture on April 9, 1942. By contrast, a POW held by the Germans had a 98 percent chance of survival.

Steve was in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Philippines in April 1942 when approximately 18,000 American soldiers — including Steve — surrendered to the Japanese on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. It was — and remains — the largest surrender by the U.S. Army in history, and its greatest tragedy.

If Steve and his compatriots thought they were in for humane treatment by the Japanese under the 1931 Geneva Convention governing treatment of POWs, they got a rude and immediate awakening.

The 18,000 Americans — including Steve Raymond — along with 55,000 Filipino soldiers, were force-marched about 100 miles after their surrender



An artist's rendition of Steve Raymond's recollection of how he looked as a Japanese prisoner of war at Cabanatuan POW camp in the Philippines around 1943. It depicts Steve and another POW preparing to cook a rat they caught for a meal. The picture is in Steve's book, "Too Dead to Die."

to internment. An estimated 20,000 soldiers — 5,000 Americans and 15,000 Filipinos — died on the march, although official records have been impossible to come by the past 65 years.

They were hacked to death, beheaded, butchered, starved to death, deprived of water, trampled on by Japanese tanks and trucks, deliberately shot for no reason other than they wanted some water, killed by the Japanese if they fell behind, or otherwise slowly bayoneted to death just for pleasure.

Steve was one of the lucky ones — sort of. He made it to the Camp O'Donnell POW camp as a Death March survivor only to discover another hell awaited.

He spent nearly three-and-a-half years as a Japanese prisoner of war. He survived the brutality, indifference, cruelty and contempt of the Japanese. He survived systematic torture, starvation, disease and deprivation. He survived killing just for killing's sake.

He survived because he was "Too Dead to Die," as he says in his own words.

Steve Raymond survived hell, but it is a fact that the Japanese government to this day has never apologized for WWII; not for Pearl Harbor, not for the Bataan Death March, not for the atrocities committed, not for the approximately 100,000 soldiers of the American, British, Dutch, Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and Filipino military who died as prisoners of war at their hands.

Nobody has ever apologized to Steve Raymond for his lost years as a POW.

That he has lived to be 90 years old and is one of the last survivors of the Death March is a testament to someone who truly was "Too Dead to Die."

But Steve's story really begins here on Anna Maria Island in 1916.

Steve's dad, Elmer "Shug" Raymond, had homesteaded property on the north end of the Island, which had a total population in those days of about 25 people, maybe 40 during the winter months. When Steve's mom, Mimi, became pregnant, she told "Shug" that she refused to deliver a child in the woods with the only medical care being a mullet.

"Dad arranged for a boat coming around the peninsula from Tampa for Jacksonville to stop and pick up mom," said Steve. The boat continued up the east coast and Mimi got off in New Jersey, where Steve was born on June 30, 1916.

Mother and infant son returned to Anna Maria Island later that year and Steve grew up as just about the only child on the Island, which at that time probably had more rattlesnakes and alligators than people.

He was eventually joined in Anna Maria by younger friends Peggy Blassingame, nee Diamant, and Snooks Adams, both of whom still live on the Island today.

Graduating from Bradenton High School in 1933, Steve spent a year at the University of Florida before an illness cut his collegiate career short. He returned to Bradenton and worked as a reporter for the old *Bradenton Herald* and at a local print shop.

In 1940, the U.S. government declared that all men over the age of 18 had to register for the draft. Not wanting to be drafted into the foot-slogging infantry, Steve, already 24 years old, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, an outfit that didn't seem to mind that he was color-blind and had been rejected by the Navy.

"As long as I stayed on the ground, they wouldn't care," remembered Steve with a laugh.

After basic and advanced training in Savannah, Ga., Steve got his first leave and returned to the Island where

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Greatest Generation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

he hung around a place called Todd's, which today is the Sandbar Restaurant.

By this time, Steve and his buddies could see the war clouds gathering, although most thought the United States would jump into the European war first.

Little thought was given to a war with Japan when Steve and his Air Corps unit was ordered to Manila in the Philippines to join the 248th Material Squadron, part of Gen. Doug MacArthur's 27th Bomb Group. They arrived on Nov. 20, 1941, not realizing their safe world had only 19 more days before it would be forever shattered.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, they also attacked the U.S. air bases in the Philippines. Because Manila is across the international date line, it was Dec. 8, 1942, when the Japanese caught MacArthur's Air Corps napping on the ground and destroyed nearly 80 percent of all combat aircraft in the Philippines on the first day of the war.

Steve and his fellow soldiers, however, didn't think the Japanese would last a week before real troops.

"But deep down, we knew how unprepared we were for the attack. We knew there were no replacements for the aircraft we lost. With no planes, we quickly became infantrymen. Our job was to fend off the Japanese while we awaited replacements."

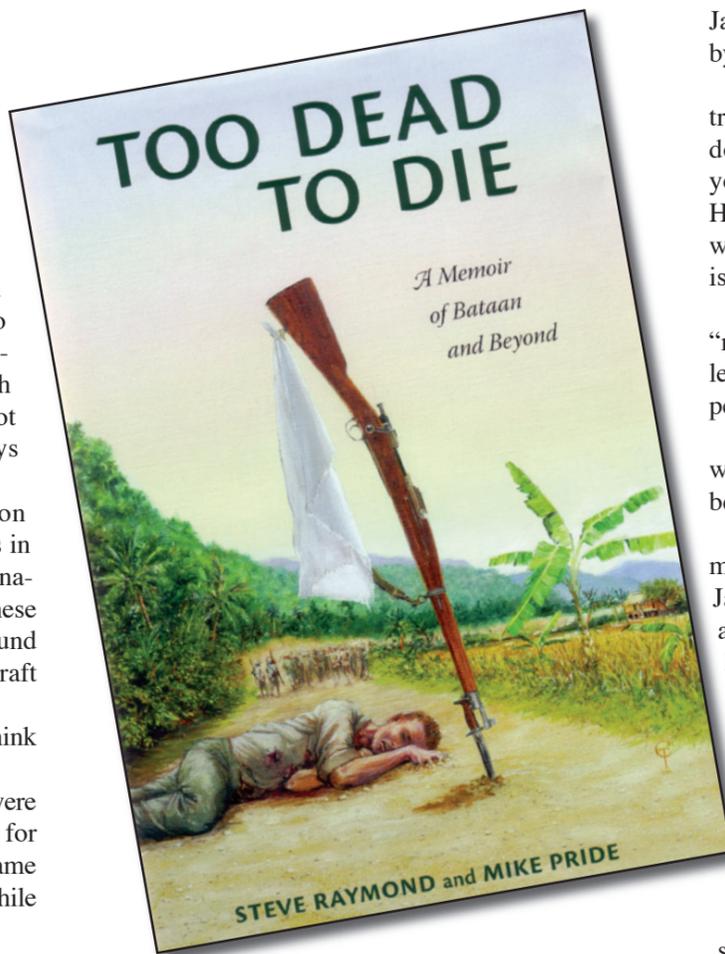
They never came.

Bottled up by the Japanese on the Bataan peninsula, surrender for the American-Filipino Army came on April 9, 1942. MacArthur had already been ordered out of the Philippines by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Upon arrival in Australia, MacArthur was awarded the Medal of Honor.

For those left behind in the Philippines, there would be no medals and no honor. Only those who lived and those who died. And the Japanese would decide who lived and died.

The dead and soon-to-be dead were everywhere on the Bataan Death March.

Steve credit's his survival on the march to a couple of pals, Geissman and "Deacon," and his realization that to stop marching would mean certain death. His friends had to drag him the last few miles to the trains that took



the prisoners to Camp O'Donnell.

Here, the Japanese would again decide who lived and who died. Here, Steve and the other POWs were slaves to the Japanese.

Steve and other enlisted men were ignored by their own officers and senior NCOs and were told that it was "every man for himself." If you didn't have a friend or two, or had no money or means to get food, you had no hope. You would die. It was that simple. Steve refused to give up, as many POWs did.

He began to keep a secret diary so that one day, the criminals would be brought to justice and the family and friends of those who died would understand just exactly who and what the Japanese were.

In his book, Steve has recorded the words of the

Japanese commandant of the POW camp, as translated by a Filipino collaborator.

"The captain, he say Nippon has Java and Sumatra. He say you are miserable specimens because you do not stand at attention while an officer speaks to you. The captain, he say you are beneath contempt. He say you are completely at his mercy and anyone who tries to run away will be killed. He say escape is impossible."

The captain told the POWs that they could expect "no mercy" and that it was only through the "benevolence of the Japanese military code" that they had been permitted to live this long.

"He said our behavior under his benevolence would determine how much longer we lived," remembered Steve.

With that, Steve began his three years and four months of captivity at the hands of an indifferent Japanese Army. He was liberated on Sept. 5, 1945, at a POW camp in Japan, 20 days after the Japanese had surrendered.

The full story of his years as a Japanese prisoner of war is told in "Too Dead to Die."

It is impossible in this column to detail all the horror that Steve experienced and saw during his captivity. There is simply not enough space to describe the inhumane and criminal treatment and conditions.

As an example, how do you describe seeing one of your best friends beheaded by a Japanese officer simply because the man did not bow low enough when the officer passed?

"Too Dead to Die" is not a book for the squeamish, the faint-of-heart or those who believe that dropping the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was unnecessary.

After his liberation, Steve returned to Anna Maria Island in time for Christmas 1945. By then, there were a lot more people on the Island and a number of soldiers were home from the war and trying to be civilians.

But the war was not over for Steve. Back in Anna Maria, alcohol helped him forget what he had been, what he had seen and how he had survived. He often wondered if, as a civilian, he could survive the savagery and inhumanity of the Japanese.

Survive, he did.

PLEASE SEE GREATEST, NEXT PAGE

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Classmates meet again

In an ironic twist to the story of Steve Raymond and his book "Too Dead to Die," the book's editor, Mike Pride of the *Concord Monitor*, and *Islander* reporter Rick Catlin, who writes the "Greatest Generation" stories, both graduated from Clearwater High School in 1964. Their careers also crossed briefly about 10 years ago when Catlin was working for the *Caymanian Compass* newspaper in the Cayman Islands.

Greatest Generation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Already with some newspaper experience, Steve entered the University of Missouri in 1946 and studied journalism. It was here, Steve says, that he "rejoined mankind." He met his first wife, Mable Sublett, at the university and graduated with a master's degree in 1950.

Steve joined the staff of the old *Tampa Times* and eventually owned his own weekly newspaper, the *Palmetto News* in Palmetto. He finished his journalism career with the *Tampa Tribune* in 1978. He and Mable had three daughters: Sandra, Barbara and Stephanie. He is retired and lives in Lecanto near Crystal River.

It took Steve nearly 45 years to fully complete his memoirs. His original diary had been lost in a long-forgotten POW camp in Japan. He wanted to have them published, but either couldn't find a publisher or didn't have the money to publish the book himself.

He almost got his story published in the 1950s by *Look* magazine, but Steve said they eventually "turned me down. They said the subject was overworked." Still, he wanted to bear witness to his own experience and those of the men who did not come back.

In 2003, his manuscript reached the hands of Mike Pride, the editor of the *Concord Monitor* in New Hampshire. Mike and Steve had both worked at the *Tampa Tribune* during the early 1970s, although they could not recall meeting each other at that time.

Mike agreed to take Steve's manuscript, "straighten it out and find a publisher." He succeeded.

"I turned 90 years old on June 30, 2006," said Steve. "Getting 'Too Dead to Die' into print has been a race against time. Finally, the race is won."

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns has called "Too Dead to Die" a "riveting narrative, one man's desper-



Wednesday, March 14

7:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. — The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce's monthly networking breakfast takes place at the Sun House Restaurant, 111 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-1541.

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

3 p.m. — The Tingley After Hours book group meets at Tingley Memorial Library, 111 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 779-1208.

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 15

3 p.m. to 5 p.m. — The season's final Jazz Fest featuring the Gulf Drive Band and vocalist Jerry Hayden takes place outdoors at the Anna Maria Island Historical Museum, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Bring a lawn

ate struggle for survival in the midst of the greatest crisis in human history." Other reviews from historians and newspapers such as the *Chicago Sun-Times* have echoed similar thoughts.

"I often think about why I made it and others didn't. Luck and determination and maybe a little intervention. To this day, I still think about the guys who didn't come back, who died in prison. I have no answers as to what happened or why the Japanese treated us so horribly. I just made it, that's all. And I've never owned a Japanese car in all my life."

Steve Raymond is truly the original member of Anna Maria Island's Greatest Generation.

To order copies of "Too Dead to Die," contact Plaidswede Publishing, P.O. Box 269, Concord NH, 03302-0269, or visit the company's Web site at www.plaidswede.com. The book may also be ordered through Amazon.com.

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

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.

7:30 p.m. — "Godspell" is performed at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 6101 Cortez Road W., Bradenton. Additional performances are Friday through Sunday at various times. Information: 749-6229. Fee applies.

8 p.m. — "Drinking Alone" opens at the Island Players Playhouse, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Performances continue through April 1. Information: 778-5755.

Friday, March 16

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. — Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee hosts a family caregiver support group session at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 747-4655.

6 p.m. to 9 p.m. — Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, hosts a Kids Night Out Program for children of potty-trained age through fifth-graders. Information: 778-2979.

Saturday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. — The parking lot of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, is the site of the church's annual "Community Craft and Clutter Sale." Information: 778-1813.

8:30 a.m. — The Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club meets at Cafe on the Beach, Manatee Public Beach, for breakfast and to hear from Julie Howell of Peppertree Press. Information: www.annamariakiwanis.org.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island hosts a St. Patrick's Day Art Show outside the gallery at 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 708-9660.

9:30 a.m. — The 10th annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast with Irish songs, stories and dance and the crowning of the 2007 *Islander* Irishman or Irishwoman of the year takes place at the Moose Lodge, 110 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach. Information: 778-4865. (Sold out.)

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — The 14th annual Anna Maria Island Tour of Homes takes place, with tours of six Island properties in Anna Maria City and Holmes Beach. The event features visits to the "Boutique and Food Pantry" offering original arts and crafts and wine tasting by the Beach Bistro for a \$10 donation. Proceeds benefit the Anna Maria Island Community Center. Information: 778-1908.

2 p.m. — Islanders perform in the barbershop chorus concert at Manatee Community College's Neel Performing Arts Center, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton. Islanders are involved in the Gulfcoast Sandpiper Chorus and the Talk of the Town. Information: 752-9475. Fee applies.

3 p.m. — Participants in the 10th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, sponsored by the Beach Bistro and Tidemark Resort, are encouraged to gather and stage the parade on the east side of Holmes Beach City Hall. Information: 778-6444.

4 p.m. — Smilin' McGee performs a "family friendly" free concert at Coquina Beach as the second installment of the Concert in the Park series sponsored by Manatee County. Bring blankets and lawn chairs.

5 p.m. — The 10th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade takes place in Holmes Beach. The parade will travel from Holmes Beach City Hall along Marina and Palm drives to the city limits at the Island Baptist Church.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE

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The Islander

Calendar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Monday, March 19

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

9:30 a.m. to noon — The Anna Maria Island Community Center hosts a digital photography workshop with Andy Little in the activity hall at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-1908. Fee applies.

Noon — The Anna Maria Island Democratic Club holds a lunch meeting at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. The speaker is Henry Simmons, president of the National Coalition on Health Care. Information: 778-9287. Fee applies.

Tuesday, March 20

2 p.m. — Local authors Jolie Bell and Patricia McCroy speak at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

11:30 a.m. — St. Mary Star of the Key Parish Women's Guild presents a fashion show and luncheon at the Bird Key Yacht Club, 301 Bird Key Drive, Longboat Key.

Noon — The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island meets for lunch and to hear local businessman Don Schroder talk about property tax relief at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 447-5362.

4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. — An ongoing Old Testament Bible Study for all meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. The cross-denominational study group is exploring the Book of Exodus. Information: 778-4579.

Wednesday, March 21

10:30 a.m. — The Island Branch Library hosts the Manatee County Extension Service conducting an orientation and offering free tune-up kits for lawn sprinklers.

1 p.m. to 3 p.m. — The Anna Maria Garden Club holds a Penny Flower Show, sponsored by *The Islander*, at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

2 p.m. — The Island Branch Library hosts a representative of the Anna Maria Sun in the local business series, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6341.

7 p.m. — Tony Kenny's Ireland, with Tony Kenny, Irish comedian Richie Hayes, the Dublin City Dancers and singer Victoria Kenny, is at the St. Bernard Catholic Church activity center, 248 Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2508. Fee applies.

Ongoing:

• The Island Players perform "Drinking Alone" through April 1 at the theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. The theater is dark on Mondays. Information: 778-5755.

• The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island celebrates March's featured

artist, Joan Stephens, at the Guild Gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-6694.

• Nancy McClure Law is the March Artist of the Month at the Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Information: 778-6648.

• The Anna Maria Island Art League hosts the Student Exhibit through April 6, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 778-2099.

• "Black Holes" is at the Bishop Planetarium at the South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W, Bradenton. Shows are at various times Monday through Sunday. Information: 746-4131.

• Throughout March the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive in Holmes Beach, features Artists Guild member Joan Valenza's "The Lighthouses of the East Coast" near the library entrance. The exhibit contains seven oil paintings and detailed information about lighthouses.

• 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 is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays and located at the SevenShores sales office, 12320 Manatee Ave., Perico Island.

• 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.

• 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 23, *The Islander* hosts the annual "For Art's Sake" silent auction to benefit the Manatee High School art program outside the newspaper office in the Island Shopping Center, Holmes Beach. Information: 747-9397 or 778-7978.

• On March 24, Roser Memorial Community Church holds a pancake brunch in the fellowship hall, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, applesauce, fresh orange juice, coffee and homestyle biscuits and gravy. Information: 778-0414.



Extravaganza donation

Beth Palmer, executive director of ShelterBox USA, receives \$1,800 from Steve Schlueter, president of the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island, to send ShelterBoxes to a refugee camp and for disaster relief. The funds are from the club's Extravaganza-Casino Night event in February.

• 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 in Palmetto. Information: 778-1541. Fee applies.

• On March 31 the fourth annual Island Garden Tour spotlights five homes on Anna Maria Island. Tickets, which raise money for the Anna Maria Island Community Chorus and Orchestra, are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the tour. Information: 778-1880.

Save the Date:

• On April 13 stars arrive to the area for the opening of the Sarasota Film Festival. The festival continues for 10 days. So possibly will the beach sightings of celebrities. Information: www.sarasotafilmmfestival.com.

Send calendar listings to lisaneff@islander.org. Please include time, date and location of the event and a contact number. Please send submissions at least one week prior to the Wednesday publication date.

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Planting some seeds of native thought for our Island

Landscaping is a big issue on Anna Maria Island of late.

Letters to the newspaper and conversations regarding Australian pine tree removal at Cortez and Coquina Beach have abounded in the past few weeks. Comments are pro-pine as wonderful elements of the beach scene, providing quick-growth shade and shelter, as well as anti-pine observations on the trees being obnoxious, exotic plants that should die a horrible death.

Yeah, the pines are a nice addition to the shore. The sound of the breeze wafting through their needles is a wonderful balm to the hectic world in which we live.

And yeah, they are a non-native species that cause a mono-culture in which no other plants seem to be able to thrive or survive.

So let's agree to disagree on the Australian pine issue and move on to something that is easier to agree on.

It seems that lots of people are subjecting their palm trees to bad haircuts, to the detriment of the palms.

Bradenton Beach's Pat Gentry said she noticed a bunch of cabbage palms alongside the road sporting some pretty spiky fronds. The "new-do" look was radical enough for her to reach out to the local extension agent to inquire about the cut and its impact on the tree.

It is indeed a bad trim.

Sometimes called a "hurricane cut," whacking the living fronds on palm trees and leaving a few sticking out of the top of the tree is an unfortunately common practice in our storm-prone area. The general concept by trimmers and homeowners is that less is better when it comes to flying projectiles, like fronds, and that the more that's whacked, the better.

The practice may indeed be good for windows, but it's bad for the trees.

"Excessive removal of green fronds can cause considerable stress to a palm since you are removing a large portion of its photosynthetic area," according to Manatee County Extension Service tree guru Nancy A. Rechcigl.

She explains that such trimming is especially harmful to palms in urban environs — like alongside a road — "since they usually do not receive the fertilization they require and rely heavily on their fronds to produce their own food supply."

Then it gets worse.

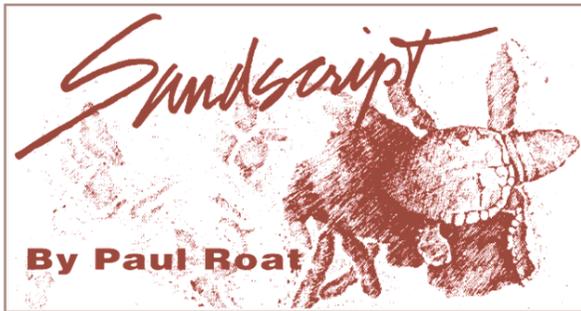
"Excessive removal of fronds also weakens the crown of the palm by leaving the internal fronds exposed to harsh winds, which can lead to internal damage of the bud," Rechcigl said in her report on palm trimming. "The terminal bud, once damaged, is prone to disease and pest problems which can cause death of the palm."

Notwithstanding all this official palm tree expertise, I decided to reach out to a member of the International Palm Society who also happens to be my landlord to get his thoughts, which were a bit more pragmatic than the usual tree science.

"If you do a hurricane cut," Rob Branch said, "it usually is good for a year. If you do a conventional trimming, you're looking at having to trim the trees two or three times a year. If you're a property manager of a condo or somebody working for the state, it's all about money."

Rob added that a typical rad-cut will basically starve a palm tree for six months.

We're entering into a time when, it is hoped, people are starting to think about hurricane season. Supplies, batteries, shutters — if you haven't — and perhaps trimming the trees around your house.



So don't go radical with the trimming process, please, or you could wind up with the whole palm tree up-rooted and through your roof.

Go native

Also in the news of late is Mike Miller and his native planting services.

Mike's been harping on the need and ease of using native Florida plantings in landscaping for years and years. What he's proposing makes a whole lot of sense: Use trees and shrubs that like to live on Anna Maria Island without a whole lot of water or fertilizer in lieu of something that isn't happy here and avoid a whole lot of fuss.

He's got a pretty neat Web site, www.perfectisland.us, which hits on all the things you can put in the ground and, after some initial watering, pretty much ignore in the care-category, but enjoy in the "aah" range of home improvements.

Read Mike's "Idea" section, by the way, to get a real grasp of what "going native" is all about. I had planned to take excerpts from it for this column, but found it too well-written and worthwhile to read in its entirety. Suffice to say that it is indeed important and

easy to "go native."

Some numbers

Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent John Stevely has offered some figures regarding the impact wildlife and related activities produce financially to Florida. The numbers are staggering — in 2006, fish and wildlife activities resulted in \$30.6 billion in revenue and spurred more than 338,000 jobs. Yes, that's "billion" with a big B.

The breakouts include \$18.4 billion from boaters, \$6 billion from the saltwater fishing interests, \$2.2 billion from freshwater anglers, \$2 billion from a category called "wildlife viewing," and \$803 million from hunters, all according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

It seems that the "fruits and nuts" category of folks who like to watch birds and tromp through the woods enjoying nature are dropping a few bucks while they take part in the pleasures, eh?

Sandscript factoid

One of the more enjoyable native trees is the Gumbo Limbo. It's a nice canopy tree, it grows fast if you give it some water when its planted, it loves our arid soil, and it has got a great tale to go with its bark: Some people call it the typical Florida tree because its bark is red and flakes off easily, like one of our winter friends who's spent too much time on the beach without adequate sunscreen.

But perhaps the best thing about Gumbo Limbo trees is that all it takes to grow one is to stick a limb or branch in the ground, water it, and then watch it grow. And grow.



A 20-year reunion

Jane Whiteman, a Rotary Club exchange student from New Zealand in 1976, returned to Anna Maria Island in late 2006 with her family for a Christmas celebration with her American family. Whiteman, a teacher in Wellington, New Zealand, attended Manatee High School for a semester, then Manatee Community College. On her recent trip with her husband, daughter and a friend, she traveled the country and visited her exchange family, the Sprengers, for a traditional Christmas. The next day they attended a reunion with more Island friends and "family." Pictured are Jacob Sprenger, front row, from left, and Sophie Sprenger, and Ken Williams, back row, from left, Mike Sprenger, Lynne Sprenger, Jane Williams, Justine Sprenger, Tom Sprenger, Becky Belis (holding Nathan Sprenger) and Mitch Belis. Whiteman, now back in New Zealand, also visited with Betty (Landers) Bashaw and Edie Butler.

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By Capt. Mike Heistand

Let's see: warmer weather = warmer water = better fishing?

Yes.

Action both inshore and off has picked up in the past few days, and reports indicate that it will only be better as spring approaches.

Offshore action for grouper and snapper is great, plus some scattered catches of mackerel.

Inshore fishing for sheepshead is stupendous, with 6-pound strippers common. There are also good catches of trout, redfish, black drum and snook.

Capt. Tom Chaya on the **Dolphin Dreams** in Holmes Beach out of **Catchers Marina** said fishing has improved as the water temperatures rise. "We're getting lots of Spanish mackerel and bluefish on the nearshore reefs," Capt. Tom said, "plus plenty of big sheepshead and mangrove snapper on the hard bottom. Snook and redfish action is great near the mangroves and docks in the Manatee River."

At **Annie's Bait & Tackle** in Cortez, **Capt. Sam Kimball** said his offshore trips are producing "a good grouper bite." He's also catching a lot of good-sized mangrove snapper, some lane snapper and banded rudders. **Capt. Mark Johnston** said his backwater charters are reeling in lots of snook, plus some nice-sized redfish "and tons of sheepshead."

Bob Kilb at the **Rod & Reel Pier** said the best bet there in the past week has been sheepshead, plus some whiting, pompano and a few mackerel.

Jesus Rosario at the **Anna Maria City Pier** said sheepshead are the No. 1 catch there right now, with shrimp and sand fleas working the best as bait. There are also some nice catches of mackerel, plus black drum.

Dave Johnson at **Snead Island Crab House** said there are reports of lots of big trout coming out of Terra Ceia Bay. Big reds are also being caught by the docks in the Manatee River, and now is definitely the time to go after the biggest sheepsheads of the season: look for fish to 6 pounds at the Sunshine Skyway Bridge area, Dave said.

Capt. Rick Gross on **Fishy Business** out of **Catchers Marina** in Holmes Beach said sheepshead are about at their peak of size and quantity right now. He's finding that snook angling is getting better every day, and on those off-times for linesiders, his clients are happy with their creel full of redfish.

At **Skyway Bait and Tackle**, reports include sheepshead from the fishing piers, plus some mackerel coming out of Miguel Bay. Redfish are also a good bet, with the best results coming from fishers working areas near the mangroves close to seagrass flats in the bays.

Capt. Zach Zacharias on the **Dee-Jay II** out of **Parrot Cove Marina** said he took Vern Jakes and crew from Colorado out last week and they did well with a mixed bag of fish, including redfish to 20 inches, gray trout to 15 inches, Spanish mackerel, bluefish and sheepshead to 5 pounds, with all the action coming from an incoming tide in the Gulf off of Anna Maria Island and in Palma Sola Bay and Anna Maria Sound. Live shrimp were the best bait for the best catches, he added.

On my boat **Magic**, we caught margates to 5 pounds, sheepshead to 5 pounds, plus triggerfish and some good-sized trout as well as an oversized red last week.

Good luck and good fishing.



First Barefoot grouper

Kristi Barefoot of Templeton, Calif., caught this gag grouper, her first, while fishing with Capt. Larry McGuire.

Global warming draws local heat

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

The image flashed on the screen: a hybrid vehicle that gets about 40-plus miles to the gallon. Heads nodded in approval.

Another image flashed on the screen: a Hummer that gets about seven miles to the gallon on the street. Heads shook in disapproval.

"Someone's dealing with a serious mid-life crisis," whispered Mary Wilcox, seated in the audience for a talk on climate change at the Island Branch Library Feb. 7. "To drive those cars should be a crime."

In the crowded meeting room at the library, an audience listened to Anna Maria resident Diana Milesko, a writer, photographer and traveler, talk about environmental concerns, especially climate change. The Friends of the Island Library sponsored the program.

Milesko called her talk "Our Beautiful World." She relied on more than 200 slides to help illustrate her point that "our beautiful world" is endangered.

Milesko's lecture came less than a week after the release of a study by leading scientists blaming human activities such as burning fossil fuels for accelerated warming.

"I'd like to see global warming be a national priority," said Estelle Phillips of Holmes Beach. "You better believe I'm concerned and not just because I live on a coast."

Phillips sat next to Wilcox in the audience and lis-



Anna Maria resident Diana Milesko lectures on global warming Feb. 7 at the Island Branch Library. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

tened. They were both struck by Milesko's reminder that 250 million years ago there were rising temperatures, sea changes and a mass extinction.

"The way of the dinosaurs," Wilcox said. "That's the way we're going. Only we're going to cause our own extinction."

Suzanne Pruitt winced as she listened to Milesko. She found most troubling Milesko's statement that "in 30 years, China has suffered a century's worth of environmental damage."

"Some days I feel so desperate," Pruitt said. "I feel powerless against what's happening."

Milesko, however, stressed, that each individual can create change. People can grow plants for fresh air in their homes, conserve energy, walk or ride a bike rather than drive and build "green" homes.

"We have to remember we are not the last generation on earth," Milesko said.

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Anna Maria Island Tides

Moon	Date	AM HIGH	AM LOW	PM HIGH	PM LOW
	Mar 14	—	2:46	-0.4	7:26 2.0
	Mar 15	11:33 1.3	3:32 -0.5	8:45 2.1	2:20 1.1
	Mar 16	11:26 1.3	4:08 -0.4	9:48 2.1	3:23 0.8
	Mar 17	11:29 1.4	4:40 -0.3	10:44 2.1	4:16 0.5
NM	Mar 18	11:39 1.6	5:09 -0.11	1:42 1.9	5:08 0.2
	Mar 19	11:54 1.8	5:37 0.2	—	5:59 -0.1
	Mar 20	12:39 1.7	5:59 0.4	12:16 2.1	6:52 -0.3
	Mar 21	1:42 1.5	6:17 0.7	12:41 2.3	7:49 -0.5

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

Two more champs crowned, basketball season ends

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

The Division II championship basketball game on March 6 was a game of momentum changes and, eventually, not enough time, as Air & Energy played well early and late, while Dips Ice Cream dominated the third quarter before holding on for a 21-20 victory.

Early on it appeared that A&E — which boasted six female players on its team of eight — was simply too much for Dips. They jumped out to a 10-5 halftime lead behind a stingy defensive effort fueled by Becca Butler, who finished with seven steals in the game.

Dips came roaring back in the third quarter behind the hot hand of Justin Gargett, who fueled a 12-4 Dips run by scoring eight of his game-high 13 points in the quarter.

The fourth quarter was a helter-skelter affair as Air & Energy again stepped up the defensive pressure in an attempt to cut into the 17-14 Dips lead. With just over a minute to play, Dips held a 21-16 lead thanks to a pair of tough shots by Gargett.

Air & Energy put on the full-court press and Becca Butler came up with a steal, but was fouled driving to the basket. Unfortunately, she was unable to connect on her two free throws. Undaunted, A&E continued to press and Savannah Schield came up with a steal. She too was fouled and went to the line and made both to pull A&E to within 21-18 with 15 seconds to play.

Butler again came through defensively and took it to the hoop for two points, but the final buzzer sounded seconds later, giving Dips Ice Cream the Division II title.

Gargett finished with a game-high 13 points and also grabbed eight rebounds. Lee Bergeron added eight points and five rebounds for Dips in the victory. Other team members are Connor Field, Zach Guerin, Johnny Mattay, Jerry Meyer, Geoff Pinter and Daniel Schroeder.

Stephanie Purnell and Savannah Schield led Air & Energy with six points apiece. Taylor Wilson added four points, as did Becca Butler, who also pulled down a game-high 16 rebounds in the loss.

A Paradise Realty captured the Division I championship on March 5 thanks in part to a 12-4 scoring run to open the third quarter. It opened up a 10-point lead over Anna Maria Oyster Bar, which then staged a furious fourth-quarter rally of its own to pull to within three points in the 28-25 loss.

Blake Wilson did most of the damage, scoring 10 of his game-high 12 points after intermission, while also pulling down a game-high 12 rebounds. Sarah Howard added six points and four steals for Paradise, which also received four points apiece from Daniel Janisch and Blake Rivers. Lindsay Reid completed the Paradise scoring with two points. Other members of the champion A Paradise Realty team are Erin Dolan, Katie Hunt, Stephanie Schenk and Emily White.

Ryan Schroeder led the Oyster Bar with nine points, six rebounds and four blocked shots. The Oyster Bar, which received one point from every player on its roster,



Zach Geurin drives to the basket for his Dips Ice Cream team as A&E's Taylor Wilson defends. Islander Photos: Kevin Cassidy

also received five points from Molly McDonough and two points apiece from Emma Barlow, Courtney Bristow, Sage Geeraerts, Chandler McClung and Martine Miller. Brett Rocklein completed the Oyster Bar scoring with one point in the loss.

The Oyster Bar advanced to the Division I championship game thanks to a 51-28 thrashing of Connect Cycles on Feb. 27. Schroeder and Barlow did most of that damage with 14 points apiece, while Rocklein chipped in with 10 points. Miller added five points for Oyster Bar, which also received four points from Bristow, three points from McDonough and one point from Geeraerts in the victory.

Connect Cycles was led by Tommy Price's 12 points and six points from Chris Callahan. Breslyn Reiber and Kyle Parsons added four points apiece, while Kera Nelson finished with two points in the loss.

Key Royale golf news

The Key Royale Club men played an 18-hole, better-ball-of-partners game on March 7 that produced a two-way tie for first with 12-under-par scores of 54. Jerry Hegelson teamed up with Earl Ritchie to match the score of Bob Kral and Vince Mercandante. One shot back, Al Morgan and Lew Winegarden tied for second place with the team of Dale Hudson and Jim Proxy. Gino DiClemente and Pete Weir finished at 10-under-par 54 to finish in a tie for third place with Dick Eichorn and Joe Proxy.

The ladies of the Key Royale Club teed it up on March 6 for nine holes of low-net golf competition. Jean Holmes fired a three-under-par 29 to seize bragging rights on the day in Flight AA with Cindy Miller grabbing second place with a 31.

Joyce Brown grabbed top honors in Flight A with an even-par 32, two shots ahead of Marian Mulroy who finished in second place. Flight B winner was Terry Westby who negotiated the course in 29 strokes, two shots ahead of second place finisher Barb Mason. Millie Mullin had the low-net score of the day with a 28 that let her run away from the crowd in Flight C, six shots ahead of second-place finisher Pat Rice.

The week that was golf at Key Royale opened on March 5 with a better-ball-of-foursome, nine-hole game. The team of Vinca Fanton, Dick Eichorn, Pete Weir and Gordon Lindstrom fired an 8-under-par 24 to claim first place on the day. Ralph Bassett, Austin Rice, Danny Hayes and Mike Conlon finished one shot back to claim second place. Third place was shared by two teams that shot 26. Earl Ritchie, Hal Sears, Ernie Hauser and Tom Nelson matched the 6-under-par total of the team of Al Kaiser, Wade Ladue, Art Hibbs and Tom Warda.

Norma Moran Shearer, Pat Weingard and Joanne Ozdych each had chipins on the day.

Horseshoe news

Three teams posted 3-0 records during the March 3 horseshoe competition at the Anna Maria City Hall pits, but the team of Ron Pepka and Steve Doyle emerged, claiming top honors with a 21-16 win over the team of Dean Rowe and Bob Mason. Pepka and Doyle advanced to the finals thanks to a 21-11 victory over Jerry Disbrow and Dick Meek.

Dean Rowe, along with partner Mel Lindemer, again found himself in the finals on March 7, but this

PLEASE SEE SPORTS, NEXT PAGE



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Sports

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

time he and his partner made it count with a 24-14 victory over the team of Adin Shank and John Johnson.

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

Anna Maria Island Little League schedule

Junior League (ages 13-15)

March 17 11 a.m. Manatee American #2 vs. Islanders @ Birdie Tebbetts Field, Holmes Beach

Major League Traveling Team (All games @ G.T. Bray, Bradenton)

March 15 7:30 p.m. Field 3 Islanders vs. MJJ
March 20 7:30 p.m. Field 1 Islanders vs. MJJ



Justin Gargett stops and pops for two of his game-high 13 points in the Division II championship game.

Three-strike rule applies in H2O restriction

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

A three-strike rule applies in enforcing the water restrictions in place in Manatee County due to a drought.

The county is responsible for overseeing water restrictions. When a violation is reported, a warning goes out. A repeat violation leads to a second warning. A third warning comes, via a law enforcement officer, with an invitation to court and can result in a fine of more than \$100, said Sue Glasgow, a utilities coordinator for Manatee County.

Water restrictions are in place through July 31 in Manatee County under the rules of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The restrictions also apply to the 15 other counties in the district.

Each county in the district is experiencing some water resource impacts as a result of lack of rainfall during the last year, according to a Swiftmud news release.

"We need everyone's help to do what they can to preserve our precious water resources," stated Swiftmud executive director David L. Moore. "Working together we can meet our water supply challenges while also protecting the environment."

Lawn and landscape irrigation, regardless of whether a user is on a private or public water service, is limited to once a week on the following schedule:

- Monday: Addresses ending in 0 or 1.
- Tuesday: Addresses ending in 2 or 3.
- Wednesday: Addresses ending in 4 or 5.
- Thursday: Addresses ending in 6 or 7.
- Friday: Addresses ending in 8 or 9 or unknown addresses.

Irrigation is restricted to 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. for properties less than two acres and 4 p.m. to 10 a.m. for larger properties.

The restrictions also state that hand-watering or micro-irrigation is allowed anytime. Car-washing is limited to once a week, although fundraising events are allowed.

Fountains and other aesthetic water features can operate no more than eight hours per day.

Swiftmud issues the restrictions, with each county setting up its enforcement procedures.

In Manatee, the policing is done primarily at the

county level in response to citizen complaints.

"Neighbors," Glasgow said, "will tell on neighbors. And neighbors will tell on businesses."

Last year, Glasgow said, the county issued about 220 warnings.

Law enforcement personnel get involved for the third warning at a property.

"We pretty much work off complaints," said Dave Bristow, spokesperson for the Manatee County Sheriff's Office, which polices Anna Maria City.

The same applies in Holmes Beach, though the city's code enforcement officer does address water restriction violations when dealing with other reported problems.

Cortez fishing festival raised \$65,000

When all the bills are in hand and paid, and all the receipts turned in, the Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival Feb. 17-18 will realize about \$65,000.

That the "best guesstimate" of Karen Bell, treasurer of the sponsoring Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage. She said a lot of the bills and income await vendors' routine calculations and submission. And payment comes after that.

The money will be used to pay mortgages on FISH purchases of private properties within the FISH Preserve, which itself has been bought and paid for by proceeds from earlier festivals. FISH is piece-by-piece buying up the private lots within the Preserve's boundaries, and plans to end up with the entire 95 acres in the hands of the main civic organization in the historic fishing village.

There is no official count on the festival's attendance, Bell said, for many people slipped in without paying the \$2 admission fee. But the total numbers are in the thousands, an estimated 10,000 each day of the festival.

They flocked to the village on Saturday, Feb. 17, as expected, but Sunday's turnout was better than anticipated, she said — Sunday started out cold and windy, not a great day for outdoor festivities. They came anyway, for which the village is thankful.

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GARAGE SALES

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CHURCH GARAGE SALE: 8am-1pm Saturday, March 17. Furniture, housewares, books, clothing, appliances, collectibles, toys, tools and more! To benefit missions program. Palma Sola Presbyterian Church. 6510 Third Ave. W., Bradenton.

SALE: 8am Friday and Saturday, March 16-17. Antiques, wicker, old bottles, books, chair, Pac and Play gate, stroller, lots of stuff cheap. 119 52nd St., Holmes Beach.

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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.12circuitgal.org.

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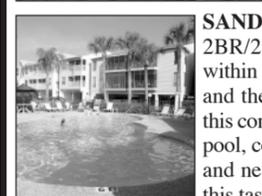
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69-YEAR-OLD woman with balance disorder seeks paid live-in companion. Applicant will possess knowledge in caring for non-ambulatory individual including hygiene, incontinence care, cooking and light housekeeping. Only English speaking, reliable, non-smoker with a valid driver's license need inquire. Call 941-580-3339.

LOOKING FOR CLEANERS! MTO Cleaning Services now hiring dependable people with reliable transportation and auto insurance to work 8am-5pm Monday-Friday. Average \$8.50-\$12/hour with paid vacation, dental, flexible hours and promotion opportunities. Apply at 5245 Office Park Blvd., suite 101, Bradenton. 941-758-1993.

SELL it fast with an ad in The Islander.

HELP WANTED Continued

LOOKING FOR VERY active, dependable person to nanny for 19-month old! Some weekdays, weekends and travel required. Light housekeeping a plus! Anna Maria Island area. Please, contact Haley, 727-641-0240.

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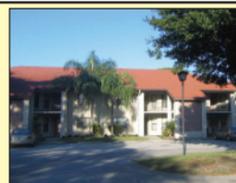


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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS Continued

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

CORTEZ/BRADENTON BEACH AREA: Spacious, furnished 1BR/1BA apartment. Full kitchen, dining room, living room. Includes utilities, cable, laundry room. Community boat ramp, marina. \$995/month. 941-761-2725.

RENTALS Continued

WATERFRONT: SEASONAL. Beach, dock. Free use of kayak, pool, exercise room and bicycle. April still available. 941-779-9074. E-mail: gwalker43@hotmail.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.

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

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

2BR/2BA APARTMENT with patio. Walk to beach. Available annually. 941-773-4180.

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.

LOVELY 2BR/2BA for 2008. Large porch, boat friendly, three-month rental. 941-962-0817 or 941-778-2695. 210 81st St., Holmes Beach.

ANNUAL: BEAUTIFUL 55-plus park. Waterfront, clean, 2BR/2BA, two lanais, carport, washer and dryer, cable, fully furnished. Includes water and trash. \$850/month. Call 614-517-7016.

ANNUAL 55-PLUS park. Little Manatee riverfront. Incredible view and sunrise. Huge bedroom, water, washer and dryer, deck, must see to appreciate. \$750/month. Call 614-517-7016.

BONUS! CLASSIFIEDS ADS are posted early online at www.islander.org.

RENTALS Continued

FOR RENT BY owner: 100 yards to beach, west of Gulf Drive, 3BR/2BA, open floor plan, new home, elevator, renting for January 2008, \$3,900 a month. 107 Magnolia, Anna Maria. Drive by, then call Doug, 800-828-8116, ext 212.

ANNUAL RENTAL: OCEANFRONT, 75 feet to water, all furnishings included, 2BR/2BA, open garage with heated pool. \$1,800/month. Anna Maria. 941-723-0913.

ANNUAL RENTAL: Perico Bay Club villa, Grand Cayman. 1,601 sf, Neal Community builder. Two-car garage, 2BR/2BA, den, patio, overlooking canal, great water view, lanai, deck, mirrors. Built-ins, many upgrades. Tennis courts, clubhouse. One mile from beach, pools, gated entrance, security guards. \$1,500/month plus security. Al Yusko, 941-962-6117.

ANNUAL HOMES BEACH: Close to beach, shops and trolley. Updated 2BR/1BA unit. Two balconies, Gulf sunsets. \$900/month plus utilities. 941-545-6118.

ANNUAL RENTALS: 2BR/2BA home, Anna Maria, \$1,400/month. 2BR/2BA apartment, Anna Maria, \$875/month. Riverfront condo, 2BR/2BA, \$1,195/month. 1BR/1BA, new tile and paint, \$775/month. Cedar's East townhome, 3BR/2.5BA, \$2,750/month. Fran Maxon Real Estate, 941-778-2307. www.franmaxonrealestate.com.

1BR/1BA: \$925/MONTH. 112-B 52nd St., Holmes Beach. Studio/efficiency, \$600/month. 112 No. 1, 52nd St., Holmes Beach. 941-746-8666.

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

NORTH END BY Rod & Reel pier, one and 2BR apartments for rent, weekly, monthly or annual, reasonable rates. Call for dates and prices. 941-747-3321.

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ISLAND PARADISE Well maintained, elevated home a short distance to public beach access. 2BRs, nearly 1600 SF and private pool. \$689,000. The Lawler Team, 748-6300 or 587-4623. 549590.

ELEGANT KEY WEST CONTEMPORARY solidly built custom home with 3,369 SF plus 1,092 SF of outdoor decking. 240 foot dock recently installed. Expansive water views. \$997,500. The Lawler Team, 748-6300 or 587-4623. 550020

DIRECT GULF-FRONT, top floor, 2BR TKF condo overlooking the beach. Remodeled with Tommy Bahama style furnishings, tile, & hurricane shutters. Small complex, elevator, pool, spa & tennis. \$859,000. Jody Shinn, 748-6300 or 705-5704. 542614.

RITZY UPSCALE LIVING! New Bel Mare 2BR condo. Amenities galore, end unit, view east over Marina & river. Easy access to Tampa/St. Pete & Sarasota. Docks for rent or purchase. \$779,900. Barbara Jennings 748-6300 or 773-0180. 550052

THE BOATING LIFESTYLE! This 2005 home overlooks the Manatee River & has many upgrades for today's discerning buyer! 40' boat slip included. Agent/Owner. \$715,000. Patricia Grieco, 748-6300 or 737-8689. 546118.

DESIGNED FOR ENTERTAINING. 5BR, 3700 SF, home on nearly 2/3 acres. Huge caged pool area with separate spa and bath, den w/fireplace, oversized garage, security system. Close to Nat'l Park. \$699,000. Cindy Pierro, 748-6300 or 920-6818. 536721

SPARKLING BAY VIEWS - Updated 4BR duplex, 3240 SF, turnkey furnished, bamboo floors, updated kitchen, French doors that open to an extensive wood deck. Roof deck w/beach & bay views. \$679,000. Kimberly Roehl, 748-6300 or 447-9988. 545696.

DELIGHTFUL ISLAND COTTAGE 2 blocks from beach & bay. Ceramic tile, Corian countertops & Trex decking for low maintenance. Turnkey furnished & priced to sell in Anna Maria. \$569,000. Peggy Horlander, 748-6300 or 932-7199. 532842

OUTSTANDING 3BR BAY FRONT CONDO w/over 1800 sq.ft. located in the gated community of Perico Bay Club. Upgraded kitchen, wood flooring, newer carpets & A/C. 2 miles from the Gulf. \$449,900. Kathy Valente, 748-6300 or 685-6767. 545025

CAYMAN CAY VILLAS. 2BR furnished end unit in a charming Island neighborhood directly across from the beach. Enjoy a peek of the Gulf from the lanai. Delightful get-a-way or investment. \$339,900. Kathy Valente, 748-6300 or 685-6767. 524503

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

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

Bayou 2BR/1BA Anna Maria NEGOTIABLE! \$365,000.

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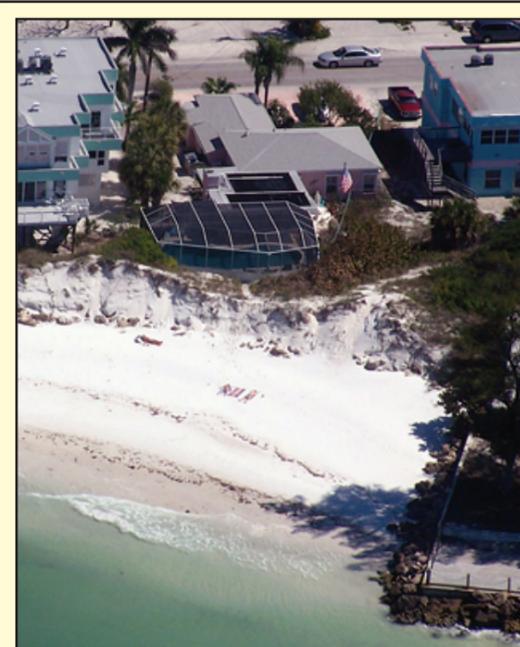


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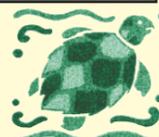
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The Islander

SINCE 1992

ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS**RENTALS Continued**

ANNUAL ANNA MARIA: Steps to the beach. One master suite with upscale bathroom plus one full bath with tub. Completely remodeled, everything is new! Poolside with large patio. \$900/month includes water and garbage. Small pet OK. E-mail: cflagg@mindspring.com for photos or call 305-803-4131, leave a message.

I'LL SWAP A room on Martha's Vineyard, summer 2007 or 2008, for same on Anna Maria, winter 2008. Information: sara@vineyard.net.

ANNUAL FURNISHED 1BR/1BA waterfront apartment with laundry and some utilities included. \$850/month. Phone 941-545-7109 or 941-795-1132.

SEASONAL VISITORS: SECURE your rental for next winter before heading back north! Must see beautiful Pebble Springs 3BR/2BA first-floor condo. Ten minutes from the beach. \$1,600/month. www.macalusoproperty.com. 813-368-7383.

ANNUAL: 3BR/2BA with fenced back yard, large storage unit and deeded boat slip. \$1,650/month. Available April 1. Please, call Adele at 941-587-6328.

ANNUAL OR SEASONAL: Perico Bay Club. 2BR/2BA with loft, pools, tennis, security gate, garage, turnkey furnished or unfurnished. Leave message, 941-778-5910.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE AND garden near Bean Point (Rose Street), Anna Maria. Elevated, 3BR/2BA, screened lanai. Available 2008. \$3,400/month. 813-545-8383. www.vrbo.com/11614.

VACATION CONDO: MARCH 2007. 1BR/1BA, \$375/week. Heated pool and tennis. Real Estate Mart, 941-756-1090.

ANNUAL RENTALS: UNFURNISHED. 2BR/1BA duplex, large yard, close to beach. \$775/month. Large 2BR/2BA duplex, all new appliances. \$1,000/month. Anna Maria GulfCoast Properties. 941-782-5609.

SELL it fast with an ad in The Islander.

RENTALS Continued

FOR RENT: CHARMING canal house at 509 59th St., Holmes Beach. 2BR/1.5BA. \$1,250/month plus utilities. 717-392-4048.

NICE DUPLEX: WEEKLY or monthly. 2BR/1BA, canal, boat dock, tropical yard. Half block to bay beach. \$600/week or \$2,000/month. 941-778-3856.

ANNUAL: 2BR/1BA SPACIOUS duplex. Available April 15. Bay view, ceramic and laminate floors, newly decorated, laundry. Pet friendly. \$850/month plus. 941-779-9470.

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.

VILLAGE GREEN: MINUTES to beaches. Large 2Br/2BA, two-car garage. Big screened lanai, large yard, good schools. Close to shopping. \$1,195/month. Annual. 941-720-2804.

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 DUPLEX: 2BR/2BA, north-end Anna Maria, four houses from beach. Energy efficient windows, wood blinds, dishwasher, washer and dryer hookups, large patio, fenced yard, storage shed, pet considered. \$975/month plus security. 941-778-4837.

WANTED: ROOMMATE TO split expenses. Nice condo, Holmes Beach. Fully furnished, electric, water, cable, wireless included. \$550 to move in. 941-705-8585.

ANNUAL 1BR/1BA APARTMENT. Part-furnished, carport. \$700/month plus deposit and utilities. 304 60th St., Holmes Beach.

ANNUAL: HOLMES BEACH. 2BR/2BA, lanai, garage. Clean, nice quiet area. \$1,000/month. 941-776-1789.

RENTALS Continued

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

ANNA MARIA: CANALFRONT property: 2BR/2BA with views of Tampa Bay. Walking distance to beach, shops and restaurants. \$739,000. 941-779-1512 or 941-737-7972.

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.

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.

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ISLAND HOME REDUCED: For sale by owner. Holmes Beach 3BR, deep-water canal, pool, boat dock, many upgrades. \$775,000. Call 941-778-6474.

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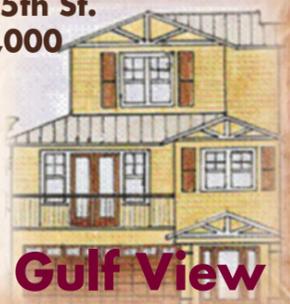
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PARADISE VIEW Beautiful views of Longboat Pass, Sisters and Jewfish Key with deep water dock. Great fishing. Separate guest house. Harry Christensen, 941-383-5577. #340718. \$1,800,000.



NEWLY REMODELED in 2007, ground level four-plex. All surround private heated pool. Steps to the beach. 2BR unit ideal for owner. Good rental history with many reservations. Owner/agent. Jacque Davis, 941-778-2246. #548868. \$1,250,000.



LONG BEACH on Longboat Key. Unobstructed views of the Gulf, amazing sunsets from your lanai and just steps to the beach. Pristine, 2BR/2BA newly furnished end unit condo. Pet friendly. Gina & Peter Ulliano/The Royal Team, 941-920-0276. #547583. \$750,000.



GRACIOUS LIVING in this waterfront, updated 3BR/3BA condo. Loft overlooking great room. Soaring ceilings. 40-foot dock included. Price reduced. Peggy Henger, 941-720-0528. #332186. \$739,000.



BEAUTIFUL 2BR/2BA 1,300 sf villa with 210 sf enclosed lanai. Newer tile, carpet, hurricane windows, water heater, counter tops vaulted ceilings. Lush tropical garden back yard. Rick Horton, 941-778-2246. #549374. \$249,000.



FIVE WATERFRONT LOTS FOR SALE. Owner will sell single or in bulk. Premium location. New subdivision. Builder and floor plans available immediately. Becky Smith or Elfi Starrett, 941-778-2246. #549550. \$120,000 to \$151,000.

MOTEL/RESORT ANNA MARIA ISLAND Great 11-unit resort/motel. One short block to the beautiful sandy white beaches and view the spectacular sunsets. Many restaurants, specialty shops and fishing pier close by. Possible conversion potential. Jim Zoff, 941-778-2246. #539134. **\$2,575,000.**

EXCEPTIONAL 2BR/2BA direct Gulf front 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. **\$799,900.**

A RARE FIND! Anna Maria Gulf front lot. Becky Smith or Elfi Starrett, 941-778-2246. #504998. **\$1,750,000.**

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.**

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.**

ANNA MARIA Spacious 3-4BR/2BA elevated residence 2,122 sf with open plan, wrap around decks, large storage/workshop areas, close to beach and community center, elevator ready. Seller motivated. Dave Moynihan, 941-778-2246. #545531. **\$525,000.**

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.**

BRADENTON BEACH TWO-FAMILY Turnkey furnished 2BR/1BA cottage with 1BR/1BA bungalow. Great family retreat or rental property. Close to shops, beach and more. Anne Miller, 941-778-2246. #518824. **\$825,000.**

CALLING ALL SENIORS! Turnkey furnished 2BR/2BA end unit! First floor, park at your door! Clubhouse, heated pool activities for the young at heart! Close to shopping, library. Ele Stephenson, 941-751-0670. #543732. **\$124,900.**

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE Continued

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.

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.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING LOT in northwest Bradenton, desirable neighborhood near the river. \$216,000. Owner/agent, Bobbie Banan, Michael Saunders & Company, 941-356-2659.

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.

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.

NEW CONDO \$289,900. For sale by owner. 2BR/2BA, den, garage, screened lanai, lake view, minutes to beaches. Open daily. 941-761-0807 or 502-523-2019. 6442 Hidden Lake condominiums.

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.

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.

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.

RIVERVIEW BOULEVARD HOME for sale. 3BR/2BA, two-car garage plus family room, over 2,000 sf. Secluded pool and tropical garden area. Updated and well-maintained. \$350,000. 941-730-0100. Bradenton.

LOT: 57.75x114-feet, one block to beach. \$520,000. Call 941-779-4505 or 941-778-4246. 125 Neptune Lane, Holmes Beach.

BEACH HOUSE FOR sale: 2BR/1BA with new roof and new air conditioner. Steps to your private beach. Call 813-690-5143. 112 81st St., Holmes Beach.

REDUCED \$100,000! 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, \$699,900. Bring offers. NEW LISTING! KEY West-style home, steps to beach and bay. Breezy 2BR/2BA home with den, open lanai, new wood floors throughout, workshop and room for RV and boat parking with two entrances to property. Offered at \$569,000. Call Deborah Thrasher, RE/MAX Excellence, 941-518-7738. Deborahthrasher@remax.net.

PERICO BAY CLUB: Open 1-4pm Sunday, March 18. 1167 Edgewater Circle. New granite countertops, 20-inch porcelain tile, carpet, custom closets, plantation shutters, designer furnishings and more. A must see at \$550,000. 941-792-4803. Barbfreeman@alltel.net.

REAL ESTATE Continued

MAGNIFICENT PALMA SOLA VIEW: Perico Bay Club: 2BR/2BA, close to beach! Second-floor unit with vaulted ceiling, screened and air-conditioned glassed-in porch, one-car garage. 24-hour security. Active associations. Open 1-4pm Sunday. Home, 863-324-0944. Cell, 863 280-0222. sandsgoldm@aol.com. Owner is a broker.

FOR SALE: HOLMES Beach. Beautifully remodeled, direct bayfront 2BR townhouse with pier and lift. Views to Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Four floors with garage, elevator, renovated kitchen with granite counters and stainless-steel appliances. Private top-floor sun deck. Priced below current appraisal. Newly inspected. Home warranty. \$949,900. Dianne Kryszak, 941-993-4078, Robert Lindeman, 941-504-2123. Michael Saunders & Co., licensed real estate broker. 61 S. Blvd. of Presidents, St. Armands Circle. 941-388-4447.

4BR/3BA CONDO! Low taxes, low maintenance, no flood insurance. Minutes from the beaches. Under \$250,000. Keller Williams Realty, 941-932-1288.

GOLF COURSE, CLOSE to beach. 2BR/2BA, spacious lanai. \$197,500. No flood, low maintenance fees, heated pool, tennis, etc. Karen Pfeiffer, Realtor, Keller Williams Realty, 941-747-2170.

3BR/3BA HOME ON deep-water canal. Totally remodeled inside, two master suites. Carpet, ceramic and vinyl tile. Asking \$864,000. Call for appointment. 941-778-1620.

OPEN HOUSE: 2-4pm Sunday. Perico Island. 3BR/2BA, built to 2004 hurricane codes. Great master suite, heated pool and amenities. 11103 Willow Dale Ct \$390,000. 941-761-8135.

SEABREEZE MOBILE HOME park: Lot 73, double-wide priced to sell. Minutes to beaches. \$33,000. 941-795-1557.

HOLMES BEACH LOT: 50x100 feet, two blocks to the beach, ready to build. \$499,000. 941-778-4036.

2BR/2BA MOBILE HOME in Paradise Bay Estates. Land-owned, turnkey furnished. 12x20-foot deck in back, golf cart included. Asking \$150,000. 941-761-4532.

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ANSWERS TO MARCH 14 PUZZLE

D	I	T	T	O	A	N	T	E	D	T	R	A	C	E	S	P	N
O	N	E	A	L	H	E	A	V	E	R	A	U	L	G	R	I	T
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E	X	E	S	S	L	Y	S	E	V	E	R	S	C	R	E	S	T

ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE Continued

HOLMES BEACH: CLEAN custom 1950s ranch, 2,100 sf, attached large efficiency. Boat dock available. Opportunity now before I list. \$539,000 or best offer. Show anytime. 513-378-9100.

BRADENTON BEACH CONDO: 1BR/1BA, pool, tennis, fitness room, beach access, turnkey furnished. Short, long-term or annual rental. \$329,900 or best offer. 941-778-9378.

LONGBOAT DUPLEX: 4-6BR on canal, deeded beach access. Use it, rent it out or redevelop. \$699,900. Mary Ann Namack, Longview Realty, 941-383-6112.

ISLAND POOL HOME: 2BR/2BA with heated pool and spa, workshop, fenced yard. For sale by owner for a great deal. White appliances, including washer and dryer, all staying. Motivated seller. Brokers/agents welcome. \$489,000. Call Tammy at 813-478-4416 or 941-322-2132.

CANALFRONT CONDO: WESTBAY Point & Moorings. Turnkey furnished, light and bright. \$359,000. This one won't last long. Denise Langlois, Coldwell Banker, 941-725-4425.

HAWTHORN PARK: NORTHWEST Bradenton, most desirable community. 4BR/3BA pool home with new kitchen. Stainless-steel appliances, beautiful granite counter tops, new carpets and paint. Only five minutes to the beach. \$474,900. Denise Langlois, Coldwell Banker, 941-725-4425.

PALMA SOLA: HEATED pool. 3BR/2BA, two-car garage. Immaculate, light and bright and only 10 minutes to the beach. \$299,900. Denise Langlois, Coldwell Banker, 941-725-4425.

CANAL HOME: ENJOY this lovely Island home. 2BR/2BA with one-car garage. Dock and boat lift, circular drive, turnkey furnished. Best buy! \$599,900. Denise Langlois, Coldwell Banker, 941-725-4425.

BAY WATCH CONDO on the bay, just steps from beach. Spacious 2BR/2BA, turnkey furnished. Heated pool, boat/fishing dock on Intracoastal Waterway. \$359,000. Karen Horner, Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate Inc. 941-730-4304.

REDUCED! CLUB BAMBOO South: Direct Gulf front efficiency condo. Private balcony, professional interiors, on-site management, pool and more. Nightly rentals allowed. \$419,999. George, 312-321-7501. Call for details and pictures. A must see!

REDUCED \$49,000: DIRECT bayfront, Runaway Bay 2BR/2BA condo. Completely new everything! Professional design, pool, shuffleboard, workout, fishing, on-site management and great rental history. \$455,000. George, 312-321-7501.

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

REAL ESTATE Continued

392 FIREHOUSE LANE: North Longboat Key, steps to beach and pool. Built 2004, upscale and stylish, former model home. 2BR/2BA, den plus loft. Maintained community. Priced to sell. \$998,500. EWM Realtors Inc. www.luxuryhomes-condos.com. 305-632-0449.

ADORABLE 1BR/1BA HOUSE in Cortez Village. Open sundeck, wood floors and new kitchen, \$900/month. Mike Norman Realty, 941-778-6696.

WEST BRADENTON 2BR/1BA house. 201 31st St. W., \$900/month. Mike Norman Realty, 941-778-6696.

LARGE WEST BRADENTON home with pool and great yard. 4BR/3BA. 4715 18th Ave.W. Mike Norman Realty, 941-778-6696.

BEACH COTTAGES: 250 steps to the Beach, 1BR/1BA, \$195,000, 2BR/1BA, \$249,000. Close to Bean Point, furnished, owner financing. 941-219-1042.

I WANTED THE kids, house and van. Got the bills, mortgage and loan. Must sell large 4BR/3BA home on one acre in northwest Bradenton. \$415,000 or best offer. Call Gini at 941-504-3431. 6907 9th Ave Dr. N.W.

INVITATION! TAKE ELEVATOR from pool, dock or garage to living, beds, sundeck in \$849,000 bayfront condo. Brightly furnished. By owner, 941-778-8428.

KEY ROYALE HOME: 3BR/2BA, all new interior. Way below appraisal. Boat dock, pool and spa. \$789,000. Owner/agent, 941-356-1456.

QUALITY DUPLEX WITH huge garage. One block to beach. Low price. \$487,000. Real Estate Mart, 941-756-1090.

\$369,000: DUPLEX 2BR/1BA, 1BR/1BA. 150 steps to the beach. Newly furnished, great rental history. Financing available. 941-747-3321.

BRAND NEW, MAINTENANCE-free villas at Palma Sola Trace! Five minutes to the beach and pricing under \$300,000! Great open floor plans with two or three bedrooms and loaded with included features! Call 941-794-6101, or stop by the Henderson Brothers Homes model at 3803 Bridelcrest Lane, Bradenton, today!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4pm. Only steps to beach with partial bay view. Completely remodeled bright 1BR unit in Runaway Bay. Heated pool, tennis, fishing pier, clubhouse. Price drastically reduced to \$310,000. By owner, 941-778-8327. 1801 Gulf Drive N., Unit 271, Bradenton Beach.

WILDEWOOD SPRINGS 2BR/2BA downstairs in move-in condition, stainless-steel appliances and more. \$184,900 or annual rent \$1,000/month. Call Sascha, 239-595-5850.

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

WE ACCEPT MASTERCARD AND VISA! You can charge your classified advertising in person or by phone. We are sorry, but due to the high volume of calls we can not take classified ad copy over the telephone. To place an ad by phone, please be prepared to FAX or e-mail your copy with your credit card information. (see below)

USE THIS FORM FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: One word per blank space for minimum charge - 20 words.

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Run issue date(s) _____
 Amt. pd _____ Date _____ Please indicate: Ck. No. _____ or Cash _____
 For credit card payment:   No. _____
 Exp. Date _____ Name shown on card: _____
 Billing address zip code: _____ House no. or post office box no. on bill _____
 E-Mail address: _____ [for renewal purposes only]

ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE Continued

NEW CONDO: \$289,900. For sale by owner. 2BR/2BA, den, garage, screened lanai, lake view, minutes to beaches. Open daily. 6442 Hidden Lake condominiums 941-761-0807 or 502-523-2019.

OPEN HOUSE: 1-4pm Saturday And Sunday, March 17-18. Top floor, waterfront, deep-water dock, garage. \$965,000. 4106 Marina Court, The Pointe at Mariner's Cove. Barbara Jennings, 941-773-0180. Michael Saunders and Company.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3BR/2BA cottage with pool. Totally updated, only steps from the beach. Under \$800,000. Call 941-527-5246.

UNIQUE DUAL FAMILY custom-built 2005 duplex. 4BR/2BA, elevator, pool, spa, bay view, partial Gulf view. Upgrades galore. \$1,399,000. Open 1-5pm Sunday. 205 Church Ave., Bradenton Beach. 937-545-0904.

FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE

AAH! COOL MOUNTAIN breezes! Murphy, N.C. Affordable land, homes, mountain cabins on lakes, mountains and streams. Free brochure, 877-837-2288. Exit Realty Mountain View Properties. www.exitmurphy.com.

BUY NOW! COASTAL North Carolina land or homes. Low taxes and insurance. Call today! Coastal Carolina Lifestyle Realty, 800-682-9951. www.CoastalCarolinaLifestyle.info.

BEAUTIFUL NORTH CAROLINA: Winter season is here! Must see the beautiful peaceful western North Carolina mountains, homes, cabins, acreage and investments. Cherokee Mountain GMAC Real Estate. cherokeemountainrealty.com. Call for free brochure, 800-841-5868.

ASHE HIGH COUNTRY is an investor's paradise. Discover the North Carolina mountains. Vacation homes, log homes, river tracts, view lots and farms. Century 21 Heritage Realty, 800-865-4221. www.c21heritagerealty.com.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD DEAL? You can read Wednesday's classifieds at noon Tuesday at www.islander.org. And it's FREE!

FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE Continued

WATERFRONT: 116-FOOT elegant 5,000-sf brick home. Media room, formal areas, fireplace, 5BR/4/BA, one-acre. \$699,900. Scottsboro, Ala. Debbie Mathis Realty, 888-574-2525 or 256-599-5910.

HOT SPRINGS, N.C. gated residential community surrounded by national forest. Paved roads, clubhouse, waterfall, pond, hiking trails and more. Lots starting at \$60,000. Call 877-477-3473.

GOT NORTH GEORGIA mountain fever? We have the cure... we can help you find the perfect place here. Sales and rentals. Toccoa Wilderness Realty and Cabin Rental LLC. www.ToccoaWilderness-RealtyandCabinRental.com. 706-632-2606 or 706-435-8735. NorthGeorgia4Sale@tds.net.

ASHEVILLE, N.C., AREA: Breathtaking mountain view and river parcels. One to eight acres from the \$80s. Nature trails, custom lodge, river walk and more. Five minutes from town of Hot Springs. Call 866-432-7361.

GRAND OPENING: SAVE \$20,000. "One day only" Saturday, March 24. New coastal Georgia community Homesites up to 4.5 acres, marshfront, live oaks, palm trees and panoramic views make this Georgia's best-kept secret. Excellent on financing. Shown by appointment. Call now, 866-432-7320.

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.

NEW COASTAL GEORGIA community: Half-to two-acre homesites starting in the \$200s. Marshfront with live oaks, palm trees and panoramic views. Perfect for family retreat, weekend getaway, or retirement. Showing March 24 by appointment only. Call 866-432-7318.

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.

FLORIDA, OUT-OF-STATE Continued

THE BEST LAND values in coastal Georgia! As much as 30 percent below recent appraisals. One-plus-acre marsh view from \$49,900. One-plus-acre marshfront from \$124,900. Gated entrance, marina access and more. 90 minutes to Jacksonville, 30 minutes to Savannah. Grand opening sale, Saturday, March 31. Call now! 888-525-3725, ext. 2228.

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. 915.

RARE! NATIONAL FOREST frontage and trophy trout stream. Large acreage parcels new to market. www.NationalForestLand.com.

TENNESSEE LAKE BARGAIN: Three-plus acres, \$19,900. Free boat slips! Save \$5,000 during pre-construction sale! Enjoy access to private, Jimmy Houston-endorsed bass lake. Paved roads, utilities, soils tested. Lakefront available. Excellent financing. Call now, 866-685-2562, ext. 1006.

COASTAL GEORGIA: 135-plus acres, \$249,900! Georgia/Florida border. Mature pines, abundant wildlife. Only an hour from Jacksonville. Call now, 904-206-5114, ext. 1195.

GEORGIA/FLORIDA BORDER: Huge savings! 23.55 acres, only \$109,900, was \$124,900. Coastal region. Wooded, loaded with wildlife. Easy drive to St. Simons Island. Subdivision potential. Call now, 800-898-4409, ext. 1178.

GEORGIA LAND BARGAINS! 20-plus acres. Great price, location and financing! www.gaforest.com.

NEW PRICE! TEN-plus acres, \$299,000! Upscale, equestrian, gated community! 200-year-old oaks. Established lush pastures. Paved private roads, underground utilities. Two miles from HITS! Excellent financing! Call 866-352-2249, ext. 1156.

WON'T LAST! PRICE reduced 50 percent. 29 acres, \$195,000. Great location close to Cedar Key. Nice meadow, scattered pine and oak, abundant wildlife. At end of private road. Utilities, survey, excellent financing. Call 866-352-2249, ext. 1192.

New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

YOU CAN LOOK IT UP BY RANDOLPH ROSS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Likewise
- 6 Chipped in
- 11 ___ II razor
- 15 Where to see "Monday Night Football"
- 19 Ryan of Hollywood
- 20 Big throw
- 21 One of the Castros
- 22 Pluck
- 23 Where to find para in the dictionary
- 25 ... oatmeal ...
- 27 Minnesota ___
- 28 History chapters
- 29 Restriction on children, maybe
- 31 4 x 4, for short
- 32 Exam for a future D.A.
- 33 Link with
- 34 Head-scratcher
- 38 Independent country since June 5, 2006
- 40 ... Suiza ...
- 42 Sneeze causers, for some
- 45 Plant openings
- 46 ... Hancock ...
- 49 Not fully formed
- 52 Speed: Abbr.
- 53 Like some Keats works

Answers to this week's puzzle on page 32

- 54 Part of the Treasury Dept.
- 55 Rival of Cassio
- 56 Apprised
- 58 "The Man Who Knew Too Much" actress, 1934
- 61 Remark that might get one in trouble
- 62 When "Dallas" aired for most of its run: Abbr.
- 63 Dictionary source for each italicized clue in this puzzle
- 69 Slate workers, for short
- 70 Actress Kimberly of "Close to Home"
- 71 Shooting match?
- 72 Big cavity
- 75 Course related to physiol.
- 76 Volga feeder
- 77 Fashion designer Saab
- 78 ___ Hill (R & B group)
- 79 Guidance system at sea
- 81 ... boar ...
- 84 1981 German-language hit film
- 87 Talks monotonously
- 88 ... subscapular ...
- 92 Model's job
- 96 "That's cheating!"
- 97 Daffy Duck and others
- 98 Spanish ___
- 100 Call to a calf

- 101 1989 high-school film based on a song title
- 103 Charades player
- 104 Farming prefix
- 105 ... war dance ...
- 108 ... ZZZ ...
- 111 Unhappy chorus
- 112 Lincoln, maybe
- 113 Rainwear brand
- 114 Fervor
- 115 Old flames
- 116 Stallone and others
- 117 Medgar of Mississippi
- 118 Hit the top

DOWN

- 1 Pinhead
- 2 There from birth
- 3 Show uncertainty
- 4 Running things?
- 5 ___ Miss
- 6 Now, in Nueva York
- 7 Unfamiliar with
- 8 A little night music?
- 9 Longoria of "Desperate Housewives"
- 10 Wrecks
- 11 Faithful about
- 12 Needed more
- 13 A3 maker
- 14 San ___, Calif.
- 15 "I" problem
- 16 Abbr. before a Spanish surname
- 17 Stomach part

- 18 Extraordinary degree
- 24 Writer of "Gil Blas"
- 26 Leader of the All-Starr Band
- 30 Shampoo form
- 32 Bad witness
- 33 Sondheim protagonist
- 35 Jelly flavor
- 36 High hat
- 37 Subtitle starter, sometimes
- 39 Fabrics with elaborate designs
- 40 Boggy lands
- 41 Terre Haute sch.
- 43 Rustling sound
- 44 Broad, in a way
- 46 Cape settler
- 47 Old mythological work
- 48 Trollope's "Phineas ___"
- 49 Assessor's figure
- 50 Votin' no on
- 51 Reverse
- 55 To wit
- 56 Take ___ (swing hard)
- 57 Mallard cousins
- 59 Physiques, for short
- 60 Modem termini?
- 61 ___ Games, quadrennial event since 1951
- 62 Monastic title
- 64 It's parallel to a radius
- 65 Opposite of yellow

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18														
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																													116	117	118

- 66 Big do
- 67 Dignitary from Dubai
- 68 Lockbox document
- 72 Write a codicil
- 73 "Huzzah!"
- 74 Jazz's ___ Lateef
- 76 One of the winds
- 79 Frank Sinatra said he had "the silkiest chops in the singing game"
- 80 Handicapper's hangout, for short
- 81 Wall St. figures
- 82 Spots
- 83 Something to be thankful for
- 85 Without support, in a way
- 86 Basket material
- 87 Place for a small table
- 89 Turbulent
- 90 Real estate ad section
- 91 CD-___
- 93 "See ya!"
- 94 N.H.L. trophy honoree
- 95 Able to do well
- 98 Member of the track team
- 99 Stockpile
- 102 Get the goods on
- 103 Parcel (out)
- 104 "Suppose they gave ___ and nobody came?"
- 105 Japanese P.M. Shinzo ___
- 106 "America's Most Wanted" airer
- 107 Small digit
- 109 Kind of lane
- 110 Inits. for a film buff

29 YEARS
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GULFFRONT DUPLEX Outstanding rental, turnkey furnished, ground level. Easily converted to large single-family.



\$265,000 FOR A 2/BR Island condo! Large unit in the center of Holmes Beach. Even has a large garage!



FANTASTIC PRICE Two buildings, only \$275,000 per building in Anna Maria City. Large lot each faces a different street. \$549,000 for both. Handyman special.



KEY ROYALE Move-in condition. Beautiful 2BR/2BA. Huge patio and Florida room. Nice landscaping on canal. Great value at \$599,000.



COMPLETELY RENOVATED 2BR2BA ground-level villa. Top of the line amenities and beautifully furnished. Stainless steel appliances, wood floors, one-car garage. \$345,000.



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110 13TH ST. S., ANNA MARIA ISLAND – Spectacular bay views from this darling 2BR/1BA cottage fully updated with custom dock and large deck. Very private with lovely yard.



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! \$879,900



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



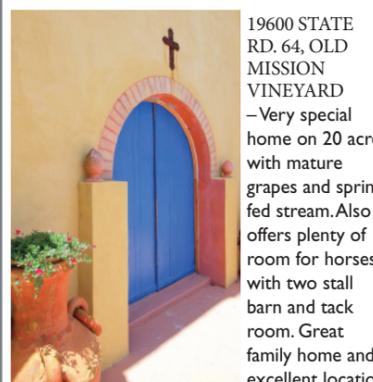
24071 JENNINGS ROAD Beautiful views of Lake Manatee from this open 3BR/2BA home on 6+ fenced acres in park like setting directly on the lake. Great fresh water fishing and boating on 2,400 acre Lake Manatee! \$799,000



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



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