

The Anna Maria Islander

The Best News on Anna Maria Island Since 1992

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Islanders of the year: Chiles, Chiles

By Bonner Joy

It was an idea of great joy to Rhea Chiles, and as it formed, evolved, mired and progressed, the idea became big.

It meant something big for Anna Maria Island to be host to the first lady of Florida, to have her return here to live after a time in the governor's mansion, after the death of Lawton Chiles in 1998 very near the end of his last term.

Of course, AMI embraced Rhea.

But little did we know she had such a big idea for us, one that would bring us culture, education, arts and artists, and a sense of place in tune with nature and the beauty around us.

It came to be the Studio at Gulf and Pine, but it is a mirror of Rhea Chiles, a woman generous of her great intellectual gifts.

The shape of the rooms, the undertone of art on the walls, the milieu of refinement, the boldness of abstracts, sculptures and color, it all gives a sense of refinement that whispers to the soul.



Ed Chiles discusses the future at his restaurants and on Pine Avenue, where his vision is coming to life.

It's a gift that couldn't have happened without the vision of Rhea Chiles, the insight that looked beyond sunsets and palm trees, pelicans on posts, grouper sandwiches, souvenir shops and real estate offices.

But take that gift and combine it with the generosity and vision of son Ed Chiles, who has developed his trio of restaurants into landmarks on Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key, and we have a legacy for the future.

Ed knows the value of investing in the community, of giving back to the organizations that help support youth sports, the elementary school and other worthwhile causes. Few, if any, who ask for help are turned away.

And while he may have competitors in business, none can argue with his generosity.

None should doubt his contribution to the evolving wedding business on AMI, or his ability to help others capitalize on it. Salons, photographers, florists, planners, musicians and, yes, accommodations. Were it not for rentals, many of the real estate businesses on Anna Maria Island would be reeling with the rest of the county economy.

And while some doubt his vision for Pine Avenue, we see a change there for the better and the process is not nearly complete. It's an undertaking that Anna Maria hasn't seen since the Fig Newton revolutionized and vitalized the city. The new Pine Avenue vision overflows with a passion for old Florida, but with the wink of an eye, brings us into focus for the future.

He's embraced partners whose development and design standards have brought greener building methods, preserved worth-



Rhea Chiles works on canvas.

while cottages and promoted the growth of new development fitting the old Florida image on a strip where commerce was on the brink of disappearing.

Rhea and Ed Chiles.

Formidable. Enlightening. Generous. Passionate about Anna Maria Island.

And they're our Islanders of the Year.

Bradenton man dies in causeway collision

A 79-year-old Bradenton man who owned rental property on North Bay Boulevard in Anna Maria died Jan. 1 in a two-car accident on Manatee Avenue that shut down the Anna Maria Island Bridge and Palma Sola Causeway for more than two hours.

At about 5 p.m., Frank Walwer swerved his 2004 Mercury Sable into the westbound lane on Manatee Avenue, and into the path of a westbound tanker truck, where the two collided head-on.

Walwer was flown by medical helicopter to Bayfront Medical Center, St. Petersburg, where he died at 7 p.m.

The bridge and the causeway re-opened to motorists at approximately 7:55 p.m.

The truck driver, Alfred Sevengy, 57, working for Blue Septic Tank Service of Bradenton, suffered minor injuries and was treated at Manatee Memorial Hospital. Fire crews cleaned 40-50 gallons of diesel fuel from the roadway, according to the Bradenton Police Department report.

City to review county's marine rescue plans

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

The Bradenton Beach Planning and Zoning Board this month will review plans for a proposed \$1.1 million Manatee County Marine Rescue headquarters on the south end of the Island.

The plans have cleared a number of hurdles at the county level.

The building is proposed for the bayside

of Coquina Beach on county-maintained land, and for a county operation, but the property is within Bradenton Beach city limits.

In late 2009, county commissioners approved a \$1.1 million contract for Zirkelbach Construction Inc. of Palmetto to build the headquarters south of Leffis Key.

The headquarters — in the planning stage for a decade — will provide work space for PLEASE SEE RESCUE PLAN, NEXT PAGE



A plan for the proposed \$1.1 million marine rescue building on the bayside of Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach. Islander Image: Courtesy Manatee County

Police forum on crime Thursday

The Holmes Beach Police Department will hold a Community Prevention Forum at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, at the Holmes Beach City Hall commission chambers.

HBPD Chief Jay Romine, Lt. Dale Stephenson and Detective Mike Leonard will provide an update on recent burglaries in the city, as well as tips on protecting property and improving community awareness.

To contact the HBPD, 5801 Marina Drive, call 941-708-5804.

Possible loss of groins makes surfers groan

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

The possible removal of three groins on the Gulf shore in Bradenton Beach has some surfers concerned that they might lose a surf location.

"I go there because White Avenue is so crowded," Bradenton surfer Paul Hinkley said of the surf spot at Cortez Beach in Bradenton Beach. "It's a good place to ride, and easy to get to."

The three groins, including two referred to as the "Twin Piers" among surfers, may come down as part of a 2014 federal beach renourishment campaign.

But, renourishment officials stress, there is no current plan for the removal of the structures, which

Rescue Plan CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

marine rescue personnel, storage space for gear and vehicles, a conference and lecture room that may be used by schools and teachers, training facilities for lifeguards and lockers for their personal effects and staff computer facilities.

The headquarters also will contain work and storage space for the Manatee County Sheriff's Office's marine deputy branch, currently stationed at Regatta Point in Palmetto.

The marine rescue division currently has offices at the county public-safety complex in east Bradenton, but lifeguards operate primarily out of a storage room at Coquina Bayside or from their towers.

The contract for the headquarters calls for the project to be completed in the next year.

The headquarters will consist of 4,250 square feet and will be elevated on concrete pilings to provide for parking under the structure.

On Jan. 14, in a hearing at 5 p.m. at city hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., the Bradenton Beach Planning and Zoning Board is scheduled to review plans for the building, which is considered a "major development" under the city code.

already are closed to the public.

The groins are within the area proposed for renourishment in 2014 in a federal Army Corps of Engineers project and immediately north of the area proposed for renourishment in 2012-13 in a Manatee County/Florida Department of Environmental Protection project.

"DEP has not ordered the groins removed in conjunction with this project," DEP spokesperson Dee Ann Miller said, referring to the 2012-13 renourishment work, which will focus on building up the shoreline of Coquina Beach, a public recreation area.

But state regulations could necessitate the removal of the groins for the 2014 project, which involves an Islandwide renourishment.

A Florida coastal construction statute states, "Any coastal construction, or any structure including groins, jetties, moles, breakwaters, seawalls, revetments, or other structures of a solid or highly impermeable design ... which serves no public purpose, which is dangerous to or in any way endangers human life,

health or welfare, or which proves to be undesirable ... shall be adjusted, altered or removed."

In reviewing an initial renourishment application, the DEP indicated that the usefulness of the three groins may be evaluated.

"There is no official evaluation of the purpose, safety or necessity of these structures at the state level nor any plan at the state or federal level at this time," Miller said. "The state will ask for information and make an evaluation as part of the assessment process in the processing of the future permit" for renourishment.

So some surfers said they are discussing a petition to save the groins.

"I think if they go, we lose the surfing there," said surfer Candice Huntley of Bradenton.

Others, however, said they prefer a natural beach and natural surf conditions.

"There's a community within the surf community, and it's growing, that is really all for natural shores," said surfer Henry Sole.



Surfers say the groins — closed to the public — at Cortez Beach improve the surf conditions at the Bradenton Beach location. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

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Meetings

Anna Maria City

- Jan. 8, 10 a.m., ad-hoc parking safety committee meeting.
- Jan. 11, 10:30 a.m., capital improvements committee meeting.
- Jan. 11, 4 p.m., city pier centennial committee meeting.
- Jan. 11, 5:30 p.m., code enforcement board meeting.
- Jan. 12, 4 p.m., transportation grant enhancement committee meeting.
- Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m., environmental, enhancement education committee meeting.
- Jan. 14, 7 p.m., city commission and planning and zoning work meeting.
- Jan. 19, 4 p.m., transportation grant enhance-

ment committee meeting.

- Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m., planning and zoning board meeting.

Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, 941-708-6130, www.cityofannamaria.com.

Bradenton Beach

- Jan. 4, 1 p.m., ScenicWAVES meeting.
 - Jan. 7, 1 p.m., city pier team meeting.
 - Jan. 7, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
 - Jan. 14, 5 p.m., planning and zoning board meeting.
 - Jan. 21, 1 p.m., city commission meeting.
- Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 941-778-1005, www.cityofbradentonbeach.org.*

Holmes Beach

- Jan. 6, 5 p.m., parks and beautification meeting.
 - Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m., crime-prevention program.
 - Jan. 12, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
 - Jan. 21, 10 a.m., code enforcement meeting.
- Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 941-708-5800, www.holmesbeachfl.org.*

West Manatee Fire Rescue District

- Jan. 21, 6 p.m., district commission meeting.
- WMFR Station No. 1, 6001 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, 941-741-3900.*

Send notices to Lisa Neff at lisaneff@islander.org.

Fireworks explode over palm trees at the BeachHouse Restaurant. The New Year's event brought a crowd to the restaurant and the Gulf shore in Bradenton Beach. Islander Photos: Lisa Neff

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WMFR board authorizes \$1 million-plus to expand

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Members of the West Manatee Fire Rescue District board at their Dec. 29 special meeting were unmoved by a last-minute appeal from several citizens to hold off on a \$1.1 million building purchase to add office space and storage.

The board voted 3-1 to approve the purchase, with vice chairman Jesse Davis opposed.

The board will use part of its \$1.3 million contingency fund to purchase the property, located about 100 yards from the WMFR Station No. 4 on 67th Street West, Bradenton, then seek financing and return most of the purchase price to its contingency fund.

But some members of the public, including Holmes Beach City Commissioner Al Robinson, expressed displeasure with the purchase, particularly in view of difficult economic times for taxpayers.

He said it did not make good sense to purchase an 11,000-square-foot building to house five administrative staff members.

"Please, rethink and justify this. Would you do this if this was your kingdom?" Robinson asked.

He claimed the board has a "fiduciary responsibility" to district taxpayers, but was "out of control" with its purchase and spending. Robinson asked the

board to "back out" of the deal.

Holmes Beach real estate agent Don Schroder concurred with Robinson, noting that recent reports indicate better deals for existing properties are coming in the near future in Manatee County.

Other members of the public spoke against the proposal, saying they had just become aware that the board was considering the purchase and would have been more active in opposing the measure.

Commissioner Randy Cooper, however, noted that the board has discussed adding to its facilities for the past two years, if not longer. It's not a new idea that the board has sprung on the public, he indicated.

"I'm surprised some people are saying they just heard about this now. We have two reporters here who have been reporting on this for at least the past two years. And some people are just now coming forward to say this is the first they've heard of this," Cooper said.

WMFR Chief Andy Price said the board has been considering expansion for the past 10 years and everything about this purchase has been out in the open and discussed at public meetings.

The board hired a company in 2009 to study its existing facilities, Price said. That company recom-

mended the district either construct a new building to contain all administrative staff, along with equipment storage, training and executive rooms, or purchase and renovate an existing structure.

When the cost to build a new facility was estimated at \$4 million, the board began looking at existing properties. The building near Station No. 4 met nearly all criteria for the addition, he said.

It will cost the board an additional \$300,000 to upgrade and renovate the building, but the board will then have a solid asset, Price maintained.

With the new building, equipment now stored at the other fire stations can be moved to a central facility. All administrative staff will be at the building, freeing up space for firefighters to have decent living quarters when on duty at their respective stations, Price said.

The new building also will provide meeting and training rooms and allow each battalion chief an office.

"This is a functional building," said Cooper, adding that any building WMFR purchases must be within the district.

"This is not the best or ideal structure, but it's functional. We've looked and looked and this seems to fit the bill" for the WMFR needs, Cooper said.

Audubon takes annual bird census

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Local birding enthusiasts volunteered as census takers last week, joining in an effort to track and count species around the world — from Alaska to Antarctica.

The Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count takes place worldwide from mid-December through early January, with the greatest level of participation — tens of thousands of birders — working in the Americas.

Volunteers — Audubon refers to them as citizen scientists — register to go out in a specific area, a circle, to count species.

Locally, in the Tampa Bay area, there are a number of counts, including the Manatee County Audubon Society's Bradenton Christmas Bird Count on the mainland, which took place Dec. 19, and the Gulf Circle Count, which includes Anna Maria Island, Longboat Key, Cortez and Perico Island.

The Gulf Circle Count took place Dec. 29, with 32 citizen scientists gathering at several locations at sunrise. Carrying binoculars, guide books, checklists and bottles of water, they then headed out in eight groups to cruise neighborhoods, walk shorelines and hike preserves scouting for birds.

"We finally hit the 100 species mark for the count for the first time ever," said David Williamson who coordinates the count for Manatee County Audubon. "We did see more total birds last year — 8,904 versus 3,146 this year — but we spotted 13 more species than last year, which was the previous record.

"We are gradually seeing more and more birds and species, probably since we are getting better at surveying the entire area and we have more birders joining us so we can spread out much better," Williamson added.

The counters spotted a few uncommon birds, including a whimbrel, not seen in the Gulf Circle count since 1983.

"The most unexpected sighting was a cordon bleu finch who obviously has escaped captivity," Williamson said. "It was seen celebrating with regular appearances at a bird feeder in Cortez."

The coordinator said the number of roseate spoonbills and osprey has continued to rise from count to count. Also, birders spotted 21 American oystercatchers and 192 red knots, and one birder spotted 300 Northern gannets over the Gulf of Mexico.

"No American robins or cedar waxwings again this year, but lets not draw any conclusions and leave that up to the scientists," Williamson said.

Scientists use the CBC data to better understand how birds and their environment are faring and what needs to be done to protect them. CBC data,



A brown pelican, counted in a local Christmas bird count sponsored by the Audubon Society. *Islander Photo: David Williamson*

for example, was used in the first U. S State of the Birds Report, issued in 2009 by the U.S. Department of the Interior in partnership with Audubon and other conservation organizations. CBC analysis also served as the basis for Audubon's 2009 report indicating climate change is having a dramatic impact on bird

migration.

The day after volunteers conducted the Gulf Circle Count, another count — smaller in participation and narrower in focus — took place on Anna Maria Island.

Marianne Korosy of Florida Audubon and Suzi Fox of Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch surveyed Island beaches looking for wintering birds, specifically red knots and American oystercatchers.

"Both of them are declining rapidly," Korosy said.

AMITW, in the summer, focuses on monitoring sea turtle nesting on the Island and at the same time watched for nesting sea and shorebirds.

More recently, AMITW has taken an interest in monitoring birds through the winter. "We're going out about twice a week," Fox said.

AMITW is working with the county natural resources department, as well as Florida Audubon and a growing number of volunteer groups in the state to monitor birds.

Korosy said her role is to work with volunteer groups such as AMITW in a five-county region to monitor populations.

"Working with turtle watch, it's a very natural partnership to build," Korosy said. "Turtles and shorebirds, they go hand-in-hand."

She also is working to disseminate educational information about birds on the beaches.

"We'd like to get some tips out there," she said. "Give the birds a berth when they are on a beach. And do not feed the gulls."



Marianne Korosy of Florida Audubon and Suzi Fox of Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch look for red knots and American oystercatchers wintering on the shore in Anna Maria. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

Stoltzfus seeks to halt PAR development progress

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria City Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus is continuing his denunciation of development plans submitted by Pine Avenue Restoration LLC for retail-office-residential complexes on Pine Avenue.

In a Dec. 23 letter to Mayor Fran Barford, other commissioners and the planning and zoning board, Stoltzfus calls for denial of PAR's site plan for an ROR structure at 216 Pine Ave.

In his most recent opinion notice, Stoltzfus indicated plans for 216 Pine Ave. have at least six "deficiencies" with city codes and the comp plan, if not more.

According to Stoltzfus, those deficiencies include the wrong number of parking spaces, non-compliance with the comprehensive-plan density-per-acre limitation, access for emergency vehicles and design safety.

He said the plan "should be prohibited now, in the site-plan review process at the administrative review level. No passing the buck. You don't need a committee's opinion to perceive a hazard."

Stoltzfus was referring to the commission-appointed ad-hoc committee that will review parking safety in the ROR to determine the extent of any problem, then propose potential solutions and options to the commission. The committee will hold its first meeting later this month.

Stoltzfus had already gone on record in a Nov. 30 letter to the mayor opposing the site plan for 216 Pine Ave. and two other site plans submitted by PAR in November.

He has called upon the city to deny all three plans, and published his opinion on a blog site, www.ourannamaria.blogspot.com.

But the city and PAR are getting hit by more than just opinion letters from Stoltzfus, albeit indirectly.

Attorney Dan Lobeck, representing Robert and Nicki Hunt and Robert and Coleen Muzzy, sent the city a letter Dec. 23 demanding that the commission change the allowable density to match the 2007 comp plan. The letter demanded that the city comply with the comp plan and deny a PAR application for an ROR project on a 5,000 square foot lot.

According to online documents, the Hunts are principals in Pineapple Corner LLC, which owns 303 Pine Ave. The company has submitted an ROR site plan for the property, located on the southeast corner of Pine Avenue and North Shore Drive.

Lobeck's letter indicated that the consequences of the city not complying with the "demand" would be a request for an administrative hearing by his clients to the Florida Department of Community Affairs to determine the consistency of Anna Maria's land-development regulations with its comp plan.

The Hunts original site plan was denied in 2006 by the city commission, but a subsequent appeal to the Manatee County Circuit Court by the Hunts was successful.

Ground-clearing has taken place at 303 Pine Ave., but construction has not yet begun. According to building official Bob Welch, a building permit has not yet been issued pending receipt of what Welch termed an "energy code" and mechanical contractor.

Stoltzfus has written a number of opinions against PAR projects, but has made no comment about the Pineapple Corner-ROR project.

PAR and Pineapple Corner are the only two companies presently involved in developing ROR complexes on Pine Avenue.

Mike Coleman of PAR had no comment on Stoltzfus' latest opinion letter. The company is following the city's process for site plans and approvals, he said.

Lobeck and Hanson sent a request to the city Dec. 29 asking for a copy of each of the three site plans submitted by PAR.



The plan for 417 Pine Ave. was approved by the city and is under construction by Pine Avenue Restoration LLC.

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Holmes Beach residents Charles and JoAnn Lester are again offering up to \$50,000 in matching funds for contributions postmarked by Jan. 31, 2010, to the Anna Maria Island Community Center program scholarship fund. *And your contribution is tax deductible.*

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Please, bill me for my pledge amount.

Our Opinion

Living in Mayberry for real

A long, long time ago, there was a little outpost for kids in Anna Maria known as the youth center. It's baseball field was built in the 1960s by legends of the game, strengthened by their families and others who lived here, determined to have a safe, wholesome environment for kids.

A small building soon supported a stage, where someone taught arts and crafts and others lead songs and still others promoted performances. There was a half-court for basketball when I arrived with two youngsters in 1975.

Volunteers worked up a schedule of things for kids to do. Games to play. Enrichment for young minds and bodies.

Along with the great ideals that were established by the community, there were needs. Going back some 35 years, I recall planning a "fun day" at the center, with not much to go on but goodwill and enthusiasm. Then someone suggested I go to the IGA and ask the cigar-chewing owner — and also mayor of the city of Anna Maria — Ernie Cagnina — for some hot dogs, snacks and such.

"I thought it was asking too much, but when I approached, I didn't finish my plea before Ernie put his hand on a cart and pushed it my way, taking his cigar out of his mouth just long enough to say, 'Get what you need.'"

That was the day. It seems now like a bygone era. A smaller island where you knew everyone and their kids. Everyone was your neighbor.

It was the closest thing to Mayberry there ever was outside a TV studio.

And the closest thing to Ernie these days is Ed Chiles. Of course, he's closely followed by a large number of benefactors, including Chuck and Joey Lester, John Bacich and Sean Murphy.

But if you need something for someone or some entity, you can barely finish asking Ed before he's offering a way to help.

When he started the Lawton Chiles Christmas Party for Kids, 15 years ago, we used to frequent the Sandbar and tip "heavily," because for a few days preceding the party, all the tip money went to buying turkey dinners and presents, shoes and clothing for the 20-30 kids they entertained on the deck.

I recall one year when we were frantically cutting white yarn for a beard and hair for Santa, the



Slick

By Egan

items somehow left out of his costume, before the kids arrived.

None of the youngsters appeared to notice.

And since you likely didn't attend this year, you missed out on seeing Ed as Santa.

No matter the fatigue and heat under the costume for Ed after 70 or 80 kids, and 50 or so more to hold on his lap, and listen to their Christmas wishes before giving them toys, a meal and more ... maybe hope.

His twinkle didn't disappear all day.

There must be a joy to that job — and to his relentless giving all year, every year.

It's just one of his gestures that make ours the best ever place to live and work.

Spirit, vision, and a name that commands respect for himself, mother Rhea and Anna Maria Island.

Don't forget to say, "thanks."

Especially, thanks for being Islanders.

Your Opinion

Slow down?

It was Christmas week and I was rushing about, trying a senior citizen-style version of multi-tasking, when the brake lights on the car in front of me came on and it stopped.

I muttered something to myself as to why this idiot would stop with a clear coast ahead of him.

When the oncoming traffic also stopped and a few seconds later a father with two small elementary-age school girls emerged on their bikes and slowly crossed the street, I was embarrassed.

I bowed my head and asked the good Lord to forgive me and also thanked him that I still live in a community that has most of its priorities straight.

Roy Davis, Anna Maria

Stumbling on the shore

The other day, the movie "Field of Dreams" was on TV again and the famous line, "If you build it, they will come," reminded me of a conversation that I recently had with an elderly full-time Island resident.

She was complaining about the "big hole." You know the ones that get dug on the beach so she will fall? The holes that capture turtles, wildlife and people.

It happens when we least expect it, we are captivated by the sunsets, and sometimes we venture off to take the beach walk just a little too far, and then realize we have to walk back home. That is when the "big hole" seems to get on the nerves of the locals.

Here is an idea for anyone enjoying the Island and digging those holes: Why not fill it in before you depart and then we don't have to worry about turtles, wildlife and Island residents falling in and getting hurt?

Kathy Caserta, Holmes Beach

Have your say

We welcome and encourage your comments on topics, columns and editorials in *The Islander* and the news and events on Anna Maria Island.

The Islander accepts original letters of up to 250 words and reserves the right to edit for length, accuracy and grammar. Letters must include name, address, and a contact phone number (for verification). Anonymous letters will not be printed.

Address letters by e-mail to news@islander.org or mail to 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217, or comment on matters on *The Islander* Web site at www.islander.org.

Stories on the Web site include comment forms for submissions.

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Reading room named for Island doctor

Browsers in the new reading room on a university campus in Kirksville, Mo., likely will find the work of an Anna Maria resident on the shelves.

The new reading room at A.T. Still University and the Still National Osteopathic Museum in Kirksville is dedicated to Dr. Thomas Quinn, an Anna Maria resident on the faculty of the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine Bradenton in Lakewood Ranch.

Quinn and wife Sissy attended the dedication ceremony, part of Kirksville's Founder's Day activities in October.

There, Quinn, in addition to joining in the celebration of the newly built Quinn Reading Room, discussed his upcoming book, "The Feminine Touch: History of Women in Osteopathic Medicine."

Quinn has made a career of osteopathic medicine, and, at LECOM Bradenton, he teaches a course in osteopathic history and heritage.

Quinn also assists his wife, president of Anna Maria Island Preservation Trust, on historical and preservation issues on Anna Maria Island.

Quinn graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1966. The next year, he was commissioned as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy — among the first doctors of osteopathy commissioned in the Armed Forces.

He is a 24-year veteran of the military, with service as a commander of the 103rd Medical Battalion, the 28th Infantry Division surgeon and the state surgeon of the Pennsylvania National Guard.



Dr. Thomas Quinn and wife Sissy in the new reading room named for the doctor. *Islander* Photo: Courtesy LECOM Bradenton

The Islander 10 years ago

In the Jan. 5, 2000, issue of *The Islander*, headlines announced:

- Holmes Beach Police Chief Jay Romine said there were no suspects in the Dec. 19 robbery of a Cortez man at Nations Bank on Manatee Avenue in Holmes Beach. The robbery took place late that evening, when the victim was attempting to make a night deposit. He was confronted by a gunman, who took the night deposit bag and fled the scene.

- Anna Maria city commissioners were forced to re-advertise for bids on reconstruction of the city pier because the proposed specifications overlooked the cost to demolish and rebuild the restaurant and rest rooms. According to the bids received, however, it would cost the city between \$600,000 and \$800,000 to replace the decking and pilings.

- The Holmes Beach Police Department announced it would hold a forum on drugs and drug abuse Jan. 6 at the Holmes Beach City Hall and invited all parents and community members to attend. The forum came in the wake of a number of parents claiming teenage drug abuse was rampant on the Island.

TEMPS AND DROPS ON AMI

Date	Low	High	Rainfall
Dec. 27	55	61	0
Dec. 28	60	69	0
Dec. 29	50	63	0
Dec. 30	58	74	0
Dec. 31	64	76	0
Jan. 1	60	68	1.19
Jan. 2	56	68	0

Average Gulf water temperature 64°
24-hour rainfall accumulation with reading at approximately 5 p.m. daily.

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2009 in review: July through December

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

JULY

Storm causes power outage, flooding: Severe thunderstorms passed over Anna Maria Island July 1, causing a power outage with 3,893 customers losing electricity. Rains from the storm also caused flooding on several major Island roads. The Holmes Beach Police Department diverted traffic at the Manatee Avenue-Gulf Drive intersection for motorists to avoid flooded areas.

Pipeline project may aid renourishment: A proposed pipeline, which would run from the Gulf of Mexico into Tampa Bay and reach the mainland at the Port of Manatee, generated some concern for much of last year that white sand needed for beach renourishment would become off limits. Officials on Longboat Key were the most vocal in their concerns for the pipeline route, which already was revised once to avoid another area of beach-quality sand. But in mid-summer, during a Manatee County Board of Commissioners meeting, a possible solution to the conflict was announced: Instead of relocating the pipeline route to avoid submerged beach-quality sand, the sand would be removed before construction of the pipeline. "It's a win-win for all parties," Manatee County natural resources director Charlie Hunsicker reported.

Commission approves application for cafe expansion: With a platter of stipulations, the Bradenton Beach City Commission July 2 approved an application for a major expansion of a beachfront restaurant. Commissioners devoted considerable time during their 125-minute meeting at city hall to reviewing plans for the Gulf Drive Cafe, 900 Gulf Drive N. The city's planning board recommended commission approval of the restaurant's application, which calls for a \$500,000 expansion with a new parking lot, chickee hut, a tiki bar and lobby, as well



The Anna Maria Island Privateers wave to an adoring audience. The non-profit group organized the July 4 parade, as well as a post-parade party at Cafe on the Beach.

as a new kitchen and rest rooms. The plan included 90 parking spaces and 252 seats for patrons.

PAR, Mainsail purchase Tidemark: The Tidemark projects in Holmes Beach were sold to an investment group that includes Anna Maria developer Pine Avenue Restoration LLC. Joe Collier of Mainsail Development Group LLC of Tampa said

his group would be the managing partner, while PAR is the majority limited partner. Other individuals and groups also have invested in the Tidemark projects, he said. Collier said it was a chance meeting he had with Ed Chiles of PAR as Mainsail was considering an \$8.25 million bid to Mercantile Bank to purchase
PLEASE SEE REVIEW, NEXT PAGE

Island time: It's 12 'o clock somewhere



The Cafe on the Beach ushers in 2010 with an early-bird party at 6 p.m. Dec. 31. The Manatee Public Beach restaurant, 4000 Gulf Drive N., Holmes Beach, held the party suggesting "it's 12 'o clock somewhere." In fact, it was midnight in Algiers and Barcelona, and Paris and Rome. "Felice Anno Nuovo." Islander Photos: Lisa Neff



Selene Schulz of Jeffersonville, Ind., celebrates the new year at Cafe on the Beach in Holmes Beach.

Catherine Gambucci of Andalusia, Ill., toots for 2010.



New Year's celebrants dance at a party at the BeachHouse Restaurant in Bradenton Beach, which marked the holiday with a fireworks display.

REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the Tidemark mortgage that lead to PAR's involvement. Mercantile was in the process of foreclosing on the mortgage.

Patriotism on parade: The throngs reached for beads. The kids called for candy. The audience danced to a Johnny Cash tune. And the crowds cheered for real-life veterans and reservists, make-believe pirates and privateers, local business leaders and officeholders, and a variety of patriots enthusiastic to show their colors on Independence Day in the annual Anna Maria Island Privateers July 4 parade. The parade traveled from Coquina Beach at the Island's south end to Bayfront Park at the Island's north end. Along the way, there were flags waved, beads tossed, candy collected and, in Privateers' tradition, there was "non-projectile black powder" cannon fire.

Grant approved for kayak launch: The Sarasota Bay Estuary Project and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced they would assist Bradenton Beach in establishing a kayak launch at Herb Dolan Park. SBEP announced that FWS money would fully fund the project, one of two major elements in the city's master recreational boating plan. The other element is the creation of a formal mooring field south of the Historic Bridge Street Pier. The kayak launch would be established at Herb Dolan Park on the city's northeast side.

Missing diver found dead: A diver who went missing in the waters off Anna Maria Island was



Kaitlyn Williamson, 4, and dad Bryan of St. Charles, Mo., join a July 1 tour conducted by Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch volunteers. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

located. The body of Darren Rordam, 31, of Tampa, was found by other divers, according to the U.S. Coast Guard in St. Petersburg. Rordam and his companions had been diving about 18 miles off Anna Maria. They had been using a 22-foot vessel, the Maillot out of Tampa, as their base of operations.

DEP: Yes to controversial AM beach construction: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection approved an application by Stephen Walker to build a residence seaward of the coastal construction control line on beachfront property he owns on Beach Avenue in Anna Maria. The approval came despite objections by adjacent landowners that the project would violate zoning ordinances. Earlier, the property was subdivided into two lots and titled Banyan Tree Estates.

Scenic highway extension sought: A group tasked with steering improvements to the Palma Sola Scenic Highway decided it wants to extend the drive to include a stretch of road that runs through Holmes Beach to the Bradenton Beach border. Currently the Palma Sola scenic route is Manatee Avenue/State Road 64 from 75th Street in Bradenton to East Bay Drive in Holmes Beach. Earlier, the Holmes Beach City Commission authorized city public works superintendent Joe Duennes to draft a letter to the Palma Sola Scenic Highway Corridor Management Entity supporting the extension of the scenic route on Manatee Avenue to the
PLEASE SEE REVIEW, PAGE 12

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12:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Medication Management Presentation by Scott Nichols, RPH of Bradenton Family Pharmacy. The importance of knowing your prescriptions and options available to help you manage them daily.

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Dealers will assemble Jan. 9 in the parking lot of Coquina Beach for the Anna Maria Island Privateers Thieves Market as they did in November. Additional markets are scheduled Feb. 13, March 13 and April 10. The events are fundraisers for the Privateers, featuring the sale of antiques, collectibles, oddities, novelties and junk, as well as the Privateers' specialty — smoked mullet.

Islander Photos:
Lisa Neff



Gary Hill displays a 30-pound amberjack for sale at the Thieves Market Nov. 14.

Inquiring Minds resumes programs

Inquiring Minds, a cross-denominational Bible study group, will resume its programs at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

The group will discuss St. John's gospel. For more information, call 941-778-4579.

Sunny Shores hosts sale

The Sunny Shores Garden Club will hold its annual plant and garden sale Jan. 8-9, at the Sunny Shores clubhouse, 115th St. W. and 38th Ave., Cortez.

The sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 9.

Also, on Saturday there will be a pancake breakfast.

For more information, call Darci Palsrok at 941-795-7549.

Center to host line-dancing

The Anna Maria Island Community Center two-steps into the new year with the start of its popular line-dancing class.

The class begins Jan. 8 and continues through March 19, meeting at 11:30 a.m. at the Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

Other classes at the Center include yoga, free weights, and aerobics.

For more information, call the Center at 941-778-1908.

Robinson to hold photography event

The Manatee County Natural Resources Department will hold a "Shutter Stroll: Sunset and Stars" event at Robinson Preserve at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9.

The preserve is at 1704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton.

Photographers will hike from the preserve entrance to an observation tower with nature photographer Dotty Motta.

For more information, call the county NRD at 941-742-5757, ext. 7.

County hosts nature adventures

Manatee County's calendar of events for Robinson Preserve, 704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton:

- 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 9, Sidewalk Astronomy.
- 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 9, Sunset and Stars Shutter Stroll.
- 9 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, Master Gardener Tour.
- 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 16, Afternoon Adventure Paddle, Robinson Preserve.
- 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, Full Moon Wagon Tour.

For more information or to reserve a space at an event, call the county natural resources department at 941-742-5757, ext. 1.

Challenge for Center extended

The deadline for Islanders to raise money for a \$50,000 challenge grant to benefit the Anna Maria Island Community Center was extended to Jan. 31.

Holmes Beach residents Chuck and Joey Lester have vowed in the Lester Challenge to match up to \$50,000 in donations to the Center for its youth scholarship program.

The challenge began in November, with contributions collected through the holiday season. As of Dec. 30, the community had donated \$30,675 to the challenge, according to Center business manager Sandee Pruett.

But with the challenge unmet as of last week, the Lesters extended the deadline from Dec. 31 to Jan. 31.

The Lesters also announced that purchases of a 2010 calendar by local artist Robert F. Harper III will go toward meeting the challenge.

Harper's calendar, "Sunrises and Sunsets of Florida," contains 14 landscapes.

The calendar can be purchased at the Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, through this month.

For more information, call the Center at 941-778-1908.

Crosspointe to host 'Jews for Jesus' group

Crosspointe Fellowship will host the Liberated Wailing Wall, described in a news release as an evangelistic team of Jews for Jesus, at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 10.

The news release from the church states: "The Liberated Wailing Wall members are part of the larger Jews for Jesus work. The team's leader, Shaun Buchhalter, has been on their missionary staff since 2000. Team members represent a wide range of musical backgrounds and are all Jews for Jesus missionaries."

The Liberated Wailing Wall has recorded 12 albums, most recently "Never Forget."

There is no admission charge to the concert.

Island Players to host cancer benefit

The Island Players will again present a benefit performance to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The annual tradition will take place in 2010 on March 16, when the curtain opens at 8 p.m. at the Island Players theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, on a performance of "Catch Me If You Can."

Tickets can be purchased now at the Bridge Street Market, the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce and local businesses, including *The Islander*, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

For more information, call Nancy Ambrose at 941-518-4431.

Art league announces classes

The Anna Maria Island Art League will hold a series of classes and workshops in the coming months.

The offerings include sessions in painting, photography, pottery and colored pencils for adults.

The art league, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach, also offers programs for children.

For more information, go to www.islandart-league.org, or call 941-778-7099.

Drift-In hosts benefit

The Drift-In, 120 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach, will host a benefit for Bob "Captain Crunch" Fazioli from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9.

Fazioli was diagnosed with lung cancer 10 years ago and he fought the disease.

His brother, who is organizing the benefit, said cancer "has come back with a vengeance" and that, lacking health insurance, medical bills are accumulating.

The event will include music, food and raffles.

Tingley club to meet

The Tingley Memorial Library book club will meet at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the library, 111 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach.

For more information, call 941-779-1208.

Library to host birding program

The Friends of the Island Branch Library will host Jeanne Dubi of the Sarasota Audubon Society at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 14.

Dubi's presentation will feature a discussion of birding and habitat conservation in Sarasota County.

The program, which is part of the Alice Taylor Reed Lecture and Travel Series, is free. Seating will be available on a first come, first serve basis.

The Island Branch Library is at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

For more information, call 941-778-6341.

Islander publishes poetry collection

Islander Barbara Parkman is known for a collection of tales about her life with a pet monkey.

But she recently collected her poems and published them in a spiral-bound notebook titled, "From Florida With Love."

Parkman's monkey tales are collected in "I was a Monkey's Momma" from Triad Publishing Group.

For more information, e-mail Parkman at bpbridge@msn.com.

Islander sponsors WMFR CPR class

The Islander is sponsoring a CPR class with the West Manatee Fire Rescue District at Station No. 1 in Holmes Beach.

The class will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 30. Participants must register in advance with the paper, and class size is limited to six people.

For more information or to register, call *The Islander* at 941-778-7978.



R & R

Cathy Roller of Holmes Beach recently received the Kingman Award for distinguished service to the field of reading from the National Reading Conference. Roller recently retired from director of research and policy for the International Reading Association. She and her husband, John Else, vacationed on Anna Maria for 15 years before moving to their condominium full-time in July.

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Mike Galati, son of Chris Galati of Galati Marine in Anna Maria, stands in the middle of the Bimini Bay channel near a marker between low and high tide. Islander Photo: Courtesy Chris Galati

REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Manatee Public Beach.

AUGUST

Island tourism defying the trend: At a time when the national economy was still in a recession and tourism nationally and at many Florida destinations was down as much as 20 percent, Anna Maria Island was bucking the trend. Accommodation occupancy on the Island was up in July and was expected to be better this August than last year. And at least one restaurant owner's business was booming. "Our country is in its worst recession in years, yet Anna Maria Island is defying the odds," said restaurant owner Ed Chiles.

Planners ship waterfront policy to commission: The Bradenton Beach Planning and Zoning Board Aug. 18 shipped a series of waterfront-related policies to the city commission. The board did so with assurances from city staff that members would get another chance to review the policies before they are finalized.

City revises 50 percent policy: Holmes Beach revised its policy for renovating ground-level homes to make it tougher for builders to skirt a federal mandate. The mandate from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which dates back to 1976, is that residential structures built in the coastal flood-

plain must be elevated.

FISH to expand: Florida Institute For Saltwater Heritage members unanimously agreed to purchase four lots belonging to the Cortez Church of God on 123rd Street Court West, near the Cortez Community Center/firehouse. The property had a price tag of \$245,000. According to Cortez Historic Sites Manager Roger Allen, the parsonage on the land would continue to be rented to tenants, the Sunday school space would become a multi-use area and the general space used for weddings and other events. The parking lot was the gem of the acquisition, Allen said. Manatee River Community Bank was instrumental in the FISH purchase.

Bridge Street group goes nonprofit: Bridge Street businesspeople still seek a profit, but the group they formed to draw customers to Bradenton Beach's commercial strip went nonprofit. Historic Bridge Street Merchants Association members celebrated the group's new, corporate 501c3 status Aug. 20 at the Bridge Walk Resort, 100 Bridge St.

Five people are vying for Holmes Beach City Commission: The qualifying period for the Nov. 3 election in Holmes Beach opened Aug. 24. Incumbents Pat Geyer, Pat Morton and David Zaccagnino qualified. In the November 2007 election, they were returned to office unopposed. Andrew E. Sheridan of

Key Royale was a fourth candidate, and Al Robinson, a fifth candidate for three seats.

Planning commission OKs code changes: The Holmes Beach Planning Commission Aug. 25 accepted a series of proposed changes to city code, sending the amendments back to the city commission for consideration. The changes dealt with a range of issues — off-street parking, commercial parking, storage unit placement and the appeals procedure for floodplain management decisions. The planning commission reviewed the changes to guarantee consistency with the city comprehensive plan.

\$8.5 million fire district budget approved: The West Manatee Fire Rescue District board of commissioners at its Aug. 27 public hearing unanimously approved Chief Andy Price's \$8.573 million budget proposal for 2009-10. Of that amount, \$5.204 million is the district's operating budget, while \$3.369 million is capital reserve funding.

Corona sentenced in car-theft case: Robert
PLEASE SEE REVIEW, NEXT PAGE



Clyde Wiggins of the Cortez String Band prepares to perform at the Cortez Village Folk Arts Festival Nov. 21. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

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Island transportation projects budgeted

By Nick Walter
Islander Reporter

The Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization released its five-year work program on Dec. 14, and some proposed Anna Maria Island projects received considerable funding.

“Over the past four years there has been a serious decline in transportation revenues, basically through gas taxes in the state of Florida,” said MPO executive director Michael Howe. “We’ve seen a decrease in revenues that help fund transportation and this is probably the best program for the next five years we’ve had since probably 2004.”

The city of Anna Maria received an additional \$600,000 in a transportation enhancement grant for its boardwalk and landscaping project proposed for the city pier. City Commissioner Jo Ann Mattick had been working with a committee for more than a year to design the project, which includes new driveways, a boardwalk at the base

of the pier, native plants, and relocation of the trolley stop near a covered picnic area.

The total the city will receive for the project, which could be completed in 2011, is more than \$900,000.

At the Dec. 7 Island Transportation Planning Organization meeting, Manon Lavoie, community liaison officer with the Florida Department of Transportation, wrote the MPO requesting the increased funding.

Holmes Beach also benefitted, as its plan for landscape improvements at the intersection of East Bay Drive at 31st Street south of the Publix store, was budgeted for about \$350,000 in funds, bringing the total the city will receive for the project to about \$550,000.

The improvements will include an extensive upgrade to the landscaping, traffic signal and sidewalk.

The tentative amendments will go before Florida Gov. Charlie Crist to become part of the state

budget, which the Legislature will consider in the spring.

In addition, Neal Preserve on the southside of Manatee Avenue near the Anna Maria Island Bridge, which is destined to become a passive park, was budgeted for \$315,357 to move forward with a 2012-13 project funded for a bike and walking trail.

Bradenton Beach was budgeted for an extra \$600,000 in stimulus funds for improvements along Gulf Drive from the Cortez Bridge through Coquina Beach.

“The improvements will start this year on that stretch,” Howe said of the Gulf Drive project, which he said include a lot of pedestrian amenities and improvements to sidewalks, landscaping and lighting.”

Finally for 2010, the MPO board elected Marianne Barnebey, councilwoman of Bradenton, to chair the board, and Joseph Barbetta, a Sarasota County commissioner, to vice chair.

REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Corona took a joyless joy ride in November 2008. Corona, a 38-year-old tile setter from Bradenton, was arrested Nov. 6, 2008, as he fled from Manatee County Sheriff’s Office deputies after abandoning the two-door Pontiac Sunfire convertible he stole from the parking lot behind the Gator Lounge on 14th Street West in Bradenton. On Aug. 10, Corona pleaded no contest to charges of grand theft auto, resisting arrest without violence and driving without a valid license. On Aug. 14, a judge sentenced Corona to four years in prison, with credit for time served. The prosecution sought five years in prison for Corona, while the man’s defense attorney requested a three-year sentence.

SEPTEMBER

Key Royale dredge work begins: The contractor dredging three canals on Key Royale was set to complete the labor by Labor Day. The Key Royale dredging is the last of the work in Holmes Beach this year for Miami-based Piedroba Marine Construction, which won a \$277,272.80 contract from the city to dredge eight canals and the city boat ramp.

County plan calls for Island project: Manatee County’s five-year capital improvement plan called for a variety of Island-related improvements. Island-wide beach renourishment remained a goal in the 2010-14 CIP under the natural resources section, with funding to come from federal and state grants and county tourism development funds.

Rain floods Island roads: With certainty the National Weather Service predicted rain for Sept. 12. “Chance of precipitation is 100 percent,” read the forecast report from the NWS for the Tampa Bay area. And the rain did fall, flooding streets, parking lots, stormwater ditches and driveways. Local public safety officials reported no significant damages associated with the rainfall.

Budget, tax rate pass first reading: Holmes Beach city commissioners, with one dissenting vote and some citizen complaints, approved a \$7.8 million budget for fiscal 2009-10 and a 1.7549 millage rate.

This year’s budget is \$8,127,723. The commission set the millage rate for 2010 at 1.7549 mills per \$1,000 assessment and the first reading of an ordinance for a \$7,865,490 balanced budget for 2009-10.

Bradenton Beach budget approved: Bradenton Beach Commissioners adopted a \$2,795,096 budget and set the 2009 millage rate for the city at 2.1539 mills, less than the rollback rate. A mil is \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed value of property less any exemptions.

Cortez Bridge brushup: Painting and other maintenance work began in late September on the Cortez Bridge on State Road 684/Cortez Road into Bradenton Beach. The Florida Department of Trans-

portation said work on the bridge would continue to require some short closures and single-lane traffic operations through Oct. 5, and maintenance activity would continue into December.

City easing up on carts, low-speed vehicles: Low-speed drivers, start your engines. Bradenton Beach city commissioners agreed Sept. 17 that they do not want to pursue an ordinance banning low-speed vehicles within city limits. Additionally, commissioners said they wanted to explore lifting a prohibition against golf carts — which go slower than low-speed vehicles — in certain areas of Bradenton Beach.

County reviewing beach-raking practices:
PLEASE SEE REVIEW, PAGE 14



Seasoning season

Historic Bridge Street Merchants Association members Jo Ann Meilner, Kelley Burdette, Amy Talucci, Caryn Hodge, Nancy Ambrose, Lynn Zemmer, Amanda Escobio, Mary Ann Brockman, Tjet Martin, Linda Haack and Greg Burke gather for a photograph Aug. 20 on Bridge Street. The Bradenton Beach businesspeople worked to spice up the 2009-10 tourist season and celebrating a new nonprofit status. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

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REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Manatee County began testing a change in its beach-raking practices on Anna Maria Island to better protect the natural wrackline. County officials have met with representatives from state and federal agencies, as well as talked with representatives from nonprofit organizations such as Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch and the Audubon Society about changing beach-raking practices for environmental benefits, said Charlie Hunsicker, the county natural resources director.

OCTOBER

Island Players open new season: The Island Players theater group began its 61st season with "London Suite," a Neil Simon play directed by Gareth Gibbs. The play opened Oct. 8 at the theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.

Stone crab catch improves slightly: Although the commercial stone crab catches improved a tad, action remained slow for stone crab businesses due in part to unfavorable weather. "The water is too warm and too clear," said Charlotte Huntley, a commercial crabber who leads crabbing charters out of Cortez Kitchen. "It isn't muddied up enough yet. The crabs like to move when it's nice and muddy." Simply put, the demand for stone crabs was high, and the supply was relatively low, leading to higher-than-average prices at some restaurants. "My phone rings constantly," Huntley said. "I was selling mediums for \$7 per pound, now I'm getting rid of everything for \$12."

BIEO discusses resolutions against offshore drilling: Members of the Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials said they were deeply concerned about the potential for the Florida Legislature to open up new areas in the Gulf of Mexico for offshore drilling. Longboat Key representatives made an impassioned plea at the BIEO's Oct. 20 meeting for support from member cities to join Longboat Key in opposing any change in state statutes to allow more drilling in new areas.

Beer, wine solution brewing: The Bradenton



Today and yesterday

Sissy Quinn of the Anna Maria Island Preservation Trust presents a certificate Sept. 22 to Bradenton Beach Mayor Michael Pierce, Commissioner Bob Bartelt and ScenicWAVES member Pat Gentry recognizing the Historic Bridge Street Pier. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

Beach Planning and Zoning Board Oct. 21 created a formula intended to ease but not lift limits on alcohol sales on Bridge Street. The planning board, with member Jo Ann Meilner abstaining, unanimously voted to recommend the city commission consider three actions: strike a provision in the land-development code that requires a minimum of 200 feet between establishments on Bridge Street that sell alcoholic beverages; draft, within 30 days, a procedure for Bridge Street businesses to secure conditional-use permits to sell alcohol; draft, over time, an ordinance that deals citywide with alcohol sales and allowable distances from one licensed establishment to another. Meilner abstained from the voting because, as owner/operator of the Back Alley gallery and cafe on Bridge Street, she filed

the application requesting a review of the LDC provision.

Bayfront brings bliss: Bands jammed at Bayfest and the crowds clamored for more Oct. 16 and Oct. 17. Bayfest, the annual Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce pre-season bash on Pine Avenue in Anna Maria, opened with a kickoff party Oct. 16 and continued with the full festival on Oct. 17. The event, free to the public, raised money for the chamber's scholarship fund through vendors and the sale of beverages.

Family fun at AME-PTO Fall Festival: Students from Anna Maria Elementary School transformed into witches, vampires and princesses Oct. 31. The annual AME Parent-Teacher Organization

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Candidates Christine Tollette and David Gryboski await voters at the election polling place, city hall, in Anna Maria. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Fall Festival attracted a large turnout. A half hour after the start of the festival a line still existed to buy tickets for food and games. PTO president Monica Simpson stayed busy selling tickets while the line kept growing. "This is pretty awesome, I'm impressed with the crowd that's showed up. In my own opinion, we've had twice as many people show up as last year," Simpson said.

State defends Koenigs conviction: The Florida Attorney General's office filed court papers defending the conviction of a man who shot Island businesswoman Sue Normand. The filing countered a defense move to have the Second District Florida Appeals Court declare a mistrial and overturn the conviction of Mark Koenigs. In August 2008, a jury convicted Koenigs for shooting Normand in her Island Mail and More store and threatening to shoot two law enforcement officers trying to arrest him on the Gulf shore Dec. 5, 2007. Koenigs was convicted of one count of aggravated battery with a firearm and two counts of aggravated assault on law enforcement.

NOVEMBER

Two incumbents, one newcomer elected in Anna Maria: Incumbent Anna Maria City Com-

missioners Dale Woodland and John Quam were easily returned to office in the Nov. 3 city election, while political newcomer Harry Stoltzfus took the third seat, defeating incumbent Christine Tollette by 93 votes. Woodland topped all candidates with 560 votes, while Quam polled 500. Stoltzfus garnered 472 votes, Tollette 379 and David Gryboski finished last with 335. Stoltzfus said he was pleased with the results, noting he and his campaign staff worked very hard prior to the election.

BB voters decide mayoral race: No one emerged from Tingley Memorial Library Nov. 3 with a newly checked-out book, but citizens emerged with "I voted" stickers and a candidate emerged with a two-year job as Bradenton Beach mayor. William "Bill" Shearon took on incumbent Michael Pierce in the race for mayor. The two also ran against one another in 2007. Pierce won with 65 percent of the vote. He received 191 votes; Shearon received 103

votes. Pierce awaited the count at the polling location at 7 p.m. with his wife and a few supporters.

Zaccagnino zips up Holmes Beach commission race: David Zaccagnino ran away with a win in the Holmes Beach city commission election, garnering 715 votes. Filling in the other two commission seats were newcomer Al Robinson with 530 votes and incumbent Pat Morton with 520. Ballots were cast at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Andy Sheridan, running for the first time, picked up 485 votes, while Pat Geyer had 458. Commissioners were elected to two-year terms.

PAR files three site plans: Pine Avenue Restoration LLC submitted three site plans to the Anna Maria building department for retail-office-residential construction on Pine Avenue. PAR already has completed ROR complexes at 315 Pine Ave. and 317 Pine Ave., and ROR projects are under way at 401 Pine Ave. and
PLEASE SEE REVIEW, PAGE 19



John Moore, manager of Star Fish Co. in Cortez, prepares a small dish of stone crab claws. Islander Photo: Nick Walter

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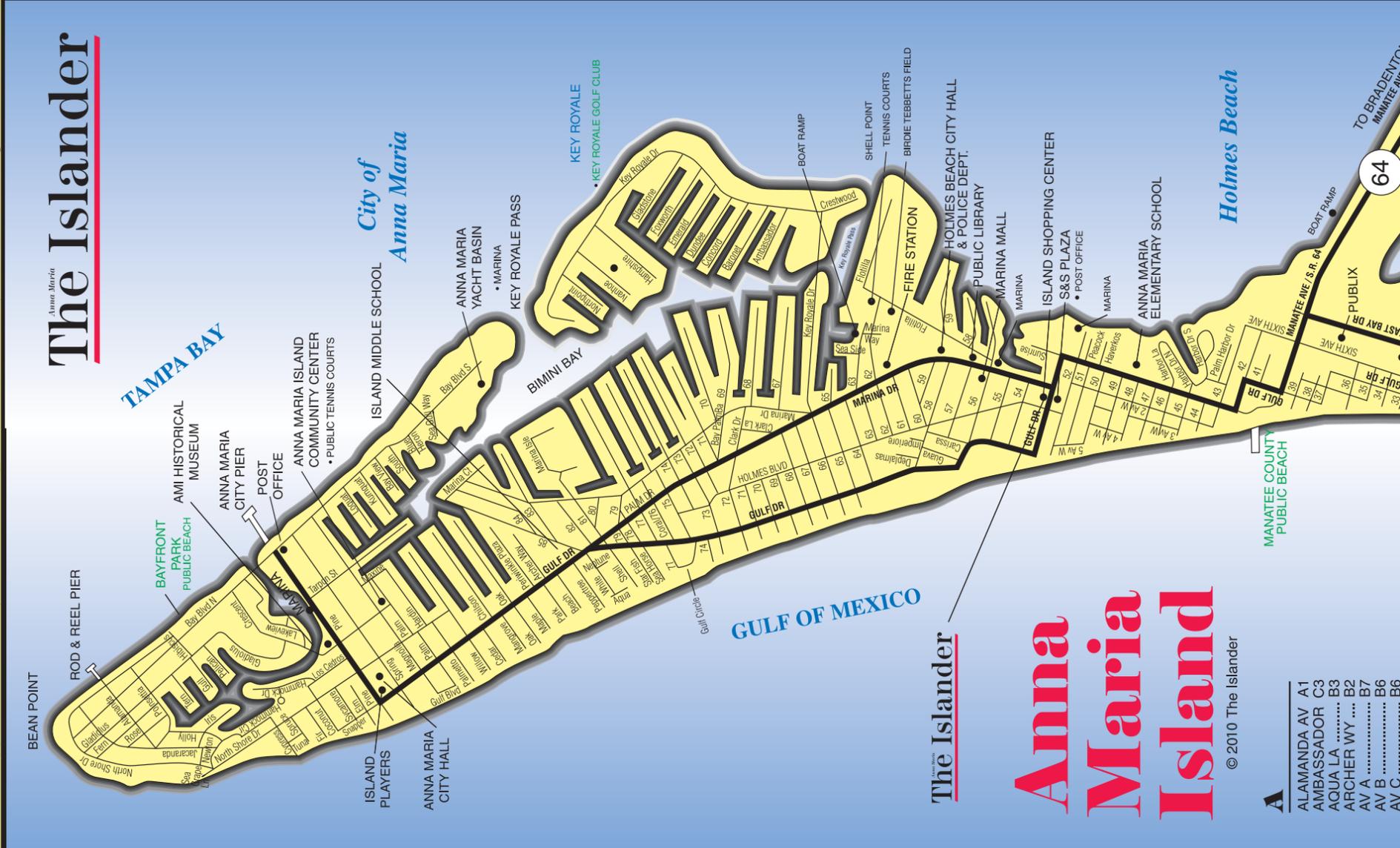
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Time is running out to pre-register for the 2010 Dolphin Dash.

The fourth-annual Dolphin Dash set for Saturday, Jan 16, includes a 5k (3.1 miles) starting at 8 a.m. and a 1-mile fun run for all ages to start at 9 a.m.

“The Dolphin Dash is a way to promote fitness in both the school and our community,” said race organizer Becky Walter.

Anna Maria Elementary students have been preparing for the run all year long. Wednesdays before school, the AME Running Club meets to talk about running and training for the Dolphin Dash. More than 100 students are enrolled in the club.

“This race is a great way to spend time with family and friends. It gives students who have been running in the club a chance to not only talk about running, but also show their skills,” said Walter.

For those who aren’t sure yet about running in the Dolphin Dash, organizers say there is no reason to be intimidated.

“I’ve heard people talk about running and training for the Dolphin Dash, and for some it will be their first run... Whether you sprint it, jog it, or walk it, it is a great race,” said Walter.

Organizers agree, the Dolphin Dash will leave a lasting memory in the minds of those who race.

“I remember Mickey Hooke describing why he runs 5ks: ‘You wake up early, get some exercise, spend some time with friends, and help raise money for a great cause all by 10:30 a.m. That’s more than most people do all week,’” Walter recalled.

Money raised from the Dolphin Dash will benefit the AME Parent Teacher Organization.

Pre-registration with the fee for adults \$20 and \$10 for youths under 19 ends Jan 14. Runners who pre-register will receive a goodie bag and a T-shirt. Registration after Jan. 13 and at the event will cost adults \$25 and youths \$15.



Ready to run

Members of the Anna Maria Elementary running club prepare for the Dolphin Dash set for Jan. 16. Pre-registration for the race ends Jan. 14, but runners will be able to register the day of the race. Islander Photo: Courtesy Becky Walter

For more information or to register for the Dolphin Dash, visit www.runnergirl.com or call Walter at 941-383-9675.



AME calendar

- 8 a.m., Jan. 15, Parent Teacher Organization meeting
- 8 a.m., Jan. 16, Dolphin Dash
- Jan. 21, Domino’s pizza day.

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Michael Harrington, Michael Pierce and Diane Pierce wave to voters on Election Day in Bradenton Beach. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

503 Pine Ave. PAR's site plans call for an ROR building at 210 Pine Ave. that would be two upper-level residential units over two retail units. The project at 216 Pine Ave. also is planned for two residential units over two retail units, as is the plan at 308 Pine Ave.

Bradenton Beach invited to pilot mooring program: Florida officials looking to pilot an anchoring and mooring project were steered toward Bradenton Beach, where efforts already are under way to establish an official mooring field. Earlier this year, the Florida Legislature directed the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to explore options for regulating the anchoring or mooring of non-live-aboard vessels outside legally permitted mooring

fields. Following that directive, the FWC contacted Manatee County officials to solicit a partner. When he received the state memo, Charlie Hunsicker, director of the Manatee County natural resources department, thought of Bradenton Beach.

Parking again an Anna Maria problem: Anna Maria city commissioners at their Nov. 19 meeting asked newly elected Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus to organize a "safety committee" to study driveways and off-street parking, particularly along Pine Avenue in the city's retail-office-residential district. On Nov. 12, moments after he was sworn into office, Stoltzfus sent a memo saying he could not reconcile the parking arrangements at 315 and 317 Pine Ave. with the city's comprehensive plan and parking ordinance. The properties were developed in the 1960s. **PLEASE SEE REVIEW, PAGE 20**



Abby Cubus and aunt Karen Corbran share an exchange in the children's playland with Toby Circus Ballantine at the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce's Bayfest Oct. 17. Islander Photos: Lisa Neff

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 4:30 - 6:30 • \$10
 Custom Catering Available

Final Islander 2009 Football Contest Winner
 DEC. 30 GAME WINNER:
DOT MCNALLY
 BUC'S SCORE:
NO WINNER
 SEE YOU NEXT SEASON!

Feeling Swell SURF BAR

<p>Starters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern Fried Chicken Tenders Jalapeño Poppers Wings Your Way Crispy Island Fries Buffalo shrimp Real Conch Fritters NY Sliders Island Crab Cake Tasty A Swell Mix <p>Salads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling Healthy Salad Feeling Caesar Salad Feeling Healthy or Feeling Caesar Salad with Grilled Chicken, Grilled Mahi or a Crab Cake <p>Baskets Served on a bed of Island Fries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large Fried Shrimp Fried Chicken Tenders Perfection Fried Oysters 	<p>Burgers Served with Island Fries Choice of Cheese Swell Angus Beef Burger Bison Burger Veggie Burger</p> <p>Plates Served with Cole Slaw or Island Fries and a Side Salad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grilled Chicken Breast Plate Mahi Mahi Plate Buffalo Steak Plate Crab Cake Plate <p>More!</p> <p>Served with Island Fries or Cole Slaw</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All American Hot Dog & Fries, BLT Oyster Po're Boy Roll Chicken Tender Roll Island Crab on a Roll Say Cheese Steak (not Philly's)
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Plus Cold Beer, Wine, Funnel Swells, & Chili

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REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

oped and completed this year by Pine Avenue Restoration LLC.

Pitchers pitch in for AID: The players in Anna Maria's horseshoe league pitch shoes most Wednesday and Saturday mornings. At Thanksgiving, they pitched in to help All Island Denominations keep its food bank at Roser Memorial Community Church stocked. The players donated money on game days to purchase groceries for the food bank. "We give a little bit each day on Wednesday and Saturday," said Jeff Moore, president of the league, which meets for games at 9 a.m. at the pits at Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive.

Storm season uneventful for AMI: The 2009 Atlantic Hurricane Season that ended Nov. 30 proved largely uneventful for Anna Maria Island. The worst local weather of the season — a weekend of heavy rain in September that flooded streets and yards —

was associated with a trough of low pressure, not a tropical storm. The season produced nine named storms, including three hurricanes — two of them major hurricanes.

DECEMBER

Storm waves damage Bridge Street pier: Strong waves associated with a storm system Dec. 2 damaged Bradenton Beach's Historic Bridge Street Pier, forcing the temporary closure of the structure. Rotten Ralph's restaurant at the pier remained open during the pier closure, which lasted until midday Dec. 4. The National Weather Service reported sustained winds of 30 mph in the area Dec. 2, the day the pier was damaged. One gust measured 38 mph, just short of tropical-storm force winds.

Local officials unite against drilling: A coalition of local officials called on the governor, state legislators and U.S. congressional members to respect the

coast and keep oil and gas drilling operations out of state waters. The coalition included Manatee County's board of commissioners, as well as representatives from every municipality in the county. A letter to state and federal officials included the signatures of all seven county commissioners, as well as signatures of elected officials in Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach, Holmes Beach, Longboat Key and Palmetto. Bradenton officials joined in the campaign, but signed a separate resolution.

Sarasota teen sentenced for burglaries: A Sarasota teenager was sentenced to nine months in the county jail and four years probation after pleading no contest to 12 local burglaries. Patrick S. Banker, 19, was arrested May 19 while fleeing from the Waterfront Restaurant in Anna Maria, which he broke into moments earlier. Banker, according to authorities, then confessed to a series of area burglaries committed. **PLEASE SEE REVIEW, NEXT PAGE**

Manatee County Area Transit Manatee Trolley on Anna Maria Island

FREE

Anna Maria

- Rod & Reel Pier
- City Pier
- Post Office
- Anna Maria City Hall
- Community Center
- Historical Society
- Island Players

Holmes Beach

- Fire Station
- Holmes Beach City Hall/Police
- Public Library

Bradenton Beach

- Manatee County Public Beach
- Bradenton Beach City Hall
- Historic Bridge Street/Pier
- Coquina Boat Ramp
- Coquina BayWalk
- Coquina Boat Ramp

Coquina Beach

- Coquina Boat Ramp

Transfer to MCAT Route 6, Cortez Road
SCAT Route 18, Longboat Key/St. Armands

South

Anna Maria City Pier	Gulf Dr. at 78th St.	Island Shopping Center	Manatee County Public Beach	Bradenton Beach City Limit	Bridge St.	Coquina Beach
6:00	6:05	6:10	6:15	6:20	6:25	6:30
6:30	6:35	6:40	6:45	6:50	6:55	7:00
7:00	7:05	7:10	7:15	7:20	7:25	7:30
7:20	7:25	7:30	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:50
7:40	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05	8:10
8:00	8:05	8:10	8:15	8:20	8:25	8:30
8:20	8:25	8:30	8:35	8:40	8:45	8:50
8:40	8:45	8:50	8:55	9:00	9:05	9:10
See Note Below						
9:00	9:00	9:10	9:15	9:20	9:25	9:30
9:30	9:30	9:40	9:45	9:50	9:55	10:00
10:00	10:00	10:10	10:15	10:20	10:25	10:30

Daily

North

Coquina Beach	Bridge St.	Bradenton Beach City Limit	Manatee County Public Beach	Island Shopping Center	Pine Ave. at Gulf Dr.	Anna Maria City Pier
6:00	6:05	6:10	6:15	6:20	6:25	6:30
6:30	6:35	6:40	6:45	6:50	6:55	7:00
7:10	7:15	7:20	7:25	7:30	7:35	7:40
7:30	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00
7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05	8:10	8:15	8:20
8:10	8:15	8:20	8:25	8:30	8:35	8:40
8:30	8:35	8:40	8:45	8:50	8:55	9:00
8:50	8:55	9:00	9:05	9:10	9:15	9:20
See Note Below						
9:00	9:05	9:10	9:15	9:20	9:25	9:30
9:30	9:35	9:40	9:45	9:50	9:55	10:00
10:00	10:05	10:10	10:15	10:20	10:25	10:30

Daily

Note: Trolleys run at 20 minute intervals until 9 p.m. then run every 30 minutes until 10:30 p.m.
Black time points: A.M. (before noon).
Red time points: P.M. (after noon).
Stops: Two to four blocks apart along the route.
Fare: Free
Information: 941 749 7116 or www.co.manatee.fl.us, click on "MCAT."

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The Islander

Transfer to MCAT Route 6, Cortez Road
SCAT Route 18, Longboat Key/St. Armands



Santa offers a candy cane to Sara Erickson, 8, visiting from Knoxville, Tenn. During the holiday open house in Holmes Beach Dec. 4, Sara asked the man in red for a Barbie doll. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

Island Biz

By Rick Catlin



Islanders gain 'real' honors

Sharon Villars of RE/MAX Alliance at the Island office in the Island Shopping Center, Holmes Beach, was recently honored by the Manatee Women's Council of Realtors with its 2009 "Rising Star Award" for her contribution and involvement in the local and state chapters of the Women's Council of Realtors.

RE/MAX Alliance agent **Barry Grooms**, the 2009 president of the Manatee Association of Realtors and a former Island resident, was named the "Member of the Year" by the WCR for his support, involvement and dedication to the real estate profession and the WCR of Manatee.

For more information, call 941-778-7777.

Chamber luncheon, breakfast plans

The **Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce** will hold its January networking luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the **BeachHouse Restaurant**, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Cost is \$15 per person and reservations are requested by the chamber.

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, the chamber will hold its Sunrise Breakfast from 7:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. at **The Gathering Place**, 101 Seventh St. N., Bradenton Beach. Reservations must be made with the chamber and the cost is \$8 per person.

For more information on events and to make reservations, contact the chamber at 941-778-1541.

Got a new business going up on Anna Maria Island, or in the area? How about a new product or service, an anniversary or an award-winning staff member? Call Island Biz at 941-778-7978, fax your news to 866-362-9821, or e-mail us at news@islander.org.

REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

ted last spring and winter.

Orchestra performs Christmas concert: The Anna Maria Island Community Chorus and Orchestra performed its annual holiday concert Dec. 20, at Crosspointe Fellowship, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. The program, An Island Christmas, featured the work of Vivaldi, Mozart, Boccherini and Handel, including a portion of his "Messiah."

Burglars hit four Holmes Beach stores: Early in the morning Dec. 18, burglars targeted retail stores near the corner of Gulf and Marina drives, taking cash and various merchandise. Tide and Moon in the AMI Plaza, and Mister Roberts Resortwear, the Color of Coconut and AMI Fitness, across Gulf Drive from Tide and Moon in the S&S Plaza, were burglarized before 7 a.m. "It's a huge sign of the times," Holmes Beach Police Chief Jay Romine said. "This is happening everywhere. It's magnified here because we've basically gone a

long time without any incident."

Judge denies motion to dismiss Buehler case: Circuit Court Judge Edward Nicholas Dec. 22 denied a life insurance company's motion to dismiss a court petition to declare missing motel-owner Sabine Musil-Buehler deceased. Musil-Buehler has not been seen since Nov. 4, 2008. Her estranged husband, Tom Buehler, with whom she ran Haley's Motel in Holmes Beach, has asked the circuit court to declare her dead.

Christmas bird count held: Birding enthusiasts with the Audubon Society's Manatee County chapter is organized the local Christmas Bird Count, which took place on Anna Maria Island Dec. 29 at about sunrise. The National Audubon Society annually sponsors the Christmas-time counts. Now in its 110th year, it is the longest-running wildlife census in the world, and has become an annual tradition for citizen volunteers and scientists in communities throughout the Americas.



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Tuesdays 4-8 pm

Sunset Dinner Specials

Wednesdays 4-8 pm

Taco and Fajita Buffet \$8.95

Thursdays 4-8 pm

Sunset Dinner Specials

Friday 12-5 pm

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Wed 1/6 ~ Mike Sales
Thurs 1/7 ~ Mike Sales
Fri 1/8 ~ Roni
Sat 1/9 ~ Bobby Remp
Sun 1/10 ~ Tom Mobley
Mon 1/11 ~ Karen Greenley



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Segways prohibited on beaches

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Visitors to Anna Maria who rent the popular Segway transporters are being advised that motorized vehicles are not allowed on the beach.

Sgt. Dave Turner of the Manatee County Sher-

iff's Office-Anna Maria substation said he contacted the owners of the Segway operation on Gulf Drive about the city code with regard to motorized vehicles and bicycles on the beach.

Turner said the store is placing a sticker on each of its transporters advising users not to travel on beach areas.

Anna Maria city code applies to everyone riding a transporter, but Turner said he did not contact the Segway rental operation in Bradenton Beach, since that store is not in his jurisdiction. The two stores are owned independently of one another.

In addition to Anna Maria, Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach also have codes prohibiting privately operated motorized vehicles, as well as bicycles, on the beach.

Former City Commissioner Duke Miller inquired at the city about Segways on the beach, saying he was concerned for the safety of beachgoers, particularly children, since the transporters are noiseless and beachgoers might be unaware of the presence of the vehicles before a chance encounter.

Streetlife

Island police blotter

Anna Maria

Dec. 27, driving under the influence, Margaret McGinley, aka Margaret Field. While on patrol, the deputy was in a store at 5400 Marina Drive of Holmes Beach when a male subject on a motorcycle ran into the store and said there was an SUV all over the road that had almost hit them, and had nearly hit pedestrians crossing the road. The deputy left the store and eventually got behind the northbound vehicle and saw the SUV swerving in the bike lane and into oncoming traffic on Gulf Drive. He observed the vehicle turn around in a driveway on 85th Street, Holmes Beach, and run over a palm tree. The officer made a traffic stop, but the SUV didn't stop until it reached Anna Maria.

The officer made contact with the driver, who the officer said had slurred speech and was unsteady. The officer said McGinley made reference to owning the *Sun* newspaper. According to the report, she asked the deputy to let her go with a warning and drive her home. McGinley was charged with driving under the influence with a blood-alcohol level over .15 (.242 and .277), reckless driving and leaving the scene of a traffic accident with property damage. She was transported to jail.

Bradenton Beach

No new reports.

Holmes Beach

Dec. 30, 522 Bayview Drive, theft. A victim came to the Holmes Beach Police Department to report the theft of a kayak from his residence. The victim said the kayak was tied to a seawall on his property Dec. 21. The kayak was gone by Dec. 26. The victim said the kayak was purchased about five years ago for \$1,100.

Obituary

Robert P. Warczinsky

Robert P. Warczinsky, 83, died Dec. 31.

Mr. Warczinsky was born in Cleveland, and was a winter resident of Anna Maria Island before he moved to Bradenton from Parma, Ohio, in 1969. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II. He was a machinist and worked at Cleveland Frog and Crossing.

A private service was to be held for the family. Brown & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, 26th Street Chapel, 5624 26th St. W., Bradenton, was in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made to www.brownsandsonsfuneral.com. Memorial donations may be made to TideWell Hospice, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota FL 34238.

He is survived by son David and wife Jennell of Bradenton; sister Mary Jane White of Strongsville, Ohio; two grandsons, Shane of Bradenton and Ryan and wife Tammy of Ona, FL; and two great-grandsons, Austin and Gage.

'Lifetime' surveys circulated

The Anna Maria Island Communities for a Lifetime committee is asking Island residents to complete a survey to help the committee implement improvements in housing, health and wellness, employment, transportation, education, volunteerism and intergenerational initiatives.

According to a press release from the committee, Communities for a Lifetime is "an opportunity for people of all ages to unite with the goal to better their community."

The survey will help "assess the needs and improve the quality of life for all residents through the use of local, state and federal resources," the release said.

All three Island cities have endorsed the survey

and the Communities for a Lifetime initiative.

Copies of the survey are available at all three Island city halls, the Island Branch Library in Holmes Beach, the Tingley Memorial Library in Bradenton Beach and the Anna Maria Island Community Center in Anna Maria.

When completed, the survey may be returned to the Center, any Island city hall, either library, or mailed to:

Communities for a Lifetime, P.O. Box 253, Anna Maria, FL, 34216.

The deadline for the surveys to be submitted is Feb. 10.

For more information, contact Ken Venter of the Communities for a Lifetime Committee at 941-779-1612.

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ISLANDER CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 6

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce networking lunch at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-778-1541. Fee applies.

3 p.m. — Book club meets at Tingley Memorial Library, 111 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-779-1208.

Friday, Jan. 8

5:30 p.m. — Artist reception for nature photographer Joe Fletcher at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6648.

5:30 p.m. — Artist reception for photographer and watercolor artist Jo Anne Curtan at the Artists' Guild Gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Homes Beach. Information: 941-778-6694.

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Opening reception for the "James Pay" all-media exhibit at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-2099.

Saturday, Jan. 9

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Privateers Thieves Market and Mullet Smoke at Coquina Beach, Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-323-4075.

10 a.m. to noon — Watercolor art demonstration by Barbara Orear at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6648.

Noon to 6 p.m. — Benefit for cancer patient Bob "Captain Crunch" Fazioli at the Drift In, 120 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-778-9088.

Sunday, Jan. 10

8 a.m. — Pancake breakfast at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-4769. Fee applies.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

4 p.m. — Inquiring Minds cross-denominational Bible study group meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-4579.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

7:45 to 9 a.m. — Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce Sunrise Breakfast at The Gathering Place, 101 Seventh St. N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-778-1541. Fee applies.

11:30 a.m. — Off Stage Ladies of the Island Players luncheon at the Bradenton Country Club, 4646 Ninth Ave. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-518-4431. Fee applies.

Ongoing:

- First Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Artists Guild of Anna Maria at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

- The first and third Mondays of each month, the American Legion Post 24, 2005 75th St. W., Bradenton, hosts dinners for the public. Fee. Information: 941-794-3489.

- Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., Anna Maria Duplicate Bridge Club at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3390.

- Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m., teens meet at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908.

- The third Wednesday of each month, noon, the Anna Maria Island Garden Club meets at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, through April. Information: 941-778-2809.

- Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m., players pitch horseshoes in the pits at Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-708-6130.

- Saturdays, 8:30 a.m., Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club meets at Cafe on the Beach at the Manatee Public Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

OFF-ISLAND EVENTS:

Thursday, Jan. 7

7 p.m. — Extraordinarily Human Film Series: "Man on Wire" at South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131. Fee applies.

7:30 p.m. — Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Mark Thompson presents "Afghanistan, 'The Graveyard of Empires,' Will the U.S. Be Next?" at Holley Hall at the Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center, 709 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Information: 941-953-4252. Fee applies.

7:30 p.m. — "Sugar Babies" opens at the Manatee Players, 102 Old Main St., Bradenton, through Jan. 24. Information: 941-748-5875. Fee applies.

Friday, Jan. 8

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Sunny Shores Garden Club plant sale at the Sunny Shores Clubhouse, corner of 115th Street West and 38th Avenue, Cortez. Information: 941-795-7549.

5 to 7 p.m. — Grand opening of the Village of the Arts Welcome Center, 926 12th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-744-7484.

Saturday, Jan. 9

8 a.m. to noon — Sunny Shores Garden Club plant sale and pancake breakfast at the Sunny Shores Clubhouse, corner of 115th Street West and 38th Avenue, Cortez. Information: 941-795-7549.

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Two-day boating course begins at the Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron, 1200 71st St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-795-0482. Fee applies.

5:30 p.m. — Sidewalk astronomy at Robinson Preserve, 704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-742-5757, ext. 1.

7 p.m. — Sunset and Stars Shutter Stroll at Robinson Preserve, 704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-742-5757, ext. 1.

Sunday, Jan. 10

9 a.m. — Master gardener tour at Robinson Preserve, 704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-742-5757, ext. 1.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. — Longboat Key-Lido Key-St. Armands Key Chamber of Commerce awards breakfast at the Lido Beach Holiday Inn, 233 Ben Franklin Drive, Lido Beach. Information: 941-383-2466. Fee applies.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

1 to 3 p.m. — The Irish Dancers host dances with instruction at the Tequila Beach Sports Grille, 7423 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton. Partners not required. Information: 941-778-2416.

6 to 10 p.m. — Author Anthony Aveni discusses "End of Time: The Maya Mystery of 2012" at the South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131. Fee applies.

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. — Boating GPS course at the Anna Maria Island



Work by nature photographer Joe Fletcher will be featured at Island Gallery West beginning with an artist's reception Friday, Jan. 8.

Sail and Power Squadron, 1200 71st St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-795-0482. Fee applies.

Coming Up:

- Jan. 14, birding and habitat conservation presentation, Island Branch Library.

- Jan. 14, Extraordinarily Human Film Series: "When We Were Kings," South Florida Museum.

- Jan. 14-24, Manatee County Fair.

- Jan. 15, "Old Florida" exhibit opens, Florida Maritime Museum of Cortez.

- Jan. 16, Afternoon adventure paddle, Robinson Preserve.

- Jan. 16, clay art demonstration, Artists' Guild Gallery.

- Jan. 16, Anna Maria Island Community Chorus and Orchestra Young Artists Solo Competition, Palma Sola Presbyterian Church.

- Jan. 16, New to Second Best "Wearable" Sale, Church of the Annunciation.

- Jan. 16, Open-air market, Bridge Street.

- Jan. 16, Art demonstration by Caroline Whitmore, Island Gallery West.

- Jan. 16-17, Winterfest Arts and Craft Show, Coquina Beach.

- Jan. 17, "Beach Paths" exhibit opens, The Studio at Gulf and Pine.

- Jan. 18, Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

- Jan. 19, Sarasota Bay Watch meeting, Mote Marine Laboratory.

- Jan. 19, Organ recital, Christ Episcopal Church.

Save the date:

- Jan. 21, "Swing Into Spring" fashion show, St. Bernard Catholic Church.

- Feb. 10, Anna Maria Garden Club Antique Appraisal Affair.

Send calendar announcements to diana@islander.org. Please include the time, date and location of the event, a brief description and a contact via e-mail and phone.

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Fri: Gulf Drive Band 6-8
Karaoke w/ Jim & Dee 8pm
Sat: Hammers & Adams 7.30pm
Sun: Suzi Sings 20s/30s/40s 6:30pm

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Island sports: a look back at 2009

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

It's hard to believe another year has passed, much less another decade. As I sit at my computer thinking of the year's top sports stories, it makes me reflect on just how old I'm getting, and how long I've been covering youth sports for *The Islander*. As is the case with old age, I'm not exactly sure how long I've been writing a weekly column for *The Islander*, but I'm pretty sure it's somewhere in the neighborhood of 15-16 years.

A lot has changed during that time. I don't live on the Island anymore and I'm happily married with two beautiful children that grace my column more than they probably should, but hey, I'm a proud father.

One thing that hasn't changed though is that I continue my love affair with sports, and it seems kids and adults still enjoy reading their names in the paper highlighting their accomplishments.

And I'm still teaching school.

With that said, I want to thank my readers and the people who e-mail me content, good folks like Bob Kral, Cindi Mansour, Erma McMullen and others from the Key Royale Club.

Also a big thanks goes to Ron Pepka and Jeff Moore from the horseshoe pits, Mickey Hooke, who keeps folks informed about the running scene and Lee Ross who frequently has a camera on hand at many youth sports events. Last, but not least, a big thanks goes out to Andy Jonatzke and Billy Malfese from the Anna Maria Island Community Center for providing schedules, standings, play books and the basis of many of my weekly columns.

It's hard to pin down individual games from the leagues that the Center offers, but often the players in those leagues move up to play for their high school teams and higher level club teams in whatever sport they choose. The common denominator is that these young athletes, much like myself many years ago, got introduced to sports at the Center.

Without a doubt, the biggest story of the year in sports for Manatee County is the Manatee High School Hurricanes football team's run to the Class 5A state finals where they dropped a heartbreaking 21-14 decision to Tampa Plant high school.

Islander Nick Galati, an offensive lineman on the team, was highlighted in early November and we continued to follow Nick and his teammates' incredible run. Since it's not such an Island story, and it played out recently, I've got other choices for my top Island sports stories for 2009.

1. Islander runs in Boston Marathon, takes third in Ironman Triathlon

Holmes Beach resident Sandy Meneley, 62, has had quite a year. In November, she was in *The Islander* with news she finished third in her age group (60-64) in the Ironman 70.3 World Championships in Clearwater. Meneley also was in the May 13 edition of *The Islander* with news about her having run the Boston Marathon with her daughter April 20. Sandy placed 13th in her age group with a time of 3:53, which was a good enough to qualify in the 40-45 age group. For those two events, she is the Islander's sports story of the year.

2. Island Beach Soccer Blast fun for all

The first annual Island Beach Soccer Blast was just that — a blast for each and every one of the 140 kids who participated in the two-day event Jan. 24-25 at Coquina Beach. Kids of all different levels of playing experience and age got out on the



Sandy Meneley runs the last leg of the Ironman Championships in Clearwater on her way to a third-place finish. Her feat is the sports story of the year for The Islander.

sand and got their kicks in.

This wasn't a tournament where wins and losses were tracked, except by maybe the kids themselves. This tourney was all about playing the game because it's fun. Every team in the four age groups ranging from 4-5 up to the 10-12 level got to play three games and they all received trophies and T-shirts to commemorate their experience. Tournament organizer Rich Bell, a former Island resident and owner of Youth Sports Training Inc. put the event together to give back to the community and honor the memory of his late mother, Nancy Stork, who taught him that it's far better to give than to receive. Great job, Rich!

3. Hall of Fame beckons Island resident

Long-time Anna Maria Island resident Beth (Greig) McIntosh — she grew up here and attended Anna Maria Elementary School — was notified that she was chosen to be inducted into the Florida Southern College Sports Hall of Fame. Beth and her husband of 16 years, Scott McIntosh, will be attending the induction ceremony March 20 at the Lakeland campus.

Greig played fast-pitch softball for the Moccasins in 1986 and 1987 and put up some impressive numbers.

A 20-year veteran teacher in Manatee County schools, she's lived on the Island for 34 years and got her start playing sports at what was then known as the Island Youth Center.

Congratulations to Beth and her family from *The Islander*.

4. Key Royale player aces hole — twice

Chuck Montgomery made some news a couple of weeks ago at the Key Royale Club. He made a hole-in-one on number seven Dec. 6, a 167-yard par 3. Problem was, he was playing alone and had no witness, so it was unofficial. The following day, playing in the men's weekly nine-hole game, he aced the same hole with plenty of onlookers to

receive his due reward.

5. Skimboard bash makes splash

Once again, the skimboard contest at the BeachHouse Restaurant in Bradenton Beach drew a throng of people to watch 80-plus participants show their stuff at the Oct. 4 event. Several locals placed in various age divisions and the eighth annual event again donated a portion of the proceeds — some \$800 — to Mote Marine red tide research in addition to paying out prizes to the winners.

6. MHS-Island girls in Volley for the Cure

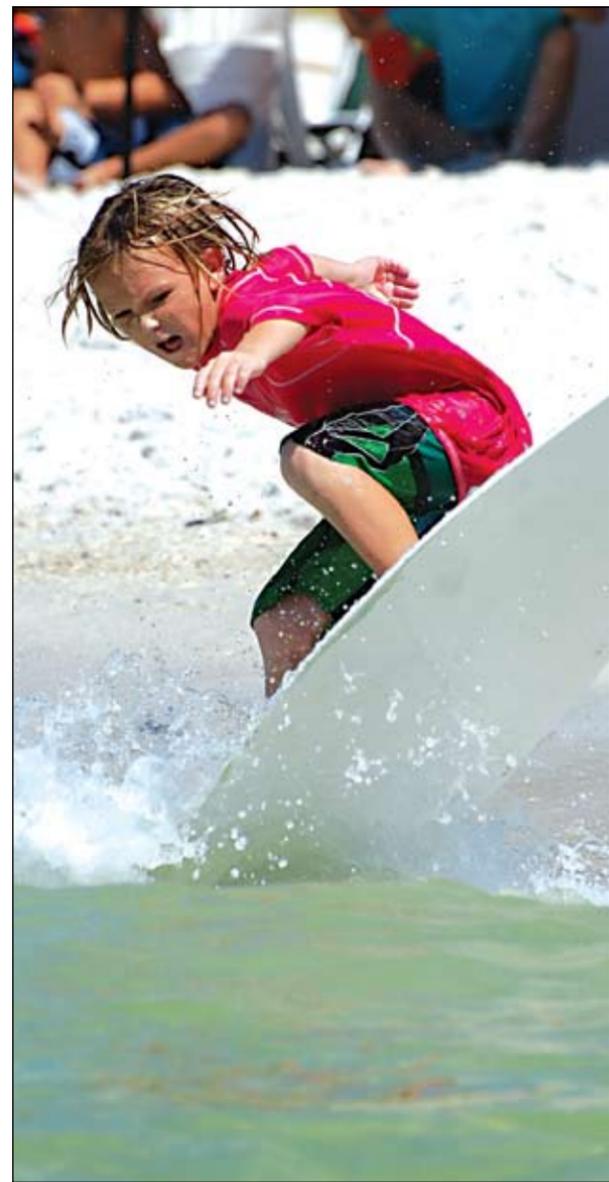
Island residents Sarah Howard, Jenna Duvall, and sisters Mackenzie and Mallory Kosfeld, members of the Manatee High Hurricanes volleyball program, met up with their Southeast High counterparts for the second annual "Volley for the Cure" volleyball match Sept. 30.

The girls, along with other players, parents, friends and family members, all went to work selling pink T-shirts to raise money to help find a cure for breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness month. With more than 1,000 shirts sold, the Southeast High gym was a sea of pink and they managed to donate almost \$4,000 for the cause.

7. Playoffs open with upsets

The regular season of the Anna Maria Island Community Center youth basketball season wound down in February. A couple of hot teams entering the

PLEASE SEE SPORTS, PAGE 26



Christian Daniels shows off some of the moves that helped him capture first place in the minis division of the Skimboard Bash at the BeachHouse Restaurant. Islander Photo: Courtesy of ChubNelson.com

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Expect cold weather, emergence of sheepshead

By Nick Walter
Islander Reporter

The sheepshead invasion is coming. In fact, the convict fish may be the only reliable target for fishers as the weather dampens overall action. Last week's blue moon, the second full moon of the month, brought in some big sow sheepshead from offshore, and the colder it gets, the more the sheepies will come inshore.

Anglers will have to find areas with water temperatures a few degrees above average, such as in canals, deep waters, shallow water that has been heated by the afternoon, or the side of a seawall that has been warmed up by the sun.

When anglers can get offshore, the 3-mile artificial reefs have been hot for a variety of species, even some possible keeper grouper.

On Jan. 1, the recreational harvest of trout opened, while the grouper season closed for four months.

Capt. Warren Girle said the mangrove snapper bite continues to be good 3 miles offshore, and he's getting a lot of undersized grouper and occasional flounder. Inshore, Girle has been avoiding the cold fronts by heading into canals for snook to 27 inches, redfish to 28 inches, trout to 18 inches, as well as jack crevalle, bluefish and mangrove snapper.

Capt. Rick Gross of the charter boat **Fishy Business** out of **Catchers Marina** has been hitting the artificial reefs 3 miles offshore and live bottoms with ledges for red and gag grouper, including one gag to almost 30 inches. He also caught hogfish, a bunch of porgies and a few sheepshead.

Capt. Larry McGuire of **Show Me the Fish Charters** said the main thing he's been catching is grouper, especially gag grouper. Anglers can head to between 45 and 95 feet of water depth for some good grouper action.

"I'd imagine further out would be good this time of the year," McGuire said. "I just haven't had to go that far out."

He said in the same areas that have included rock piles, ledges and natural reefs, he's been getting a few lemon sharks, mangrove snapper, triggerfish and porgies. He's been using live bait, such as pinfish, and cut bait, such as squid and sardines.

"The fishing for grouper is the best I've seen in years," he said.

Capt. Mark Johnston of **Legend Fishing Charters** out of **Annie's Bait and Tackle** said he has been finding a lot of redfish under deep-water docks around Anna Maria Island. On a trip last week, he reported catching 20 redfish, a lot of them oversized, along with mangrove snapper, flounder and black drum. He suggests using a 1/0 circle hook with live shrimp and enough weight to keep the shrimp on the bottom.

Jason Chase from the **south Sunshine Skyway fishing pier** said anglers have been catching sheepshead, flounder, grouper and a few black seabass.

Capt. Mark Howard of **Sumotime Charters** said he's been fishing docks, catching a lot of redfish between 16 and 30 inches. He said sheepshead are starting to show in all their traditional spots, such as rocks and docks. He also has been trolling for grouper, and on Dec. 30 reported a client catching a 10-pounder from an artificial reef in Tampa Bay.

"With this cold weather," Howard said, "you have to be patient with your fishing."

Frank Whitney at the **Rod & Reel Pier** said anglers have been catching a few sheepshead, occasional flounder, but not much else.

"Except for some sting rays, which is kind of a bother," Whitney said. "It's kind of sleepy here. Usually when it gets cold, the fish head out to



Kate DeLuca, 7, shows off her first sheepshead catch, which she reeled up using a live shrimp for bait in Sarasota Bay while fishing with Capt. Terry Frankford aboard his *Reelin & Chillin* charter boat. Frankford said dad Matt DeLuca and grandparents Terry and Wayne had more fun watching Kate catch fish than they did fishing themselves.

warmer water and wait it out, then come back in and graze."

Dave Sork at the **Anna Maria City Pier** said there's not much going on at the pier, besides a few shark catches. "Just the usual pile of stuff," Sork said. "In all honesty, watch TV for a couple days."

Danny Stasny from **Island Discount Tackle** at **Catchers Marina** said there had been a lot of big trout around the flats off the mouth of the Manatee River, and a decent snook bite in north Sarasota Bay. Anglers can target the snook on top-water plugs with some of the cloudy mornings that are inevitable throughout this winter. He said anglers also have done well on grouper, trolling the Sunshine Skyway Bridge shipping channel or fishing some of the rock piles in the bay. He's also heard of good Spanish mackerel and bonito bites off Bean Point.

Capt. Zach Zacharias of the **DEE JAY II** out of **Parrot Cove Marina** saw his first good sheepshead bite of the season. His clients boated about 16, includ-

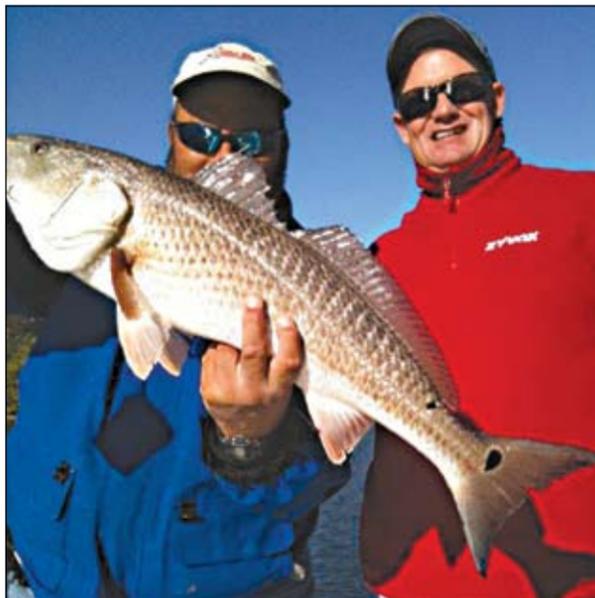
ing 10 keepers, on a recent trip.

He said there's been good action on the grass beds of north Sarasota Bay with spotted sea trout and some fat pompano. Mixed in were ladyfish and bluefish. Zacharias said numerous big black drum, up to 12 pounds, are coming in from around deep-water docks as well. He said a few scattered snook and flounder found their way to their hooks as well.

Zacharias looks for a bolstering of the winter fishing pattern with the prolonged cold fronts. "It has always been my contention that a spate of real winter weather in our area bodes well for the spring-time action, when the pelagics return and the backwater species native to our area tend to bust out of their winter haunts en masse and hungry."

Zacharias said there are a lot of spotted seatrout around the area, ranging in size from 7 to 27 inches. When the weather is cold, look to find seatrout bunched up in deeper holes in the bay and over hard bottoms close to the beaches in the Gulf. These fat winter trout will go for live shrimp and any number of artificial offerings that mimic live shrimp. He predicts there will be a lot of gray trout available, especially at the nearshore Gulf reefs, and they will go for the same offerings intended for specks.

Send fishing news and photos to fish@islander.org.



Marc Plemmons with a redfish caught during Christmas break with Capt. Mark Howard of *SumoTime Charters*.

Anna Maria Island Tides

Date	AM HIGH	PM HIGH	AM LOW	PM LOW
Jan 6	3:46 1.4	4:22 1.7	9:46 0.2	11:13 0.2
Jan 7	5:28 1.0	5:01 1.8	10:16 0.5	—
Jan 8	7:45 0.9	5:46 2.0	12:41 -0.1	10:41 0.8
Jan 9	6:36 2.0	—	1:59 -0.3	—
Jan 10	7:30 2.1	—	3:02 -0.5	—
Jan 11	8:24 2.1	—	3:55 -0.6	—
Jan 12	9:13 2.1	—	4:39 -0.7	—
Jan 13	1:12 1.1	9:57 2.1	5:17 -0.7	3:18 1.0

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

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Gillian Cassidy, center, and brother Conal, find their way into this writer's column often. Here Gillian plays beach volleyball doubles during the Dig the Beach series on Siesta Key. Islander Photo: Kevin Cassidy

SPORTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

playoffs scored upset victories in the opening round of the playoffs in Divisions I and II.

Division I Island Family Physicians, which finished the season in last place with a 4-8 record, came into its playoff game with Fronius full of confidence, which they parlayed into a 46-18 thumping of the No. 2 seeded team.

Division II E-Training Solutions was 1-6 and languishing in last place in the standings on Jan. 28, but team members finished the regular season by winning five straight games to earn the No. 3 seed in the playoffs. They continued improved play in the opening round of the playoffs with a 15-5 victory over Longboat Observer.

8. Island girls help Magic to round of 16

Maddy Valadie and Jacqueline Burgess play for the Manatee Magic U12 girls soccer team, which competed in preliminary rounds of the FYSA Region C Cup the weekend of Feb. 20-21. They managed to win their group, which advanced them to the round of 16 that took place in Land O'Lakes Feb. 28 and March 1. The girls played Island Coast Alliance, New Tampa and Gulf Coast and won all three games with a combined score of 4-0.

9. Indoor soccer closeout

The Anna Maria Island Community Center New Year's indoor soccer tournament came to a close on Jan. 11 with two championship games. Ross Built rolled to the U10 title with two goals apiece from Henry Howell, John Rivera and Andrew Ross in its 8-1 victory over the East Manatee Hurricanes. Jake Ross and Jake Lafeminia added one goal apiece to complete the Ross Built scoring. The Islanders dropped a 5-3 decision to the East Manatee Hurricanes to take second place in the U8 division. The Islanders were led by Dylan Joseph, who scored two goals and Leo Tilelli, who added one.

10. Surf Shop earns a pair of victories

It was a tough season for Anna Maria Little League teams, but West Coast Surf Shop squeaked out a pair of extra-inning wins against the Yankees to finally earn a taste of victory. They did it with improved pitching and capitalizing on mistakes and opportunities. They defeated the Yankees at home on March 9 behind the strong relief pitching efforts of Johnny Mattay and Philip Dudevoire.

Their second game of the week was another barn burner March 13 at G.T. Bray in Bradenton. The Surf Shop won 7-5, as Devin Cole and Mattay drew



Brooke Capperelli knocks the ball past Melissa Katzenberger as Julia Murdoch and Maya Sapienza look on during Island Beach Bash action at Coquina Beach. Islander Photo: Kevin Cassidy

bases-loaded walks to force in Brennan Gallagher and Henrik Brusso with the go-ahead runs.

Mattay pitched three solid innings for the Islanders, allowing one hit and striking out four

batters. Dudevoire followed with two innings pitched and four strikeouts, while Neal Carper came on to close the game out with six strikeouts in two innings of work.

**Anna Maria Island Community Center
NFL Flag Football League schedule**

(All games at AMICC)

Date	Time	Teams	10-12 Division cont'd.
5-7 Division			Jan. 8 6 p.m. Bones vs. Holy Cow
Jan. 5	6 p.m.	Patriots vs. Bears	Jan. 9 noon Ross Built vs. Bones
Jan. 5	7 p.m.	Cardinals vs. Ravens	Jan. 9 1 p.m. IRE vs. Walter
Jan. 9	noon	Cardinals vs. Bears	Jan. 9 2 p.m. Holy Cow vs. Norman RE
Jan. 9	1 p.m.	Patriots vs. Ravens	Jan. 11 7 p.m. IRE vs. Bones
Jan. 12	6 p.m.	Cardinals vs. Patriots	Jan. 12 7 p.m. Ross Built vs. Holy Cow
Jan. 15	6 p.m.	Bears vs. Ravens	
8-9 Division			13-16 Division
Jan. 5	6 p.m.	Sparks vs. BeachHouse	Jan. 5 8 p.m. Galati vs. Tapes
Jan. 6	6 p.m.	Tortilla vs. Sandbar	Jan. 6 8 p.m. Oyster Bar vs. Lapensee
Jan. 9	3 p.m.	Tortilla vs. Sparks	Jan. 9 10 a.m. Tapes vs. Lapensee
Jan. 9	4 p.m.	BeachHouse vs. Sandbar	Jan. 9 11 a.m. Galati vs. Oyster Bar
Jan. 11	6 p.m.	Tortilla vs. BeachHouse	Jan. 11 8 p.m. Galati vs. Lapensee
Jan. 12	6 p.m.	Sparks vs. Sandbar	Jan. 12 8 p.m. Tapes vs. Oyster Bar
10-12 Division			Adult Coed Division
Jan. 5	7 p.m.	Ross Built vs. IRE	Jan. 7 8 p.m. Lions vs. Chiefs
Jan. 6	7 p.m.	Walter vs. Norman RE	Jan. 7 8 p.m. Cowboys vs. Titans
			Jan. 7 8 p.m. Raiders vs. Bengals

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN Church: All are welcome to come and worship with us! Please call 941-778-1813 or visit us at: www.gloriadeilutheran.com for worship times. 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

'FABULOUS WEARABLE SALE': 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16. Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

THEY'RE BACK! EVERY Monday night all-you-can-eat fish fry. \$12. Live entertainment. Tiki bar open. Bayside Banquet Hall, 4628 119th St. W., Cortez, end of road.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

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WANTED: YOUR OLD cell phone for recycling. Deliver to The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

PERFECT HOLIDAY REMEMBRANCE: Purchase a personalized brick in the Anna Maria Island Butterfly Park. Two lines, \$50. Three lines, \$60. Forms at The Islander, or call 941-518-4431 for more information.

ESTATE SALES

ESTATE SALE: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9. 201 73rd St., Holmes Beach. Leather sofa, loveseat and chair, three curios, dining room table and chairs, queen and Murphy beds, three sewing machines, trundle day bed, wicker sofa and loveseat, kitchenware, miscellaneous china, glass and bric-a-brac. 1997 Buick LeSabre. Sale conducted by Palma Sola Sales. Numbers given at 8 a.m.

ESTATE SALE: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7. 6505 Gulfside Road, Longboat Key, Whitney Beach area. All Florida furnishings, California king bed, very nice sofa and matching chair, leather sectional sofa, dining set, two twin beds, twin bed set, white wicker chest, dresser and chair, patio sets, area rugs, books, two writing tables, lamps, end tables, three mirrors, pictures, accessories, TV, books, set of dishes and kitchen. Sale by Julie McClure. Pictures: www.appraisals4u.biz.

ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS: The best news in town and the best results from classified ads and service advertising!

ESTATE SALES Continued

ESTATE SALE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9. 615 Mourning Dove Drive, Bird Key Sarasota. Large home (8,000 sf) fully furnished. Olive wood dining table and eight chairs, king four-poster bed from Robb and Stuckey, queen bed, Thomasville king bed, leather ottoman, 25 Swarovskis, silver, eight Lladros, two etageres, six Thomasville dining chairs, two swivel arm chairs, flat top desk, sleeper sofa, T. Bahama-style hutch, area rugs, fully decorated Christmas tree, oversize chair, patio sets, nice neutral sofa, Drexel sofa, fainting couch, area rugs, glass-top table and six chairs, coffee and end tables, silk plants, decorator pillows, nice bed linens, lamps, framed prints, mahogany secretary and buffet, dishes and glassware and more. Sale by Julie McClure. Pictures: www.appraisals4u.biz.

GARAGE SALES

ROSER THRIFT SHOP: Open 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. 511 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. 941-779-2733.

NIKI'S ISLAND TREASURES: Huge blowout after-Christmas sale! 50-70 percent off all sterling silver jewelry. Great buys on antiques, decor, collectibles and vintage jewelry. Open seven days. 5351 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

RENOVATION/GARAGE SALE: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 8-9. Nice appliances, kitchen, garden, bike, miter saw, table saw, many tools, fishing equipment, much more. 106 Third St N., Bradenton Beach. 941-778-1381.

A SALE EVERYDAY at The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Miscellaneous office supplies, T-shirts, home treasures, mirrors and framed art.

LOST and FOUND

LOST: GREY COCKATIEL bird, named Arrow. Last seen Holmes Beach laundromat, Dec. 23. Reward. Sally, 941-737-9173.

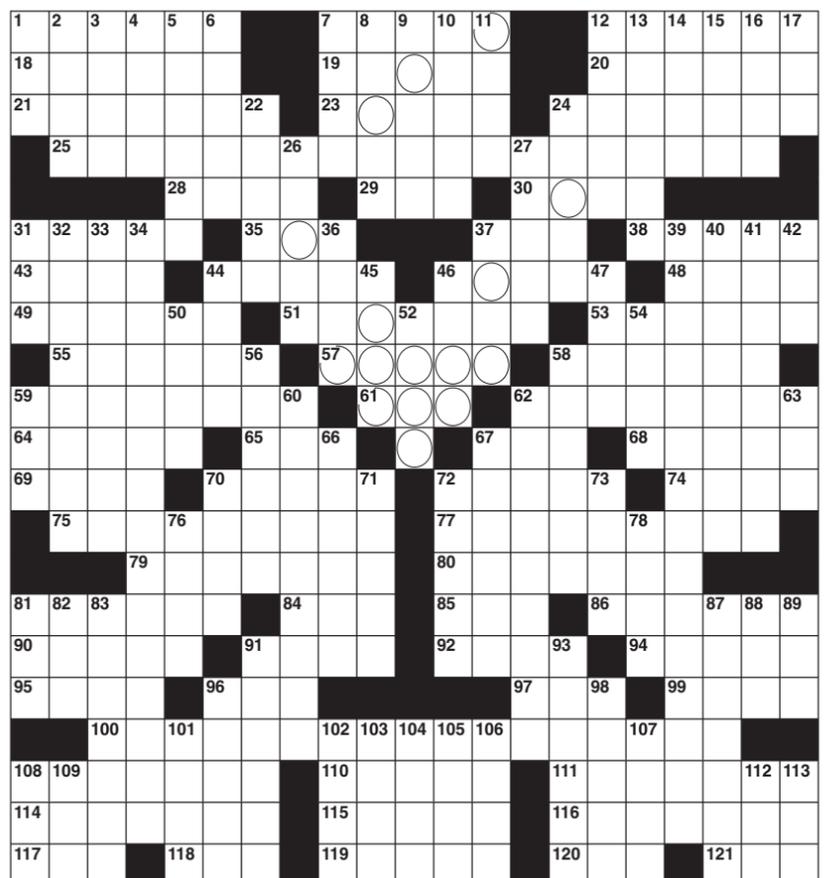
THE ISLANDER. The best news on Anna Maria Island since 1992.

New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

TOASTING THE NEW YEAR By Elizabeth C. Gorski / Edited by Will Shortz

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Across | 53 Joint seal | 96 Symbol of strength | 13 Was beaten by |
| 1 Common toast | 55 Sutherland of "24" | 97 Pay back? | 14 1998 Olympic figure skating gold medalist |
| 7 Be ___ (constantly complain) | 57 Titleholder | 99 Scientist ___ Hubbard | ___ Kulik |
| 12 Sounds accompanying toasts | 58 Beverage brewed naturally | 100 See 25-Across | 15 D-back, e.g. |
| 18 Make sacred | 59 Hoity-toity | 108 Fakes | 16 New Year's Eve action |
| 19 Actress Tierney | 61 Once more: Abbr. | 110 Restrained | 17 Grounded flier |
| 20 Neighborhood in Queens | 62 Follows the path of 19th-century pioneers | 111 Italian dumplings | 22 Napkins and such |
| 21 Store | 64 Nail the test | 114 Genetic material with no known function | 24 Up an offer, e.g. |
| 23 Cousins of Drama Desk Awards | 65 Sweet talk | 115 Japanese porcelain | 26 "Frasier" role |
| 24 Most hopeful | 67 Sine ___ non | 116 Become enraged, as a comic book figure | 27 What the Laugh Factory produces |
| 25 Purported cry from 100-Across upon discovering this puzzle's subject | 68 Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Eagles | 117 Miss, e.g. | 31 Do bad |
| 28 Bygone Dodge | 69 Person on the alert for snow? | 118 Alcatraz, for one: Abbr. | 32 Skipped the subway, say |
| 29 Vietnamese leader ___ Dinh Diem | 70 Late choreographer Cunningham | 119 Common overseas toast | 33 Raskolnikov in "Crime and Punishment," e.g. |
| 30 Help out in a bad way | 71 Swindle | 120 General name on menus | 34 100-Across, for one |
| 31 Tries | 72 Mechanic's ___ | 121 Jump into a pool? | 36 Of the ears |
| 35 "Livin' Thing" band, for short | 73 Alternative to 1-Across | Down | 37 Slightest protest |
| 37 Honor society character | 74 Connoisseur of this puzzle's subject | 1 When said three times, a dance | 39 Cry before "Happy New Year!" |
| 38 Prepare for a bodybuilding competition | 75 Dressed up, maybe | 2 Spy Mata ___ | 40 Discovery of the explorer Louis Joliet |
| 43 Actress Skye | 76 C | 3 Mrs. Albert Einstein | 41 More restless |
| 44 11:59 p.m., e.g. | 77 Name of seven Norwegian kings | 4 Na, Ne, Ni or No | 42 LAX setting |
| 46 ___ double life | 78 Thai's neighbor | 5 Some Mozart works | 44 Due |
| 48 Summer shades | 79 Beatty of "Superman" | 6 Hive mentality? | 45 Workplace watchdog grp. |
| 49 Later | 80 Ex-lib, perhaps | 7 Berserk | 46 Describe |
| 51 Cream puffs | 81 "___ can survive everything but a misprint": Oscar Wilde | 8 Part of a plane | 47 The chills |
| | 91 Al dente | 9 Having certain misgivings | 50 The wonder ___ all |
| | 92 Terriers' warnings | 10 "All systems ___" | 52 Wise |
| | 94 ___ Lodge | 11 Rope fiber | 54 Looped handle, in archaeology |
| | 95 Bad end | 12 Went with | 56 Flower arrangement |
| | | | 58 Super ___ (water shooter) |

Answers found on page 28.



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 59 Office PC hookup | 73 "The Good Earth" wife | 89 French vote | 105 Arequipa is its second-largest city |
| 60 Equine | 76 Carpentry fastener | 91 Former Saudi king | 106 Make a long story short? |
| 62 Pursued tenaciously | 78 S-shaped molding | 93 Cold-shoulder | 107 Start of a plea |
| 63 Big ___ | 81 "Are you ___?" | 96 Taps, in a way | 108 Comfy evening wear |
| 66 Of the eyes | 82 Mil. address part | 98 "___ Dei" | 109 "You talkin' to me?" |
| 67 It may be taken with a bow | 83 "Funny!" | 101 Skirt length | 112 Shade |
| 70 ___ scale | 87 Biodegradable pipe material | 102 Diamond stats | 113 Cousin ___ of "The Addams Family" |
| 71 English Derby site | 88 Lennon's lady | 103 "___ Lama Ding Dong" (1961 hit) | |
| 72 Swahili honorific | | 104 Series ender: Abbr. | |

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REAL ESTATE Continued

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REAL ESTATE Continued

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ISLAND FACES...SELLING ISLAND PLACES

Islanders honored, remembered

By Bonner Joy

The Islander takes pride in recognizing members of the Anna Maria Island community for their unselfish contributions and genuine concern for making this slice of paradise an even better place to live.

Since the newspaper started up in 1992, a reincarnation of a former publication that sadly sold to a national media group and eventually failed, *The Islander* has sought to make its path by partnering with community organizations and making its goals one and the same, by reporting the news of record, and by telling the tales of people who live and work on AMI.

At the end of the first and second year of publishing, we hadn't yet found a way to say thank you to the people we thought worked tirelessly for a better Island. But in 1993 we found a worthy champion and launched an Islander of the Year award to recognize deserving people who bettered our world, much like the effort of *Time* magazine, although in our own small way.

Katie Pierola, 1995 Islander of the Year

She was the third recipient of *The Islander's* annual award, which was presented posthumously to the late Ernie Cagnina in 1993 and to Ray Simches in 1994. Both served as mayors in Anna Maria.

Pierola had served six years as mayor of Bradenton Beach, her last term just ended, and she proved to be a bull dog in getting grants and bringing about positive change while in office. The city underwent a renaissance under her command.



Pierola

She embodied the definition of a public servant in her caring, tireless efforts to improve both her city and Anna Maria Island.

Pierola played an instrumental role in the beach renourishment program and the prevention of a proposed Cortez megabridge.

W.H. "Snooks" Adams, 1996 Islander of the Year

Adams was born April 24, 1917, in Cortez, but spent much of his life on Anna Maria Island as a police chief who used common sense as his guide.



Adams

He was a friend to Island children, having started in 1954 an end-of-school party just for kids with hot dogs, sodas and games at the beach, celebrated now as Snooks Adams Kid's Day. The Anna Maria Island Privateers are now host to the party annually for hundreds of children at Bayfront Park at the beginning of summer.

In 1952, Bradenton Beach incorporated and Adams became first assistant chief, then chief of police.

He is credited with helping set up the first local Veterans of Foreign Wars post just after World War II and was commander three times during the 1950s.

In 1956, Adams went to work for the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. "My job was to take care of the Island," he said.

From 1962-78, Adams was chief of police in Holmes Beach.

Charles and Jo Ann Lester, 1997 Islanders of the Year

Charles Lester and Jo Ann Lester fell in love with Anna Maria Island and along with it, the Anna Maria Island Community Center. They put their money where their hearts are, both here and in the small towns in Wisconsin where they also reside half the year.

For this, and for the foresight to establish a per-



Joey and Chuck Lester with Pierrette Kelly, executive director of the Anna Maria Island Community Center.

manent endowment fund for the Anna Maria Island Community Center, for their altruistic, unselfish willingness to put themselves at the foreground of a major fundraising campaign, we honored them as 1997 Islanders of the Year.

Jim Kronus, 1998 Islander of the Year



Kronus

Jim Kronus, retiring in January 1999 after 25 years as Anna Maria Island Elementary School principal, was the 1998 Islander of the Year.

He was later honored with his name on the school auditorium. Twenty-five years worth of admiring students, their parents, family and former and current staff honored him at that event.

Suzi Fox, 1999 Islander of the Year

As a volunteer, with little compensation and no funding to support the Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch, *The Islander* recognized Suzi Fox for her efforts in organizing a group of volunteers to protect sea turtles.



Fox

She took over a few years earlier the state permit for protecting nesting mother sea turtles, mostly loggerheads on Anna Maria Island, and protecting the hatchlings.

Beach renourishment brought funding and necessary monitoring of protected sea turtles to AMITW, and Fox continues as the group's executive director, overseeing teams of volunteers and coordinators who track and monitor turtle activities on the beach and bay shores.

Nancy Ambrose, 2000 Islander of the Year

She was a relative newcomer to Anna Maria Island, having moved here three years earlier from Atlanta, when she earned the honor.



Ambrose

Nancy Ambrose brought with her a passion for butterflies and gardening, but soon discovered things were different here.

She then found others who shared her butterfly interests and the Manasota Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association was quickly formed.

Mostly they met to share information, but they also had goals. One was to start a public butterfly garden, which Ambrose spearheaded in Holmes Beach.

Ambrose's impact on Anna Maria Island can be seen — and visited and enjoyed — between Holmes Beach City Hall and the Island Branch Library.

It's there you can see the results of her hundreds of volunteer hours — blooming and fluttering — although presently it is undergoing a makeover.

It's a peaceful refuge that adds to the ambience of Anna Maria Island. And, that's no small feat. While over the years we've heard numerous cries

for "change," seldom is it so benign — and so welcome.

So, for Ambrose, who also faced the greater challenge of breast cancer that year, we say thank you for making Anna Maria Island a more lovely, gracious and colorful place to live.



Norwood

Carolyne Norwood, 2001 Islander of the Year

One of the greatest challenges facing Floridians is the development of a sense of community, a sense of place.

With hundreds of people moving to our area daily from everywhere on the planet, the history of our region is often lost in the avalanche of new faces, new homes, new businesses, new things to do and see.

Where we have been, what we have done, who helped shape and form the place we now call home is often forgotten.

History is important — if only so it does not have to be relived.

The keeper of the Island's history is Carolyne Norwood. She set out on a quest to preserve our history and we think she's been a champion at it, so much so that we selected her the Islander of the Year for 2001.

Anna Maria Island Historical Society, its museum and the old jail, Belle Haven Cottage all are thanks to the vision of Carolyne Norwood.

Billie Martini, 2002 Islander of the Year

Billie Martini is just our cup of tea. She exemplifies the charm and character of Anna Maria Island, the place that we've all come to love.



Martini

Martini came to the Island in 1944. She and husband Bob opened the first motor court on the Island.

She has had various jobs, including clerk in charge of the city's post office, book-keeper of the Island water company, and billing clerk and teacher's aide at Anna Maria Elementary School. She is retired and an active member of Save Anna Maria Inc.

She was elected to the Holmes Beach City Commission in 1993 for a two-year term. At that time, she said she would be a voice for the people on the commission.

She sought numerous recreational opportunities for city and Island residents, including an offer to personally fund a community pool, a fountain at Holmes Beach City Hall and, at one time, offered a park plan for the Holmes Beach city property that included trees and shaded areas with park benches for relaxation along Flotilla Drive, a playground, and, again, a public swimming pool.

Although those pursuits did not see reality — don't count them out, she'll tell you — her finest achievement may be the realization of the Grassy Point Preserve. Located on the bayfront on Anna Maria Sound in the 3600 block of East Bay Drive (opposite Walgreens), the undeveloped area was eyed first by Martini for preservation.

It is a pristine mangrove area with a small canal that can handle canoes from the bay, said Martini at the time. The project became her "baby."

Another achievement to her credit is the play pavilion at the Anna Maria Elementary School. Martini envisioned the sheltered play area and donated the funding to make that a reality as well.

Martini was recognized in 1997 with a "Pride in Community" award from the Holmes Beach Civic Association.

Thanks, Billie Martini. Thanks for your love of Anna Maria Island. It wouldn't be the same without you.

Next week: Islanders in review, years 2003-2009.