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The Islander

The Best News on Anna Maria Island Since 1992

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Cortez fisheries run short on grouper

By Nick Walter
Islander Reporter

Terry Fannon prepared his 52-foot Broadfire commercial fishing boat Jan. 14 outside the A.P. Bell Fish Co. for a planned 20 days at sea.

More than ever, Fannon and the other offshore fishers in Cortez need grouper.

"Hopefully, we catch them," Fannon said.

There's very little fresh grouper to be had at large markets, only frozen.

"We don't have any fresh grouper right now," said Karen Bell, office manager at A.P. Bell Fish Co. and owner of Star Fish Co. Restaurant and Market. "We're not harvesting nearly what we can sell."

Despite the lack of fresh grouper, Fannon is optimistic about the coming year's catch.

Last May, long-line gear, composed of up to 7 miles of cable with around 1,400 hooks, was banned because of an excessive bycatch of loggerhead sea turtles. The sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. About 90 percent of them in the United States nest on Florida beaches.



Terry Fannon prepares the 52-foot Karen J. Belle Broadfire commercial boat for a planned 20-day trip outside the A.P. Bell Fish Co. in Cortez. Jan 14. Islander Photo: Nick Walter

Many commercial fishers have resorted to buoy fishing, which is like fishing with large bobbers. Fannon said he's probably in the minority, but he prefers buoy fishing.

"It's just as good as long-lining, if not better," he said. "I like the challenge."

Fannon said that with the new gear, he hasn't noticed any small sea turtles being

caught.

Rules imposed last August cut the number of long-line boats with reef fish permits in half, from about 120 to 60, and requires fishers to work outside of 35 fathoms in the summer. The rules apply to large operation long-liners whose annual landings average 40,000 pounds

PLEASE SEE **GROUPER**, NEXT PAGE

Island tourism up 20 percent in December

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Confirming the opinion of many accommodation owners and rental agents on Anna Maria Island, tourism to the Island was up nearly 20 percent in December, compared with the same month in 2008.

According to figures just released by the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, occupancy of Island accommodations in December 2009 was at 47.2 percent of units surveyed, compared with 39.6 percent occupancy for December 2008.

Occupancy of accommodations in the entire BACVB reporting area also rose, climbing from 47.2 percent in December 2008 to 50.4 percent in December 2009, an 8 percent rise.

The increase was not unexpected, said Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce president Mary Ann Brockman.

"We knew it was a great holiday time for members. No one was complaining and there was a lot of traffic and people walking about," Brockman said.

"And it hasn't slowed down as much as expected. Tourism usually drops the first two weeks of January, but not much this year. It's been gangbusters and I'm confident the trend will continue through the season."

It should, according to some accommodation rental agents.

"I'm up 20 percent for advance bookings for February and March compared with last year," said Stephanie Bell of Fran Maxon Real Estate in Anna Maria.

Likewise for Jason Sato at Sato Real Estate.

"Reservations for the season are looking good. We're way ahead of last year," he said.

David Teitelbaum, owner of three resorts in Bradenton Beach and a member of the Manatee County Tourist Development Council, predicted a strong season for the tourism industry.

"We've had some extremely good publicity about our Island recently. We've been discovered and people can get value for money when they come here," he said.

Teitelbaum agreed that the winter season should be outstanding for the Island.

"Advance reservations are way ahead of last year. I think we're looking at an unprecedented season, possibly the best ever. I'm extremely optimistic, especially if we have our normal weather."

The BACVB news wasn't all rosy, however. Overall occupancy of accommodations surveyed ended 2009 at 56.7 percent, a 1.5 percent drop from the December 2008 figure of 57.6 percent.

Anna Maria Island, however, ended 2009 with a 57.4 percent occupancy level, up 2 percent from the 55.7 percent reported for 2008.

The BACVB surveys only 26 percent of the accommodations on the Island. Some tourist industry officials have indicated the tourism occupancy figures could be skewed by the low number of units considered in the survey.

The BACVB surveys 33 percent of available rooms on the mainland, 27 percent of Longboat Key rooms and 30 percent county-wide.



A Bradenton Beach committee wants to replace delineators along Gulf Drive north of Cortez Road, possibly with native plants. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

City seeks to improve Gulf Drive

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

A Bradenton Beach advisory committee wants to replace a series of pickets and reflective delineators along Gulf Drive, possibly with plants.

ScenicWaves, a volunteer advisory committee that recommends improvements along the Gulf Drive scenic highway in Bradenton Beach, discussed removing the delineators during a meeting Jan. 11.

Committee members agreed that the delineators do not help to beautify the drive, but they also were in agreement that the markers help prevent motorists from parking along the roadside north of Cortez Road.

"We all like the idea that those pickets go away," said committee member Sissy Quinn.

PLEASE SEE **GULF DRIVE**, PAGE 3

FDOT discusses pier boardwalk construction

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Florida Department of Transportation representatives were to meet with Anna Maria's transportation enhancement grant committee Jan. 19 at the city pier to discuss specific designs for the boardwalk at the

GROUPEL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

between 1999 and 2007.

Bell said that after the long-line ban, boats that had been bringing in 5,000 pounds of grouper per trip were pulling in just 1,000 pounds as they adjusted to the new gear.

She said some boats are now coming back with about 3,000 pounds, but not enough to meet demand.

At least a few customers have noticed.

"Five years ago, restaurants used to have a lot of grouper," said Tom Buursma of Holland, Mich., who last week stopped by the Star Fish Co. Restaurant in Cortez. "Now there's a lot less. You go to places and ask if there's grouper, and they say, 'No, but we have fish sandwiches.'"

On Jan. 1, an Individual Fishing Quota system went into effect. The IFQ allocated the grouper catch based on each boat's historical landings between 1999 and 2004. It also created a year-round commercial fishing season that allows fishers to do their jobs during ideal market and weather conditions.

As far as the long-line gear goes, Bell said she thinks "a hook is a hook," and the means by which fishers catch their quota is mostly beside the point.

"All gear is going to have some impact," she said, "but it's probably true that there's something to be said for not soaking this gear nearly as long as a long line. With long lines, you're soaking the gear for two or three hours, but with the new gear you pull it almost within 45 minutes. And that's probably been better for the turtles and the environment."

pier and accompanying amenities.

City Commissioner/TEG chairperson Jo Ann Mattick said the meeting was to get concepts on paper for the DOT to begin drafting designs.

The committee had planned to obtain a local area planning agreement with Manatee County to design the project, but that effort ran into difficulty, Mattick said.

When the committee's grant fund was raised from \$358,000 to \$959,624, with the addition of federal stimulus money, the committee opted to bring the DOT into the design process and drop Manatee County.

The additional funding allows the committee to use the services of DOT.

Mattick said the committee anticipates completion of the boardwalk before the city pier centennial celebration planned for April 2012.

She also believes that construction bids will be lower than estimates made by the DOT when the

committee was formed in 2008.

"I think because of the economy, bids should come in much lower than the DOT estimate," Mattick said.

At the TEG committee's Jan. 12 meeting, committee member Mary Selby discussed whether the committee should spend all of the grant, or return any unused portion to the DOT. A decision will be made after selection of a contractor.

In addition to a boardwalk, the committee also plans a covered trolley shelter at the pier, an improved trolley turn-around and landscaping.

The additional grant money came through the efforts of DOT community representative Manon Lavoie, who discovered the funds available in the \$750 billion federal stimulus program.

According to the DOT, the grant can only be used for new projects in the city's retail-office-residential area, not to maintain or renovate an existing facility.

The \$959,624 is in the DOT's 2010-11 budget.



Keep Manatee Beautiful chairman Patrick Gallagher, left, Holmes Beach Commissioner Pat Morton, Mayor Rich Bohnenberger, state forester Ed Flowers, and city parks committee members John Molyneaux and Fred Heger plant one of two Jamaican dogwood trees Jan. 15 at 38th Street and Fifth Avenue. The trees were donated by Keep Manatee Beautiful for Arbor Day. *Islander Photo: Ingrid McClellan.*

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PAR sells Cozy Corner project

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Pine Avenue Restoration LLC has sold its Cozy Corner project at 503 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, to Topazfish LLC, registered in Florida as a limited liability company with owners in England.

PAR's project site plan was approved, but Mike Coleman of PAR said it may have expired. The plan called for a retail-office-residential complex resulting

Gulf Drive CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bradenton Beach Police Chief Sam Speciale and Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization representative Bob Herrington cautioned against asking the Florida Department of Transportation to remove the delineators without another method to prevent parking along Gulf Drive.

"If you take the delineators out prior, I can guarantee that everyone will park there," Speciale said.

"I like what the chief is saying," Herrington added. "Before you take step No. 1, you have to have a step No. 2."

Committee members discussed a variety of options, including using bollards and ropes.

Committee member Ed Chiles suggested using plants.

"We've talked about this concept of using native landscaping," he said. "That's a great piece of linear property.... I think it's a great opportunity."

Speciale responded, "That's the best idea I've heard."

He said a problem with bollards is that they are not "breakaway," a priority for the DOT.

Herrington added, "You can't just throw up a brick wall."

Eventually the committee passed a motion indicating to FDOT its interest in seeing the Gulf Drive delineators north of Cortez replaced, possibly with native landscaping.

in six retail units and three residences built around an existing single-family residence.

The PAR plan called for that home, built in 1925, to be preserved.

According to Jesse Brisson's report in the Jan. 13 *Islander*, the sale price was \$1,335,000.

Topazfish LLC is owned by Lizzie and Mike Thrasher and is headquartered at the Saxon Centre, 11 Bargates, Christchurch, Dorset, U.K.

The Thrashers also are partners in PAR, and own several other Island properties, including the Beach Bum's building on Pine Avenue and numerous vacation rental homes.

Coleman said his company is no longer involved in the construction or management of the property.

PAR already has completed its ROR project that encompasses 315 and 317 Pine Ave., and has submitted site plans for future ROR projects at 210, 216 and 308 Pine Ave.

In addition to its Anna Maria projects, PAR also



Pine Avenue Restoration's future project site known as Cozy Corner, 503 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, has been sold. Islander Photo: Jesse Brisson

is a principal in Mainsail LLC, owners of the vacant Tidemark property in Holmes Beach adjacent to Wachovia Bank and the Mainsail Beach Inn on the Gulf of Mexico at 66th Street in Holmes Beach.

Meetings

Anna Maria City

- Jan. 28, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, 941-708-6130, www.cityofannamaria.com.

Bradenton Beach

- Jan. 20, 9 a.m., special master 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. 21, 10 a.m., code enforcement meeting.
- Jan. 26, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
- Jan. 28, 9 a.m., board of adjustment 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.

Of Interest

- Jan. 20, 2 p.m., Barrier Island Elected Officials meeting, Anna Maria City Hall.
- Jan. 25, 9:30 a.m., Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization board meeting, New College of Florida, Sudakoff Center, 5700 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

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

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BB to begin charter review process

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Bradenton Beach commissioners will soon appoint a five-member committee to review the city's charter and possibly propose amendments for the November ballot.

Applications to serve on the committee are available at city hall, 107 Gulf Drive N.

Applications must be submitted by Feb. 10.

The city charter was proposed by an ordinance adopted Nov. 21, 1996, and approved in a referendum Dec. 3, 1996. The charter became effective Jan. 1, 1997.

The document states, "The citizens of Bradenton Beach adopt this Home Rule Charter in order to provide honorable self government, accountable to the people, dedicated to improving the quality of life for all."

The charter then sets forth the city's boundaries,

municipal powers and responsibilities, election rules and procedures, and the establishment of a charter review committee.

Regarding the review, the charter states, "The City Commission ... shall appoint by Resolution a Charter Review Committee ... for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations regarding amending the City Charter as needed, but at least every five years from the date of appointment of the previous CRC."

The committee, according to the charter, must consist of five registered voters in the city, as well as a commission liaison.

"The CRC shall commence review within thirty days of appointment and shall make its report concerning any Charter amendments to the Commission no later than one hundred eighty days after the appointment," the charter states.

Turner to head AM capital committee

Former Anna Maria planning and zoning board chairman Tom Turner was elected to head the city's capital improvements advisory committee Jan. 11 at the committee's inaugural meeting of 2010.

Long-serving CIAC member Bill Snow was elected vice president.

The CIAC manages the city's long-range capital improvements plan that includes sewer, drainage and road projects.

Heritage event seeks vendors

The Anna Maria Island Historical Society is seeking vendors for its annual heritage festival, scheduled to take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 6 at the museum grounds, 402 Pine Ave. Anna Maria.

The cost to rent a tent space is \$35, and table spaces cost \$25.

The festival, with proceeds benefiting AMIHS, will feature music by the Gulf Drive and Friends Band, as well as museum tours.

For more information, contact AMIHS board member Melissa Williams at 941-779-9108 or melissa@amihs.org.

Studio sets winter dates

The Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, is hosting "Beach Paths," an exhibit of artist Maro Lorimer's work through Jan. 30.

The Studio's calendar this winter also includes:

- Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., a reception for Michigan artist — and Island winter visitor — Hank Cornille.

- Friday, Feb. 12, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., a reception for watercolorist Anne Abgott and potter Karen Case.

- Sunday, Feb. 28, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., a reception for Jean Blackburn's "Live Water."

For more information, call the Studio at Gulf and Pine at 941-778-1906.

Visitors to the artist's reception Jan. 15 at the Studio at Gulf and Pine in Anna Maria study the work of Maro Lorimer, whose exhibit "Beach Paths" is on display until Jan. 30. The Studio is at 10101 Gulf Drive Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff



\$50,000 CHALLENGE TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE!



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.

Worker burned at marine shop

A man suffered first-degree burns while working in the shop at Wolfgang Schultz Marine Engine in Holmes Beach Jan. 15.

The man suffered burns on about 18 percent of his body, according to Capt. Larry Leinhauser of the Manatee County Emergency Medical Services, which responded to the incident in the 500 block of 56th Street at about 12:20 p.m.

"It appears to be a fuel bilge issue," Leinhauser said.

The man was taken by Bayflite medical helicopter to Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg.

West Manatee Fire Rescue and Holmes Beach Police Department personnel also responded to the incident.

Buchanan to hold town hall meeting

U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan will hold a town hall meeting on jobs, the economy and healthcare on Longboat Key on Saturday, Jan. 23.

Buchanan, who represents Anna Maria Island in Congress, said in a news release, "We need to create jobs and restore economic growth. We also need to make health care more affordable without raising taxes or expanding government control. I want to listen to the people and get their ideas and suggestions."

The town meeting is the first in a series the Buchanan office is planning.

Buchanan, who will face re-election in November, will open the meeting at 11 a.m. at the Longboat Key Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road.

For more information, call 941-951-6643.

Court freezes Byrnes' \$1.6 million

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

U.S. Bankruptcy Court trustee Angela Welch Esposito in Tampa apparently never believed that former Anna Maria Island real estate kingpin Robert Byrnes was broke.

Byrnes at one time displayed a personal financial statement claiming he was worth \$40 million. After declaring personal bankruptcy in December 2008, however, Byrnes later told the bankruptcy court he had only \$500 to his name and no money in any checking or savings account. He also told the court he had no overseas assets or bank accounts.

But according to an Isle of Man court record of Dec. 29, 2009, Byrnes has not just assets in the British Crown Colony off west Scotland, but a bit more than \$500. It's more like \$1,628,978.

On Dec. 29, the court granted lawyers representing Esposito and the Tampa bankruptcy court an injunction that the \$1.63 million assets of Robert and Arlene Byrnes known to be in the Isle of Man were to be frozen pending the outcome of the U.S. government's case in the Isle of Man against Byrnes.

The Isle of Man court ordered the injunction prohibiting the disposal of assets and required Byrnes to give full disclosure information to the court.

The same court gave Byrnes an opportunity to respond in a Jan. 11 court session. The proceedings in court that day have not yet been made public, according to an Isle of Man court Web site.

At the Dec. 29 court proceedings, attorneys for the Isle of Man legal firm of Cains Advocates Ltd., on behalf of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Tampa, claimed, according to the court documents, that Byrnes had previously "testified under oath [to the Tampa court] that he did not have any functioning bank accounts, had no remaining cash assets, that he had never set up any offshore bank accounts and that no person or entity was holding any property in his

behalf."

Lawyers further alleged that Byrnes and his former wife Arlene transferred \$3 million to a bank in the Isle of Man as "proceeds from the sale of fraudulently transferred property within one year to the date" of Robert Byrnes' bankruptcy filing.

From his Isle of Man account, Byrnes allegedly transferred money to the FBME Bank in Tanzania in the name of "Nautica," and to other accounts in the name of Roxeperin LLC and Roxeperin Red Sea Management LLC. Nautica LLC is located in San Jose, Costa Rica, according to the Isle of Man court.

The Tanzania account held \$860,570 on July 30, 2009, a date more than one year after Byrnes told the court he had no undeclared assets and the U.S. Court had frozen his assets pending completion of his bankruptcy case.

The shares of the Roxeperin companies are owned by Sodol Trust, with the trustee as Southpac Trust Ltd., Rarotonga, Cook Islands, of which Byrnes is the settler, according to the court report.

Arlene Byrnes, through her company Cheracol, received \$697,000 as her share of the \$3 million.

In addition, Byrnes moved a portion of the \$3 million to Friends Provident International Ltd., Royal Court, Castletown, Isle of Man.

Cains lawyers alleged that Byrnes has "lied under oath in the U.S. Bankruptcy case and related matters and proceedings and claimed these accounts and assets did not exist."

Attorneys concluded their argument by claiming that Byrnes "deliberately removed and transferred" the assets, in violation of his sworn statements and U.S. law.

Efforts to reach either Robert or Arlene Byrnes for comment were unsuccessful. Efforts to reach attorney Richard Lee in Tampa, the last known legal counsel for Byrnes, also were unsuccessful.

For more on Byrnes and GSR, go online to www.islander.org.

"Growing Again in 2010"

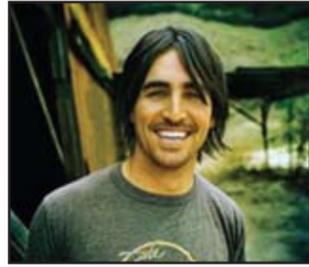
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Rhonda Vincent
Jan. 22 • 8 pm



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Our Opinion

Haiti calls

I didn't know anyone in New York at the time of the Sept. 11 tragedy. And I didn't know anyone in New Orleans when Katrina struck.

I was lucky in that sense.

Now the crisis — the catastrophe — is in Haiti, and I have friends there. Dear friends. Good friends. Like family to me.

The earthquake has been devastating for them.

After my trip there in May, I couldn't have imagined any place that was more destitute, more needy, more deserving of aid.

I once compared it to hell, but that wasn't fair. It seemed hot as hell. But in Haiti, there are beautiful people, loving souls, and so many young people, so undeserving of their fate.

And that was then.

My friend, Haitian-born Jean Ronald Joseph, a man who struggled to rise above poverty in Haiti to join family in Canada and the United States and became a citizen and a priest, was my reason for going to Haiti. He built a nonprofit ministry to meet some of the needs in Haiti, and I sought to learn first-hand hellish problems he faced in order to be of some help establishing a business there that would benefit the ministry. And to meet and know the children and people he loves.

He's there now, helping in every possible way, and as I like to say, turning nickels into dollars. He does so much with so little. The ministry guesthouse is minutes from the Port-au-Prince airport and he's on the ground providing aid.

My friend Barbara Sato was in Haiti with me, and she thinks this could be a blessing — this devastating crisis.

And she's right in thinking there will finally be enough focus and attention to Haiti's problems, that the relief they need will at last come.

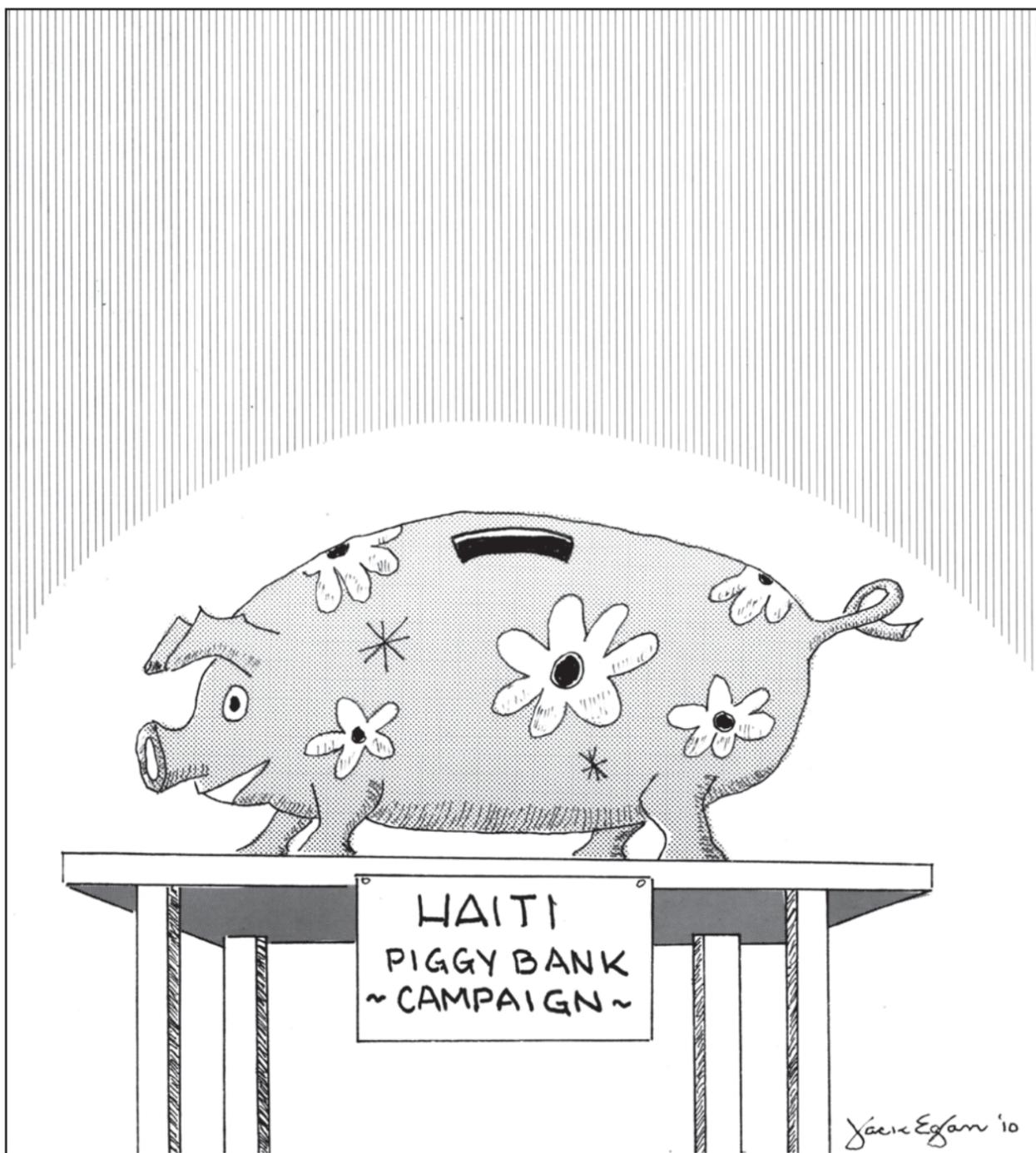
But don't let anyone fool you into believing the political spin that we can help Haiti rebuild.

Haiti needs to build anew. A fresh start. To finally have an honest government, an electric company to serve the communities, wells and plants to produce potable water that is delivered to every home along with a sewer and sanitation system. They need medical services to meet the needs of a population that is already vastly infected with HIV.

Haiti needs more people like Father Ron — and you.

Please, give somewhere to aid Haiti, and if you wish to help my friend, give to the Ministry of Presence in care of *The Islander*, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217.

These are our friends in need.



Slick

By Egan

Your Opinion

Lifeguard tribute sought

Dedicate the new Manatee Public Beach pier to Dave Miller. Let the man go down in history as being one of the greatest lifeguards on the west coast of Florida.

I started surfing at the Manatee Public Beach in 1963. I was 8 years old. Back then it was Bill and Noel Mullis, Tuffy Johnson, Dave Miller, Rocky von Hahmann and a few others who guarded county beaches.

In the early 1960s, the locals called Manatee Public Beach the "PB" for public beach.

Omar and Tossie Bernard ran the concession back then, followed by Herman and Teresa Polisma. And during those years, the master of ceremonies was Dave Miller, soon to become head lifeguard of all the county beaches.

Back in those days we were allowed to jump off the end of the pier to surf during hurricane season, when large ground swells would arrive on Anna Maria Island. Southerly swells would generate very strong lateral currents out of the south. There were many times beachgoers, surfers and experienced swimmers would try to swim or paddle out at the south end of the county beach. They would be swept northward toward the pier. Currents would sometimes reach 5-10 mph. Once these people would get within 60 feet of the pier, the current would turn and head offshore and push these people toward the end of the pier.

It would be 5-6 feet of whitewater washing through the pier. Lots of barnacles and oysters. There were many times I watched Dave Miller dive in on the southside of the pier into the current and meet these unfortunate people. Most of the time, the current was too strong to get them around the end of the pier. So Miller would grab hold of them and prepare them for the ride through the pier. We called it the "meat grinder."

Dave Miller was out on the pier risking his life for these people. And, if Dave Miller were alive today, he would still be telling us about those days.

Please contact your commissioner, mayor or lifeguard and put in a request for Miller to be memorialized at the new Manatee Public Beach pier.

Capt. Joe Webb, Anna Maria

Got to run

What a wonderful surprise to be recognized as the sports story of the year.

Thank you so much for the honor. Most of us runners don't run for any special recognition. We just enjoy the run itself.

However, I must admit that the added encouragement I receive from your readers does give this old gal a boost.

Thanks again. Gotta run.

Sandy Meneley, 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. Letters must include name, address, and contact phone number (for verification). Anonymous letters will not be printed.

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

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.

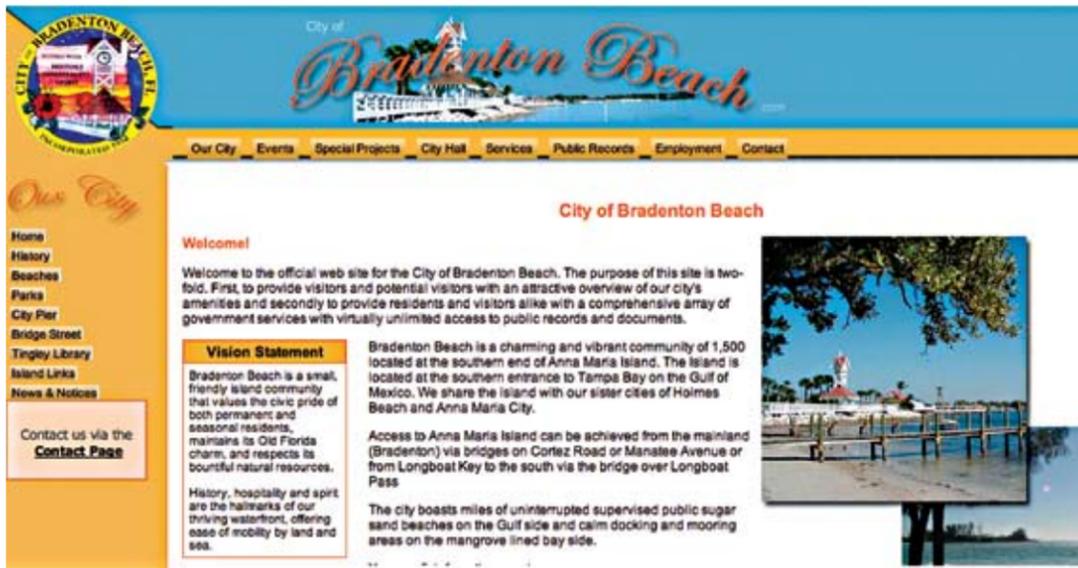
Stories on the Web site include comment forms for submissions.

The Islander
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Bradenton Beach's Web site at www.cityofbradentonbeach.com will be the topic of a monthly city meeting. *Image: Lisa Neff*



BB OKs monthly Web review

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Bradenton Beach commissioners recently added a monthly meeting to the city's calendar.

On the first Thursday of each month, department heads will meet to discuss updates to the city's Web site at www.cityofbradentonbeach.com.

The commissioners reached the decision Jan. 12 during a 90-minute discussion on how to improve the look and maintenance of the site.

For more than a year commissioners, in concert with members of the ScenicWAVES advisory committee, have been discussing improvements to the site, created and maintained by Richard Gatehouse of Design 1 Studio and hosted by HostFlorida.us.

The site contains a variety of information, from a history of the city to trash pickup schedules, from building permit applications to a database of meeting agendas and meeting minutes.

Commissioners Janie Robertson and Bob Bartelt have raised questions about how the city tracks

the costs associated with updating the site, which is maintained with funds from each of the city departments.

Robertson said it is difficult to quickly determine how much the site maintenance costs the city annually and how much a single task — such as updating a photograph — costs.

ScenicWaves members, in their review of the site, also focused on the site's appearance and content, especially on how best to keep the site current.

During the meeting last week, Bartelt recommended a monthly meeting for department heads to discuss needed changes.

"I see the pier managed very well," said Bartelt, referring to the Historic Bridge Street Pier and the monthly pier team meetings with department heads involved with maintaining the pier.

He suggested a similar meeting to discuss Web site updates would help prevent "stuff falling through the cracks."

The Web meeting, commissioners agreed, would follow the pier team meeting.

The Islander 10 years ago

In the Jan. 19, 2000, issue of *The Islander*, headlines announced:

- The Holmes Beach City Commission approved plans by Benderson Development Inc. for a 14,725-square-foot shopping center at 3610 E. Bay Drive between the Anna Maria Island Centre and Publix. Benderson agreed to install street lights in the center to match city street lights.

- Burglars failed to break into Peaches Ice Cream and Deli, 5318 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, but damaged the door and frame. The thieves then went to Bay Area Travel, 5816 Marina Drive, forced entry and made off with an undetermined amount of cash.

- Despite more than 40 letters of protest from nearby residents, the Bradenton Beach Planning and Zoning Board approved development of four condominium units on the beach side of Gulf Drive across from the Bermuda Bay condominiums.

Click, send, share

The Islander welcomes news of the milestones in readers' lives. Please send notices and photographs with detailed captions — along with complete contact information — to news@islander.org or 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217.

TEMPS AND DROPS ON AMI

Date	Low	High	Rainfall
Jan. 10	31	45	0
Jan. 11	28	50	0
Jan. 12	28	60	0
Jan. 13	33	58	0
Jan. 14	40	72	0
Jan. 15	50	78	0
Jan. 16	64	77	0

Average Gulf water temperature 56°
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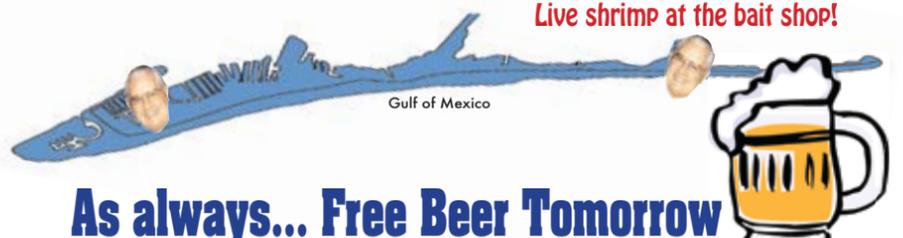
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Worst fish kill in decades hits state, AMI

By Nick Walter
Islander Reporter

A prolonged period with low temperatures below 30 degrees has led to what could be the worst fish kill in decades.

On Anna Maria Island, charter captains and various anglers are reporting canals filled with dead fish. Many anglers are concerned about Florida's No. 1 game fish, snook, which is particularly fragile when it comes to frigid weather.

"This is why we have snook regulations so strict," Capt. Scott Moore said. "We have to keep the stocks up in case it freezes."

But snook wasn't the only species to take a hit from the Arctic cold fronts. Pompano, ladyfish, grouper, snapper, pinfish, as well as sea turtles and even alligators, reportedly died from the extreme low water temperatures. That's just the top of the list.

"If it swims in water, it's been affected," said Rick Roberts, director of the Snook Foundation.

The 2010 prolonged cold spell could go down as the worst in recent history. Roberts predicted that between 500,000 and 2 million fish died statewide since last week's freeze. That's more than the 1977 freeze that Roberts said took out an estimated 500,000 fish.

Roberts said that in 1977, the populations rebounded thanks in part to relatively undeveloped habitat. He doesn't expect such rebounds this time.



Days after the cold snap, dead fish wash up on the Palma Sola causeway. *Islander Photo: Nick Walter*

"In 2010, we have approximately one half the nursery habitat that's still in existence," he said. "The rest has been developed into parking lots, roads, condos, et cetera."

Roberts called the fish kill a "teachable moment."

"Fishermen and people who live around the water take populations of fish for granted," Roberts said.

"The environment is fragile."

Snook spawn in passes, and larval fish eventually reach mangroves. Once the snook are about 2-3 inches in length, they head up rivers until they reach about one foot in length, before moving into bays and onto grass flats.

Thousands of these 2-3-inch fish are reportedly dead. Roberts said he received a report from Capt. Joel Bradenberg that there were thousands of dead juvenile snook in the Little Manatee River.

"That means we've lost 3-5 years of a population," Roberts said.

Roberts also said he received a report from an angler who said in Jacksonville's St. John's River, there were more than 500 dead snook, as well as dead tarpon and other species. The fish kill reportedly hit as far south as Islamorada in the Keys.

Locally, hundreds of dead fish are afloat or lying on bottoms in almost every canal. Captains suggested that anglers leave the fish alone in case they aren't dead and can revive in warmer temperatures. Snook are out of season anyway, and cannot be snagged or netted.

"I'm upset about it," said Capt. Zach Zacharias, who charts out of Parrot Cove Marina in Cortez. "But we've been through this before. I've seen a number of these in my lifetime. And the snook always come back. It's just sad because there's nothing you can do about it."

Cold turtles rescued on AMI, statewide

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Soon after dawn, with the tide low, John Young hiked west along the Manatee River, searching in the mangroves.

Randy West and Max Dersch hiked east along the river in Robinson Preserve. They too were searching in the mangroves.

All three men were looking for stranded sea turtles Jan. 14, the day after West, a ranger with Manatee County's natural resources department, found a cold-shocked green turtle on the shore in the northwest Bradenton preserve.

West had been out on the river trail collecting litter. He said he reached for a piece of plastic, noticed a slight movement on the ground and the green turtle that became known as Robinson was saved.

Statewide, thousands of sea turtles were saved during the cold spell, many of them in situations much like Robinson.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reported that a large-scale team of government employees and wildlife rescue volunteers assisted in the rescue effort, which resulted in more than 750 sea turtles being taken for triage to Merritt Island National Refuge near the Kennedy Space Center and more than 70 turtles on Honeymoon Island near Dunedin.

"The work being done for sea turtles has required a tremendous collaborative effort with other agencies, businesses and rehab facilities," said FWC chairman Rodney Barreto. "We thank everyone who has provided us with assistance to ensure sea turtles get through this unprecedented period of cold."

Locally, the team included waterfront homeowners, fishers and representatives from Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch, Manatee County Natural Resources Department and Mote Marine Laboratory.

AMITW's first response was to a call of a stranded turtle on the Island's north end. AMITW executive director Suzi Fox said the green turtle had perished, probably from cold-shock.

AMITW next responded to a call Jan. 11 from a fisherman in Bradenton Beach, who found a green turtle near the bayside on the south end of the Island.

Fox said that turtle, nicknamed Brady, was wrapped in a blanket and taken to Mote Marine in Sarasota, where other turtles suffering cold-shock were being treated, many of them from the east coast.



Left, Kate, a 150-pound loggerhead, is rescued from the shoreline in west Bradenton after suffering cold-shock. *Islander Photo: Courtesy John Young*



A cold-shocked green turtle rescued by Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch awaits transport to Mote in a swimming pool. *Islander Photo: Courtesy AMITW*

"We're going into overdrive to care for these animals," said Mote veterinarian Andy Stamper.

Two blasts of Arctic air kept Floridians bundled up and vacationers from frolicking in the water for much of the first 14 days of January.

The temperatures — two weeks of nights below 40 degrees in Manatee County — proved more severe for wildlife, with experts reporting the largest fish kill in years, the rescue of several manatees and the massive rescue of sea turtles, which suffer cold shock when water temperatures plummet. The turtles may float listlessly in the water or wash onto shore.

After rescuing Brady, AMITW responded to additional calls of turtle strandings, including the rescue of a 150-pound loggerhead in west Bradenton and the green turtle Randy West found on the riverbank in Robinson Preserve.

The loggerhead, nicknamed Kate, was taken to Mote, where, on Jan. 14, Fox reported the turtle was "eating and doing well."

Robinson also was taken to Mote.

"I wouldn't have seen him if I hadn't reached for the plastic," said West.

So early Jan. 14, just in case there were more like Robinson, West hiked the river's edge to make sure there were no more stranded turtles in the preserve. Dersch and Young also made the trek that morning, with the temperature about 42 degrees and a sharp wind out of the northeast.

They hiked separately, collecting litter as they

walked.

"If there is anything, we're going to see it a little bit better at low tide," Young said.

He walked on the tidal flats toward Perico Bayou, a trail he's familiar with from bird-watching outings.

"This is beautiful," Young said as he watched several herons hunt in the shallow water of the river. "This is awesome."

Young saw numerous birds, including herons, osprey, wood storks and vultures, as well as many dead fish, and he collected a bag of litter. But he found no turtles. Neither did the rangers.

Young described the trek as doing "due diligence." He and Fox also scoured the Island beaches for stranded turtles last week.

FWC reported more than 3,000 turtles — and the number was still climbing as the *Islander* went to press — were affected by the cold, most of them green turtles, but also loggerheads, Kemp's Ridley and hawksbill turtles.

Rescuers found stranded turtles in Sarasota, Brevard, St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River, Monroe, Bay, Gulf, Pinellas and Charlotte counties, as well as Manatee.

"I am extremely proud of everyone who has pulled together to make sure these very special animals can survive one of the worst cold spells our state has ever seen," Barreto said. "It just shows what can be accomplished when folks pull together."

AM Pier celebration set for April 2011

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

After setting and resetting the dates for the Anna Maria City Pier Centennial Celebration several times, the committee charged with organizing the festival set April 14-17, 2011, as the celebration days.

The committee selected the dates at its Jan. 11 meeting in order to reserve Bayfront Park well in advance of the celebration.

But the committee still faces a potential conflict with the Anna Maria Island Real Florida Festival, which will have its inaugural celebration in April and plans call for it to be an annual event.

"I can't see two big events back to back," said committee chairperson Sissy Quinn.

Committee member SueLynn was not discouraged, however. She said the Real Florida festival will host many of its events in Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach and she predicted that "people will be out here if the weather is good."

Quinn said she would resolve any possible date conflicts with Real Florida festival organizer David Teitelbaum.

The committee got an economic boost from the Anna Maria Island Historical Society when Susan Anderson confirmed the society would provide \$2,000 in seed money to jump start ordering of pendants, T-shirts, coffee mugs and other memorabilia that will be sold in advance and during the celebration.

The committee got another boost from amateur photographer and Anna Maria resident Tom Tollette, who presented the committee with an enlarged photo printed on canvas of the city pier.

City Commissioner Jo Ann Mattick said the picture will be perfect for the centennial celebration's Web site when that is up and running.

"It can easily be used to advertise the pier centennial. It's very recognizable as the pier," she said.

"You can use it however you want," said Tol-



At the pier centennial committee meeting Jan. 11, Anna Maria resident Tom Tollette, right, presents Anna Maria Mayor Fran Barford with a photograph he took of the city pier on canvas. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

lette.

The committee can sell copies of the photo and a large canvas-backed original could be auctioned, suggested Quinn.

The committee plans to begin sales of items in February 2011 and will begin advertising the event before that month, Quinn said.

Jeweler Wendy Thurlow showed committee members a pendant she designed that depicts the pier and could be sold at Island locations.

Mattick said she would contact Island retail shops to sell the pendant and suggested that order forms for

pendants could be placed in local newspapers.

Thurlow said the price for a bronze pendant would be around \$10 to \$12, while a sterling silver pendant would be \$18 to \$20.

The committee also discussed banners, advertising, music and publicity for the event.

SueLynn said the committee agreed they need to create a focus on people coming to Anna Maria for the centennial celebration.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. Feb. 8 at Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive. The meeting is open to the public.

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Name that quilt contest begins

The Eyeland Needlers are inviting people to enter the 10th annual contest to name the quilt created to benefit the Anna Maria Island Community Center Tour of Homes.

The quilt, displayed at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, will be raffled during the tour, scheduled to take place Saturday, March 20, on the Island.

The winner of the naming contest will receive 50 chances in the raffle.

Quilters include Judy Bennett, Jane Coleman, Mary Jo Gaspari, Dolores Harrell, Anna Horne, Joan Pettigrew, Marcia Powers, Penny Reinholz and Betsy Smith.

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

The Eyeland Needlers quilt, created for the Anna Maria Island Community Center Tour of Homes, is at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff



Communities for a Lifetime hosts info day

The Island Communities for a Lifetime committee will hold an informational expo at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23.

The committee, consisting of representatives from Island groups and the Island cities, was formed as part of a statewide initiative to improve communities for all ages.

The event will feature informational booths, as well as the CarFit program, at which people can get advice on how to adjust their vehicles for improved safety and comfort.

At the event, attendees also can complete a Communities for a Lifetime survey of Island life.

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

Star Fish hosts celebration

The Star Fish Company Market & Restaurant in Cortez will host the January Jubilee celebration for the local American Cancer Society chapter.

The celebration, a rally for the Relay for Life on Anna Maria Island, will take place Monday, Jan. 25, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the restaurant, 12306 46th Ave. W., Cortez.

The relay will take place at Coquina Beach May 1-2.

For more information, call the ACS at 941-745-1214, ext. 5804.

Facebook seminar rescheduled

An Anna Maria Island Community Center seminar on using Facebook was postponed from Dec. 10 to Jan. 28 due to a lack of pre-registered participants.

The Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., will host the re-scheduled session on social networking — with a focus on helping organizations and businesses develop a presence on Facebook — from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Admission is \$20-\$25.

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

Library to hold book sale

The Friends of the Library will hold its annual book sale Feb. 5-6 at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

The Feb. 5 sale, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., is for Friends of the Library members. People can purchase memberships the day of the preview sale at the library.

The Feb. 6 sale, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is open to the public.

For more information, call the library at 941-778-6341.

Support sought for storytelling club

Part-time Islander Glen Milne likes a good yarn.

And he's looking for others interested in telling and listening to stories, as well as promoting the art of storytelling.

Milne, a Canadian snowbird who lives on the Island about three months of the year, is proposing the creation of a storytelling club that would meet perhaps two evenings a month for about two hours.

During that period, there would be a half-dozen stories shared, including a "feature presentation" story of about 20 minutes.

Milne participated in storytelling events in Canada.

"It seems to me that our community here is full of folks who could tell very interesting stories from their life and literature, and many who would enjoy a regular evening to hear them," he said.

Milne, as of last week, had discussed his idea with about a dozen people on Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key and found "enthusiasm for this project."

Milne is seeking to hear from people interesting in storytelling. E-mail him at ggdm@istar.ca or call 941-778-5534.

Center to hold volunteer orientation

The Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, will hold a volunteer orientation program at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 22.

For more information or to register, call the Center at 941-778-1908, ext. 9211.



Celebrating 90 years

Clara Franks celebrates her 90th birthday Jan. 3 at Melinda's Cafe in Holmes. Franks moved to the area in 1953 and has been a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Holmes Beach since the founding of the church. She helped start the church rummage sales and is a past president of the CCW.



"Self Help," a play by Norm Foster, will open Thursday, Jan. 21, at the Island Players theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

Players to stage 'Self Help'

The Island Players will stage the third play of the 61st season at their Anna Maria theater Jan. 21-Feb. 7.

Performances of Norm Foster's "Self Help," an adult comedy, will be at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. The theater, 10001 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, is dark on Mondays.

The box office is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, as well as an hour before curtain time.

The cast includes Laurie and Fred Zimmerman, Laura Morales, Mary Jo Johnson, Herb Stump and

James Prince.

Kelly Wynn Woodland is directing the play, with Patrick Johnson as co-director and Mike Lusk as stage manager.

The next performance on the calendar is "Catch Me If You Can," to be staged March 18-April 4. Auditions will be at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, at the theater.

For more information about tickets, call the box office at 941-778-5755.

For more information about auditions, call 941-778-4412.

Lecture series continues

The Friends of the Island Library's lecture series continues at 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 23, with a travel lecture by Tim Oldread on the Galapagos Islands.

Other programs include:

- 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 27, a lecture by former Washington correspondent James McCartney on America and the Middle East.
- 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 11, a lecture by Ron McCarty of the Ringling Museum.
- 2 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 17, a lecture by author Tim Berra on Charles Darwin.
- 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27, a travel lecture by Shelley Massey on Costa Rica.
- 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 11, a lecture by biologist Kim Bassos-Hull on dolphin research.

Admission to the lectures is free.

For more information, call the library at 941-778-6341.

Bingo is back

Bingo is back at the Annie Silver Community Center beginning Thursday, Jan. 21.

The center, 103 23rd St. at Avenue C in Bradenton Beach, will host games at 7 p.m. on Thursdays through the season.

Dale and Dave Redeker will serve as the callers.

For more information, call Kit Redeker at 941-778-1915.

St. Bernard to prepare for Lent

The Rev. Andy O'Reilly will preach during St. Bernard Catholic Church's parish mission at 7 p.m. Feb. 1-3 at the church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

The program prepares the congregation for the season of Lent.

O'Reilly is with the order of the Society of the Precious Blood. He has a master's in divinity from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., and studied at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

"He is a popular preacher with experience as a seminary formation director and nearly 25 years as a pastor of parishes throughout the country," according to a news release from the church.

For more information, call the church office at 941-778-4769.

Center home to dog school

The Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, is taking registration now for a dog-obedience course.

The instructor is Cheryl Brown of The Last Paw Dog Training. She will teach "Puppy Kindergarten," which will take place from Feb. 20-March 6 at the Center.

The course is for dogs 8-16 weeks old. The course fee is \$55.

The Center also will hold a basic dog-obedience class from Feb. 20-March 27.

The fee is \$105.

To register and for more information, call the Center at 941-778-1908.

Bible group to meet

Crosspointe Fellowship will host a women's Bible study group, 7 Leaps of Faith, this winter at the church, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

The group will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, as well as Tuesdays in February and March.

Bible teacher Patty Allen will lead the group. For more information, call 941-778-0719.



AGAMI honors student

The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island's January student of the month is Elizabeth Knowles, a senior art student from Manatee High School. Her Ceramic artwork "Golden Bite" is displayed in the gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Pictured are AGAMI member Joan Stephens, Elizabeth and art teacher Rob Reiber.

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AM commission to review most site plans

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The way it used to be in Anna Maria is the way it will be in Anna Maria.

The Anna Maria City Commission will soon be back in its original role of granting final approval for most site plans.

At a joint city commission-planning and zoning board meeting Jan. 14, the majority of commissioners and board members voted informally to have the commission grant final approval for site plans that may change the intensity or use of a property. That's the way it was when the commission first adopted site-plan review procedures in 2003.

But that changed in 2007 when the commission agreed unanimously to give the P&Z board authority to grant final site-plan approval, including for retail-office-residential developments on Pine Avenue.

Last week's vote, however, was not unanimous.

P&Z board members Mike Yetter, Bob Barlow and Sandy Mattick voted to keep final approval with P&Z. Randall Stover, Frank Pytel, Margaret Jenkins and Jim Conoly opted for a return to the original site-plan procedure.

Commissioners were not nearly as divided, with John Quam, Dale Woodland and Harry Stoltzfus voting to bring back the old system. Jo Ann Mattick wanted no change and Commissioner Chuck Webb reluctantly voted for amending the site-plan procedures to involve the commission in final approval.

Webb had wanted the commission to study the issue further before making any change.

The issue surfaced during the recent election cycle, said Quam.

He said many voters told him during the campaign that they believed the commission should give final authority for site plans, not the P&Z board.

Stoltzfus, who made it no secret that he wanted the commission to approve site plans, particularly

those on Pine Avenue, said any project in the ROR district should be approved by the commission.

He has publicly opposed three recent site plans submitted by Pine Avenue Restoration LLC for ROR projects on Pine Avenue, and said the city should not have granted PAR its already approved plans.

Under current site-plan procedures, city staff can approve minor site plans, while the P&Z board approves those with an impact on the city, such as developments in the ROR. The city commission approves sub-division site plans.

Woodland also said he heard from many voters during the campaign, and the majority wanted the commission to grant final site-plan approval.

"For me, it's a concern that we should do what the citizens want us to do. It's not political. People told me elected officials should be responsible for approving the majority of site plans, and we have to consider the residents," he said.

Commissioner Mattick opposed any change on the grounds that the procedures were working fine.

Woodland noted also that the site-plan review procedures are relatively new, and when first adopted in 2003, commissioners had foreseen the day when changes would be made.

"It's all part of the growing process. We knew all along we might have to change the procedures, and we might have to change again in the future," he said.

Additionally, he said that when the commission transferred approval authority to the P&Z board, there was not as much development activity on Pine Avenue as there is now.

P&Z board member Sandy Mattick said she didn't understand why site plans become an issue.

"Not one of you has ever said you disagreed with what we did," she said.

But Pytel presented several reasons to change the system back to its previous method.

P&Z board members are appointed, not elected,

he said. If the voters are unhappy with a P&Z decision, board members can't be voted out of office like commissioners.

In addition, if the board denies a site plan, the applicant can appeal to the city commission. If it approves a site plan opposed by neighbors, those neighbors have to incur the expense of filing a legal action in court.

In his opinion, the P&Z board should remain advisory and the commission should have final authority.

Woodland, Quam and Stoltzfus agreed that elected officials should be the ones who grant final approval.

Yet to be decided, however, is what constitutes a site plan of such impact that it increases intensity and should go to the commission.

Webb argued that the commission should not confine its approval authority to just ROR projects. At the same time, however, many site plans should not go to the commission, he said.

Another problem in amending the site-plan procedures to return approval to the commission is the time and cost to get a site plan approved.

Woodland said he wanted to review options to streamline the process and reduce costs.

Presently, it costs \$3,000 for a site plan application and takes several months for approval, including a public hearing before P&Z.

Mike Coleman of PAR said he was pleased with the discussions.

"I'm encouraged that we are clarifying the language and everyone will get equal treatment," he said.

Quam, as commission chairperson, set another joint meeting for 6 p.m. Feb. 11 to discuss changes to Chapter 90 and hear a preliminary ordinance amendment prepared by staff to return site-plan approval to the commission.

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Non-permitted construction needs permit

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria's code enforcement board at its Jan. 11 meeting extended a lenient hand to Pedro Fernandez of 209 Harden Blvd.

In July 2009, code enforcement officer Gerry Rathvon found Fernandez was building a stairway and railing at the property without a permit and the construction did not meet city code.

Her efforts to resolve the issue with Fernandez were unsuccessful, and he was brought before the board for violating city ordinance. The board could have fined him up to \$250 per day for any infraction.

But the board noted that Fernandez had halted construction when advised by Rathvon on July 28.

Although efforts by Rathvon to meet with Fernandez to resolve the issue prior to Jan. 11 were unsuccessful, the board granted him 30 days to obtain a building permit and come into compliance with city code.

In a separate case, the board agreed to extend the deadline for Reginald and Sherry Flagg of 201 S. Bay Blvd. to obtain turtle friendly lighting.

Rathvon said she talked to the contractor who will install the lights and was told they were ordered, but had not arrived. Rathvon originally gave the Flaggs until Dec. 31, 2009, to come into compliance with the code.

"As we are not in the turtle season, I don't have a problem with an extension," Rathvon told CEB chairman Bill Iseman.

"But technically, they are outside the compliance period," Iseman noted for the record.

Rather than citing the Flaggs for a code violation, the board unanimously approved a motion to give the Flaggs until 5 p.m., Feb. 5 to install the lights for compliance with the code.

The board's next meeting is at 5 p.m. Feb. 5 at Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive.

PAR site plan before P&Z

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria's planning and zoning board at a Jan. 19 public hearing was scheduled to review a site-plan application by Pine Avenue Restoration LLC.

The site plan is for 216 Pine Ave., where PAR proposes to develop a two-story retail-office-residential complex.

PAR's site-plan application was made before the city commission and P&Z board discussed having development applications for the ROR district go to the city commission for approval, not the P&Z board.

The commission will have to meet and vote on any amendments to the site-plan procedures before the proposed change is implemented.

The P&Z board generally does not grant final approval at the first site-plan hearing, but continues the public hearing to a date and time certain to gather more information and have questions to staff and the applicant answered.

City Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus is already on record as opposing the project. Stoltzfus made his comments on a blog site and in a letter to the city.

AMI-DOT road alerts this week

The Florida Department of Transportation has advised motorists of the following construction projects on Anna Maria Island from Dec. 21-25 that may affect driving.

Anna Maria:

• **Pine Avenue from Gulf Drive to Bay Boulevard.** The DOT project involves resurfacing and milling of Pine Avenue. No lane closures are expected, but motorists can expect daytime delays and are advised to use caution while in the area.

• **Gulf Drive: Willow Avenue to Pine Avenue.** The project involves resurfacing and milling and some sidewalk construction along Gulf Drive. No lane closures are anticipated, but motorists are advised to use caution while in the area and expect delays.

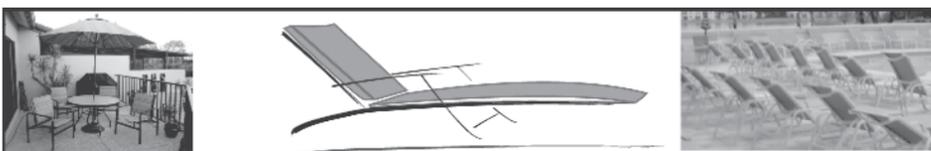
Bradenton Beach:

• **State Road 789 from Fifth Street South to Cortez Road.** There are no planned lane closures, but motorists are advised to expect daytime delays while work crews repair sidewalks and install landscaping. This DOT said the completion date is some time in February.

Anna Maria road closure

The Manatee County Sewer Department is repairing a lift station in Anna Maria between Jan. 18 and Feb. 12 and has advised motorists to expect intermittent weekday delays on Magnolia Avenue and Tarpon Street.

For more information, call the Anna Maria public works department at 941-737-2016.

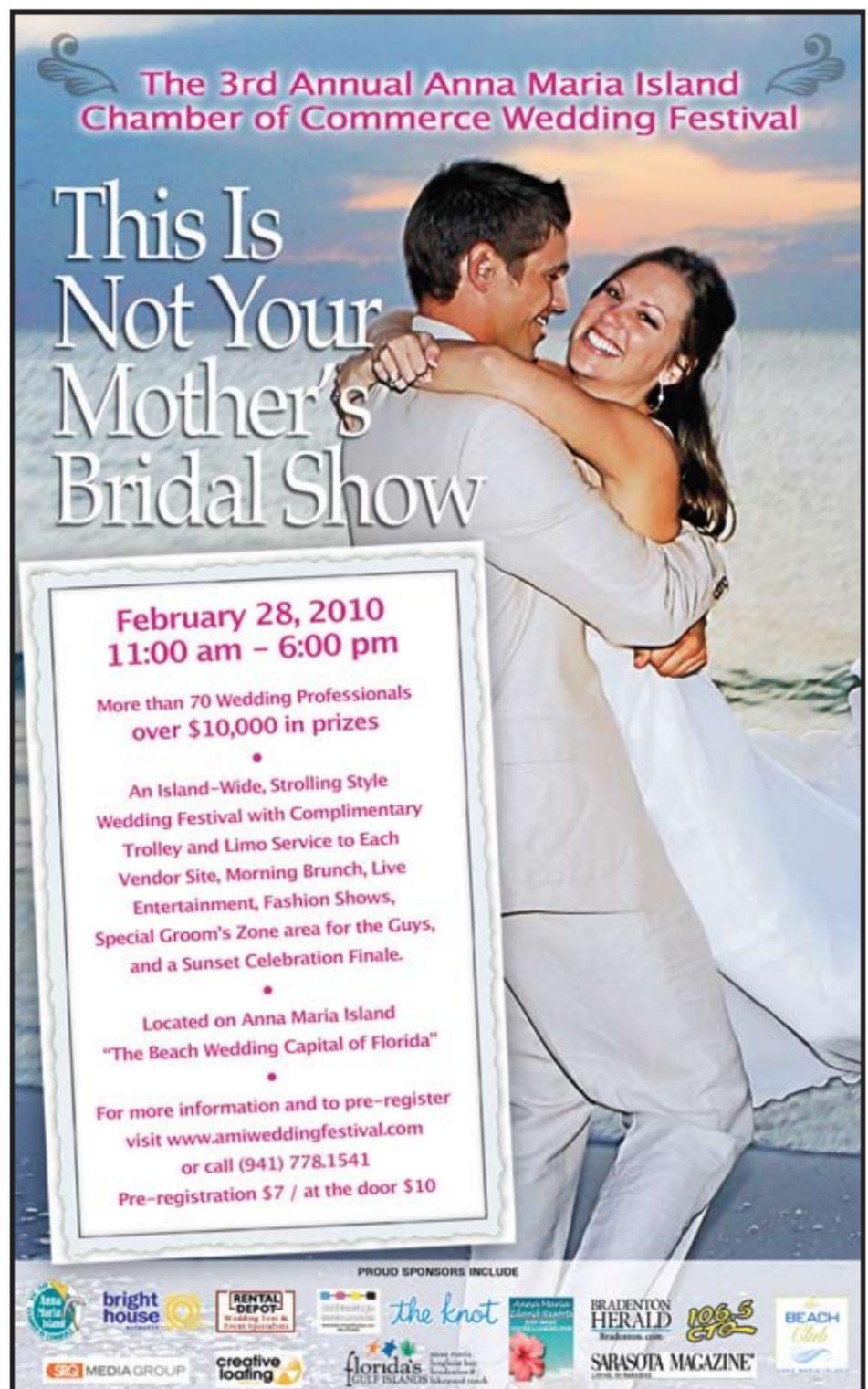


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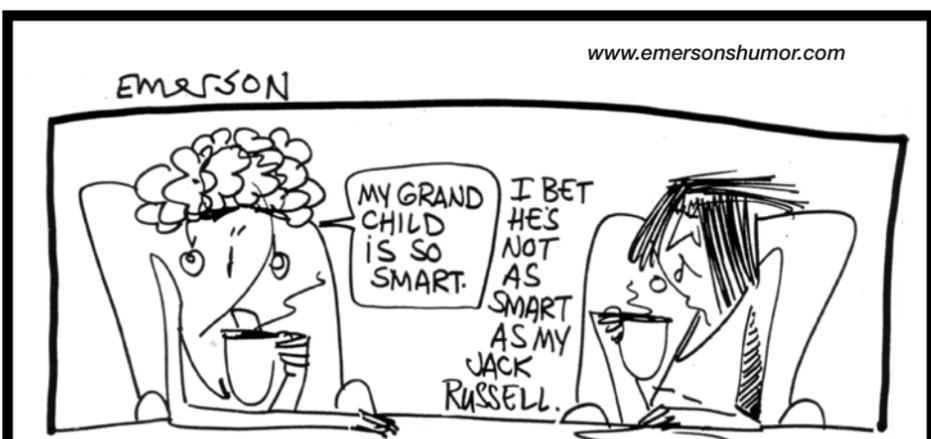
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White boots ready for fishing festival

By Nick Walter
Islander Reporter

When the fishing boots aren't covered with mud, slime and blood, something's wrong in Cortez.

Linda Molto had been noticing that with all the added fishing regulations and a slumping economy, the fishermen needed work.

Those boots needed action.

"I just thought, 'Everybody's got their white boots and they're ready to work,'" said Molto, a Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage volunteer.

The situation gave Molto the idea for the theme of the Feb. 20-21 Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival: "White boots ready."

Quite a difference compared to the past two years, in which the themes were edible crabs and mullet, and such.

The FISH T-shirts are designed, featuring a colorful pelican wearing giant white boots.

FISH asked art students in Manatee County middle and high schools, as well as those at the State College of Florida, for a T-shirt design based on the theme.

Justin Garrison, a student at SCF, designed this year's winner. Molto said he will win \$100 and some T-shirts.

The other contestants' art will be displayed at the festival.

For the second year, the Florida Maritime Museum will be open during the festival.

A 19 1/2-foot Compac boat that was donated to the museum, and is on museum property at Cortez Road and 119th Street, will be a raffle item at the festival,

White boots, a trademark of Cortez fishers, are featured on the festival T-shirt, and mullet, the fish that made Cortez, is the primary ingredient in this year's Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival Cook-off sponsored by *The Islander*.

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with the drawing planned for Feb. 21.

Finally, a Maritime Art Exhibit featuring Manatee County artists Bob Semler and Val Sandell will be on display at the museum through March 19. The art depicts Cortez scenes and is available for purchase.

For more information, go to cortez-fish.org.

Festival cook-off set

Got mullet?

Got the best mullet recipe on the west coast of Florida?

The annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival Cook-off will take place Saturday, Feb. 20, the first day of the two-day celebration in the historic fishing village.

The Islander is sponsoring the event, at which chefs — novices and pros in separate contests — will serve a panel of judges their best mullet dishes.

There is no entry fee for novices, but restaurants must pay a \$25 fee.

Also, there is no limit on the number of entries from one person. So, a contestant might arrive to the contest a mullet feast — smoked mullet, fried mullet, broiled mullet, sautéed mullet, stir-fried mullet, blackened mullet, barbecued mullet, grilled mullet, baked mullet, maybe even ceviche mullet.

Restaurant winners receive bragging rights for a year, a certificate and center-stage honors at the festival.

Individuals will compete for a "Best Mullet Recipe" first prize of \$100. A runner-up will receive \$25 and the winner of the "Most Original Recipe" category will receive a dinner for two at the Star Fish Company Restaurant.

Entry forms are available at *The Islander* Web site, www.islander.org, and at the newspaper office in the Island Shopping Center, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Entrants must include recipes for their dishes, as well as deliver them "ready to eat" on plain covered "disposable" tableware or in plain plastic containers.

Entries must be delivered by 1 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Cortez Community Center, 4523 123rd St. Court W. Winners will be announced at about 3 p.m.

Proceeds from the cook-off and the festival benefit the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage and its efforts to preserve property and the fishers' way of life in the village.

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

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County marine rescue HQ gets city review

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

A long-planned marine rescue headquarters got the planning and zoning board treatment — and OK — in Bradenton Beach Jan. 14.

The board met at city hall to review Manatee County's plan for the headquarters on the bayside of Coquina Beach just south of Leffis Key.

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 will provide work space for marine rescue personnel, storage space for gear and vehicles, a conference and lecture room, computer center, training facilities for lifeguards and lockers for their personal effects.

The building, said county project manager Darin Cushing, would be for county operations, and is not intended as a public-meeting facility.

Originally that was part of the concept, Cushing said, but because the land is zoned for parks and recreation, the facility cannot serve as a public meeting place.

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

Because the project is a "major development" under Bradenton Beach regulations, the planning board held the Jan. 14 hearing.

Cushing reviewed the proposal at the start of the hearing.

"This has been probably in the works for about 10 years now," he said.

Bradenton Beach building official Steve Gilbert reviewed the city staff position on the project — that it meets the goals in the city's comprehensive plan, parking is adequate, the land use is appropriate and traffic or utilities will not be impacted.

During the hearing, city code enforcement offi-



Bradenton Beach building official Steve Gilbert, left, listens as Manatee County project manager Darin Cushing discusses the marine rescue building planned for Coquina Beach. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

cer Gail Garneau, acting as the meeting clerk, read several letters into the record, including two from Holmes Beach City Commissioner Al Robinson, who signed his letters as Al "Lower Taxes" Robinson.

Robinson complained about the proposed expense. "We have done without this until now," Robinson wrote. "We can continue to do without it."

Emily Anne Smith, who operates Designs of Significance in Bradenton Beach, questioned the design, suggesting it better resemble "ageless 'Key West' classic revival style."

During public comment, Robinson and County Commissioner Carol Whitmore spoke.

"The lifeguard station is now connected to a local bathroom and it's been like that," Whitmore said. "It's not good for us. It's not good for you."

Robinson asked why, if the elevated building is not open for public meetings, the county needs to

comply with the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Program. Is the county hiring sheriff's deputies and lifeguards in wheelchairs? Robinson asked.

Cushing responded, because that's the law and the requirement of the Florida building code.

Forty-five minutes into the hearing, the planning board began its discussion of the proposed project. Board members asked about hours, staffing and the character of the building, which was designed to withstand 150-mph winds.

"I like the look of the building," planning board member Jo Ann Meilner said. "I don't think it needs to have spires."

Board members, drawing the meeting to a close, voted unanimously to recommend the city commission approve the major development application provided the county guarantee turtle-friendly lighting.

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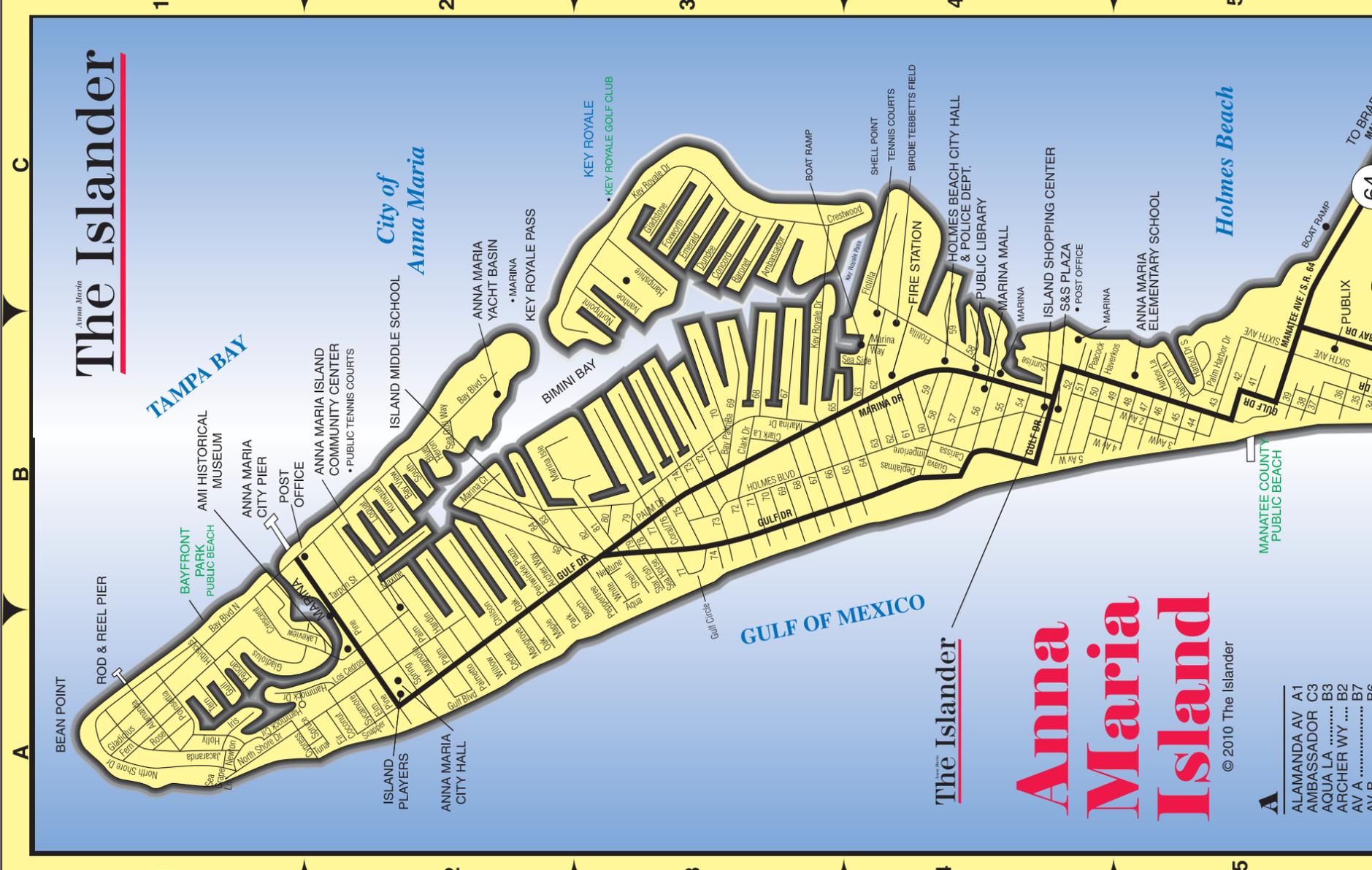
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Key locations on the map include: AMI Historical Museum, Anna Maria Pier, Post Office, Anna Maria Island Community Center, Island Middle School, Anna Maria Yacht Basin, Key Royale Pass, Key Royale Golf Club, Shell Point, Birdie Tebbetts Field, Holmes Beach City Hall & Police Dept., Public Library, Marina Mall, Island Shopping Center, S&S Plaza, Anna Maria Elementary School, Manatee County Public Beach, and Manatee S.R. 64.

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STREETS:

K KEY ROYALE B,C 3
KUMQUAT B2

L LAKEVIEW DR., A, B1
LINDA LN A1
LOQUAT B2
LOS CEDROS DR., A2

M MAGNOLIA AV. A2
MANATEE AV. C5
MANGROVE AV A2
MAPLE AV. A, B2
MARINA DR. B2,3
MARINA WAY. B3
MAXINE B2

N NEPTUNE LA. B4
NEWTON A2
NORTH POINT. C3
N. SHORE DR. A1

O OAK AV A, B2

P PALM AV. A, B2
PALM DR. B 3,4
PALMETTO A2
PARK AV. B2
PEACOCK LN. B4
PELICAN A1
PEPPER TREE AV. B3
PERIWINKLE A, B2
PINE AV. A, B2
POINSETTIA AV., A1

R ROSE ST A1

S SANDY POINT. C5
SEA GRAPE LA A1
SEA HORSE LA B3
SEASIDE CT. B3
SEA GULL WAY B2
SHELL DR. B3
SNAPPER A2
SOUTH DR. B2
SPRING AV. A, B2
SPRUCE AV. A2
STARFISH RD. B3
SUNBOW BAY. C5
SUNRISE LA. B4
SYCAMORE AV. A2

T TARPON ST B2
TERN DR. A1
TUNA ST A2

W WHITE AV B3
WILLOW AV. A, B2

B BARONET LA. C3
BAY BLVD. A, B 1,2
BAY DR E C9
BAY DR N. B, C 8
BAY DR S E8
BAY PL. B8
BAY BREEZE LN B3
BAY PALMS DR B3
BAYVIEW DR B, C 6
BAYVIEW PL. B2
BEACH AV. B2,3
BLUE HERON. B2
BRIDGE ST. B8

C CANASTA DR. B7
CARISSA ST. B4
CEDAR AV. A2
CHILDSON AV. B2
CHURCH AV. B8
CLARK ST. B3
COCONUT AV. A2
CONCORD LA. C3
COQUINA LN. B3
CORTEZ RD. B, C 8
CRESENT. A, B 1,2
CRESTWOOD. C3
CYPRESS. A1

D DEPALMAS. B4
DUNDEE LA. C3

E ELM AV. A2
EMERALD LA. C3

F FERN ST. A1
FIR AV. A2
FLOTTILA DR. C4
FOXWORTH DR C3

G GLADIOLUS ST A1
GLADSTONE LN C3
GUAVA ST. B4
GULF CIR. B3
GULF DR. A, B 2/10
GULL DR. A1

H HAMMOCK RD. A2
HAMMOCK CIR. A1
HAMPSHIRE LN C3
HARBOR DR N'S B5
HARBOR LN. B5
HARDIN AV. B2
HAVERKOS CT B4
HIBISCUS AV. A1
HIGHLAND ST. B8
HOLLY RD. A1
HOLMES BLVD B3,4

I IMPERIORE. B4
IRIS ST. A1
IVANHOE LN. C3

J JACARANDA AV A1

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AME students meet DARE challenge

Holmes Beach Police Officer Brian Copeman enters Anne Kinnan's fifth-grade classroom and asks, "What time is it?"

The class responds with a resounding boom, "DARE TIME!"

Copeman, Anna Maria Elementary school's resource officer, has been working with the school's fifth-graders and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program for three years.

"Unlike most police work, I get to talk to kids and do preventative work. I teach kids to say 'no' during bad situations," Copeman says.

In the past, DARE was taught to fifth-grade students during the last semester of school. But, this year, Copeman decided to move DARE to the beginning of the year. By teaching DARE early in the school year, Copeman was able to help students develop their resistance sooner.

"We're so pleased that Officer Copeman was able to give his time to DARE early on. After all, it's all about prevention. We are very fortunate to have Officer Copeman," AME guidance counselor Cindi Harrison says.

As soon as Copeman enters the room, students pay attention and sit up in their seats. On this particular day, Copeman is running a few minutes late because he had responded to a car accident. Students soon begin to ask questions about his day as a patrol officer and what his job entails.

As the DARE program starts, Copeman questions students about what they have learned. As he calls on each student by name, they light up as they proudly state what they know.

"What is the DARE decision-making model?" he asks. Almost all the hands in the room shoot up.

"Define, Assess, Respond and Evaluate," one young boy responds.

DARE teaches students preventative measures through bookwork, stories and real life experiences.

Copeman puts students into groups to act out ways to say no to drugs, cigarettes and alcohol. In today's scenario, three students pretend to have a pillow fight at a sleepover, while one girl asks if the other two would like to have an alcoholic drink.

Two of the students respond, "No, I'd rather not lose my brain cells."

Copeman approves, and tells students this way they not only said, "no," but also gave a good reason why they don't want to do drugs or alcohol.

"Fifth-grade is a transition year. These students are now king of the castle at AME, and next year in middle school, they will be the low man on the pole again, but this gives us a way to help install morals and values in them at a young age," Cope-



DARE time
Holmes Beach Police Officer and Anna Maria Elementary School resource officer Brian Copeman talks to students about the importance of staying drug-tobacco- and alcohol-free.

man says.

The DARE program almost ended after the death of HBPD Officer and popular AME resource officer Pete Lannon.

"I was a road officer at the time and they were thinking to do away with the position, but the chief, along with the mayor, agreed the school resource

officer was an important position and our students needed it," Copeman says.

AME students are entering their last few weeks in the DARE program. They're submitting essays in which a few winners will be chosen at the DARE graduation in a few weeks.

Look for winners to be announced here.

Manatee schools Hope for Haiti

The Manatee County School District is partnering with the Manatee Education Foundation to start a countywide effort to raise relief funds for Haiti.

District employees and students can contribute to this effort through, Feb. 1. All donations will go directly to the American Red Cross Haiti Disaster Relief Fund.

Donation checks should be payable to the American Red Cross or the Manatee Education Foundation and mailed to Manatee Public Schools Community and Press Relations Office, School Board of Manatee County, P.O. Box 9069, Bradenton FL 34206

Donations can also be dropped off at the School Support Center at 215 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton.

For more information, contact the Manatee County School District at 914-708-8770.



AME kids say 'NO'

AME fifth-grade students act out roles to demonstrate how to avoid getting into a situation involving tobacco, drugs or alcohol.



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AME school calendar

- Jan. 21, Domino's pizza day.
- Jan. 25, Record day, no school.
- Jan. 26, PTO dinner, talent show.
- 6 p.m-7 p.m. Jan. 28, science fair information night.

For more information, call the school office at 941-708-5525. AME is at 4700 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

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Student broadcast: Good morning AME

When you think of television news, NBC, ABC, FOX and CNN come to mind, but tucked away in a part of the media center at Anna Maria Elementary School sits a small studio where students serve as news reporters, producers and technology experts.

"The morning news is important because it gives the student body needed information and also teaches the students involved how to develop speeches, learn to work as a team and teaches them if one student is absent, the others have to pick up the slack," said AME media specialist Lynne McDonough.

Each day fifth-grade students tape the morning news for the following morning's broadcast. The program has been so popular that that McDonough has had to limit participation to fifth-graders. Every student participates in each aspect of the show.

"I've been waiting to do this since kindergarten," said camera-operator Brianna Connelly.

In the studio, students are given control of graphics, audio, camera operation and switching to name a few of the jobs.

News anchors Anthony Cucci and Jack Coleman look forward to finding out what news they are going to report to the AME student body.

"I love to see myself in the morning and laugh at myself," said Cucci. "Seriously, if there wasn't morning news, kids wouldn't know what is important and what is going to happen during the week," remarked Cucci.

The morning news is so popular with students that some, like Coleman, opt to give up recess to volunteer in the studio.

"This is way more fun than recess," Coleman said.

The morning news consists of daily news, lunch, weather and special reports of what is going on



AME on air
Fifth-graders Anthony Cucci and Jack Coleman take their position at the anchor desk for the Anna Maria Elementary "Morning Show." Each day students produce television news that is broadcast to classrooms.

around campus. With the aid of a few pocket-sized Flip cameras, students are transformed into roaming journalists and are given the chance to report on various AME happenings.

At the end of the taping, McDonough and her technology-savvy students review the show to determine what could have been done differently and to note what went smoothly.

"I wish I had this when I was younger. It really gives students a chance to work together and learn skills they will need later on in life," said McDonough.

Many students who have participated in the AME morning news will continue to study television production in middle, high school and sometimes go on to receive a communications degree in college.

Soon, you may flip on the nightly news and see one of AME's own graduates reporting the news.

• *Editor's note: Kimberly Kuizon, a product of AME, is a 2009 graduate in telecommunications from the University of Florida.*



Getting the shot

Brianna Connelly gets her shot ready before the AME Morning Show cameras roll.

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Elizabeth Ann Caudill

April 30, 1933 - January 10, 2010



ELIZABETHANN CAUDILL, of Palm Coast, FL passed away at Florida Hospital Oceanside in Ormond Beach, FL on January 10, 2010. Ann was born at home in Rockwell, NC on April 30, 1933, the youngest of five siblings.

Ann was married to John Thomas Caudill in August 1948. From 1950 to 1964 Ann lived in North Carolina and Florida where she gave birth to seven children, six sons and one daughter. Ann and her family moved to Virginia in 1964. Ann will always be remembered as a devoted homemaker and mother to her children and husband.

During her time in Virginia, Ann was tireless in her support of her children as the consummate "Soccer Mom". Because of her kids love for sports, she became a #1 Redskins Fan to enjoy and share the things they loved with them. In the neighborhood, her house was the one where the kids congregated; and parents always knew their children were safe when Ann was watching over. In her last years in Virginia, Ann worked for Everhart Jewelers and sought to become a certified gemologist.

Ann retired to Florida in 1980 and lived there until moving out West to Palm Springs, CA in 1997 and onto Lake Havasu City, AZ in 1999. Ann lived in Lake Havasu from 1999 until 2005 when she returned to Florida to live out her life with her daughter Vickie.

Ann completed her high school and college education training in Florida. She was an avid lover of birds and could be found most mornings sitting by the window watching for her favorite Cardinals and enjoying a "hot" cup of coffee. A woman steadfast in her faith and belief in God and Jesus Christ, she was always the first to pray for a friend or family member in need. She was selfless throughout her life, always the first to give all she had to friends, family and charity.

Ann overcame many medical struggles in her life that would have kept many down. She did it with her spirit, her determination and always with a beautiful smile on her face. She was truly an inspiration to that "never give up" attitude. Tough as they come, but soft and loving through and through, everyone she met simply "loved" Mom. It's no wonder we all became instant friends. She will be sincerely missed by her many friends and family members, who cared dearly for her.

A memorial service to celebrate Ann's life will be held Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 1:00 pm at the Celebration Christian Church, 1011 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.

In lieu of flowers and other remembrances, the family suggests that donations be made to the National Audubon Society.

Ann preceded in passing by her daughter Vickie; and her brothers: Craig & LT. Ann is survived by her husband, Tom; six sons and their spouses: Tommy and his wife Karen, Mike and his wife Peggy, Chuck and his wife Dara, Don and his wife Barbara, Joey and his friend Debby and Brad and his friend Mandy; two sisters and their families: Frances and her husband Frank and Betty; five grandchildren and their spouses: Sarah and her husband Josh, Ali her fiancé Jesse, Mickey, Emily and Liam; and, one great grandchild: Zoe. Ann is also survived by many loving relatives and their families, including aunts, uncles, cousins and the families and friends of her nieces, nephews and in-laws.

AME MENU

Monday, Jan. 25

Breakfast: Frenchtoast Sticks, Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Toast

Lunch: Chicken Nuggets, Breaded Beef Patty with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Garden Salad, Peaches.

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Breakfast: Chicken Patty on Biscuit, Yogurt, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Breaded Chicken on Bun, Grilled Cheese, Baked Curly Fries, Steamed Broccoli, Peaches.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

Breakfast: Choice of "Jump Start" selection, Super Donut, Cereal, Bagel.

Lunch: Chicken Tenders, Hashbrown Sticks, Clodhoppers, Fresh Fruit Cup, assorted salads and sandwiches.

Thursday, Jan. 28

Breakfast: Cheese Omelet with Hashbrown, Grits, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Student Planned.

Friday, Jan. 29

Breakfast: Breakfast Buritto, Bagel, Cereal, Toast

Lunch: Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Grilled Chicken on Bun, Fresh Veggie Cup with Dip, Corn, Homemade Apple Crisp.

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Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

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Together we'll go far

Dolphin Dash: A running success

By: Kimberly Kuizon
Islander Reporter

Runners of all ages woke up early Jan. 16 to participate in the fourth annual Dolphin Dash 5k race and 1-mile fun run.

"I really think after the fourth year this race is catching on. We've had more students from Anna Maria Elementary School and others participate this year," said race organizer Becky Walter.

The overcast weather along with breezy conditions, was at least warmer than the prior two weeks, and didn't stop anyone from running, jogging or walking.

At 8 a.m. runners took off from the AME parking lot and made their way to Holmes Boulevard and the turn-around point at 75th Street, then ran back to the finish line at AME.

For those who didn't want to run the 5k race, a 1-mile fun run started off at 9 a.m.

More than 130 people pre-registered for the event and some 40 additional runners registered the day of the race.

"Last night I kept getting text messages until late at night from people telling me they wanted to sign up for the race," Walters said.

"I really am proud of everyone and of the turn out we've had, but we couldn't do it without the Holmes Beach Police Department, the Bradenton Runners Club or all of our great sponsors," Walter said.

And for AME students who are interested in pursuing their running pastime, Walter will hold tryouts for the school track team later during this month for third-, fourth- and fifth-graders.

For more information on the AME track team, call Walter at 941-383-9675 or e-mail her at rkblackburn@comcast.net.



On your mark
Runners get ready at the starting line of the fourth annual Dolphin Dash. *Islander Photos: Courtesy Carla Kuizon*

Taking off
Close to 200 runners participate in the Dolphin Dash. Runners braved overcast skies and windy running conditions.

Science fair info night Jan. 28

A science fair information meeting will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 28, for parents of fourth- and fifth-graders. The one-hour meeting will focus on project planning.

Science fair poster boards will be sold at a reduced price of \$4 at the meeting. Supplies and materials for projects also will be offered.

A presentation will outline the steps of the scientific method to parents, and sample projects will be displayed for students and parents to view.

For more information, call the AME administrative office at 941-708-5525.

WINNERS:
Look for the complete list of Dolphin Dash winners online at www.islander.org.



Becky Walter, Dolphin Dash organizer, hands out medals to the top runners.



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Obituaries

Elizabeth Ann Caudill

Elizabeth Ann Caudill, 76, of Palm Coast, Fla., died Jan. 10.

Mrs. Caudill was born in Rockwell, N.C., the youngest of five siblings. She married John Thomas Caudill in August 1948. From 1950 to 1964, the family lived in North Carolina and Florida and they moved to Virginia in 1964. Ann was a devoted homemaker, mother and wife. She was tireless in her support of her children as the consummate "Soccer Mom." She was an avid Washington Redskins fan. Ann completed her high school and college education training in Florida. She worked for Everhart Jewelers in Virginia and sought to become a certified gemologist. She retired to Florida in 1980, moved to Palm Springs, Calif., in 1997 and then Lake Havasu City, Ariz., in 1999 where she lived until 2005 when she returned to Florida to live with daughter Vickie.



Caudill

A memorial service to celebrate Ann's life was held Jan. 16 at Celebration Christian Church, 1011 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach. The family suggests donations be made to the National Audubon Society.

Mrs. Caudill is survived by husband Tom; six sons and their spouses: Tommy and wife Karen, Mike and wife Peggy, Sarah and Mickey, Chuck and wife Dara, Don and wife Barbara, Joey and friend Debby and Brad and his friend, Mandy; two sisters and their families: Frances and husband Frank and Betty; five grandchildren and spouses: Sarah and husband Josh, Ali and fiance Jesse, Mickey, Emily and Liam; and one great-grandchild, Zoe. Ann is also survived by many loving relatives and their families, including aunts, uncles, cousins and the families and friends of her nieces, nephews and in-laws.

Kathleen J. Newman

Kathleen J. Newman, 61, of Bradenton, died Jan. 9. Born in Siren, Wis., Mrs. Newman moved to Bradenton in 1969 from Minneapolis. She was owner and operator of Newman's Daycare in Bradenton for 20 years and served clients from Anna Maria Island.

A service was held Jan. 13 at Griffith-Cline Funeral Home, 720 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton. Arrangements were by Griffith-Cline Funeral Home.

Survivors include her husband, Charles Stanley Newman; sons Steven Quinehan and Brian Quinehan; daughters Collette Quinehan, Koltier Ryan and Kolleen Young; brothers Tommy Townsend and Johnny Townsend; and five grandchildren.

Thomas Dent Thomas

Thomas "Tommy" Dent Thomas, 78, of Fort Worth, Texas, and Anna Maria Island, died Jan. 13.

Mr. Thomas, also known as "TD," was born in Brownsville, Texas. He graduated from H.B. Plant High School, Tampa, where he met his wife, Gay Gutierrez. He was a loving husband to Gay for 54 years. Together they raised two children, Cindy and Jimmy, the light of their lives.

Mr. Thomas lived and worked on the family ranch in Santa Fe, N.M., where he was involved in local rodeos as a bull rider. He was a member of the National Guard in Tampa, participated in Boy Scout activities and was awarded the Honorary Order of the Arrow. He was a journeyman electrician, a home-builder and a pilot. He retired in 1999 from Wichita Falls Energy Company.

A funeral was held Jan. 23 in Greenwood, Texas. Greenwood Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to St. Bernard Catholic Church, 48 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217.

Survivors include wife Gay; daughter Cindy Griffin and husband Greg; three grandchildren, Allen, Jim and Christina; brother Robert L. Thomas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Donald W. Record

Donald W. Record, 86, Holmes Beach, died Jan. 15.

Mr. Record was born in Walpole, N.H. He was raised in Brattleboro, Vt., and was a 1940 graduate of Brattleboro High School. He served as a submariner, chief yeoman and radar man with the U.S. Navy during World War II in the Panama Canal Zone and in the Pacific Ocean. He served on the U.S.S. S-17 and the U.S.S. Batfish submarines and several surface ships. He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Medal, Submarine Combat Insignia with one star, the WWII Victory Medal, European African Middle Eastern Medal, and many other medals and citations.



Record

Mr. Record worked with the Brattleboro Reformer as a linotype operator. He worked most of his life in Brattleboro where he started out raising chickens. He built and owned three mobile home parks. He also was the owner of the former Hillwinds Farm in Brattleboro, a well known horse farm. While living in the York, Maine, area, he was known for converting a former church into the York Village Craft. Memberships included the Submarine Veterans of WWII, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Elks, and the York Beach Historical Society. He had homes in York, Honolulu, Brattleboro and Holmes Beach, where he lived for the past 20 years.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials may be made to Brattleboro Rescue Inc., P.O. Box 593, Brattleboro VT 05302. Condolences may be made at www.shannonfuneralhomes.com.

Mr. Record is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, June; son Douglas W. of Boynton Beach, Fla.; daughter Dianne and husband Dan Lantz of Bradenton; sister Madolyn R. Johnson of Brattleboro; four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

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ISLANDER CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 20

11 a.m. — Jan Skalny presents "The Nobel Prize: Concept, History and Politics" at the Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-359-4296.

Noon — Anna Maria Island Garden Club meets to discuss caring for houseplants at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

Thursday, Jan. 21

Noon — Fashion show and sing-a-long in the St. Bernard Catholic Church activity center, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-4769. Fee applies.

1 to 4 p.m. — AARP Safe Drive Course at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-776-1158. Fee applies.

8 p.m. — "Self Help" opens at the Island Players, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-5755.

8 p.m. — Original Octogenarian New Orleans Jazz Orchestra performs at the Longboat Key Education Center, 5370 Gulf of Mexico Drive, LBK. Information: Stan Levine, 941-778-4333.

Saturday, Jan. 23

10 a.m. to noon — Art demonstration by Paul Achre at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6648.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — The Island Communities for a Lifetime information expo at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908.

2 p.m. — Travel lecture by Tim Oldread on the Galapagos at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

Sunday, Jan. 24

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

Monday, Jan. 25

5:30 to 7 p.m. — Relay for Life January Jubilee celebration at the Star Fish Company, Market and Restaurant, 12306 46th Ave. W., Cortez. Information: 941-745-1214.

Tuesday, Jan. 26

10 a.m. — Women's Bible Study Group, 7 Leaps of Faith, meets



Appreciating the arts in Cortez

Guests enjoy the all-media Old Florida-themed art exhibit that opened Jan. 15 at the Florida Maritime Museum of Cortez and will run through Feb. 6. First place was awarded to Mariarose Rockefeller; second place to Sue Lynn Cotton and third place went to Donna Bednarz. The museum is at 4415 119th St. W., Cortez. Islander Photo: Nick Walter

at CrossPointe Fellowship, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-0719.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. — Former Washington correspondent James McCartney discusses America and the Middle East at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

5 to 7 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce business card exchange at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1541.

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.

• Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m., Irish Dancers host dances with instruc-

tion at the Tequila Beach Sports Grille, 7423 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-778-2416. Partners not required.

• Alternating Wednesdays, 11 a.m., memory loss support group at the Longboat Island Chapel Aging in Paradise Resource Center, 6200 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 941-383-6491.

• 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.

• Through Jan. 24, "Sugar Babies" at the Manatee Players, 102 Old Main St., Bradenton. Information: 941-748-5875. Fee applies. Information: 941-722-1639 or www.manateecountyfair.com. Fee applies.

• Through Jan. 24, Manatee County Fair, 1303 17th St. W., Palmetto.

• Through January, nature photography exhibit by Joe Fletcher at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6648.

• Through Jan. 30, "Beach Paths" exhibit at the Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1906.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE

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CALENDAR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

• Through January, photography and watercolor exhibit featuring Jo Anne Curtan at the Artists' Guild Gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Homes Beach. Information: 941-778-6694.

• Through January, "James Pay" all-media exhibit at the Anna Maria Island Art League, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-2099.

• Through Feb. 6, "Old Florida" themed exhibit at the Florida Maritime Museum of Cortez, 4415 119th St. W., Cortez. Information: 941-794-3310.

• Through Feb. 28, American Watercolor Society 142nd Annual Traveling Exhibition at ArtCenter Manatee, 209 Ninth St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-2862. Fee applies.

OFF-ISLAND EVENTS:

Thursday, Jan. 21

7 p.m. — Extraordinarily Human Film Series: How to Draw a Bunny at South Florida Museum 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131. Fee applies.

Friday, Jan. 22

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. — Home show at the Sarasota Bradenton International Convention Center, 8005 15th St. E., Sarasota. Information: 941-355-9161. Fee applies.

Saturday, Jan. 23

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. — Home show at the Sarasota Bradenton International Convention Center, 8005 15th St. E., Sarasota. Information: 941-355-9161. Fee applies.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — "Cruizin to the Hop" car show in the parking lot of the Sarasota Classic Car Museum, 5500 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Information: 941-355-6228.

2 p.m. — An afternoon with actor Kurt Sutton as Mark Twain at the Manatee Players, 102 Old Main St., Bradenton. Information: 941-748-5875. Fee applies.

Sunday, Jan. 24

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Home show at the Sarasota Bradenton International Convention Center, 8005 15th St. E., Sarasota. Information: 941-355-9161. Fee applies.

Coming Up:

• Jan. 28, Extraordinarily Human Film Series: The Endurance, South Florida Museum.

• Jan. 29, Miccosukee Art and Craft exhibit opens, South Florida Museum.

• Jan. 30, E-scrap collection at Coquina Beach.

• Jan. 30, Full moon wagon tour, Robinson Preserve.

• Jan. 31, Ecumenical service, CrossPointe Fellowship.

Save the date:

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

• Feb. 10, Save Our Seabirds "Valentine Love Birds Food and Wine Tasting."

• Feb. 11, Anna Maria Island Kiwanis "Sweetheart Dance."

• Feb. 14, Islander Promise Day, Cafe on the Beach.

• Feb. 13-14, Art and Craft Festival to benefit the Anna Maria Island Butterfly Garden.

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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Moose vote bans indoor smoking

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Full members of the Moose's Anna Maria Island Lodge No. 2188 voted Jan. 16 to ban smoking.

The vote was 165 to ban smoking, 52 to continue to allow smoking, according to Patrick Kane, governor of the lodge.

"We are a non-smoking establishment," he said.

The vote proved controversial, but not because the lodge went smoke-free at 8 a.m. Jan. 17.

Women members of the Bradenton Beach lodge who have auxiliary status were not allowed to vote.

Streetlife

Island police blotter

Anna Maria

No new reports.

Bradenton Beach

Jan. 13, 110 12th St. S., grand theft. A man was arrested on grand theft of \$300 or more, but less than \$5,000. The felony was committed at Gulf to Bay Moorings condos.

Jan. 15, 1600 Gulf Drive S., drugs. Juan Miguel Bravo, 23, of Bradenton, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and possession of paraphernalia.

Holmes Beach

Jan. 9, 5400 Marina Drive, theft. An officer was dispatched to the Sand & Suds laundromat. The co-owner said video surveillance showed a man with tan shorts, blue sweatshirt and white tennis shoes breaking into a vending machine on the wall.

Jan. 10, 505 74th St., burglary of a residence. An officer was dispatched to the residence, where the victim said she arrived Jan. 8 to find her house had been burglarized. Missing items included change from a tin can, a kitchen scale, and four syringes and needles used to treat diabetes.

Jan. 14, 404 Clark Drive, theft. An officer spoke with the victim, who said that her live-in boyfriend had stolen her debit card and about \$200 was missing from her account Jan. 12.

The victim was concerned her boyfriend would go to prison because of a prior fraud conviction. The victim signed a waiver of prosecution regarding all offenses. The victim's landlord planned to evict the suspect, according to the police report.



"I felt I was going back to the Suffragettes," said Moose member Olga Chupka, who, along with a number of other women, went to the lodge planning to vote Jan. 16.

She said a man inside the lodge told her and others, "Ladies, you may as well walk outside. You are not allowed to vote."

"We actually made a call to Moose International to check," Kane later told *The Islander*. "And they said, 'No, women are not members of the lodge.'"

Kane said that the women who join become members of the chapter, not the lodge.

Members at the lodge Jan. 16 said that distinction is spelled out in the membership application. But Chupka said it's a distinction that is discriminatory.

"I truly will not be a member anymore. When it comes to renewing, no way," she said.

For the record, Chupka said she would have voted to ban smoking.

Florida public health law — chapter 386 — generally bans indoor smoking "to protect people from the health hazards of secondhand tobacco smoke." But there are exceptions to the law. Membership associations such as the Moose also can be exempt.

Jan. 14, 3805 Gulf Drive, burglary of a vehicle. An officer responded a burglary report. The victim said he arrived at the Umbrella Resort Jan. 14 and, 10 minutes after entering an apartment, noticed his vehicle door open. The victim said he had left the doors unlocked. The missing property included a wallet with credit cards and a checkbook binder.

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Islanders help Hurricanes to second seed in district

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

Islanders Ally Titsworth and Erin Mulrine have helped the Manatee High School Hurricanes girls varsity soccer team to earn the No. 2 seed for the Class 5A District 10 tournament. The Hurricanes will kick off the semifinal game at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, against Naples Gulf Coast at MHS. A victory by the Hurricanes would advance them to the district final Friday, Jan. 22, against either Venice or Punta Gorda Charlotte, both also playing Jan. 20. If Venice wins, the Hurricanes would travel to Venice, but if Charlotte pulls off what would be an upset, the Hurricanes will host the championship game.

A semifinal victory also guarantees the Hurricanes a berth in the regional quarterfinals, putting them five wins from a state title.

Titsworth and Mulrine are a big part of the Hurricanes team, both having started every game they've played this season. Titsworth is second on the team with nine goals from her left midfield position. Mulrine starts at center mid and leads the team with 10 assists, while also chipping in five goals.

Leading scorer Cori Nolan who has 12 goals and four assists also has Island connections as her mom Trish Nolan grew up in Bradenton Beach.

Good luck girls!

Flag football action

The NFL Flag Football League is going strong at the Anna Maria Island Community Center. There are games being played every night in four age divisions including an adult coed league that plays Thursday nights. The adults have six teams playing and aside from a separated shoulder and a rolled ankle, the older "youngsters" seem to be holding up. Right now, the Raiders and Titans are on top of the adult division with 2-0 records with the Chiefs and Bengals right behind with a win and a loss each. The Lions and Cowboys (oh my) are winless, but the season is still young with lots of games left to play.

Mr. Bones Bengals and Ross Built Raiders are undefeated in 10-12 division as are Tortilla Beach Dolphins in the 8-9 division.

Speaking of the Dolphins, they frolicked past the Sandbar Saints in 8-9 division action Jan. 15. Dolphin quarterback Joey Stewart completed 5 of 7 passes for 114 yards and accounted for three touchdowns. Dylan Doyle had 111 receiving yards and a touchdown, while Ethan Bertrand and Ryan Doyle also crossed the goal line for the Fins.

The Saints were led by QB Andrew Proctor's 132 passing, running and receiving yards. Kurtin Green-Zelina added 72 yards of offense, including the lone touchdown for the Saints who also received 51 yards of offense from Leo Tilelli in the loss.

The second game of the evening was a 10-12 division game between Ross Built Raiders and Walter & Associates Titans. The Raiders pillaged the Titans to a tune of 44-6 behind a solid performance from QB Jack Shinn, who threw for 144 yards and scored



Ally Titsworth carries the ball forward during recent action against Bayshore High. *Islander Photo: Courtney Taylor*

a touchdown and a pair of two-point conversions. Jake Ross had 65 yards of total offense and scored a pair of touchdowns, while teammate Tyler Yavalar added 80 receiving yards and two touchdowns in the victory. The Raider defense, which held the Titans to six points, was led by Jack Shinn and Joey Cucci, who each had an interception.

Offensively the Titans were led by QB Keegan Murphy, who threw for 71 yards, while George Lardas had 35 receiving yards and a touchdown. Jacob Talucci, with 7 flag pulls, and Keegan Murphy with six led the defense in the loss.

Mr. Bones Bengals edged Mike Norman Falcons 26-18 in the second 10-12 division game of the evening. Logan Reiber led the way with 212 yards rushing and all four touchdowns. Chris Gunn and Ben Connors each added an extra point in the victory.

Seth Walter passed for 113 yards and Jake Parsons added 69 yards of total offense including a touchdown to lead the Falcons in the loss.

Sparks Steel Art Eagles flew past the Beach-House Cardinals 36-24 during 8-9 division action Jan. 13. Jack Mello ran for 130 yards and a touchdown, while Dylan Joseph added 96 receiving yards and a pair of touchdowns. Tori Walter chipped in with 53 yards rushing and a touchdown for the Eagles, which also got a 7-yard touchdown reception from Marlin Ellis. Joseph and Leo Rose both had strong defensive games with four flag pulls and an interception apiece.

The Cardinals received two touchdowns apiece from Tyler Pearson and Giampaolo Nicosia. Pearson ran for 97 yards and added 27 receiving yards. Nicosia ran for 56 yards for the Cardinals, which also received 94 yards rushing from Masen Blandford in the loss.

The second game of the evening was a 10-12 division battle of real estate offices with the Mike Norman Falcons taking on Island Real Estate Ravens. Norman came out on top with a narrow 7-0 victory thanks to a touchdown and the extra point from Jake

Parsons. Parsons finished with 53 yards of offense to lead the Falcons in victory. Seth Walter had a strong defensive game with five flag pulls and an interception, while Morgan Greig added six flag pulls in the shutout victory.

Josh Zawistoski ran for 81 yards to lead the Ravens, which also received 35 yards of offense from Brandon Blandford in the loss.

The last game Wednesday evening was a 13-16 division game that saw Lapensee Plumbing Ravens defeat the Anna Maria Oyster Bar Panthers 27-15. Tommy Price was 9-for-10 passing for 109 yards and added 77 receiving yards with a pair of touchdowns and an extra point. Chris Pate added 37 passing yards, 50 rushing yards and 69 receiving yards to go along with one touchdown. Hunter Parrish rounded out the offensive outburst for the Ravens with 91 yards of offense and a touchdown.

The Panthers were led by Jordan Grabski, who totaled 113 yards of offense and scored a two-point conversion while also contributing a pair of interceptions, one that he returned for a touchdown. Nicholas Peters added 60 yards of offense that included a touchdown and an extra point.

Flag football action Jan. 12 started with an 8-9 division barn-burner between Sparks Steel Art Falcons and Sand Bar Saints. The Saints edged the Eagles 20-19 on the strength of a two-point conversion from Joe Joe Rogers, who finished with 47 receiving yards. Michael Latimer provided most of the offense with 87 yards passing, 91 yards rushing and three touchdowns. Andrew Proctor added 130 yards of total offense to the Saints offense. Latimer also had a huge game on defense, finishing with nine flag pulls in the victory.

The Eagles were led by Jack Mello, who ran for 164 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Dylan Joseph added 66 yards of offense and one touchdown, while Marlin Ellis added an extra point in the loss. Leo Rose was strong on defense for the Eagles with seven

PLEASE SEE SPORTS, PAGE 26

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Anna Maria Island Tides

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Jan 20	2:04 1.4	2:50 1.6	8:22 0.0	9:09 0.3
Jan 21	3:00 1.2	3:20 1.7	8:47 0.2	10:16 0.1
Jan 22	4:12 1.0	3:56 1.8	9:11 0.5	11:33 0.0
Jan 23	6:03 0.8	4:39 1.9	9:30 0.7	—
Jan 24	5:32 2.0	—	12:54 -0.2	—
Jan 25	6:34 2.1	—	2:10 -0.4	—
Jan 26	7:42 2.2	—	3:14 -0.7	—
Jan 27	8:48 2.3	—	4:09 -0.9	—

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Snook freeze, officials extend season closure

By Nick Walter
Islander Reporter

State officials have extended the closed snook season statewide until Aug. 31.

The recreational harvest of snook had been open in April and March in the Gulf of Mexico, but the recent fish kill that had a particularly devastating effect on the local snook population prompted the extended closure.

Locally, there were numerous reports of belly-up snook in canals.

The FWC Jan. 15 also issued an executive order that prohibits the harvest and possession of bonefish and tarpon in all waters through March 31.

As water temperatures warm, many anglers are looking for an explosion of bites this week.

Fish that were lethargic and slow to bite during the freeze should feed heavily as they recover.

The best inshore species to target is sheepshead. The prison fish can be found over inshore docks, around bridge pilings and various rock piles. They primarily feed on crustaceans. Some anglers are known to scrape off barnacles from pilings and use them for bait. Barnacles can act as chum and bring sheepshead into a group.

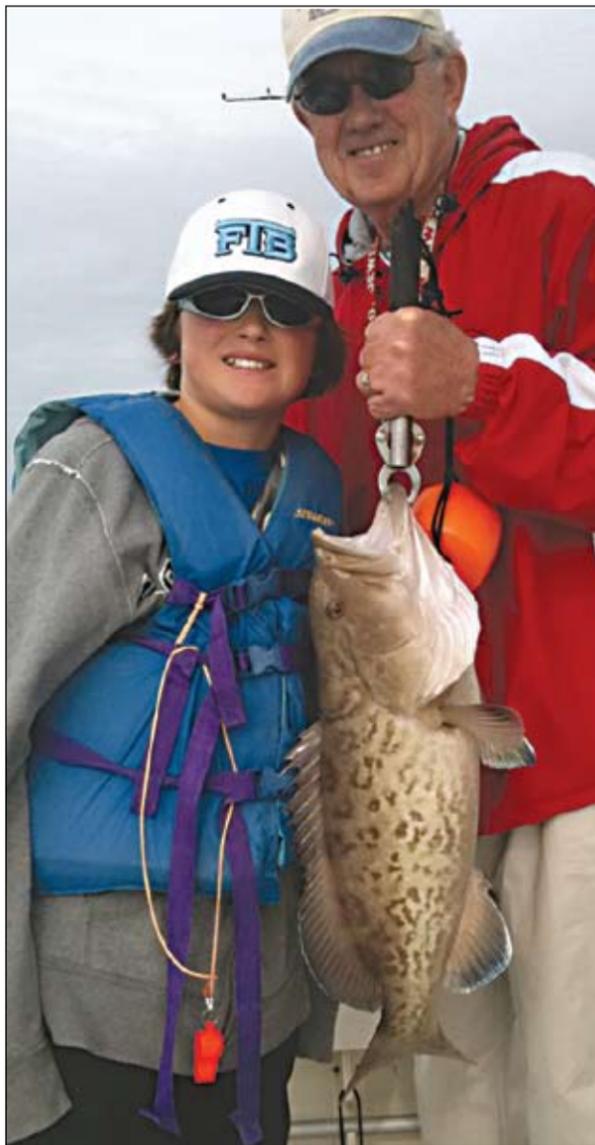
Always use small hooks, around a No. 4, when dealing with the small-mouth sheepshead.

Capt. Zach Zacharias of the **DEE JAY II** out of **Parrot Cove Marina** said as soon as the bad weather broke, with water temperatures barely breaking 50 degrees, fishing improved.

He reported redfish being particularly ready to eat. The reds were going after live shrimp and grub-tail jigs.

On Friday he said his charter could easily have caught and released 50 redfish, but his anglers got a little bored catching them and opted to leave. He said the reds were running between 14 and 22 inches and were bunched up under docks along with sheepshead, flounder and black drum. He said one trip produced some fat, sluggish trout that were found in deep water.

Zacharias reported the best action between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. during a major solunar period with good tides in various locations in north Sarasota Bay. He said they had no luck getting pompano to cooperate, but did see some in 5-7 feet of water drifting between Sister Keys and Tidy Island.



Gary Jewel, with grandson Tony, holding a 12-pound grouper caught trolling inside Tampa Bay with Capt. Marc Howard.

"If we continue to experience milder weather, it shouldn't take long for the pompano and trout to head back to open water," Zacharias said. "The Gulf reefs should start to give up good snapper, sheepshead, gray trout and flounder when the water clears a little more. There has always been a debate over why grouper show up fairly close to shore in the winter. Some claim they move in closer from deeper gulf water and others contend they are bay grouper that head out to the nearshore reefs and wrecks. I am beginning to be a believer in the latter scenario. Until the water warms substantially, you would be best served to sleep late and hit the water in the afternoon when the sun has had a chance to warm things up a bit."

Capt. Larry McGuire of **Show Me the Fish Charters** said he recently went out 35 miles offshore of Anna Maria Island, fishing in 120-130 feet of water for gag and red grouper, mangrove snapper and amberjack.

He said he was baiting with sand perch, grunts and big pinfish, and using jiggging spoons for amberjack. "They seemed to hit those better than live bait," McGuire said. "Sometimes they're finicky, sometimes they're hot. Some days they won't hit anything."

McGuire said that in cold water temperatures, the deeper an angler fishes the better. "And as it warms," he said, "start fishing in closer again."

Danny Stasny from **Island Discount Tackle** at **Catchers Marina** said he's been hearing about sheepshead along local docks and trout in deeper pot holes. "And when you do find the trout," Stasny said, "there will be a lot of them. What's kind of been the

deal is Berkley Gulps and live shrimp, working them with a slow presentation."

Stasny said he saw a couple schools of redfish last week, but he said the reds have been very spooky. "So you've got to find where they are, or expect where they're going to be and sneak up on them," he said. "Throw a bait like they're already there. The water is very clear so you can see them from far away. Be really slow and stealthy."

Stasny said offshore he's hearing about a good grouper bite between 20 to 30 miles. Most of the grouper he's hearing about are 25-30 inches long.

He added that there's a good porgy bite in the same areas. "You've got to get through the porgies before you can get to the gags," he said. "If you like fish stew or chowder, you can load up on porgies, which are great to eat."

Rocky Corby from **Anna Maria City Pier** said there's been an occasional sheepshead caught, but not much else. "There's nothing," Corby said. "I haven't even seen any dead fish floating. Not even sharks have been caught."

Tom Cassetty from **Rod & Reel Pier** said anglers were catching mostly black drum on oyster crabs and shrimp. A few sheepshead are around the pier as well. Cassetty said he expects a swarm of sheepshead around the pier by March, as well as some redfish.

Capt. Mark Howard of **Sumotime Charters** also predicts the fish will turn on as they recover from the freeze. He said to target redfish and sheepshead in deep water. "That's what I'm concentrating on," he said.

Capt. Warren Girle said he has been seeing a lot of dead pompano, snook and hundreds of dead mullet in various Longboat Key canals. "I wonder if someone netted them and threw them away," Girle said.

Girle reported catching redfish, black drum and sheepshead, and he expects the fishing to be on fire once the water warms.

"It's going to be a slow bite," Girle said. "So you've got to crawl the bait right in front of their nose."

Girle said he's seen a lot of snook just under the water surface, barely alive, apparently trying to get some sun. "A couple actually swam right up to the boat," Girle said. "They were just curious."

Capt. Steven Salgado of the **Compleat Angler** said if water temperatures rise, he expects the redfish bite to improve. But don't expect fishing to improve quickly, he said. "There's been so many days of abnormal winter," Salgado said. "We had really, really cold days for almost two weeks."

For sheepshead, Salgado recommends chumming with piece of shrimp and baiting with small pieces of shrimp on a No. 4 hook. He suggests looking for areas where a dark, grass flat drops onto a ledge. Fish the dark, shallow flat by the ledge, he said, "and wait for a good tide when the sun is at its peak. A good current keeps the water at a steady temperature."

He said anglers should forget fishing at dusk and dawn, and instead fish between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. when the water has had a chance to warm.

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



Patrick Niepokoj of Illinois with a redfish he caught on a recent charter with Capt. Mark Howard.

FISHING CHARTERS Capt. Warren Girle

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Island Biz

By Rick Catlin



Hayes tops in AMI real estate

Signature Sotheby's International Realty announced last week that **Terry Hayes** ended 2009 with sales in excess of \$12 million, making her the No. 1 real estate agent on Anna Maria Island.

Hayes' success is centered on exceptional customer service, said John van Zandt of Island Real Estate, who has worked with Hayes on prior occasions.

He said Hayes has always been a top agent, but in 2009, "She has seen the fruits of her labor pay off

big time. Whenever we have a transaction together, I know that on an agent-to-agent basis, it will be smooth and trouble-free."

Hayes credited her success with being aware "of every detail in the marketplace," and bringing a high level of enthusiasm, dedication and hard work to her



Hayes

profession.

She said she uses a comprehensive marketing plan with specific and measurable targets to both buyer and seller.

Hayes only takes listings that she knows will sell within a six-month time frame, and makes sure her initial listing price is within tight market ranges of recently sold properties.

She also brings a high level of integrity to every transaction.

"I always try very hard to do the right thing and take the high road," Hayes said.

To reach Terry Hayes, call 941-308-6495.

AMI Investor group meets bi-monthly

The **Anna Maria Island Investor's Support Group** is meeting twice every month during the winter season.

SPORTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

flag pulls.

The second game of the night was a 10-12 division game between Ross Built Raiders and Holy Cow Cowboys. Ross Built punched holes in the Cowboy defense, piling up 421 yards of offense in their 40-8 romp. Jake Ross ran for 74 yards and added 79 receiving yards and four touchdowns to lead the Raiders who also received 136 yards of offense and one touchdown from Jack Shinn. Emma Monuese added 33 receiving yards and a touchdown to round out the Raider offense. Tyler Yavalar had a pair of interceptions to lead the Raider defense that also received an interception and four flag pulls from Andrew Ross and six flag pulls from Shinn.

Burke McCampbell-Hill ran for 80 yards and added 73 receiving yards to go along with a touchdown and a two-point conversion to lead the Cowboy offense. QB Zach Stewart completed 9 of 15 passes for 117 yards to round out the Cowboy offense in the loss.

The last game Tuesday night was a 13-16 division battle that saw Anna Maria Oyster Bar Panthers edge Tapes Tennis Titans 37-34 behind QB Christian Hightower, who went 15-for-19 passing with 257 yards and five touchdowns. Jordan Grabski caught two TD passes and totaled 147 receiving yards to lead the passing parade that also saw Nicholas Peters add 72 receiving yards and three touchdowns. Richard Almodovar added 76 receiving yards and one touchdown in the victory.

Austin Ferrer passed for 193 yards, ran for 136 yards and scored two touchdowns to lead the Titans,

The group brings together high net-worth Islanders, vacationers and winter residents to share ideas about maximizing investments. Participants share their investment experiences during the meeting.

Dr. Larry Craft, director of the group, said the only requirement to attend is that no participant can be employed by a financial services company that markets stocks, bonds or funds.

The next meeting will be at 10 a.m., Friday, Jan. 22.

For more information or to register for the next meeting, call 941-778-0505.

IMG now owns golf club

IMG Academies in west Bradenton has acquired full ownership of the Conquistador Golf Club on 34th Street South in Bradenton and changed the name to IMG Golf & Country Club, an IMG press release said.

IMG had a partial stake in Conquistador and assumed full ownership on Dec. 31.

Some of the world's top golfers train at the semi-private golf club, including Paula Creamer, Sean O'Hair, Ty Tryon and Casey Wittenberg.

IMG Academies' chief financial officer **Chip McCarthy** said that acquiring full ownership confirms IMG's commitment to the club's success.

"We plan to do everything we can to help keep the club as one of the region's best," McCarthy said.

There will be no immediate changes in club rules or policy, but IMG will improve the course and facilities, he said.

For more information, call 941-751-1000.

Trolley advertising negotiations continue

Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce president **Mary Ann Brockman** said the chamber's board of directors is still considering a proposal from the Manatee County Area Transit for advertising and rates on the Island trolley.

"They presented us with a contract, but we were not entirely satisfied. Negotiations are continuing," Brockman said.

For more information on the advertising proposal, call 941-778-1541.

New chef at Sun House

Harry Lovejoy has been named the new head chef at the **Sun House Restaurant**, 111 Gulf Drive S., Bradenton Beach.

For information, call 941-782-1122.

which also received 82 receiving yards and two touchdowns from Max Miller. Kyle Parsons added 99 receiving yards that included one touchdown to round out the Titan offense.

Jan. 11 action saw Tortilla Bay Dolphins grab an 8-9 division victory over BeachHouse Cardinals by a 25-12 score. Ethan Bertrand had a nice all-around day with 94 rushing yards, 24 receiving yards and a touchdown on offense, while managing a team-high four flag pulls on defense. Dylan Doyle, Ryan Doyle and Trent Shackelford each added touchdowns, while QB Joey Stewart threw for 74 yards to round out the Dolphin offense.

The Cardinals received strong games from Masen Blandford, who rushed for 118 yards and a touchdown, while Tyler Pearson racked up 100 yards and a touchdown in the loss.

Mr. Bones Bengals edged Island Real Estate Ravens 26-24 in 10-12 division action Jan. 11. Both teams managed four touchdowns, but the Bengals received a two-point conversion from Chris Gunn to provide the winning margin. Logan Reiber did most of the damage for the Bengals, finishing with 97 yards rushing and three touchdowns. Jean-Paul Russo added 80 yards on the ground and Ben Connors scored a touchdown in the victory.

Josh Zawistoski had a huge day for the Ravens, completing 7-for-11 passes for 42 yards and running for another 117 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Ati Dattoli added 40 yards of offense and a touchdown and Harrison Franke came through with a short touchdown reception in the loss.

The last game Jan. 11 was a 13-16 division

Realty raves

Island Real Estate at 6101 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, has named **Gail Tutewiler** as its top listing agent for December, while **Alan Galletto** took the top sales agent award for the month.

To reach Gail or Alan, call 941-778-6066.

Got a new business going up? How about a new product or service, an anniversary, a new hire, 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.



Featured sale: This Palm Gables condo at 104 36th St., Holmes Beach, sold in June 2006 for \$1.9 million and in December 2009 for \$1.7 million, a decrease of 11 percent. Islander Photo: Jesse Brisson

Island real estate transactions

104 36th St., Unit 2, Palm Gables, Holmes Beach, a 1,819 sfla / 2,550 sfur 3bed/3½bath/1car Gulffront condo with shared pool built in 2006 was sold 12/31/09, Hunters Trace Investments Inc. to Clifford for \$1,700,000; list \$1,997,000.

102 39th St., Units 2, 4, 6, & 7, The Villa, Holmes Beach, four 1bed/1 bath units with shared pool built in 1950 were sold DNC Developments Inc. to Two Star Properties LLC for \$700,000. This sale is believed to not be an arm's length transaction.

203 Periwinkle Plaza, Anna Maria, a 1,857 sfla / 2,296 sfur 3bed/2bath/1car home built in 1957 on a 85x125 lot was sold 12/30/09, Johnson to Anibal for \$330,000; list \$399,000.

216 83rd St., Holmes Beach, a 1,582 sfla / 2,002 sfur 3bed/2bath/1car home with deeded boat slip was sold built in 1966 on a 81x100 lot was sold 12/31/09, Lambertson to De Haan for \$320,000; list \$349,000.

4200 Gulf Drive, Unit 103, Gulfsands, Holmes Beach, a 1,008 sfla / 1,104 sfur 2bed/2bath Gulfview condo with shared pool built in 1979 was sold 12/30/09, Priola to Kuda for \$315,000; list \$415,000.

game between Galati Yacht Sales Texans and Lapensee Plumbing Ravens. Both offenses managed four touchdowns, but the Texans' defense made the difference with three interceptions — two that were returned for touchdowns by Aaron Van Hook and Denver Hardy. Van Hook also scored two touchdowns on offense, while also running for 107 yards and adding 72 receiving yards. Luke Shackelford and Chris Galati each added touchdowns, while QB Daniel Doyle threw for 151 yards in the victory.

Tommy Price threw for 133 yards and three TD passes, while also adding a touchdown run to lead the Ravens in the loss. Chris Pate caught two TD passes to finish with 90 receiving yards and Alex Bernhard caught a seven-yard TD pass.

Go to www.islander.org for football schedules and standings.

Horseshoe news

The team of Bob Mason and Bruce Munro were the only team to emerge from pool play with the prerequisite three victories and were outright champs Jan. 9. Four teams then battled for the right to say they were second best. Gene Bobeldyke and Bob Lee cruised past Jay Disbrow and Wendell Alton 21-7 in the first semifinal. The second semifinal game was nip and tuck as Sam Samuels and Bruce Wagner edged Rod Bussey and John Johnson 21-19. Second place went to Bobeldyke and Lee as they cruised past Samuels and Wagner 21-12.

The Jan. 6 games saw the duo of Norm Good and Gene Bobeldyke grab the title outright with the only 3-0 pool-play record.

ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

ITEMS FOR SALE

RCA SIDE-BY-side refrigerator, \$75. Kenmore clothes washer, \$40. 941-779-1081.

TV: APEX 32-INCH. Color, excellent condition. \$75 or best offer. 941-778-6871.

ELECTRIC SCOOTER: X360 36-volt scooter, 12 mph, 15 miles per charge, \$100. Five-piece king bedroom set, \$100. 941-778-7908.

8-FOOT OVAL AREA rug, Wool, beige, color border, \$75. 941-778-6774.

FURNITURE: LOVESEAT, TWO recliners, dining set: glass top, four chairs, matching etagere, wicker etagere. 941-778-8243.

USED/ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS: A roomful. Essence of Time. 10015 Cortez Road W., Bradenton. 941-792-3545.

WHIRLPOOL WASHER, \$30, Frigidaire dryer, \$30 or best offers. 941-778-2415.

GLASS-TOP CANE coffee table, \$25. Glass-top cane end table, \$20. White rocking chair, \$25. 941-778-1915.

GOLDEN TECHNOLOGIES POWER-lift recliner, blue, \$450. Craftmatic twin power bed, new mattress, \$450. 941-778-7848.

BRIGHT STARTS 'TROPICAL Fun Around We Go' activity station. Like new. \$30. Fisher Price power wheels with charger, \$30. 941-795-8359.

DIGI-TECH 2112, studio guitar system, like new, \$200. 941-795-8359.

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.

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

THE ROTARY CLUB of Bradenton: Annual Comedy Night features "MICHAEL JR." at Mattison's Riverside, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6. The tickets are \$35 and proceeds benefit local college scholarships. Call 941-748-8087 for information and tickets.

WANTED: BUCKETS. DONATE clean five-gallon buckets with lid to ship to Haiti. Please drop at The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

TERRY HAYES, REALTOR. Signature Sothebys International. 941-302-3100. Terry.hayes@sothebysrealty.com. Discoverannamaria.com.

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

WANTED: FISHING GEAR: Anna Maria Privateers are collecting new or used, repairable fishing poles. Donate your gear at The Islander newspaper office, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

FREE GUN LOCK courtesy of Project Childsafe, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Holmes Beach Police Department. Free at The Islander newspaper office, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Don't be sorry, be safe.

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.

TRASH-TO-TREASURE sale: 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 23. Coffee and donuts. 3710 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Gulf Shore Park.

ALL PROCEEDS TO HAITI quake victims: Garage sale. 9 a. m. Sunday, Jan. 24. Everything from furniture to collectibles, donated from Edison Girl Scout and Brownie members. 210 Lakeview Drive, Anna Maria.

LOST and FOUND

LOST: LARGE KEY ring. Newport News Ship Building, hull #1 Dorothy key tag. 941-778-4502.

LOST and FOUND Continued

FOUND: GRAY BUNNY. Lop-eared, neutered male. Friendly. Found Jan. 7, 5300 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Taken to Bishop Animal Shelter, 941-792-2863.

FOUND CAT: HOLMES BEACH, Jan. 9. Gray, short hair, has thyroid and skin condition. 941-742-5933.

LOST WEDDING RING, near Publix, East Bay Drive, Holmes Beach. Reward. 941-778-7414.

LOST: WHITE, FEMALE Maltese, named Zoie. Wednesday, Cedar Avenue, Anna Maria. Reward for return. Please call Gary or Julie, 813-504-2022.

PETS

GOOFY SEEKS FAMILY: 1-year-old pomeranian, mixed gray, white, gold. Needs a good family. Chihuahua pups, too. All shots. \$100. 941-400-4815.

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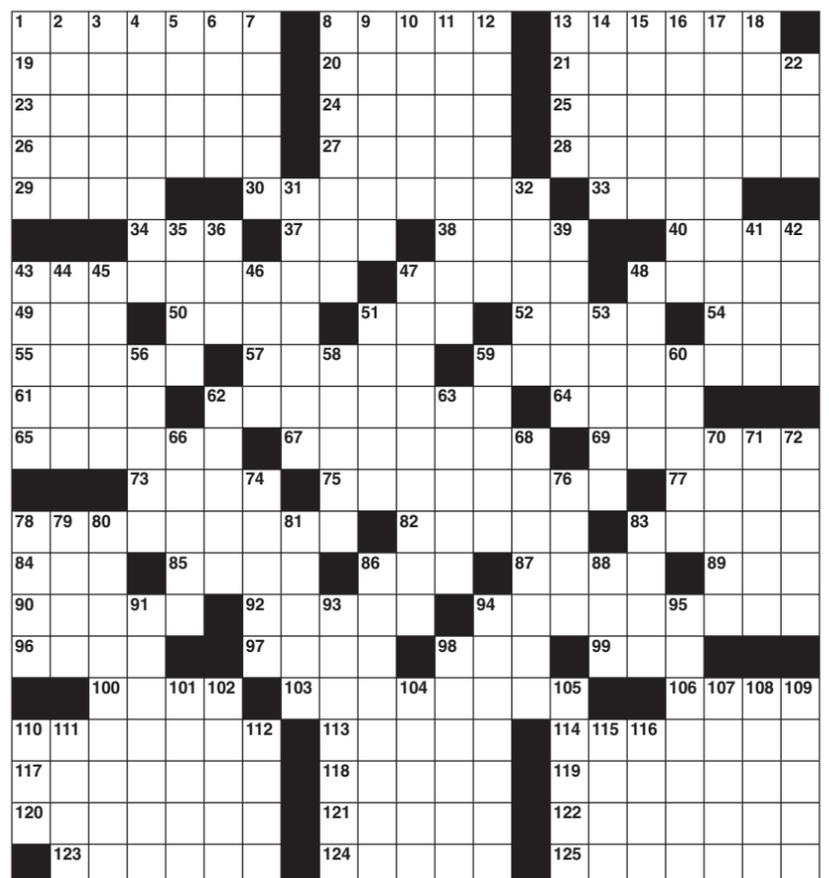
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New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

CROSS WORDS By Mel Rosen / Edited by Will Shortz

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Across | 51 Imminent alumni: Abbr. | 97 Is snug | 10 See 24-Across |
| 1 Super Bowl XIII and XIV winning player | 52 Thunderbird enthusiast? | 98 Relaxation site | 11 Coats with a protective oxide |
| 8 Turkish honchos | 54 ___ particle (electrically neutral meson) | 99 Certain therapy, commonly | 12 Less flustered |
| 13 Some beachwear | 55 With 45-Down, about 29 1/2 days | 100 Covers, as the earth | 13 Challenge for the wheelchair-bound |
| 19 Love, in a way | 57 Calvino who wrote "Mr. Palomar" | 103 Epicurus and Democritus, philosophically | 14 Chicago Bears coaching legend George |
| 20 River at Avignon | 59 Sped up, and how! | 106 German exclamations | 15 Split |
| 21 Posts on a wall, say | 61 Baltic land: Abbr. | 110 With 91-Down, hypertension control option | 16 See 28-Across |
| 23 Penn State campus site | 62 Passed without effect | 113 Old car similar to a Malibu | 17 In round figures |
| 24 With 10-Down, stopover | 64 Rocket head | 114 With 95-Down, meteorological post | 18 Koran chapter |
| 25 Hyundai model | 65 How something might be washed | 117 Record label of the Cars and the Doors | 22 Close one |
| 26 With 4-Down, alternative to free enterprise | 67 With 47-Down, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta | 118 With 104-Down, utility gauge | 31 Boo-boo |
| 27 Paris's ___ Rivoli | 69 Angry with | 119 Much Marcel Duchamp work | 32 Stomach sound |
| 28 With 16-Down, certain plate | 73 Pro follower | 120 In a smooth manner | 35 Gel made from seaweed |
| 29 Canadian gas brand | 75 "That Girl" girl | 121 Bikini blast, briefly | 36 "___ 'er there!" |
| 30 Picking up, as perfume | 77 "Othello" provocateur | 122 Ship out | 39 Pizza topping |
| 33 Unfermented grape juice | 78 Dulciana, for one | 123 Many perfumes | 41 Reply in "The Little Red Hen" |
| 34 Subway posting | 82 "Gigi" star | 124 "Darn it!" | 42 Annoying buzzer |
| 37 Magazine no. | 83 With 70-Down, skilled lawyer | 125 Craft | 43 Woman's name meaning "beautiful" |
| 38 Complete bomb on a test | 84 Conductance unit | Down | 44 Pin holders |
| 40 Telephoned | 85 Easter rabbits' needs? | 1 Potter professor Severus ___ | 45 See 55-Across |
| 43 "Help yourself!" | 86 ___ Plaines, Ill. | 2 Causeway fees | 46 Jannings of "The Last Command" |
| 47 President who took office in 1946 | 87 Sucker | 3 These, in Madrid | 47 See 67-Across |
| 48 Wyoming peak | 89 Tell tales | 4 See 26-Across | 48 The Belvedere ___ (Vatican sculpture) |
| 49 D.D.E.'s 1942 command | 90 Save for the future | 5 Fruitcake | 51 "McSorley's Bar" artist |
| 50 PIN requesters | 92 Nebraska natives | 6 Fish-loving bird | 53 The loop it's best to be out of |
| | 94 Portray | 7 Interprets | 56 Nogales "now" |
| | 96 Leader of a musical "gang" | 8 Place for a cup holder | 58 "That's ___!" |
| | | 9 Grave robbers | 59 Monastery resident |
| | | | 60 Unnerving, perhaps |
| | | | 62 ___ Bobbin of the Oz books |

Answers found on page 28.



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 63 "Aunt ___ Cope Book" | 80 Nod off | 95 See 114-Across | 109 Some Madrileñas: Abbr. |
| 66 Lustful | 81 Ancient Rome's port | 98 Most urgent | 110 These, in Oise |
| 68 Tending to wash out | 83 "The jeans that built America" | 101 Chicago Bears coaching legend Mike | 111 Ending with over or cover |
| 70 See 83-Across | 86 Uninhabited | 102 Crabbed | 112 Baseball great who's Bonds's godfather |
| 71 "From the top!" | 88 Post- opposite | 104 See 118-Across | 115 Organic compound |
| 72 Landlord's sign | 91 See 110-Across | 105 Festoons | 116 Advocate: Abbr. |
| 74 Tasted, biblically | 93 Paul Anka or Dan Aykroyd, by birth | 107 Action film staple | |
| 76 ___ to one's neck | 94 They might have springs | 108 Old "Tonight Show" starter | |
| 78 Trans-Siberian Railroad stop | | | |
| 79 -stat starter | | | |

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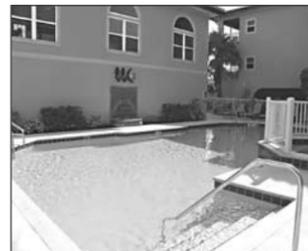
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Islanders offer prayers, donations to Haiti

By Lisa Neff

Islander Reporter

The Rev. Jean Woody Louis' phone rang every few minutes Jan. 14, but the early-morning callers brought no news of the priest's family in Haiti.

"No clues," said the priest at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Holmes Beach.

"My dad, my brothers and sisters and cousins, everyone is there," Louis said that morning, two days after an earthquake of 7.0 magnitude hit the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The epicenter was about 10 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, home to an estimated 3 million people.

"I have tried all the means to reach them. And no clues. It is very difficult," Louis said.

But later that day, he did receive word from Haiti — good news that his relatives survived, though homes were destroyed.

Still, Louis remained concerned for the people of his homeland, which he last visited in November.

"It's something we cannot imagine," said Louis, assigned to the Anna Maria Island church about a year ago. "The country is in ruin. And the lives of the people. It is so very difficult..."

While Louis worried about friends and family in Haiti, a former St. Bernard priest, the Rev. Jean Ronald Joseph, was in Haiti when the earthquake struck.

For two days, St. Bernard parishioners and Joseph's friends on the Island worried about Joseph, and those at the Haitian orphanage he supports through the nonprofit, Bradenton-based Ministry of Presence.

Many Islanders called *Islander* newspaper publisher Bonner Joy, a close friend of Joseph, for news.

On Jan. 14, Joy received a one-minute call from Joseph, who traveled about two hours to telephone. The priest's message was he's "OK."

But his native country is in ruins.

For those in Haiti, Louis and St. Bernard parishioners gathered to pray Jan. 14. People also gathered at other Island



Money for disaster relief in Haiti is collected at the Bridge Street Market in Bradenton Beach Jan. 16. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

churches.

"The churches are in prayer," said Nancy Ambrose of All Island Denominations, the coalition of Island churches. "That is a very powerful thing right there. There are all kinds of prayers going up from the Island churches."

In addition to the prayers, Islanders rallied to send money and supplies to Haiti.

Ambrose, who coordinates the Historic Bridge Street Merchants Association's Bridge Street Market in Bradenton Beach, put out a collection jar for donations to relief efforts at the Jan. 16 market.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island board committed an initial \$3,000 to relief efforts, including committing \$1,000 for boxes from ShelterBox USA, which is based in Lakewood Ranch.

Each box contains a tent, sleeping mats, blankets, water-purification kits, rope, netting, tools, a cooking stove, eating utensils and ponchos.

"We're doing everything we can to ensure immediate aid reaches the people of Haiti," said ShelterBox general manager Lasse Petersen. "The process of getting our team on the ground is well

under way."

In addition to sending ShelterBoxes, the Rotary club last week was collecting donations for relief efforts at its Web site, www.annamariarotary.org.

Local Girl Scouts — members of Troops 583 and 316 — were collecting supplies, including canned goods, bottled water, blankets, clothes and toiletries.

"Even one can of food or a bag of rice helps," said Girl Scout leader Laurie Higgins, who can be reached at 941-778-8312.

Additionally, the Teen Scene at the Anna Maria Island Community Center was collecting supplies, especially toiletries, as part of the People4thePeople campaign.

Youth also were helping at school. The Manatee County School District, which has about 660 students of Haitian descent, started a Hope for Haiti campaign, encouraging students and staff to raise money for the International Red Cross relief efforts.

The International Red Cross, as of Jan. 14, had committed \$10 million to relief, and deployed disaster specialists from Peru, Mexico and the United States

to Haiti.

The organization established a quick method for people to donate to the cause, allowing mobile donors to contribute \$10 by texting "Haiti" to 90999. Donations also were being collected at www.flwestcoastredcross.org.

"I encourage people to contribute to the International Red Cross," Louis said. "And to our Catholic Charities and also the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince."

Monsignor Joseph Serge Miot, the archbishop of Port-au-Prince who died in the quake, was Louis' professor of philosophy. And, because Louis still belongs to the diocese in Haiti, Miot also was his bishop.

The Diocese of Venice, which includes Catholic churches in Manatee County, took up collections Jan. 16-17.

"Many people in the Diocese of Venice are worried about the loss of both family members and friends who are in Haiti," Bishop Frank J. Dewane said in a statement.

Businesses also mobilized to help with the relief effort.

The Chiles Restaurant Group, which has a dozen Haitian staff members, was planning to send supplies to Haiti.

And *The Islander*, working with the restaurant group, was planning a long-term campaign to collect goods — canned food, rice and beans, powdered milk and juice — and cash donations for relief, especially the Ministry of Presence.

The Islander, as well as the Girl Scouts, hope to encourage a piggy-bank campaign by individuals and businesses putting out donation jars, including at the newspaper office, 5404 Marina Drive, and people donating, like from their piggy banks, Joy said.

"Money," said Joy, "is most needed."

"Father Ron," she added, "is there [in Haiti], making a caldron of soup to take to the hospital in Del Mar, where they are treating people with most limited resources.... If you know of a man, or priest, who can turn a nickel into a dollar, and do the most with it, that man is Father Ron."



Clockwise from top left, driving into Port-au-Prince; families live along a barrier wall; orphans in Leogane; entering downtown Port-au-Prince. A story and more photos can be found online from my May 2009 trip to Haiti with Barbara Sato.

— Bonner Joy