

# The Anna Maria Islander

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**Island Wedding Festival held.**  
Page 9

## Skimming the news ...

Sidewalk discussion on track in Holmes Beach. Page 3

Government calendar: Meetings of interest. Page 3



Anna Maria planning board approves PAR site plan. Page 4

Countywide business tax pitched. Page 5



Op/ed: The Islander opinion, your opinion. Page 6

## Island happenings

Events, announcements. Pages 10-13



Need to get around: The Islander Island map. Page 16-17

Gangs force police to increase Island presence. Page 20

## Streetlife

Island police blotter. Page 21

## ISLANDER CALENDAR

Much to do in March. Page 22

Sports: Playoffs to begin for flag football. Page 24

## Island Biz

Sailing school certified. Page 26

# Island tourism surged in January

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

Yes. It is a good season. Anna Maria Island tourism climbed more than 15 percent in January, compared with the same month in 2009.

Occupancy of Island accommodations for January 2010 hit 51 percent, compared with 44.2 percent in January 2009, a 15.4 percent jump, according to the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau's latest report.

That marked the fifth consecutive month that occupancy of Island accommodations increased over the same month the prior year.

Occupancy of all units in the BACVB area



Beachgoers crowd the sand at Manatee Public Beach. Islander File Photo: Rick Catlin

for January 2010, however, was down slightly. Overall occupancy was reported at 53.6 percent against 54.3 percent for January 2009.

The slight drop could be attributed to

occupancy on Longboat Key, which fell from 63.9 percent in January 2009 to 49.5 percent for January 2010, a 22.5 percent decrease.

Mainland occupancy was at 59.5 percent for January 2010, down 2.6 percent against occupancy for January 2009.

The 51 percent occupancy-rate marks the third consecutive January that occupancy of Island accommodations has increased. From 30.4 percent occupancy in January 2007, Island occupancy has climbed 67 percent to its current 51 percent January 2010 level.

While Island tourism was increasing in January, the average daily rate showed only a slight rise from the rate in January 2009.

The BACVB reported the Island's January occupancy rate. PLEASE SEE TOURISM, NEXT PAGE

## Crescent Drive Bridge closed for repair

Construction crews for the Florida Department of Transportation last week closed the Crescent Drive humpback bridge to vehicle traffic while repairs are under way. Once repairs are completed and the bridge reopens, crews will begin work on the North Bay Boulevard bridge. The projects should be completed by summer 2010, the DOT has said.

Islander Photo: Rick Catlin



# Feds look at nest destruction

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Federal wildlife officers are investigating the Feb. 14 destruction of a heron nest at Kingfish Boat Ramp.

Two juvenile great blue herons were injured and one young heron died in the incident.

Wildlife Inc. of Bradenton Beach has been rehabilitating the injured birds.

"The two surviving herons are doing fine, eating like pigs," said Wildlife's Gail Straight.

The organization also was working with Florida Fish and Wildlife law enforcement officers looking into the destruction of the nest.

FWC did not comment on the case until Feb. 22, when it reported that the investigation was being handled by federal authorities.

"The FWC investigation into the destruction of a heron nest at the Kingfish Boat Ramp has been turned over ... the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," said Gary Morse of FWC. "In situations where we turn the investigation over to USFWS, FWC makes no comment until the case is resolved by USFWS."

Morse added, "We generally don't turn things over to the feds unless there is some indication that a violation of federal law may have taken place."

Residents near the county-operated boat ramp discovered the nest early Feb. 14 and alerted Wildlife Inc., as well as local law enforcement. PLEASE SEE NEST, NEXT PAGE



A young heron is rescued Feb. 14. Islander File Photo: Margaret Kelley

# Investigation targets Byrne's money transfers

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Tampa has filed an adversarial proceeding against

the live-in girlfriend of former Anna Maria Island real estate developer Robert Byrne, claiming she received money from Byrne that should have gone to him, and possibly the court.

Court trustee Angela Welch Esposito, who represents the estate in Byrne's personal bankruptcy proceeding, filed the complaint Feb. 23 against Kimberly Jeschke of Chicago.

The case involves a condo at 333 W. Hubbard St. in Chicago that Byrne purchased through a trust he owns.

Esposito alleges that Byrne bought the condo in 2005 for \$1.175 million, then sold it for \$1.1 million. PLEASE SEE BYRNE, NEXT PAGE



Byrne



*Damon Hurd, a volunteer for Wildlife Inc., removes a pair of injured herons from the downed nest at Kingfish Boat Ramp. Islander Photo: Margaret Kelley*

**NEST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

enforcement officers. City and county officials also responded that day to the boat ramp, where it was determined that the nest likely was destroyed during the cutting of an Australian pine tree.

That weekend, a tree-cutting service had cut two Australian pines, part of work to repair the seawall at the boat ramp, according to county spokesman Nick Azzara.

The county had contracted with Wood Dock and Seawall of Cortez for the work, which subcontracted the tree-cutting job to Mike Burton's Dependable Tree Service of Palmetto.

The nest was found at the base of one of the trees, with the three juvenile herons nestled inside.

Later, after the rescue of the birds, Wildlife Inc.'s Ed Straight said he saw a lone great blue heron in the area, perhaps the birds' mother.

Straight also said the herons, like many other birds, are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

A violation of the act is a misdemeanor that can result in a \$15,000 fine and a six-month prison sentence.

**BYRNE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

the property March 16, 2006, for \$1.275 million.

He allegedly transferred the proceeds of the sale — \$105,000 — to Jeschke, described by Esposito as Byrne's girlfriend, and told the court he received "nothing of value" from Jeschke for the transfer.

The transfer was within two years of Byrne's bankruptcy petition and Byrne was required to file that transfer with the bankruptcy court.

At his March 2008 bankruptcy hearing, Byrne told the court about the sale and transfer, but said the condo was "held in a land trust so my wife couldn't get at it." He said he gave the sale proceeds to Jeschke because she was part-owner of the trust, but Esposito said documents reveal Byrne is the sole owner of the trust.

Byrne was living in Holmes Beach at that time and was married to Arlene Byrne. The couple has since divorced.

Esposito alleges that Jeschke invested the \$105,000 in her condo at 1000 Washington Blvd., Chicago, and, with the transfer funds from Byrne, paid off her mortgage.

Esposito claims the \$105,000 transfer by Byrne was fraudulent and a fair portion, if not all, should have gone to him and been reported to the trustee. Esposito has asked the court for an undetermined amount of money from Jeschke.

Esposito also noted that within a few days of a December 2009 court order freezing \$1.6 million in assets allegedly belonging to Robert and Arlene Byrne on the Isle of Man, Jeschke put the condo up for sale.

Byrne made the transfer "with the actual intent to delay or defraud" anyone he owed money to at the time of the transfer, or in the future, according to Esposito.

Jeschke was not part of the trust, was "not a good faith transferee," and Byrne should have received the value of the transfer, said Esposito.

Byrne and former business partner Steve Noriega, through their company GSR Development LLC, at one time owned substantial amounts of Island real

estate and had several development projects planned, including the Villa Rosa gated community in Anna Maria and the Rosa del Mar condominium project in Bradenton Beach.

The projects were not built and GSR went into bankruptcy in July 2006. Byrne was forced into personal bankruptcy in October 2007.

Several months after his bankruptcy petition was filed, Byrne declared to the court he had no income and only \$500 in his bank account.

The court subsequently found \$1.6 million in the Isle of Man, along with funds in other accounts in the Cook Islands and Tanzania.

Byrne reportedly owes nearly \$5 million to unsecured creditors of GSR, including debts to Island residents Kent Davis and Mel and Carolee Yudofsky.

Jeschke, at one time an employee of Southwest Airlines according to a Facebook page, wrote on the same page in 2008 that she and Robert planned to get married and live in New Mexico.

Court documents indicate Byrne and Jeschke live together in Chicago.

**TOURISM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

ary 2010 average daily rate was \$142.65, a .9 percent increase from the January 2009 average daily rate of \$141.58.

Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce president Mary Ann Brockman confirmed that tourism to the Island has been on the upswing.

"We were extremely busy in January, and I haven't had any member complain it's been slow," Brockman said.

Indeed. The chamber reported in January there were 3,672 walk-ins to the office on Gulf Drive, along with 1,024 telephone calls from people requesting information about the Island.

In addition, Brockman said, "We had 1,160 people in the United States and 42 from Canada who told us they had reservations on the Island this season and needed a guide and information booklet. That kept us pretty busy," she said.

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# Sidewalk discussion on track in Holmes Beach

By Nick Walter  
Islander Reporter

Discussions continued last week to extend sidewalks from the north and south ends of Manatee Avenue to Gulf Drive in Holmes Beach.

Holmes Beach City Commissioner David Zaccagnino, superintendent of public works Joe Duennes, two Manatee County engineers and Manatee County Commission Chair Joe McClash met on the sidewalk of Manatee Avenue Feb. 22 to discuss the project.

For more than two years, Zaccagnino has been pushing to connect a sidewalk on Manatee Avenue from the west end of Kingfish Boat Ramp to Gulf Drive, a roughly 950-foot extension. Currently, there is little separating that path of grass on Manatee Avenue from what many use as a pedestrian path.

"The main reason is for safety and convenience," Zaccagnino said.

But the plan also would extend the sidewalk on the southern side of Manatee Avenue alongside Regions Bank about 250 feet to Gulf Drive.

Duennes estimated the cost of construction for a sidewalk extension on the south side of Manatee Avenue to be \$25,000-\$30,000.

For the north side, which is on Florida Department of Transportation property, Duennes said the DOT initially considered the area to be wetlands, and so the county was considering building a sidewalk with a railing, an estimated \$250,000 project. But, Duennes added, during the Feb. 22 site meeting, the five discussed the possibility of an 8-foot-wide combined bicycle-pedestrian path. "Which would be much less expensive than \$250,000," Duennes said.

County engineers will make a design drawing of the project and present it to the DOT for consid-



Cars park along Manatee Avenue where sidewalks are proposed.

eration. Duennes said funding is unknown, although the county could apply for stimulus funds to support the project.

Duennes said the biggest challenge will be DOT permitting.

McClash said that in the design drawing, the northern pathway would be similar to the existing one along the Kingfish Boat Ramp, with a sidewalk and curb.

"I think the cost would be affordable," McClash said.

McClash added there could be leftover money from the city's project that will beautify the intersection of East Bay Drive and Manatee Avenue. The beautification is slated to include 209 foxtail trees, 42 Alexander palms, 96 beach sunflower plants, a crape myrtle tree and a mulch tree.

The \$697,000 project includes new traffic signals.

## Meetings

### Anna Maria City

- March 4, 6 p.m., joint city commission-planning and zoning board meeting.
  - March 8, 5 p.m., code enforcement board meeting.
  - March 10, 6:30 p.m., EEC meeting.
  - March 11, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
  - March 24, 6 p.m., city commission meeting on permit fees.
  - March 25, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
- Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, 941-708-6130, [www.cityofannamaria.com](http://www.cityofannamaria.com).

### Bradenton Beach

- March 4, 1 p.m., pier team meeting.
  - March 4, 1:30 p.m., Web-site team meeting.
  - March 4, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
  - March 9, 1 p.m., budget orientation meeting.
  - March 16, 1 p.m., community redevelopment agency meeting.
  - March 16, 4 p.m., charter review committee meeting.
  - March 18, 1 p.m., city commission meeting.
  - March 23, 4 p.m., charter review committee meeting.
  - March 30, 4 p.m., charter review committee meeting.
- Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 941-778-1005, [www.cityofbradentonbeach.org](http://www.cityofbradentonbeach.org).

### Holmes Beach

- March 3, 5 p.m., parks and beautification committee meeting.
  - March 9, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
  - March 18, 10 a.m. code enforcement meeting. CANCELED
  - March 23, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
- Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 941-708-5800, [www.holmesbeachfl.org](http://www.holmesbeachfl.org).

### West Manatee Fire Rescue District

- March 18, 6 p.m., district commission meeting.
- WMFR Station No. 1, 6001 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, 941-741-3900.

### Of Interest

- March 14, daylight saving time begins.
  - March 15, 2:30 p.m., Island Transportation Planning Organization meeting, Holmes Beach City Hall.
  - March 16, 9 a.m., Manatee County Board of Commissioners meeting, county administration building, Bradenton.
  - March 17, 2 p.m., Barrier Island Elected Officials meeting, Bradenton Beach City Hall.
  - March 17 is St. Patrick's Day.
  - March 22, 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](mailto:lisaneff@islander.org).

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# AM P&Z approves controversial site plan

By Rick Catlin

Islander Reporter

Anna Maria's planning and zoning board at a Feb. 23 public hearing narrowly approved Pine Avenue Restoration LLC's site plan for 216 Pine Ave., but the controversial decision may face a legal challenge.

The 4-3 vote came after nearly four hours of testimony and opinions on the plan, and with board members split evenly, the deciding vote came down to that of newly elected P&Z chairman Randall Stover. Stover voted to approve of the plan.

Stover said his decision was difficult because, in his opinion, the city's comprehensive plan and land-development regulations are unclear on the issue of density in the retail-office-residential district. Additionally, the city's traffic circulation ordinance needs amending, he said.

Frank Pytel, Jim Conoly and Margaret Jenkins voted against the plan, while Mike Yetter, Sandy Mattick and Bob Barlow voted for the project.

Mattick said the board had to make a decision based on the evidence presented, not personal opinions or a legal challenge.

Indeed, a request for an administrative review of the city's density computation in the ROR district was filed in February with the Florida Department of Community Affairs by Anna Maria residents and developers Robert and Nicole Hunt. The Hunts have claimed the city method violates the comp plan.

Mattick said that PAR assumes all the risk if it builds 216 Pine Ave. and a court later determines that the city's method of computing density was incorrect.

PAR could be ordered to tear down its project, she said.

Dye agreed, citing a case on Florida's east coast about 10 years ago in which a developer built a \$30 million condo project, despite an ongoing legal objection. The petitioners won their case and the developer was ordered by a state court to tear down the entire complex.

PAR's site plan calls for one building on two lots. The structures are joined by a covered walkway. Each building will have two floors of occupied space, with retail on the ground level and a residential unit on the second story. Fourteen parking spaces are included in the plan, along with a fence at the rear of the property.

One building will be 1,243 square feet, while the second will encompass 1,765 square feet. Swimming pools are included in the plan.

## Compliance, density

City attorney Jim Dye, planner Alan Garrett and building official Bob Welch agreed the 216 Pine Ave. site plan complies with existing codes and the comp plan as they interpret it, but indicated changes to the comp plan and LDRs are needed.

The comp plan indicates density in the residential district is configured on a lot-by-lot basis, but is silent on such calculations in the ROR. The plan does state that mixed-use development should be encouraged in the ROR.

Pytel argued unsuccessfully that density for 216 Pine Ave. should be calculated on a lot-by-lot basis because the project will have residences.

Dye has opined previously that the city's method of computing density in the ROR by dividing gross



## Lack of sunshine?

Planning and zoning board chair Randall Stover, seated left, and board members Frank Pytel and Margaret Jenkins discuss the PAR project during a five-minute intermission at the board's Feb. 23 public hearing, despite the fact that the public could not hear their conversation. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

## Board members cautioned

During a five-minute recess at the Feb. 23 Anna Maria Planning and Zoning Board public hearing on a site plan for 216 Pine Ave., board members Margaret Jenkins, Frank Pytel and Randall Stover discussed the application while on the dais, but out of range of the public.

City Commission Chairman John Quam approached the trio during recess and cautioned them about discussing the site plan outside of the public hearing.

After the hearing resumed, Jenkins apologized for talking with the other board members while the hearing was in recess. She said she was unclear about parking on the site plan and asked the other two members for an explanation.

"I didn't think it mattered," Jenkins said.

Dye later in the meeting questioned each board member as to whether they had received other information about the 216 Pine Ave. site plan from a member of the public or the applicant. Each board member said no, none other than what was presented to them during the open meeting or by city staff for the meeting.

had to reach a decision at the public hearing, even if it was to deny the applicant.

Four city commissioners, all but Harry Stoltzfus, who has lobbied against the project, attended the hearing.

Dye has said that calculating density in the ROR on gross acreage divided by number of units is legal and the city has approved a number of other plans using that calculation.

Other board members and members of the public expressed concern with density and parking safety. Resident Larry Albert said the city's traffic circulation ordinance states that all parking must be on-site and there must be driveways for vehicles to enter and exit the property. The project has none of those, he said, and should be denied.

Mike Coleman of PAR pledged to voluntarily modify the parking at 216 Pine Ave. to comply with a Pine Avenue Corridor master parking plan, if one is adopted.

Prior to the start of the hearing, and after the meeting officially opened, Stover made a brief presentation on a master parking plan for Pine Avenue. The master plan will be given to the city commission for review and input, he said.

## Contingencies

The board did make contingencies to go with its approval.

PAR is required to add a sidewalk on the North Shore Drive side of the project and to rearrange parking in that area. PAR must also call its units "residences," not "apartments," and build a connecting sidewalk from the parking areas to the retail shops.

The P&Z decision to approve the site plan is not reviewable by the city commission.

Several years ago, the commission agreed to give site-plan approval to the board, although an amendment to the site plan procedures is under way to return approval to the commission.

acreage by the number of lots with structures complies with the comp plan.

He said the 50-by-100-foot lots at 216 Pine Ave., which were platted around World War I, were grandfathered by the city commission several years ago as buildable.

## P&Z's decision

Pytel wanted the city commission to make the final decision on approval or denial of the plan, not the P&Z board. He said that board members are only appointed, while commissioners are elected. Dye, however, said that under the city charter, the board

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# Countywide business tax pitched to Island cities

By Nick Walter  
Islander Reporter

In order to develop an outreach program to bolster businesses in Manatee County, John Rice of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council and county administrator Ed Hunzeker are proposing a \$35 annual tax on county businesses.

Rice and Hunzeker presented their ideas to Holmes Beach city commissioners to get feedback at their Feb. 23 meeting at city hall.

The county attorney will draft an ordinance before the first of two readings by the board of county commissioners March 16. If the board approves the ordinance, Hunzeker said revenue for the proposed outreach program could be available in October 2011.

The reason for the outreach program, Rice said, is to create jobs. He said Florida's unemployment rate is 3 percentage points higher than the national average, and Manatee County's rate is 2 percentage points higher than the state average.

He said the outreach program could allow EDC representatives to interview and recruit businesses nationwide.

Hunzeker said the annual business tax would last five years. "After five years," Hunzeker said, "we figure out if we want to keep doing it or not."

Hunzeker said that if the county could collect \$700,000, it would have funds for business outreach programs similar to surrounding governments in Sarasota, Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

The Holmes Beach commission, however, has yet to endorse the idea.

Commissioner Al Robinson asked Hunzeker if small businesses should be taxed the same as big businesses. "I have two rentals," Robinson said. "Should I be taxed the same as Tropicana or Waste Management?"

Hunzeker said he did not want to divide fees into

hundreds of categories based on the size of a business because that would require additional management.

Commissioner David Zaccagnino said he supports the tax, but added that the city is a donor community for the Tourist Development Council, the school district and the state. "It seems that in this, again, we're going to be another donor community for this," he said. "I like where this is going, but I want to make sure there's equilibrium and we're not just being preyed upon for another fee going off the Island with us not getting reciprocation."

Commissioner John Monetti said that because the city's business is based on tourism, an outreach program to bring in businesses would not generate much return to the city.

"There would be additional revenue coming into the city," Hunzeker told Monetti. "If we create jobs in the community that create business opportunities, then that raises the overall economic wherewithal of

residents in the community."

Mayor Rich Bohnenberger said the city would not be getting back significant revenue, and told Hunzeker that an ordinance must clearly define a "business."

In other business, the commission approved a contract between the city and Piedroba Marina Construction at the same rate as last year — \$40.24 per cubic yard — to dredge the channel between North Harbor Drive and South Harbor Drive.

Bohnenberger said it will be the final major dredging project this year for the city.

The commission also agreed with a committee selection of three firms for engineering services on a continuing basis: Lynn Townsend & Associates; Kisinger Campo & Associates Corp. and HSW Engineering.

The next city commission meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive.



## Re-route to Anna Maria

Construction crews for the Florida Department of Transportation last week closed the Crescent Drive humpback bridge to vehicle traffic while repairs are under way. Access remains via alternate routes while the work is under way. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

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# Our Opinion

## An Island blessing

At a time when tourism at other Florida destinations is off 10-20 percent, visitors to Anna Maria Island have increased the past year.

Island accommodation owners and managers last spring and summer reported record or near-record numbers of visitor bookings. Restaurants have enjoyed a brisk business, while retail stores, jewelry and gift shops, appear to also be enjoying a good trade.

Reading the doom and gloom about tourism in Orlando and Miami, it's strange to observe the contrast on AMI.

Where are all these visitors coming from?

Some experts credit an element no longer found on other Florida barrier islands: AMI's old Florida charm.

And that charm is vital to the Island wedding trade.

The growth of the Island wedding business has contributed much to the Island's economic success the past two years — and we owe much of the thanks to our own photographer Jack Elka, who coined the phrase "Beach Wedding Capital of Florida" and launched the first wedding festival.

According to those who book Island weddings, about 700 weddings took place on the Island in 2009, compared with about 150 several years ago. And the average wedding party puts \$25,000 into our Island economy.

Do the math. That's \$17.5 million into Island coffers.

And that's new money for the market.

Another hit comes from all the newlyweds returning for anniversaries and their friends planning vacations here.

There are some locals who worry that tourism is ruining the Island — especially partying crowds.

That's a valid concern, but those who plan weddings say they're not booking wild partiers — they don't seek them and try to discourage that activity.

The fact is, the Island is marketed to the type of people that have the discretionary income to afford an Anna Maria Island wedding — and bring some manners along on the trip.

Anna Maria Island has become a destination for peace and serenity, white-sand beaches, natural beauty, celebratory sunsets and beach weddings.

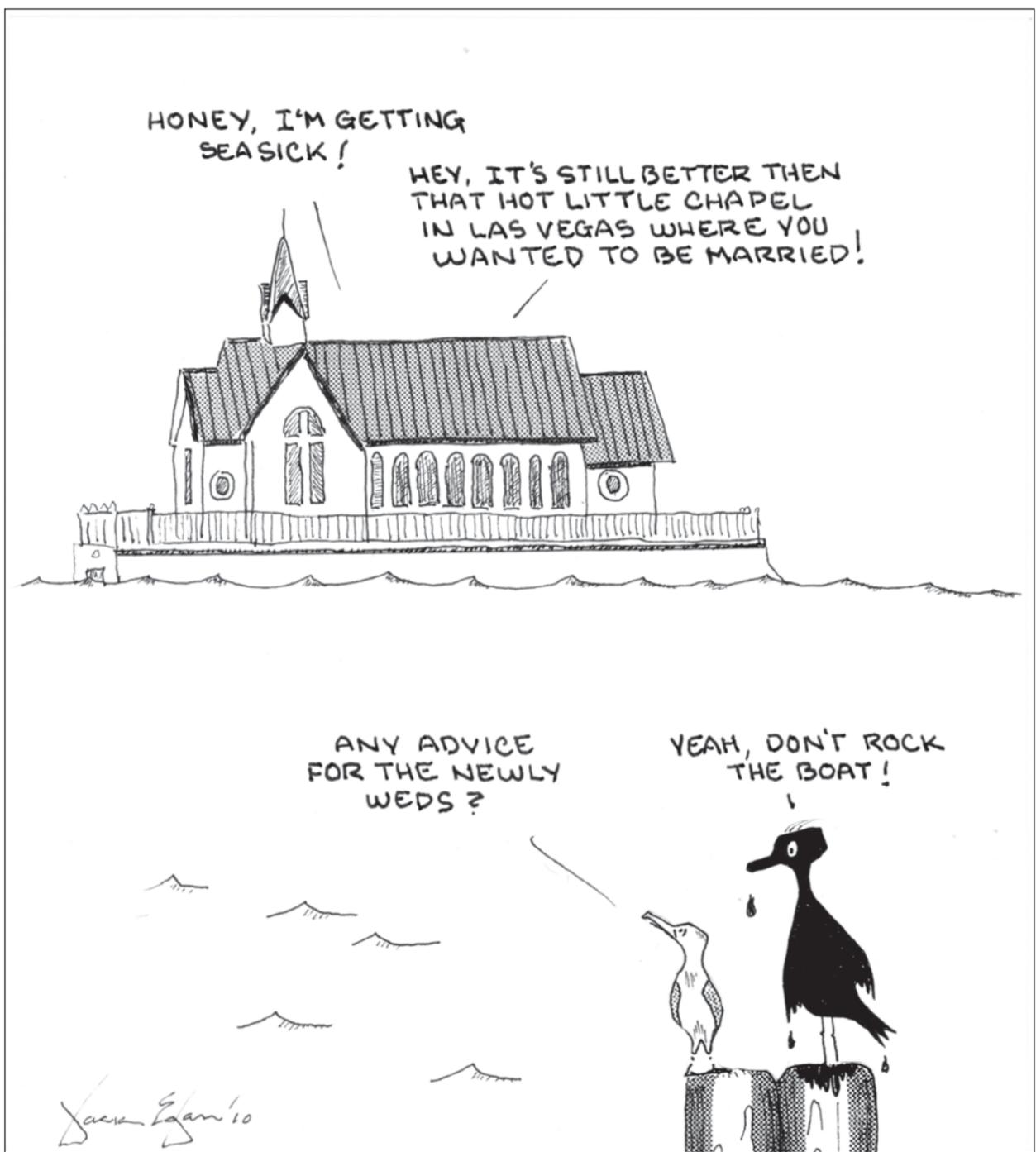
Thankfully, wise heads have prevailed to ensure this paradise will remain as it is for many years to come.

There's nothing wrong with sharing our paradise with people who respect its values and amenities.

The wedding industry has been a blessing to the Island economy during some difficult times for the area, state and nation the past several years.

A wedding is a romantic adventure, so, please don't discourage — or discount — love.

We can all love Anna Maria.



Slick

By Egan

# Your Opinion

## Taxing issue

As an owner of a small business on Anna Maria Island let me review some rules and taxes of Manatee County. Not a large business, just one rental apartment, but very significant in my life.

First, it is just possible that collectively the small apartment owners offer more tourist rooms than all the motels on the Island. I mention this because taxes have made it impossible for a small apartment business to clear a profit and that should concern all county officials tracking available beds for our tourists.

Second, county rules are very strict. Businesses cannot be homesteaded, enjoying the 3 percent tax cap, and homesteaded properties cannot be rented for any period of time.

Third, we are told the proposed \$35 business tax is needed to collect revenue to fund a marketing and recruitment campaign to bring new businesses to our area. Well here are the recent tax increases that I can recall: 5 cents per gallon gasoline in 2007; 25 percent increase in the resort tax for total of 11.5 percent resort and sales tax; license fee of \$26.25.

Good for business?

Attract new business?

Do the proponents of the \$35 business tax think I can pass the increases to the tourists? Forget it. It just does not happen. Rates are kept low in order to be competitive and attract tourists.

So, where does it end? We have to pay bills. And to the official who said "the tax is the same for everyone, large and small," my question is: You think that is fair?

The 25 percent resort tax increase applied only to room and apartment rentals.

Restaurant owners escaped that one.

And my recollection is that the resort tax increase was for a new roof on the convention center.

Run your operations like you do your own home — prioritize and live within your means.

The practice of hitting on others for money must stop.

Bill Hahn, Holmes Beach

## More trash talk

Trash containers on the street, it looks awful. It's the renter's fault. It's the rental agent's fault.

As a full-time resident I abhor the trash/recycle containers on the street almost all week. But the real problem is not who puts it out, it is how often we have to put it out. Four times a week we need to put one container or another out. That is ridiculous.

Even in Manhattan, N.Y., where I lived for 20-plus years, with tons of trash and millions of people, trash is picked up twice a week.

So it seems to me that the problem is in the contract the Holmes Beach City Commission agreed to with Waste Management. In order to reduce WM costs, they can cut down on the number of trips — read employees — for each area.

Maybe I am wrong, but this is what it seems like. It is unsightly, and, to a degree, maybe even unhealthy, to have the trash out almost all the time. At our home we put our trash out, and our small container is hardly ever full, once a week, our recyclables once a week and yard waste about every three weeks.

The almost constant sights of trash containers on the street looks terrible.

We need to reconsider the contract.

Al Ames, Holmes Beach

## Click!

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

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# Your Opinion

## Developer speaks out on development rights

No person shall ... nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

The case of the city versus Island Inc.-Beach Development Inc. is nothing more than the city taking land for "public use" without paying for it. I seriously doubt anyone who owned land and had it taken away without remuneration would feel any different than I do.

In the 1980s — and there are no preserved records — the city decided to create a public beach without paying for it and rezoned the beach portion of my land (and others) preservation. Their method was to "preserve" beach sands.

Why were only four pieces of property rezoned? Can anyone tell me what is different about my beach sands and other vacant beach properties? I did not know that God made beach sands that followed property lines. Why not the entire beach for the length of the city?

Arbitrary because they could?

When researching for the purchase of this land, I was given a letter from the city called a "no exception" letter allowing me to build on the property. I used that letter and obtained all the required permits from the state of Florida to construct four units.

The building official made a mistake, and the city is not responsible for that?

My property was taxed as R-3 land up until I filed suit against the city. That's right, the city and the county collected the taxes based on the higher use of the vacant property for at least 10 years — not the rate for what they considered preserved land or for how they rezoned it. The difference is a \$20,000 R-3

annual tax bill versus \$500 preservation tax bill.

I sure didn't hear them complain about collecting ill-gotten income and neither did they try to make it right. They illegally collected taxes on my land for years.

When my property (with others) was taken, the two lots to the south were already developed to the fullest density. The property to the north and south were partially developed. All had sea walls and the ability to fully develop their property with all the density on the bay side of the road and have, in fact, done so.

My bay side property, however, was largely mangrove land. Anyone who looks at Bermuda Bay would understand that we used every square inch of land available to us. I entirely preserved the environmental portion of our bayside land and received a letter of support from the state of Florida for doing so. We were not able to use all the density available to us from the bayside, much less from the beach side of the road. We even had to obtain a special exception for parking to build what we did.

In short, the city took my beach land for the "public use," clearly an unconstitutional taking. They paid me not one dime for the land.

There is much more to this story, something the news media should dig into. It is interesting how this city seems to not be able to find records. Even the tapes from the final public hearing didn't seem to come out.

I sincerely hope that other property owners never have their property taken from them by their government, neighbors and fellow citizens. I really wonder how they would feel in my shoes?

The truth will always win out over government tyranny!

Reed W. Mapes, Bradenton Beach

# The Islander 10 years ago

## In the March 1, 2000, issue of The Islander, headlines announced:

- The Anna Maria city pier was to reopen March 6, nearly four months after then-Mayor Chuck Shumard declared the facility unsafe and closed it to the public. The reopening came just a few weeks after the city commission approved emergency repairs for the structure, including the restaurant and rest rooms.

- Two referendums were on the ballot for the March 14 general election in Holmes Beach, in addition to the election of two city commissioners. The first referendum dealt with lengthening the term of office for commissioners from two years to four years, while the second would push the city's general election cycle from March to the first Tuesday in November to coincide with county, state and federal election dates.

- Anna Maria Mayor Gary Deffenbaugh removed Phil Charnock as the city's public works director. Charnock, however, retained his position as the city's building official. Charnock had come under fire following his mid-1999 arrest for brandishing a firearm during a road rage incident on the Manatee County approach to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

### TEMPS AND DROPS ON AMI

Date	Low	High	Rainfall
Feb. 21	49	75	0
Feb. 22	60	73	0
Feb. 23	56	76	0
Feb. 24	51	72	0
Feb. 25	41	56	0
Feb. 26	35	60	0
Feb. 27	39	58	0

Average Gulf water temperature 63°  
24-hour rainfall accumulation with reading at approximately 5 p.m. daily.

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# The Islander

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## Cumber's appeal lacks support

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Lawyers for a former Islander returned to prison for violating probation on an arson conviction dispute his reasons for appealing his sentence.

William J. Cumber, formerly of Anna Maria, was sent back to prison in May 2009 to serve a 13.5-year sentence for violating probation on a 2006 arson conviction.



Cumber

Cumber admitted to violating probation, but said there were mitigating circumstances that should result in leniency in his sentencing.

The events that drove him to violate probation — to be caught in another county behind the wheel of a truck without a valid license — are directly linked to the investigation into missing Haley's Motel-owner Sabine Musil-Buehler, according to Cumber.

Cumber was Musil-Buehler's boyfriend in November 2008, when she was reported missing. He provided authorities with her last known whereabouts. He said the two of them were in their rented apartment on Magnolia Avenue in Anna Maria Nov. 4, 2008, when they argued and she left.

As authorities investigated her disappearance as a likely homicide and the arson fire that destroyed a building at the motel complex in late 2008, Cumber was repeatedly questioned and, eventually identified as a person of interest in the cases.

Cumber said he despaired. He lost work, lost friends, lost his apartment and eventually, he told the court last year, he felt compelled to leave the area.

Cumber was arrested Dec. 22, 2008, near Ocala in Marion County. He was driving a pickup truck with an expired tag and without a valid license. He served 10 days in the Marion County jail before being transferred to the Manatee County jail to face a judge

on a charge that he violated probation by leaving the county without permission and for being arrested on a new offense.

Last spring, Cumber admitted to violating probation and was sentenced to 13.5 years in state prison.

Soon after, Cumber appealed the sentencing to the Second District Court of Appeals.

That process has moved slowly, but most recently Cumber's lawyers — public defenders James Marion Moorman and Richard P. Albertine Jr. — filed what is known as Anders brief, which basically indicates their position that the appeal lacks merit.

Cumber has asked for relief from the court on the grounds that his conviction was obtained by the unconstitutional failure of the prosecution to disclose evidence favorable to him, that the conviction violated the protection against double jeopardy and that the court lacked jurisdiction to impose the sentence.

Further, Cumber has alleged mental scare tactics, persuasion, neglect by his probation officer, opinionated prosecution, publicity swayed opinion, cruel and unusual punishment and improper counsel.

Regarding the last allegation, Cumber alleged, that his "lawyer didn't argue certain argumentative arguments that would of possibly helped the judge understand certain over-exaggerated circumstances presented by the prosecution."

But Cumber's defense attorneys in the case recently wrote to the appeals court, "Despite a thorough reading of the record on appeal and a review of the law on arguable points, the undersigned appellate counsel can find no meritorious argument to support the contention that the trial court committed significant reversible error in this case."

They recommended that if the appeals court finds a possibility of error in the lower court's actions, it should appoint other counsel for Cumber or allow the defense attorneys to file another brief on his behalf.

## County extends renourishment contract

Manatee County commissioners Feb. 23 extended for another year a beach renourishment contract with Coastal Planning and Engineering.

The Boca Raton-based company has been working under a contract with the county for engineering work on beach renourishment since 2004.

The original contract included an option to renew on an annual basis, and commissioners did so last week as the county prepares for major renourishment work in the coming years.

There are two Anna Maria Island projects in the near future — a renourishment of Coquina Beach, as well as an Islandwide renourishment.

The extended contract for engineering services will run from March 16 of this year to March 15, 2011.

"The services that Coastal Planning and Engineering provide are invaluable to the county and they have performed well above our expectations," said Charlie Hunsicker, director of the county natural resources department.

Hunsicker estimated about \$850,000 will be spent during the next contract period.

## HBPD to enforce Click It or Ticket

The Holmes Beach Police Department announced in a news release that it will intensify efforts to enforce seat-belt laws during the Click It or Ticket mobilization, which runs March 1-15.

The HBPD is joining with law enforcement agencies statewide to help save lives, the release said.

According to 2008 data from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, 2,983 people were killed in vehicle-related crashes. Of the deaths, 1,795 people were in vehicles with seat belts, and 1,085 were not wearing their seat belts.

The release also stated that 54 of 79 drivers under 17 were killed because they were not wearing safety belts.

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# Marriage made on Anna Maria Island



Sarah Howard models a strapless gown.



Justin Loehr shows his groom style at the Acqua Aveda fashion show.



The Island Wedding Festival Feb. 28, which drew 900 people, featured a fashion show outside the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce and Acqua Aveda salon in Holmes Beach and concluded with a mock sunset wedding at the Sandbar Restaurant in Anna Maria. In between, festivalgoers visited with about 80 wedding industry vendors. Islander Photos: Bonner Joy and Kimberly Kuizon



Center: Megan Briggs takes a turn on the bridal fashion show runway, a feature of the Anna Maria Island Wedding Festival. Above: Kathryn Alkire on the runway.

Casandra Maddox and Damian Eldridge check out pastries from Matt Schole of Matt & Dom's table at the wedding festival while they awaited the bridal fashion show. The couple plans to wed Nov. 5 at the Bayside Banquet Hall in Cortez.



Behind the scenes, Megan Briggs, Kathryn Alkire and Sarah Howard look over the gowns before the fashion show hosted by Acqua Aveda salon under a tent in the parking lot, where the adjoining event sponsor, the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, conducted registration. Another tent was filled with vendors, while limos and a private trolley awaited to carry participants to other venues.



Above: The pre-fashion show buffet includes fountains of punch for brides-to-be and their prospective grooms to sample. Right: The mock wedding ceremony at the Sandbar Restaurant at the end of the festival.



By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Here came the future brides — not all dressed in white, but dressed instead in blue jeans and T-shirts, capris and print tops.

Anna Maria Island hosted the third annual Island Wedding Festival Feb. 28.

Organizers said they wanted to help make holding a beach wedding a piece of cake.

They also wanted to encourage beach weddings to take place on Anna

Maria Island, a nicknamed the Beach Wedding Capital of Florida by Jack Elka — a name adopted by a coalition of wedding vendors known as the Anna Maria Island Wedding Network.

Even before the first bridal party climbed into a limo for a complimentary ride from Destination No. 1, the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, to Destination No. 2, festival registrants numbered more than 550.

The chamber, near the intersection of Gulf and Marina drives in Holmes

Beach, served as the festival headquarters, where an additional 350 people registered for a \$10 fee.

The registration was license to visit more than a dozen wedding venues on the Island and admission to a brunch, a fashion show at Acqua Aveda Salon and Spa and a sunset mock wedding at the Sandbar Restaurant.

Through the course of the seven-hour event, representatives with more than 70 businesses in the wedding industry — florists, DJs, churches, pho-

tographers, ministers, caterers, bakers, hoteliers, jewelers, dressmakers, stylists and wedding planners — engaged future brides and grooms, their attendants and their eager parents with promises.

Festivalgoers received complimentary limo and rented trolley rides from one venue to the next.

The festival culminated at 5 p.m. with the sunset celebration at the Sandbar Restaurant in Anna Maria, where more than \$10,000 in prizes were raffled, including an Island wedding package.



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# Island happenings

## Rotary bets on casino night

By Lisa Neff  
 Islander Reporter

The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island's major fundraiser will have a touch of Vegas and a taste of Italy.

The club's annual An Evening at Casino Royale will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, March 12, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

Tickets to the event were reduced this year to \$50 per person.

"We want people to be able to participate," said club member and communications coordinator Melissa Williams. "We really want people to come out."

The night will feature gaming, with gamblers wagering chips but not cash at the black jack, craps and roulette tables.

The night also will feature an open bar and food catered by Mazzaro Italian Market, the St. Petersburg shop that has made many "Best of" lists, including Tampa *Creative Loafing*, which proclaimed, "Mazzaro is our idea of heaven."

An Evening at Casino Royale also will feature music by DJ Chris Grumley, silent and live auctions and a spin of the Rotary Wheel.

The prize on the wheel will be a week's stay

in a house on the Florida Keys.

A week's stay at a home in Jamaica and a traveler's choice cruise are two of the items in the live auction and a variety of items will be offered in the silent auction.

Proceeds from the event benefit the club's charitable and volunteer work. In the past, casino nights have helped Rotary support the American Cancer Society, the Anna Maria Island Community Center, Anna Maria Elementary School, Anna Maria Island Community Chorus and Orchestra, Island Players, Our Daily Bread, Rotary Camp Florida and ShelterBox USA.

"This is our big fundraiser of the year," Williams said.

Club members will decide after the fundraiser how best to disperse the proceeds.

### Save the date

The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island's An Evening at Casino Royale is March 12 at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Holmes Beach.

For tickets, call Rosann and Tom Creed at 941-778-2636 or Judy Rup at 941-794-8044.

## Cub Scouts cook dinner

The local Cub Scouts Pack 7 will serve a spaghetti dinner from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

Dinner will be \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, and include spaghetti and meatballs, salad and bread sticks. Desserts will be offered for additional donations.

The evening will include a 6 p.m. performance by the Island Rockers, as well as an offering of door prizes.

Sponsors include *The Islander*, with prizes donated by Sato Real Estate, Betsy Hills Real Estate, Mr. Bones Barbecue, the Sandbar Restaurant, Holy Cow Ice Cream and Gift Shop, Lee Roy Selmon's, Jose's Real Cuban Food and Moore's Stone Crab Restaurant.

For tickets or more information call Robert Hicks at 941-737-2377.

## Demonstrations planned at IGW

The Island Gallery West will host a series of art demonstrations this month, including:

- March 6, watercolorist Dee Pastorius.
- March 13, acrylics painter Shirley Dean.
- March 20, watercolorist Anne Abgott.
- March 27, watercolorist Jean Ehlis.

The free demonstrations will take place at 10 a.m. at IGW, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

For more information, call 941-778-6648.

## Island Players ready next play

The Island Players next play, "Catch Me If You Can," opens Thursday, March 18, and continues through April 4.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. There are no performances Mondays.

Tickets to the comedy-mystery written by Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert can be purchased at the box office, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, beginning March 8. The box office will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, as well as an hour before curtain.

The last play of the 61st season, Neil Simon's "Prisoner of Second Avenue," is May 13-23.

For more information, call 941-778-5755.

## Mixon hosts festival

The Mixon Fruit Farms in east Bradenton will host the Orange Blossom Festival Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7.

The festival will feature children's activities, an arts and crafts fair, foods and beverages and a Christian rock band festival.

Other fruit farm events include the Concert in the Grove at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 11, and a health and business fair March from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 12.

The farm is at 2712 26th Ave. E, Bradenton.

For more information, visit www.mixon.com.



## Studio hosts Blackburn exhibit

A crowd gathers Feb. 23 at the Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, for a reception for Jean Blackburn's "Live Water." The exhibit of Blackburn's oil paintings and photographs continues at the Studio through March 11. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

# Island happenings

## Heritage Day celebrates Island past

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Betsy Smith will weave a story about the old days as she weaves palm fronds into fans, used long ago to swoosh away bugs and move the air on a wilder Anna Maria Island.

The Gulf Drive Band will play the notes and sing the lyrics of yesterdays, when the day-trippers bumped over a wooden bridge to spend a day at the beach.

And, at tables on the grounds of the Anna Maria Island Museum complex, collectors of antiques, memorabilia and odds and ends will remember old Florida.

The 19th annual Heritage Day Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6, at the museum complex, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

The celebration traditionally has taken place in Anna Maria in early March, a time first set aside by Manatee County officials who assigned each community a week to celebrate its history and heritage.

Admission to the festival is free. AMIHS raises money — about \$1,800 last year — with the sale of food and beverages and the leasing of space to vendors.

Festival coordinator Melissa Williams, a member of the AMIHS board, said more than two dozen vendors have applied to set up tables and tents at the event, including artists, craftspeople, antique dealers and non-profit representatives.

Additionally, the festival will feature tours of the museum and the historic cottage on the property; visits with Smith, who will demonstrate the skill of palm-frond weaving and music by the Gulf Drive Band, which will perform throughout the day. AMIHS has lined up several clowns to entertain and is expecting an invasion of pirates.

### LBK church to host fashion show

The annual Lord's Warehouse Fashion Show will take place at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Longboat Island Chapel fellowship hall, 6200 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key.

The event will include a luncheon, raffle, entertainment by harpist Caren Trayner and the "Fabulous Finds from the House of Fabulous Finds" fashion show.

Tickets will cost \$20.

For more information, call the chapel at 941-383-6491.



### AGAMI honors student

Ruth Burkhead, a founding member of the Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island, left, high school student Emily Beltran, 17, and art teacher Diane Rosenbarge. AGAMI is honoring Emily as its student of the month in March. Islander Photo: AGAMI



Betsy Smith shows her skill at weaving palm fronds, which were used as a cheap tool for conditioning the air and zapping bugs. Islander File Photo: Lisa Neff

"It's a family day," said Williams.

Tyler's Ice Cream and kettle corn will be for sale. Also, from the old open-air jail, AMIHS volunteers will sell boiled peanuts, water and "Jailhouse Dogs," which are grilled and steeped in beer. An AMIHS specialty, Settlers' Bread, also will be for sale.

### Affaire sponsorships sought

Organizers of an annual gala benefitting the Anna Maria Island Community Center are seeking sponsors.

An Affaire to Remember will take place Saturday, April 24, at the Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

The event will feature live music and a DJ, silent and live auctions, and dinner catered by Harry's Continental Kitchens of Longboat Key.

Organizers are now seeking sponsors for the fundraiser.

For sponsorship details, call Sharen Pittman at 941-778-0719, ext. 9203, or e-mail sharen.pittman@tampabay.rr.com.

### Longboat club to hold tour

The Longboat Key Garden Club will hold its 34th Home Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6.

The tour will feature six waterfront homes — 601 Weston Court, 701 Marbury Lane, 3550 Mistletoe Lane, 3521 Bayou Point, 3440 Gulf Of Mexico Drive and 4700 Gulf of Mexico Drive — and the Longboat Key Center for the Arts.

Admission will cost \$20.

For more information, call event chair Sarah Tate at 941-383-0117.

### Audubon offers scholarships

The Manatee County Audubon Society is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to local high school students planning to go to college to pursue careers in environmentalism, science or biology.

Audubon is seeking students planning to pursue "the protection of birds, wildlife and the environment as a career."

Applications — and details — can be found on the Web at [www.manateeaudubon.org](http://www.manateeaudubon.org).



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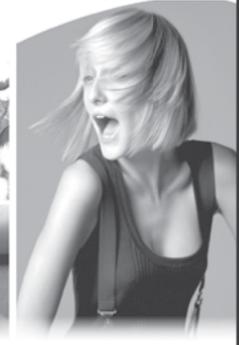
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# Look what's happening...

## Spring semester begins for Lifelong Learning

The Lifelong Learning Academy begins its spring semester March 8 offering a series of programs in Anna Maria.

The academy is affiliated with the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee campus.

Island offerings include several fee-based courses:

- The World in Transition, an exploration of politics, environmentalism, spirituality and psychology, Mondays from March 8 to April 26 at the Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.
- The Enjoyment of Poetry, a study of a broad range of poems, Wednesdays from March 10 to April 28 at the Studio.

• Preventive Medicine, a course on medical myths, alternative medicines and other issues, Wednesdays from March 10 to April 28 at the Studio.

Island offerings also include the following free lectures:

- How Nature Influences and Inspires Human Inventions, 11 a.m. March 10, Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.
- Architecture's Nobel: The Pritzker Prize, 11 a.m. March 24, the Studio.
- What Horrors Befell Some Residents of Macon County, Ala.? The Dirty Horrors of Medical Ethics," 11 a.m., April 7, the Center.
- Watson, Crick, Wilkins: The Story of DNA, 11 a.m. April 21, the Studio.

Also, the Einstein Circle discussion group will meet at the Studio at 11 a.m. March 17 to discuss whether the nation is polarized," March 31 to discuss whether "science has become too political," April 14 to discuss "immigration: what should we do?" and April 28 to discuss U.S. foreign policy.

For more information about the programs or to register, call the academy at 941-359-4296 or visit [www.thelifelonglearningacademy.com](http://www.thelifelonglearningacademy.com).

## Bradenton man writes memoir

Former Islander and Bradenton resident David Spicer has written the memoir "A View from the Inside ... of a Disturbed Mind: Volume I."

"Having spent my life trying to find love and happiness, I have had many adventures — some successful, some not so successful," Spicer said in a press release from PublishAmerica. "This book records the many feelings and emotions I felt as I traveled through the journey of my life thus far."

Spicer was born in Cincinnati in 1968 and moved with his family to Anna Maria Island four years later. While growing up, his family operated Spicer Cottages in Anna Maria.

He has spent most of his life in the Island area, with a few brief periods living and working in the Carolinas. He owns DRS Construction Inc. of Bradenton.

## Whitney Plaza antiques and art fair upcoming

The Whitney Plaza, 6828 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key, will hold an antique and art fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 6-7.

Local artists will be featured, along with organic produce, exotic orchids and antiques, event organizer Stephanie Claussen of Steph's Stuff said.

Parking and admission are free.

For more information, call Stephanie at 941-383-1901.

## Harry's wine tasting for Mote

Harry's Continental Kitchens, 525 St. Jude Drive, Longboat Key, will hold a wine tasting from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 10, to benefit Mote Marine Laboratory.

Admission to the wine tasting is \$10 per person and includes sampling of wines, as well as appetizers from owner Harry Christensen's Deli and wine cellar. All wines purchased at the deli that day and on Thursdays will be discounted 20 percent.

For more information, call 941-383-0777, send an e-mail to [info@harryskitchen.com](mailto:info@harryskitchen.com), or go online to [www.harryskitchen.com](http://www.harryskitchen.com).

## Street market opens in March

The Bridge Street Market will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays in March in the lot at 107 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach.

Offerings include produce, arts and crafts, jewelry, accessories and clothes, as well as prepared food and live music.

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

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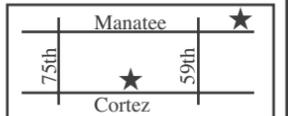
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### Center names tour homes

The Anna Maria Island Community Center is planning a series of events to usher in the spring season, including its 17th annual Tour of Homes on Saturday, March 20.

The tour will feature visits to “select Island properties,” according to a news release, as well as a boutique where visitors will find arts, crafts and culinary offerings.

The homes featured on the tour include: 320 63rd St., Holmes Beach, owned by Susan Lee; 540 Key Royale Drive, Holmes Beach, owned by Jim and Maura Kelly; 542 67th St., Holmes Beach, owned by Greg and Pat Shorten; 527 70th St., Holmes Beach, owned by Bill and Kathy Cook; and 857 N. Shore Drive, Anna Maria, owned by Erik Abrahamson.

The tour also will feature a drawing for the newly named “Wish You Were Here” quilt. The creation of the quilt by the Eyeland Needlers and its raffle during the tour have become an event tradition — as well as a significant fundraiser.

Quilt chances are available at the Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. The price is \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets.

The Center also will be selling tour tickets, which will cost \$20.

For more information about Center programs, call 941-778-1908 or visit [www.islandcommunitycenter.com](http://www.islandcommunitycenter.com).

### Back Alley book signing

Artist **Betsy Kennedy** will be at the **Back Alley** art gallery and coffee shop at 121 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 6, to hand-make custom sterling silver charms. The public is invited to watch an artist in action.

On Friday, March 5, Back Alley will host a mosaic stepping stone workshop beginning at 10 a.m.

The cost is \$25 per person and reservations are requested.

To make a reservation, call 941-778-1800.

### Pines park sale ‘tasty’

*The Pines Trailer Park annual sale went on in spite of rain, with plenty of items for sale moved inside the clubhouse, and plenty of early morning shoppers. The bake sale and lunch was a big hit, as helpers Gayle Groeschen, left, and Rose Vincent help snowbird Kathy Cavazos, also a park resident, make a selection from the variety of tempting sliced pies, all baked by residents. The menu also included sloppy joes, slime dogs and pulled-pork sandwiches. Islander Photos: Bonner Joy*



### Palmetto show features Islander

The Palmetto Art Center will celebrate Post Pop during a reception at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 6.

The center’s Post Pop exhibit will feature the work of Islander David McGough, whose photographs have appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, *Playboy*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *Time*, *People*, *New York Post* and *Rolling Stone*.

McGough also paints and works in mixed medium.

The show also will feature the work of former *Islander* staff member Carrie Price Whaley, who owns Innervisions Gallery in The Village of the Arts in Bradenton.

The art center is at 907 Fifth St. W., Palmetto.

For more information, call 941-518-2109.



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# Court upholds Koenigs' conviction

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

A Florida appeals court has upheld the conviction of the Bradenton Beach man who shot Island businesswoman Sue Normand in December 2007.

The Second District Court of Appeals issued its opinion without comment.

In August 2008, a jury convicted Koenigs for shooting Normand in her Island Mail & More store and threatening to shoot two law enforcement officers trying to arrest him on the Gulf of Mexico shore Dec. 5, 2007.



Koenigs

Koenigs was convicted of one count of aggravated battery with a firearm and two counts of aggravated assault on law enforcement.

Manatee County Circuit Court Judge Diana Moreland sentenced him to 40 years in prison.

Soon after the sentencing, public defender James Marion Moorman and special assistant to the public defender Chandra Waite appealed, asserting in their brief that the trial court "abused its discretion in denying appellant's motion for mistrial after the prosecutor flagrantly and seemingly intentionally violated an order in limine by asking a question deliberately posed to extract prejudicial testimony." "In limine"

means "at the threshold," and refers to a motion made before the start of a trial.

Koenigs' defense attorney had made an oral motion to prohibit Normand from giving an opinion as to whether Koenigs intended to shoot her because her answer could only be speculative.

The appeal brief stated that the judge granted the motion, stating, "As to 'and did you finally decide whether he did it intentionally,' that question is not going to come in."

Normand did not testify about her opinion, but Koenigs' defense maintains that the prosecution tried to introduce the victim's opinion through another witness, Terri Davis, a detective with the Holmes Beach Police Department when the shooting occurred.

The prosecutor asked Davis about an interview with Normand: "At that point when Ms. Normand finished speaking to you, when she told you the story, had she told you anything, or did she gesture in any way, or indicate anything to you, that indicated to you that what she had described ... to you was accidental?"

Koenigs' defense attorney at the trial objected to the question, which led to a lengthy discussion between the judge, the prosecutor and the defense attorney over whether the prosecution was trying to introduce to the jury Normand's opinion as to whether

the shooting was accidental or intentional.

Koenigs' defense sought a mistrial, but the judge declined, instead offering a "correction" on the record.

In the appeal brief, the defense attorneys wrote, "Appellant's motion for mistrial should have been granted because the prejudicial question violated the in limine order and was posed during the state's case-in-chief. At which time, reversible error occurred."

Answering the appeal, the Florida Attorney General's Office defended the conviction.

Tonja Rene Vickers, an assistant attorney general, responded, arguing that the judge issued a curative instruction — corrected the record — to the jury and "a new trial is unwarranted."

"A mistrial," she said, "should be granted only in circumstances where the error committed was so prejudicial as to vitiate the entire trial."

Vickers said the state presented evidence to rebut the defense claim that the shooting was accidental, including a lab analyst's testimony that 8 pounds of pressure was required to pull the trigger of Koenigs' gun.

The appeals court issued a single-page opinion that "affirmed" the lower court's conviction.

Koenigs is in prison at the Florida Reception and Medical Center in Union County. His current release date is Dec. 21, 2046.

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# Stoltzfus questions MCSO sidewalk interpretation

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

In the opinion of Anna Maria City Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus, driving across a sidewalk is the same as driving upon a sidewalk.

In Florida, driving on a sidewalk is a no-no, but in Anna Maria, the question is if driving upon a sidewalk is the same as driving across a sidewalk.

Sgt. Dave Turner of the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Anna Maria substation said at a recent commission meeting that driving across a sidewalk is permitted and it's not the same as driving upon a sidewalk.

Stoltzfus asked if Turner's interpretation regarding "upon" was his own interpretation.

"It seems to me," Stoltzfus wrote in a Feb. 17 memo, "a vehicle crossing a sidewalk, unless on a designated driveway, is performing an illegal operation. I'm not sure how you can cross a sidewalk without driving upon it."

Turner replied that he did considerable research and spoke with two senior officers about "upon" and "across." He said both officers agreed with his interpretation.

Turner also said the driveway is the exception to the statute.

"Of course, I could be wrong. It would not be the first time. It would not be the first time a group of us were wrong," said Turner.

Turner, who has been in law enforcement since 1978, said that he's a deputy, not an attorney. He suggested Stoltzfus contact the Florida Attorney General's Office for an interpretation of driving on a sidewalk or across a sidewalk.

Attorney Valerie Fernandez, representing Pine Avenue Restoration LLC, the developer of several retail-office-residential projects on Pine Avenue, chimed in with a letter to city attorney Jim Dye, sup-

porting Turner's position.

Driving a vehicle upon a sidewalk is the same as driving down a sidewalk, she said, but it's not the same as driving across a sidewalk.

"This interpretation is also consistent with Florida case law," Fernandez said.

Stoltzfus maintains that the city incorrectly approved PAR projects because vehicles enter those

complexes to park by crossing a sidewalk. In his opinion, that's illegal under the city code and state law.

He's asked the commission on at least two occasions to declare a moratorium on approval of site plans in the retail-office-residential district until language in the code is changed to clearly prohibit driving across a sidewalk and require all parking to be on-site.

## Sheridan again questions HB meeting schedule

By Nick Walter  
Islander Reporter

Andy Sheridan, a Holmes Beach resident who ran unsuccessfully for city commission last fall, has questioned the city commission about the lack of meetings.

Four meetings were canceled in the four-month period from November through February.

Sheridan said that canceled meetings rob citizens of their chance to participate in government.

Commission Chair Sandy Haas-Martens said that if there's nothing on the agenda, there's no reason to hold a meeting. Moreover, she said, canceled meetings are common during the winter season.

"How can we keep so many part-time residents happy and give them the ability to come to meetings if we're cancelling half the meetings?" Sheridan asked at the Feb. 22 meeting.

Mayor Rich Bohnenberger said that those wishing to be assured a chance for public comment need to apply at city hall to be on the agenda.

Bohenberger said, "Do you really expect the

city to spend tax dollars for staff and to light the building so they can make a comment?"

The mayor said the city charter only dictates one city commission meeting a month. "Under the Sunshine Law, meetings have to be open to the public," Bohnenberger added, "but under the law, we're not required to accept any public comment at a work session."

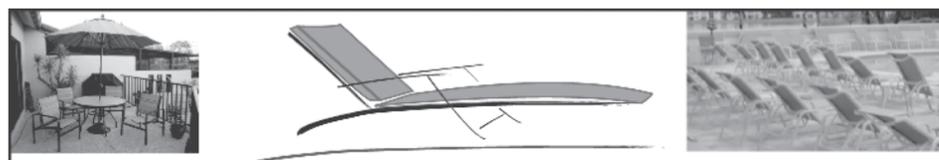
Bohnenberger also said that the public has opportunities the prior week to make a complaint.

Commissioner David Zaccagnino has sided with Sheridan on the issue, saying that the city should meet, if only to allow public comment. "And if there's nothing to do," he said, "we go home."

Zaccagnino said commissioners encourage Island residents to attend meetings to make comments.

"But word is getting out about our canceled meetings," Zaccagnino said, "and we have people show up and our doors are locked and our lights were out."

"The meetings are in the paper," Bohnenberger said. "They should look."



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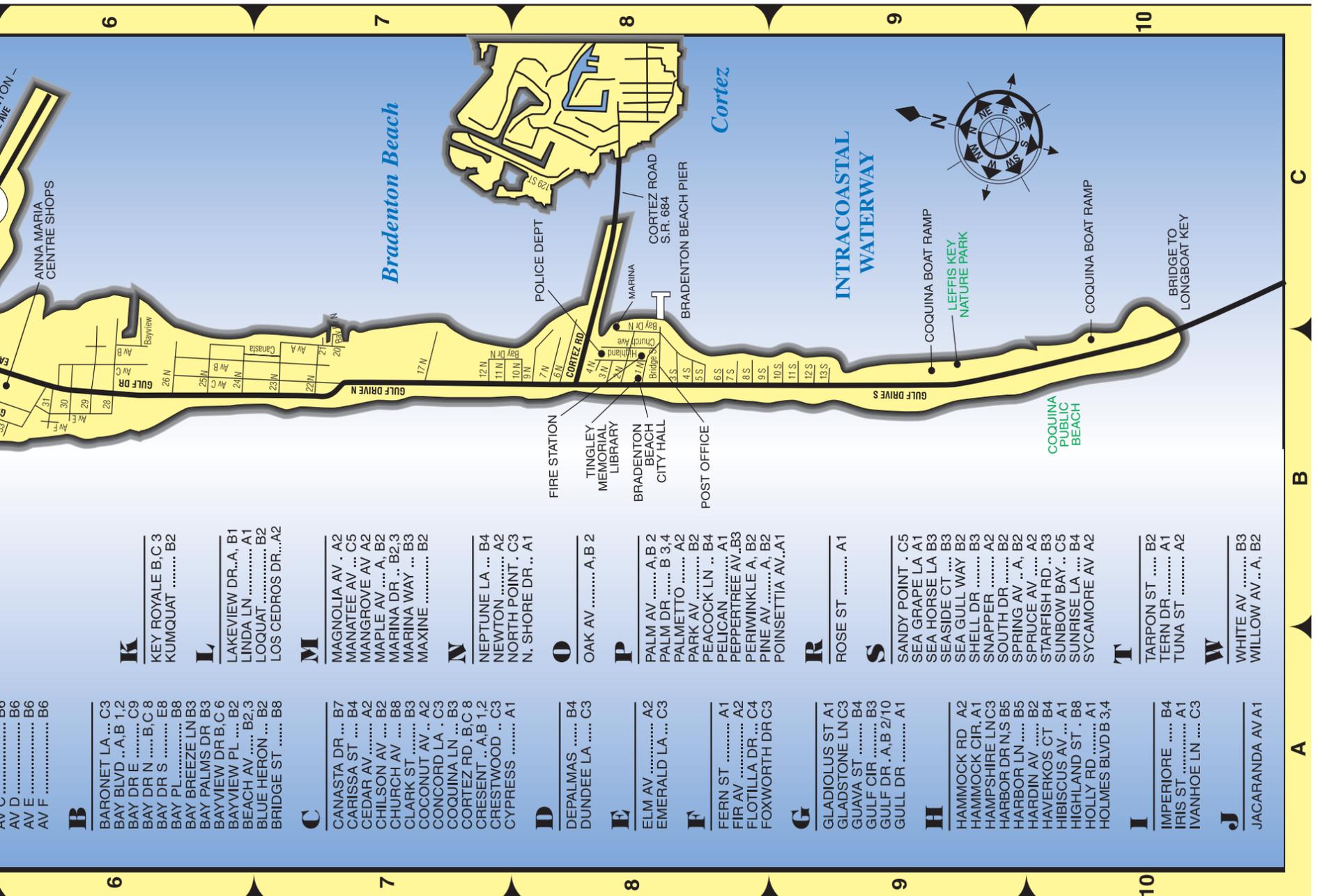
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- H** HAMMOCK RD...A2, HAMMOCK CIR...A1, HAMPshire LNC3, HARBOR DR...N,S B5, HARBOR LN...B5, HARDIN AV...B2, HAVERKOS CT...B4, HIBISCUS AV...A1, HIGHLAND ST...B8, HOLLY RD...A1, HOLMES BLVD...B3,4
- I** IMPERIORE...B4, IRIS ST...A1, IVANHOE LN...C3
- J** JACARANDA AV...A1
- 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,B 2
- P** PALM AV...A,B 2, PALM DR...B 3,4, PALMETTO...A2, PARK AV...B2, PEACOCK LN...B4, PELICAN...A1, PEPPERFREE AV...B3, PERIWINKLE A, B2, PINE AV...A, B2, POINSETTIA AV...A1
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- 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
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# AME student learns to help others

Ten-year-old Chasten Whitfield is a fourth-grader at Anna Maria Elementary School. She goes to classes, has friends and makes good grades. But outside of AME, Chasten is busy trying to help other kids.

It all started when Chasten's friend Madison was diagnosed with cancer five years ago and Chasten was faced with the harsh realities of the disease.

But rather than watch from the sidelines, she decided to fight back and raise money to find a cure for the disease that affects so many.

Eventually Madison was cured and Chasten found another inspiration to continue her cause. After reading a newsletter from St. Jude Children Research Hospital, one child in the publication touched Madison on a personal level.

"She watched one child closely: Big Ben. His dad was a fireman like her dad, and when Chasten's brother was born, she kept saying he looked like Big Ben," said mom Kappi Whitfield.

Unfortunately, Big Ben lost his battle with cancer, but Chasten would not let his memory fade away with the disease.

Today this fourth-grader continues to raise money for the St. Jude Children Research Hospital.

It all started by selling Hannah Montana posters at garage sales, and today has expanded to large garage sales and other ways to help find a cure.

After one fundraiser last July, Chasten's family received alarming news about her little 3-year-old brother Caden. He was diagnosed with a rare tumor in his hand. While the tumor is not cancer, it is still aggressive. And after multiple surgeries, the tumor has grown back.

"That was the absolute worst feeling and part of my life, waking up one day and, all of a sudden, you just don't know what your life will be like. Knowing that there is a place like St. Jude that will take in your child, helps you," said Kappi.

This little girl has no plans of stopping. In fact, she continues to come up with new ways to help out.

"I want to help St. Jude every year, someday I



Anna Maria Elementary fourth-grader Chasten Whitfield, right, picks oranges with Caden Whitfield and a friend to raise money for St. Jude hospital's cancer research program. Chasten started raising money after learning a friend was diagnosed with cancer.

would like to go up and visit St. Jude, maybe take kids toys or do arts and crafts with them," said Chasten.

Chasten raised \$500 last year and has set her goal even higher this year.

"Chasten has done this for so many years now, people expect it in January and February, but when people find out what she is doing they try really hard to give something. A lot of people tell me what a great kid she is and how she is going to do great things when she gets older. I truly believe that she will,"

said Kappi.

While the economy has caused many people to cut back on spending and donations, Chasten makes sure to let people know that even 50 cents can go a long way in cancer research.

St. Jude is currently treating 11 kids from Manatee County. And every cent Chasten raises helps to find a cure for them and others.

There is only one goal Chasten has her eyes set on. "I would like to see the doctors find cures to cure kids from cancer," she said.

On Saturday, March 6, Chasten will hold her garage sale on Royal Palm Drive in Bradenton and everyone is welcome to shop and contribute, she said.

For more information, contact Kappi Whitfield at [waterway@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:waterway@tampabay.rr.com).



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**Saying goodbye to AME**

Anna Maria Elementary School cafeteria staff-member Betty Griffith is leaving AME to move to Georgia. Her last day serving lunches at AME is set for March 15. "We're going to miss Betty. She is going to be hard to replace," said AME kitchen manager Tom Loher. *Islander* Photo: Kimberly Kuizon.

**AME calendar**

- March 9-12, FCAT testing.
  - March 14, Daylight savings time begins.
  - 8 a.m. March 19, Parent Teacher Organization meeting.
  - 8 p.m. March 23, PTO dinner and kindergarten performance.
  - March 23, Kiwanis Club grandparents program.
  - March 26, No school, record day.
  - March 29-April 2 Spring break.
- For more information, call the school office at 941-708-5525. AME is at 4700 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

**AME MENU**

**Monday, March 8**

*Breakfast:* Fuel You Up French Toast Sticks, Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Toast.  
*Lunch:* Chicken Nuggets, Turkey Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli with Cheese Sauce, Mandarin Oranges.

**Tuesday, March 9**

*Breakfast:* Fly By Chicken Patty on Biscuit, Yogurt, Cereal, Toast.  
*Lunch:* Corn Dog, Rotini with Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Warm Breadstick, Pears.

**Wednesday, March 10**

*Breakfast:* Choice of "Jump Start" selection, Super Donut, Cereal, Bagel.  
*Lunch:* Maxx Sticks with Marinara, Pacific Blend Veggies, Rosy Applesauce, Chortles, assorted salads and sandwiches.

**Thursday, March 11**

*Breakfast:* Cheese Omelet Power with Hash-brown, Grits, Cereal, Toast.  
*Lunch:* Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Fish Nuggets, Veggie Cup with Dip, Potato Smiles, Strawberries and Bananas.

**Friday, March 12**

*Breakfast:* Breakfast Burrito, Super Donut, Cereal, Toast.  
*Lunch:* Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, BBQ Pork on Bun, Garden Salad, Corn, Peaches.  
*Juice and milk are served with every meal.*



**On the move in the Motor City**

Mark Nelson of Colorado Springs, Colo., wear's his Christmas present, an Islander T-shirt, to the recent Detroit Auto Show. He received the holiday gift from brother Kevin.

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# Gangs force police to increase Island presence

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

The Manatee County Sheriff's Office plans to increase the number of deputies on Anna Maria Island on weekends because of concern for an increase in gang activity. The MCSO also will increase its presence on holidays such as spring break, Easter and Cinco de Mayo.

Anna Maria Mayor Fran Barford told city commissioners at their Feb. 25 meeting that she has received information from the MCSO that it will add deputies and increase beach, foot and vehicle patrols during these times, particularly holiday weekends.

"They are going to add coverage, but not at city expense," she said.

The mayor added that the MCSO has noticed increased gang activity on the Island and is taking a "pro-active" approach toward crime prevention.

Island law enforcement agencies routinely increase the number of deputies and officers on duty during periods of substantially increased visitor traffic to the Island. In previous years, the MCSO also has added horse and foot patrols at Coquina Beach.

About three years ago, a Coquina Beach shooting Easter weekend left one man seriously injured. The shooting was gang related, police said.

## Commission business

Commissioners sailed through a number of items, but delayed discussion of parking and density issues until a joint commission-planning and zoning board meeting March 4.

Barford reported that Phase I of the city's master stormwater drainage plan is about 40 percent complete.

The mayor also reported that the Manatee County

Commission has approved an ordinance extending the boundaries of the city out from the water's edge.

The new boundary now includes both piers in the city, the Galati Marina, portions of Bimini Bay, and enough boundary out from the water's edge to allow the city to issue dock construction permits.

Last year, a dock permit application triggered a discovery that city jurisdiction ends at the water's edge.

## Business tax

Eric Basinger of the Manatee County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council made a presentation on an across-the-board \$35 per-year tax on every business in Manatee County. The funds will go to the development council to promote new business in the county.

Basinger said the money has to be called a tax — not a fee — by law, and will be collected by the Manatee County Tax Collector.

The county's business base needs expansion, said Basinger, and he hoped business owners would find no problem with a tax used to create more business — business that could benefit their business.

Manatee County administrator Ed Hunzeker said he hoped to convince each city to donate its share of the tax to the development council's budget.

"This is business enabling business to make more business," he said.

The funds will be used to send Basinger and other business representatives to major United States and world markets to convince business owners to move to Manatee County.

"We need to sell Manatee County to the United States and the world," Basinger said.

And the jobs created are not intended to be low-wage, manual labor, said Hunzeker.

The target markets for new jobs are in aerospace, defense, corporate and financial headquarters, hi-tech manufacturing, medical-device manufacturing and sports performance, he said.

The goal is to create a job that pays between \$35,000 and \$40,000 or more, or at least 125 percent of the average Manatee County annual income, Hunzeker said.

Manatee County Commissioners will vote on the ordinance this month, and the tax would have a five-year sunset. If it hasn't generated more high-paying jobs for the county after five years, the tax would not be renewed, Hunzeker noted.

Commission Chairman John Quam asked if the tax would apply to home rentals.

Hunzeker said it would apply to those people who have purchased a business license with either the city or county.

After Quam said that Anna Maria does not require a business license for people to rent homes, Hunzeker indicated there would be no enforcement issue. Planning for the tax includes the fact that some people likely won't pay, he said.

The county is not going to "send out a team of auditors to find them. We're not going to hire any extra people to run the program," Hunzeker pledged.

## No variance needed

Commissioners determined that Larry and Deb Berkery of South Bay Boulevard don't need a variance to build a swimming pool.

A 1996 variance reduced setbacks on the lot to  
PLEASE SEE VARIANCE, NEXT PAGE

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# Streetlife

## Island police blotter

### Anna Maria

Nov. 19, 100 block of Maple Avenue, disturbance. An officer responded in reference to a disturbance, where he observed a man knocking on the complainant's door. The officer advised the man to leave the property, and someone escorted the man home.

Nov. 20, South Bay Boulevard and Pine Avenue, information. An officer responded to a call from a restaurant where wires were lying across Pine Avenue. The officer observed a high volume of vehicle and

### VARIANCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

allow the fire department access to the property in the event of a fire, said building official Bob Welch. But after sprinklers were installed in the house, the fire department withdrew its request for access, he said.

Commissioner Chuck Webb said modifying the existing variance to bring the setbacks back to what the city requires will give the Berkerys enough room to build their pool.

### Waiver fee

Webb observed that the city has numerous requests for a waiver of the special event permit fee and suggested the issue be discussed at a commission work session.

Barford agreed.

Many organizations that ask for a waiver just don't realize how much inconvenience a special permit application is for city staff. The idea of a fee for a special event permit was for the city to recover some of its costs.

The problem arises from one organization obtaining a waiver and the next organization making an application believes it is entitled to a waiver.

"Some people just can't be pleased," said Quam.

pedestrian traffic and called Florida Power and Light.

Nov. 24, 10005 Gulf Drive, loitering. Someone came to city hall and told city officials that a man was sleeping in a car outside city hall. An officer interviewed the loiterer, who was warned about trespassing.

### Bradenton Beach

Nov. 18, Midge Court, Pines Trailer Park, aggravated assault. An officer responded to a complainant, who said a man was bothering a construction worker. The complainant said the man was demanding that items be moved from around neighboring trailers so he could have bricks moved from behind his trailer. The complainant had an argument with the men, and, according to the police report, one man raised his cane and threatened to hit the complainant.

Nov. 20, 100 block of Seventh Street North, property damage. A complainant called the Bradenton Beach Police Department and said that a decorative barrier had been knocked down.

Nov. 22, 1105 Gulf Drive North, criminal mischief. An officer responded to a report that someone stuck a water hose into a residence and turned the water on. The second floor of the house was found to be flooded.

Nov. 24, 2513 Gulf Drive N., Circle K. Trespass warning. An officer responded to the Circle K, where the store clerk said that a man known to have committed a past theft at the store had shown up again.

### Holmes Beach

Feb. 18, 3300 block of Sixth Avenue, theft. An officer responded to call of a suspected theft and met with the complainant, who said his son had been staying with him and several things were missing from the dwelling. The complainant said his son had taken several things from the house and pawned them.

## Island real estate sales

5300 Gulf Drive, Unit 206, Martinique North, Holmes Beach, a 1,057 sfla / 1,169 sfur 2bed/2bath Gulffront condo with shared pool built in 1971 was sold 02/10/10, Shardell to Best for \$580,000.

210 67th St., Holmes Beach, a 2,830 sfla / 3,576 sfur 4bed/4bath/1car pool home built in 1963 on a 75x105 lot was sold 02/08/10, Beach Ranch LLC to Simoney for \$555,000; list \$579,000.

6301 Holmes Blvd, Unit B, Turtle Crawl, Holmes Beach, a 1,850 sfla / 2,863 sfur 3bed/3bath/2car land condo with pool built in 2005 was sold 02/12/10, Mills to Tomar Products Corp. for \$499,000; list \$579,000.

3303 Gulf Drive, Unit 1, Sea Pirate, Holmes Beach, a 700 sfla 2bed/1bath condo with shared pool built in 1969 was sold 02/09/10, Ashe to Doctora for \$215,000; list \$240,000.

107 Eighth St. S., Unit 4, Island Getaway, Bradenton Beach, a 570 sfla / 650 sfur 2bed/1bath condo built in 1940 was sold 02/11/10, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation to Rock Steady Management Inc. for \$80,325; list \$89,900.



Featured sale: This Turtle Crawl land condo at 6301 Holmes Blvd, Unit B, Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Jesse Brisson

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# ISLANDER CALENDAR

## Wednesday, March 3

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce business lunch at Lee Roy Selmon's, 6510 Cortez Road W., Bradenton. Information: 941-778-1541. Fee applies.

1:15 p.m. — Gulf Coast Writers meeting with guest speaker Cathy Roller presenting "What Writers Need To Know About Reading" at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-7631.

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

## Friday, March 5

1:30 p.m. — Seminar on low-vision with speakers from the Lighthouse of Manasota, Talking Books Library, Magnifying Aids and Florida Division of Blind Services at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

5:30 p.m. — Reception for Anna Maria Island Art League students at the league gallery, 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach.

5:30 p.m. — Artist reception for watercolorist Anne Abgott at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-664.

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Artist reception for Paula Schoenwether at the Artists Guild Gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6694.

## Saturday, March 6

8 a.m. — Whitey Horton Memorial Golf Tournament hosted by the Anna Maria Island Privateers at River Run Golf Links, is CANCELED. Information, refunds: 941-447-0993.

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Rummage sale at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908.

10 a.m. to noon — Watercolor painting on glass demonstration by Dee Pastorius at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6648.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Heritage Day Festival at the Anna Maria Island Historical Museum, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

3 p.m. — "Vienna to Broadway" concert featuring soprano Carole Cornman and tenor Robert Luchetti accompanied by Lurray Myers at the Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1638. Fee applies.



## To Tallahassee

Citizen lobbyists with the local American Cancer Society meet with state Sen. Mike Bennett, R-Bradenton, during a recent lobby day in Tallahassee.

Pictured, front row, are Linda Megill, Miriam Thompson, Dolly Young, Nancy Ambrose and Grace Carlson, back row, Bennett and Cindy McCue of the ACS.

5 to 7 p.m. — Cub Scout Pack 7, spaghetti fundraiser dinner with music by The Island Rockers at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-737-2377. Fee applies.

## Sunday, March 7

1 to 5 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Privateers Car, Truck and Bike show featuring live music by Shineola at Mexicali Border Cafe, 5502 Cortez Road, Bradenton. Information: 214-714-3953.

## Tuesday, March 9

Noon — Anna Maria Island Rotary Club presents "Protecting the Future of Our Seniors" with guest attorney Donna Sobel at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach.

## Wednesday, March 10

11 a.m. — Lecture on "How Nature Influences and Inspires Human Inventions" at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-359-4296.

11:30 a.m. — Off Stage Ladies of the Island Players meeting at Harry's Continental Kitchens, 525 St. Judes Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 941-518-4431.

## 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 applies. Information: 941-794-3390.

• 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 instruction 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. Information: 941-778-2809.

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

• Thursdays, 6 p.m., Co-Dependents Anonymous group meets on the Island. Call for location: 508-815-7378.

• Fridays, 11 a.m., Over 39ers group meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1813.

• Saturdays, 8:30 a.m., Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club meets at Cafe on the Beach, Manatee Public Beach.

• Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Open-air market at 107 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-518-4431.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR, NEXT PAGE

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CALENDAR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

• Through March 7, "Curtains" at Manatee Players, 102 12th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-748-5875. Fee applies.

**OFF-ISLAND EVENTS:**

**Thursday, March 4**

6 to 10:30 p.m. — "En Plein Air Affair" gourmet dinner and dancing at the Longboat Key Club Harbour side, 301 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 941-383-2345. Fee applies.

**Saturday, March 6**

8 a.m. — Two-day boating class at the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 81, G.T. Bray Park, 5801 33 rd Ave. Drive W., Bradenton. Information: 941-758-5500.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Home and Garden Tour sponsored by the Longboat Key Garden Club, various locations including the LBK Center for the Arts, 6860 Longboat Drive S., Longboat Key. Information: 941-383-0117. Fee applies.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — Orange Blossom Festival at Mixon Fruit Farm, 2712 26th Ave. E., Bradenton. Information: 941-748-5829.

4 to 9 p.m. — Baseball Night at the Museum at South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131.

7 to 9 p.m. — Quantum Mechanics discussion with Jeff Rodgers at the South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131.

5 to 9 p.m. — Opening night of "Post POP" show at the Palmetto Art Center, 907 Fifth Street W., Palmetto. Exhibit runs through March 30. Information: 941-518-2109.

**Sunday, March 7**

Noon to 6 p.m. — Orange Blossom Festival at Mixon Fruit Farm, 2712 26th Ave. E., Bradenton. Information: 941-748-5829.

**Tuesday, March 9**

12:30 p.m. — Lord's Warehouse Fashion Show at the Longboat Island Chapel, 6200 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 941-383-6491. Fee applies.

**Coming Up:**

- March 11, Concert in the Grove, Mixon Fruit Farm.
- March 12, Health and Business Expo, Mixon Fruit Farm.



**Guild installs officers**

The Roser Memorial Community Church Guild recently installed new officers — president Peggy Nash, first vice president Eileen Micho, second vice president Bonnie Bickel, secretary Lynda Stringe and assistant treasurer Carol Surko. Treasurer Mary Seine is not pictured. *Islander Photo: Nancy Ambrose*

- March 12, Rotary Club "An Evening at Casino Royale."
- March 12, For Arts Sake silent art auction and reception, *The Islander* newspaper office.
- March 13, Religious Art and Artifact Exhibit, Episcopal Church of the Annunciation.
- March 13, AMI Privateers Thieves Market, Coquina Beach.
- March 13, Acrylic art demonstration, Island Gallery West.
- March 13, Book sale, Tingley Memorial Library.
- March 13-14, Anna Maria Island Art League "Springfest," Holmes Beach City Field.

- March 17, St. Patrick's Day dinner, St. Bernard Catholic Church.
- March 18, Catch Me If You Can, Island Players.
- March 20, Anna Maria Island Tour of Homes.
- March 21, Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra Operetta "The Gypsy Baron."
- March 23, First Annual Coastal Orthopedics Spelling Bee.
- March 26, DeSoto Heritage Festival begins.
- March 27, Island's Got Talent Show.

Send calendar announcements to [diana@islander.org](mailto: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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# Playoff seeds set for youth football season

By Kevin Cassidy  
Island Reporter

The seedings are set for the NFL Flag Football playoffs and a possible spot in the 2010 Super Bowl. There were no surprises as the top spot in the division standings hasn't really changed since the midway point of the season.

Tortilla Bay Dolphins in Division III, Ross Built Raiders in Division II and Tapes Tennis Titans in Division I earned what is supposed to be the easier route to their respective Super Bowl championships. The only late surge was made by the BeachHouse Cardinals, languishing in last place only two weeks ago and now in third place. That might not sound like a major push, but it allows them to avoid top seeded Tortilla Bay Dolphins in the first round of the playoffs, which get started Wednesday, March 3, culminating with the Super Bowl games Saturday, March 6.

In NFL Flag Football action last week, Josh Zawistoski ran for 188 yards and three touchdowns to lead Island Real Estate Ravens past Holy Cow Cowboys 26-22 in 10-12 division action Feb. 24. The win helped the Ravens clinch the No. 3 seed in the playoffs. Zawistoski also passed for 55 yards, including a touchdown pass to Mat Denigris-Manger, who finished with 45 receiving yards. Zawistoski led the defensive effort as well with 10 flag pulls, while Denigris-Manger, Trent Boring and Brandon Blandford each added two pulls in the victory.

Quarterback Zach Stewart passed for 92 yards, ran for 58 yards and scored a pair of touchdowns to lead the Cowboys, which also received 70 yards of total offense and a touchdown from Burke McCampbell-Hill. Henrik Hellem-Brusso ran for 42 yards and added 49 receiving yards and a two-point conversion

in the loss for the Cowboys.

McCampbell-Hill led the defense with five flag pulls, while Mikey Ellsworth, Cooper Hardy and Hellem-Brusso each finished with one pull.

Galati Yacht Sales Raiders defeated Lapensee Plumbing Ravens 35-20 in Division I action Feb. 24. Aaron Van Hook ran for 129 yards, including a touchdown and an extra point, to lead the Raiders, which also received 129 passing yards and three TD passes from Daniel Doyle. He connected with Luke Shakelford for one score and Anna Maria Galati for two touchdowns in the victory.

The Raiders had a strong defensive performance led by Van Hook, who had three pulls and an interception that he returned for a touchdown. Doyle and Galati each contributed three flag pulls, while Shakelford had an interception.

The Ravens were led by Tommy Price, who had 48 receiving yards and a touchdown on offense and added five flag pulls and two interceptions and a touchdown on defense. Rainia Lardas scored the other touchdown for the Ravens, which also received 56 passing yards from Hunter Parish in the loss.

Tapes Tennis Titans wrapped up the No. 1 seed in Division I thanks to a 34-25 victory over second-place Anna Maria Oyster Bar Panthers Feb. 24. QB Austin Ferrer paced the Titans with 154 passing yards, 54 rushing yards and a pair of touchdowns. Max Miller had 62 receiving yards, a touchdown, an extra point and a two-point conversion, while Kyle Parsons added 47 receiving yards and a touchdown.

Chandler Hardy paced the defense with an interception that he returned for a touchdown, while Miller led the team with five flag pulls. Ferrer added four flag pulls and an interception, while Nick Mello finished with two flag pulls and a sack.

The Panthers were led by Christian Hightower's 103 passing yards and three touchdown passes. Jordan Grabski added 102 yards of offense, including one touchdown, while Liam Cassidy finished with 40 receiving yards and a touchdown. Carolyn Cullinan completed the Panther scoring with one touchdown. Hightower led the Panther defense with six flag pulls, while Grabski added one pull and an interception in the loss.

The BeachHouse Cardinals served notice that they are a team to be reckoned with in the playoffs with a 30-12 victory over first-place Tortilla Bay Dolphins Feb. 22. The Cardinals rushed for an incredible 266 yards led by 112 yards and two touchdowns from Alexander Buttram. Tyler Pearson chipped in with 99 and a pair of touchdowns for the Cardinals, which also received a touchdown from Brooke Capparelli in the victory.

Buttram led the Cardinal defense with eight flag pulls, while Masen Blandford added an interception. Pearson finished with three pulls, while Cameron Pasco added two in the big win.

Ethan Bertrand ran for 64 yards and added 55 receiving yards and a touchdown to lead the Dolphins, which also received 61 rushing yards from Hannah McCracken. Trent Shackelford rounded out the Dolphin offense with 60 passing yards.

Bertrand also led the defense with 10 flag pulls, while McCracken added seven in the loss.

Anna Maria Oyster Bar Panthers plundered the Galati Yacht Sales Raiders to the tune of a 51-26 shellacking in Division I action Feb. 22. Christian Hightower threw for 197 yards and five touchdowns to lead the Panthers, which also received 135 receiving yards and four touchdowns from Jordan Grabski. Christian Hightower added a touchdown, while James Hardy also found the end zone for the Panthers.

Grabski added to the Panther scoring when he took an interception to the house. Christian Hightower led the Panthers with four flag pulls and two interceptions, while Lauren Hightower added one flag pull and a QB sack in the victory.

Aaron Van Hook's 97 passing yards, 87 rushing yards and two touchdowns led the Raiders, which

PLEASE SEE SPORTS, NEXT PAGE

## Geared up

Al Saunders, Claude Mika and Al Cini work on rods and reels. The three men, working with the Anna Maria Island Privateers, have helped give away more than 1,700 rods and reels to children. Fishing gear is collected at a variety of locations, including The Islander, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, then cleaned, examined and repaired by Cini, Miki and Saunders, who also makes and sells rod-maker products. For more information, call Saunders at 941-705-1105.



## Coast Guard auxiliary offers boating class

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 81 also will offer a two-part boating class in March. The first session will take place at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 6, and the second session at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 13.

Sessions will take place at the group's headquarters in G.T. Bray Park, 5801 33rd Ave. Drive W., Bradenton.

For more information about the Coast Guard program, call 941-758-5500.

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# Schools of Gulf redfish invade inshore waters

By Nick Walter  
Islander Reporter

Some big schools of redfish from the Gulf of Mexico invaded Sarasota Bay last week, although they reportedly were tough to track down.

Unfortunately for anglers, there has not been a break in the cold, windy weather. Some forecasters are calling for the weather pattern of a cold front every few days to continue for the next month. That means anglers will have to pick and choose their days to fish.

One of the best options has been fishing in canals for redfish and sheepshead. Also, the action can be hot offshore if an angler can dodge rough weather. Tight regulations the past two years on grouper and snapper, coupled with high gas prices, has resulted in fewer anglers plying the offshore waters. Grouper, meanwhile, is still catch and release until April 1.

Anglers are patiently waiting a run of Spanish mackerel and kingfish that, depending on the harshness of the winter, comes between February and April.

But bait is still scarce in the area, making shrimp, cut baits and stinky artificial baits a priority. Bringing a variety of baits along when fishing is important in such mercurial conditions.

**James Followell** from the **Sunshine Skyway south fishing pier** said he's only seen anglers catch sheepshead and silver trout. "Spanish mackerel won't come around until the water heats up and the bait is back," he said. "There might have been a few Spanish mackerel floating around."

**Kim Shearer** from **Annie's Bait & Tackle** said that Capt. Mark Johnston of Legend Fishing Charters took three generations of Martins fishing. She said the grandfather was from Longboat Key, the father from Buffalo, N.Y., and the son from Houston. She said they caught lots of sheepshead and redfish. She added that Capt. Sam Kimball, also of Legend Fishing Charters, is doing real well with grouper, snapper and grunts.

**Brady Robertson** from **Discount Tackle at Catchers Marina** said he heard a report of a nice school of redfish in Sarasota Bay, and another of a man who came to the marina reporting amberjack, blackfin tuna and a 40-pound gag grouper in 60-foot-deep water. "I'm real surprised," Robertson said. "I don't know of any springs in 60 feet of water. But I don't know everything, either."

**Bob Kilb** from the **Rod & Reel Pier** said there's been occasional sheepshead caught, but not much else. "I've seen people out here throwing jigs and they aren't catching anything," Kilb said. He said once in awhile an angler will catch a shark. "It just ain't happening and ain't going to happen until the water warms up." Kilb said. "This time of the year, guys should be catching sheepshead like crazy. Guys are working their tails off to get maybe one or two."

**Rocky Corby** from **Anna Maria City Pier** said



Three generations of Martins with a mess of sheepshead and a redfish, caught while fishing with Capt. Mark Johnston of Legend Fishing Charters.

there's still no bait around. He's only seen a couple sheepshead landed. "It's pretty pitiful out here still," Corby said.

**Capt. Mark Howard** of **Sumotime Fishing Charters** said that he has been concentrating on redfish and speckled trout, and that the redfish are feeding around deep-water docks. The speckled trout are in the deep grass, at the edges of potholes and in the canals. Howard's bait of choice has been live select shrimp, and he expects shiners to make an appearance once the water temperature hits 68 degrees.

**Capt. Warren Girle** said he has seen a lot of redfish between 28-30 inches, or 6-10 pounds, showing up in Sarasota Bay. He said some new redfish schools from the Gulf, white in appearance, have shown. "There's some other ones that got mixed in with the turtle grass and have got color to them now," Girle said. "Beautiful bronze fish." He said the Gulf redfish have been around for almost two weeks and have been hitting RT slugs in golden bream.

**Capt. Rick Gross** of the charter boat **Fishy Business** out of **Catchers** said he's been hooking mostly trout and redfish. He's also heard reports of sheepshead around Egmont Key. "There are a lot of fish in there, but they're not biting well," Gross said.

Gross also noticed that snook in canals were hit particularly hard by last month's freeze. "I think some survivors will come out of the river," Gross said. "But the ones in the canals took a beating. I'm hoping too that there were a lot of snook that went offshore into artificial reefs and areas like that and those fish all made it. Those would mainly be breeder fish out there. They'll come in and do their spawning thing and hopefully they'll keep the fishery in decent shape."

Gross said that, unfortunately, it may take about

six years to replace the numbers of snook that were in the area before the freeze.

**Capt. Larry McGuire** of **Show Me the Fish Charters** out of **Cortez Fishing Center** said in his couple trips he's taken in the past week, there were as many amberjack as an angler can handle in 120 feet of depth, as well as banded rudderfish, mangrove snapper, yellowtail snapper, porgeys, triggerfish and lemon sharks. There were a few grouper, which remain catch and release until the open harvest begins April 1.

"If it warms up," McGuire said, "we'll start getting the kingfish runs through here, and cobia."

**Capt. Zach Zacharias** of the **DEE JAY II** out of **Parrot Cove Marina** said that one trip this past week produced an exemplary catch of sheepshead, redfish, speckled trout and black drum. He said the Monday trip was on one of the only nice days of the week, and even then the wind was cranking out of the south in front of another cold front. "Folks that are not taking advantage of the few nice days between fronts are missing out on a lot of top-notch winter action hereabouts," Zacharias said.

He said the redfish, sheepshead and drum have been found around highly structured areas in the local bays and have been feeding well when the tides are good. Incoming tides have been the best producers and live shrimp has been the ticket for rod-bending action. He said the speckled trout have been cooperating on a variety of artificial offerings and live shrimp in a wide variety of locales, ranging from the open bay waters to backwater canals, channels and bayous.

Send fishing news and photos to [nick@islander.org](mailto:nick@islander.org).

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**Anna Maria Island Tides**

Date	AM HIGH	PM HIGH	AM LOW	PM LOW
Mar 3	1:39 1.6	1:06 2.0	6:57 0.4	8:04 -0.3
Mar 4	2:38 1.3	1:35 2.2	7:15 0.6	9:03 -0.3
Mar 5	3:51 1.0	2:09 2.2	7:25 0.8	10:10 -0.2
Mar 6	2:50 2.1	—	11:30 -0.2	—
Mar 7	3:42 2.0	—	—	—
Mar 8	4:59 1.9	—	12:55 -0.2	—
Mar 9	6:44 1.8	—	2:07 -0.2	—
Mar 10	11:02 1.3	8:11 1.8	3:02 -0.3	1:56 1.2

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

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By Rick Catlin

## Tortuga gives away wedding

Brandon residents **Melissa Dearing** and **Chris Varga** will enjoy their upcoming wedding on Anna Maria Island.

They were the grand-prize winners of a wedding courtesy of the **Tortuga Club** of Bradenton Beach.

Tortuga Club owner David Teitelbaum said the winners of the Seashells Wedding Bells Win-A-Wedding contest received three nights in a deluxe apartment, a bottle of Champagne, box of Belgian chocolates and an arrangement of white roses.

Included in the grand prize was a \$100 gift card for dining at any of three participating Island restaurants, bride and groom T-shirts and special room discounts for members of the wedding party.

Dearing and Varga drew the winning shell from a Tiffany Star Vase that held 582 other shells.

For more information on the Tortuga Club, call 941-779-0010.

## Sailing school a pro

**Seaduced Watercraft Adventures**, 402 Church Ave., Bradenton Beach, recently received approval from the American Sailing Association as the only professional sailing facility in Manatee County.

Director of operations **Larry Kinder** said the sailing classes and training include the basics of sailing to advanced sailing and navigation.

Head sailing instructor **Capt. Brad Lockwood** said that by becoming an ASA facility, "We bring a great deal of structure to our classes and international recognition of our students sailing skills."

Seaduced Watercraft Adventures operated boats out of Bradenton Beach Marina and in Palmetto.

For more information, call 941-778-2288.

## SPORTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

also received 72 receiving yards, including a touch-down and an extra point, from Garrison Clark. Luke Shackelford added 42 receiving yards and a touch-down and Michael Galati had an extra point to round out the Raider scoring in the loss.

Van Hook paced the Raiders with six flag pulls and an interception, while Shackelford and Michael Galati each finished with two pulls. Anna Maria Galati and Clark each contributed a flag pull and a sack for the Raiders.

Austin Ferrer passed for 165 yards and two touchdowns, while also running for 60 yards and a touchdown during Tapes Tennis Titans' 26-6 victory over Lapensee Plumbing Ravens in Division I action Feb. 22. Chandler Hardy led all receivers with 79 yards and a touchdown, while Nick Papazian added 41 receiving yards and a touchdown. Kyle Parsons finished with 79 yards of total offense and a touch-down to round out the Titan offense.

The Titan defense was led by five flag pulls and two interceptions from Ferrer and a pair of interceptions from Parsons. Papazian added three pulls, while Patrick Edwards and Hardy finished with two flag pulls each.

Hunter Parrish scored the lone Raven touchdown, while Chris Pate, Tommy Price and Olivia Roemer combined for 104 passing yards in the loss. Price, Pate and Alex Bernhard led the Raven defense with three flag pulls each, while Parrish had two and Rainia Lardas and Roemer each finished with one.

## Key Royale golf news

The men of the Key Royale Club in Holmes Beach played an 18-hole, low-net-of-partners game Feb. 24. The team of Ron Pritchard and Jim Shepard combined to card a 1-under-par 63 to take first-place honors and the bragging rights that go along with it.



## Fenced in

**Holly Fenstemaker**, owner, cuts the ribbon for her new store, **Painted Fence**, at the **Red Barn Flea Market**. She is joined by her mother, **Sandra Fenstemaker**, left, and **Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce** president **Mary Ann Brockman**, right. Fenstemaker joined the Island chamber as part of her marketing strategy for the store. *Islander Photo: Toni Lyon*

## New pain treatment

Acupuncture doctor **Tricia Graziano** of **Island Acupuncture**, 9805 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, recently completed a three-day seminar on back pain and is now certified in a new procedure for treating lower back pain and sciatica.

Graziano, who holds a doctorate in acupuncture medicine, said the new technique uses a "combination of physical therapy and acupuncture that enables a person to achieve dramatic results."

For more information, call 941-773-6134.

## Giving Back does give back

**Sue Thomas** of the **Giving Back** store at 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach, has been open just three weeks, but thanks to some support from Islanders, has already written three checks to charitable causes.

Thomas said the first check was for \$1,000 to Feed the Children in Haiti.

Other checks include \$150 to the Breast Cancer 60-mile walk, and \$250 to the Ministry of Presence for rice and beans for the children at an orphanage in Haiti.

Future donations include the All Island Denominations Food Bank, the Renaissance Program at Manatee High School and athletic scholarships to the Anna Maria Island Community Center.

Giving Back is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday in the north room of the Anna Maria Art League Building.

The shop has furniture, antiques and original art, including some work by Susan's husband, Richard Thomas, as well as unique home and garden items and books.

Proceeds from sales are given to charity.

Second place went to Bob Terhar and Peter Proxy with a 65, while Bob Kral and Gino DiClemente carded a 66 to finish in a tie for third place with Ed Havlik and Paul Proxy.

The Key Royale Club women played a nine-hole, individual-low-gross game on Feb. 23. Flight AA winner was Penny Williams with a 3-over-par 35, while Marcia Helgeson's 42 was good enough for the top spot in Flight A. Joyce Brown was one shot back in second place, while Nancy King took third with a 45. Flight C saw a tie for first between Barb Harrold and Sally Martin with a pair of matching 49s, while Terry Westby took third place with a 50. Margaret Schuller carded a 51 to take first place in Flight D, two shots ahead of second-place finishers Nell Bergstrom and Mary Miller.

Karl Wencker and Bob Dickinson combined to fire an even-par 64 to win the Feb. 22 low-net-of-partners-game. One shot back in second place was the team of Dave Schroer and Ed Daily. Earl Ritchie rode a hole-in-one on hole eight by partner Jim Shepard to a 67, which put them in a four-way tie for third place with the teams of Jerry Brown and Fred Meyer, Chuck Reed and Dana Cessna and Web Cutting and

## Chamber luncheon, breakfast scheduled

The **Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce** will hold a business luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 3, at **Lee Roy Selmon's**, 6510 Cortez Road W., Bradenton.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15 per person and reservations are required.

On Wednesday, March 10, the chamber will hold its Sunrise Breakfast from 7:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. at **Freedom Village**, 6406 21st Ave. W., Bradenton.

The cost is \$8 per person and reservations are required.

For more information on the luncheon or breakfast, call 941-778-1541.

## New to the chamber

In February, the **Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce** welcomed the following new members:

- **Emerson's Humor**, 5306 Holmes Blvd., No. 700, Holmes Beach, Emerson Quillon, 941-799-1234.
- **Holy Cow Ice Cream**, 3234 E. Bay Drive, Holmes Beach, Bin Stewart, 941-779-0690.
- **Green Girl Designs**, P.O. Box 1516, Holmes Beach, Jocelyn Greene, 941-779-2590.
- **SOMA Diner**, 616 10th St., Bradenton, Tonya Kida, 941-748-0002.

*Got a new business going up in Anna Maria Island, Cortez, Palma Sola, west Bradenton or Longboat Key? 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.*

Bruce Christensen.

The women and men teamed up for a nine-hole, best-ball-of-foursome match Feb. 19. The team of Nell Bergstrom, Dorothy McKinna, Gary Alford and Peter Proxy carded a 26, matched by the team of Jerry Brown, Joyce Brown, Gordon McKinna and Al Gunn.

## Horseshoe news

Three teams emerged from pool play with three wins, including walker Bruce Munro, who drew a bye into the finals. Sam Samuels and Bob Mason rolled past Tom Rhodes and Jeff Nolastaname by a score of 22-9 with Mason ending the match with a double ringer. The finals saw Munro "walk" over Mason and Samuels by a 21-12 score.

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

*Please view NFL Flag Football schedules and standings online at www.islander.org.*

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CELL PHONE: LG with home and vehicle chargers, holster, manual. \$10. 941-761-1415.

NATIVE PLANT SALE: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 20, Bradenton Beach City Hall. 941-778-4619 for information.

MAN'S BIKE: \$40. 941-778-1561.

AERIAL PHOTOS of Anna Maria Island. View and purchase online: [www.jackelka.com](http://www.jackelka.com).

FREEBIE ITEMS FOR SALE: Individuals may advertise up to three items, each priced \$100 or less, 15 words or less. FREE, one week. Deliver in person to The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, e-mail [classifieds@islander.org](mailto:classifieds@islander.org), fax toll-free 1-866-362-9821. (limited time offer)

**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](http://www.gloriadeilutheran.com) for worship times. 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

THEY'RE BACK! EVERY Monday night all-you-can-eat fish fry. \$10. Live entertainment. Tiki bar open. Bayside Banquet Hall, 4628 119th St. W., Cortez, end of road.

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USE EVERY DROP! Water conservation event, March 20, Bradenton Beach. Get a rain barrel, condensate drip hose, and other free gifts. 941-778-4619 for information.

ART SALE/RECEPTION: Silent auction of local artists' work and reception at The Islander to benefit MHS art program, 5-8 p.m. Friday, March 12. Donate or come to bid. Info: [news@islander.org](mailto:news@islander.org).

RAIN WATER IS free! Stop using precious drinking water on your lawn and car. A 1,000-sf roof gathers 623 gallons of free rainwater from one inch of rain. Call 941-778-4619 for information.

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

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ESTATE SALE: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 5-6. 526 72nd St., Holmes Beach. 90 years of collecting. Washer, dryer, yard tools, golf, mattress, box spring, refrigerator, linens, kitchenware, furniture, art, lots of collectibles. Stop in and see us! 941-812-7679.

**GARAGE SALE**

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.

SAN REMO GARAGE sale: 8:30 a.m.-? Saturday, March 6. 240 homes on water, just off Cortez Road West and 101st Street, Bradenton.

HUGE YARD SALE: 8 a.m. Friday and Saturday, March 5-6. Antiques, books, paintings, household. 213 W. 83rd St., Holmes Beach.

WHITNEY PLAZA ANTIQUE and art fair. Saturday and Sunday, March 6-7. Treasures, local artist, organic produce, exotic orchids and more. 6828 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Information, 941-383-1901.

ANNUAL FLEA MARKET: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 6. Baked goods, clothing, jewelry, linens, tools, books, furniture, white elephant. Mount Vernon clubhouse. 4701 Independence Drive, south off Cortez Road, Bradenton.

NO MORE FERTILIZER: Go native! Indigenous plants use fewer resources, create habitat and are naturally beautiful. Buy native plants March 20. Bradenton Beach City Hall, 941-778-4619 for information.

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PLAYA ENCANTADA: Sun-drenched balcony, warm pool and hot spa. 2BR/2BA units available for March and April 2010. Two-week minimum. Call Clark at Superior Island Services, 941-730-1077.

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ANNA MARIA ISLAND Club: January, February, March 2011. 2BR/2BA, HDTVs. Call 813-781-7562. Dharveyel@aol.com.

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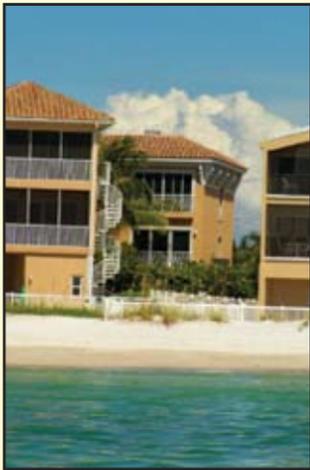
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RENTAL: 3BR/2BA ON canal. Furnished. Monthly, \$1,800. Call for weekly rate. All utilities, cable paid. Washer and dryer. 70th Street, Holmes Beach. Available May through December. Call Dave, 407-927-1304.

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# Orange Blossom

## FESTIVAL

**Thursday, March 11**  
 Concert in the Grove ~ "Yesterdayze" ~ 6-9pm, \$5 parking

**Friday, March 12**  
 Health and Business Fair  
 11am-3pm

- Entertainment
- Organ Grinder
- Chuck Caudill ~ 11am-3pm
- Tobacco Free Florida Smokifier
- Over 50 Booths with Giveaways and Door Prizes

**Saturday, March 6**  
 10am - 6pm **FREE PARKING AND ADMISSION**

- Rides, Ponies, Rock Wall, Trampoline
- Arts and Crafts
- Entertainment
- Starfire Dancers (adult tap dance) ~ 12pm
- Bonnie Gray (singer) ~ 1pm
- Suncoast Dance & Music Academy ~ 2pm
- Manatee County Cloggers ~ 3pm
- Bashaw Elementary Chorus ~ 4pm

**Sunday, March 7**  
 12 noon - 6pm **FREE PARKING AND ADMISSION**

- Rides, Ponies, Rock Wall, Trampoline
- Arts and Crafts
- Christian Band Fest ~ 12pm-6pm  
 ~ featuring bands from local churches ~ Jamboree, Studio 26, Church of the Cross, Woodland Community

**Lots of Great Food:**  
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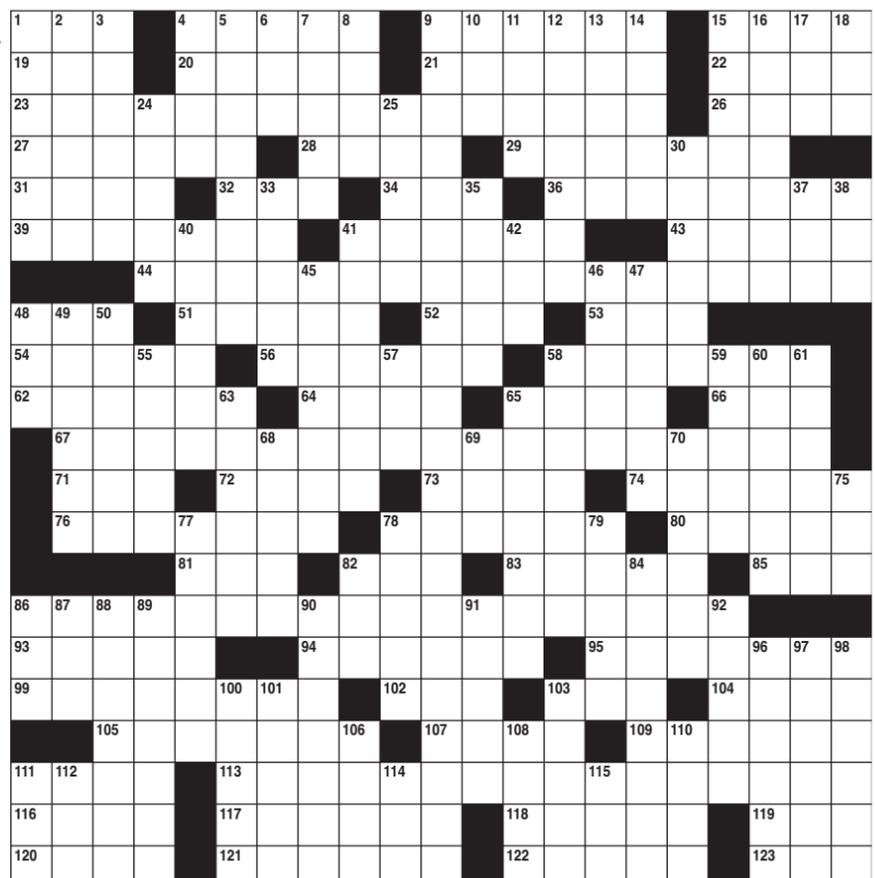
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New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

WORDS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE By Eric Berlin / Edited by Will Shortz

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Across</b></p> <p>1 Trusted one</p> <p>4 Dairy Queen order</p> <p>9 W.W. II threats</p> <p>15 F.D.R.'s mother</p> <p>19 Eggs</p> <p>20 Its national anthem is "La Dessalinienne"</p> <p>21 Unbiased</p> <p>22 Untouched</p> <p>23 Anatomical pouch / Run on TV / Consume / Feel sick / Oral history</p> <p>26 "Big Love" setting</p> <p>27 Appropriately named monthly of the National Puzzlers' League, with "The"</p> <p>28 Former Mississippi senator</p> <p>29 Mamet play revived on Broadway in 2009</p> <p>31 Periodic table fig.</p> <p>32 "Whew!"</p> <p>34 Washington and ___ University</p> <p>36 Robert Ripley's specialty</p> <p>39 Joins the team</p> <p>41 Cry after discovering the furniture's been chewed, maybe</p> <p>43 Roman goddess of agriculture</p> | <p>44 Christmas season / Greet a villain / Speak aloud / Query / Monthly payment</p> <p>48 A fist might represent A or S in it: Abbr.</p> <p>51 Early: Prefix</p> <p>52 Asian observance</p> <p>53 ___ kwon do</p> <p>54 "___ and Prosperity" (Eisenhower slogan)</p> <p>56 Forum wear</p> <p>58 Union, of a sort</p> <p>62 Open</p> <p>64 Barrel of laughs</p> <p>65 Indian tea</p> <p>66 Mideast inits.</p> <p>67 Least smart / Kitchen worker / Towel word / ___ Fein</p> <p>71 French article</p> <p>72 Scottish refusals</p> <p>73 Crate part</p> <p>74 Music genre that often includes an accordion</p> <p>76 Frisk</p> <p>78 Peloponnesian power</p> <p>80 Corporate department</p> <p>81 Japanese tie</p> <p>82 U.S.S.R. member: Abbr.</p> <p>83 Blue Cross competitor</p> <p>85 Traffic warning</p> <p>86 Trash / Victories / "Get it?" / Do some math / Runs smoothly</p> <p>93 "___ directed"</p> <p>94 Strand</p> <p>95 Egg foo yung and others</p> <p>99 Obama economic adviser Summers</p> | <p>102 Never, in Berlin</p> <p>103 McSorley's Old ___ House, New York landmark since 1854</p> <p>104 North Carolina county</p> <p>105 World Series manager of 1981 and '88</p> <p>107 Grayish</p> <p>109 Fraternity hopeful</p> <p>111 Blue Bonnet, e.g.</p> <p>113 Most shaggy / Hotel offering / Actress Goldie</p> <p>116 Watered down</p> <p>117 Pickup capacity, sometimes</p> <p>118 Accumulated, as debts</p> <p>119 Mens ___ (guilty mind)</p> <p>120 "My ___" (Clinton autobiography)</p> <p>121 "You ___ kidding!"</p> <p>122 Accumulate</p> <p>123 "Washington Week" ailer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Down</b></p> <p>1 Pretend to be</p> <p>2 Forward, in 7-Down</p> <p>3 Ice skate part</p> <p>4 Thin wedge</p> <p>5 What's represented by x2 = 4py</p> <p>6 "I cannot tell a ___"</p> <p>7 See 2-Down</p> <p>8 A Jackson</p> <p>9 What you'll get if you read aloud 23-, 44-, 67-, 86- or 113-Across</p> | <p>10 Neighbor of Braz.</p> <p>11 ___ Accords of 1993</p> <p>12 "My bad," for one</p> <p>13 Ready for bed</p> <p>14 Three-time Masters champ</p> <p>15 Amble</p> <p>16 "Shall We Dance" dancer</p> <p>17 Inlet</p> <p>18 Memento of an old flame?</p> <p>24 "There is no greater ___ than bearing an untold story inside you": Maya Angelou</p> <p>25 Brother of Prometheus</p> <p>30 Where 67-Across's face appears</p> <p>33 Law school newcomers</p> <p>35 Son — or father — of Henry</p> <p>37 Contraction before "now"</p> <p>38 Former part of the British Airways fleet, for short</p> <p>40 Topnotch</p> <p>41 Science of duplicating nature</p> <p>42 It may be made into a meal</p> <p>45 Buck up</p> <p>46 Ramping, after "on"</p> <p>47 Hannibal Lecter, e.g.</p> <p>48 Satyajit Ray's "The ___ Trilogy"</p> <p>49 Satirize</p> <p>50 Blank space</p> |
|--|--|---|---|



- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>55 Cupid's teammate</p> <p>57 Cry accompanying a head slap</p> <p>58 Sharpened</p> <p>59 Holder of the alphabet</p> <p>60 Shortcuts for ships</p> <p>61 Setter sitter?</p> <p>63 Skywalker's friend</p> <p>65 1963 Audrey Hepburn thriller</p> | <p>68 Admitted to the foyer</p> <p>69 Ga. neighbor</p> <p>70 Cracker seed</p> <p>75 Bear, in Baja</p> <p>77 Emulates a rhabdomantist</p> <p>78 Entanglement</p> <p>79 Playwright Fugard</p> <p>82 Org. for Jimmy Carter, once</p> <p>84 Many</p> | <p>86 Birth mo. for Coolidge, Ford and G. W. Bush</p> <p>87 Cable channel</p> <p>88 Fresh start, metaphorically</p> <p>89 Bar activity</p> <p>90 More run-down</p> <p>91 Yanks and others</p> <p>92 Playable character in Guitar Hero III</p> <p>96 Equivalent to F</p> <p>97 Surfer's place</p> <p>98 Regarded to be</p> | <p>100 Not in any way</p> <p>101 Stretch, in a way</p> <p>103 The "A" of James A. Garfield</p> <p>106 Prado displays</p> <p>108 Grooming brand</p> <p>110 Ones near bases</p> <p>111 Friend of Pooh</p> <p>112 Kona keepsake</p> <p>114 Charged bit</p> <p>115 ___ high</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

Answers found on page 28.