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VOLUME 17, NO. 35

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY TO ALL!

JULY 1, 2009



The Islander

The Best News on Anna Maria Island Since 1992

www.islander.org

Fourth brings parade, fireworks, market

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Island will celebrate July 4 with a salute to broad stripes and bright stars and with rockets' red glare.

The holiday celebration will begin July 3 in Bradenton Beach, where the outdoor Bridge Street Market will be open from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. for beachgoers to stock up on fresh produce and snacks. Highway 41 will perform at 6 p.m.

With nightfall July 3, the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach, will salute the holiday with fireworks. Restaurant patrons will have a patio view of the display. The BeachHouse, which has hosted a fireworks display for 16 years,

is offering a VIP party package that includes music, dancing and dinner.

Beachgoers for blocks also will see the show, expected to begin at about 9:15 p.m., weather permitting.

Islanders are encouraged to walk or use the no-fare trolley for transportation to the beach.

On July 4, the Bridge Street Market will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, will host a holiday picnic at 5 p.m.

The holiday also brings the Anna Maria Island Privateers Independence Day Parade, which will begin at about 10 a.m. at Coquina Beach and travel north to Anna Maria's Bay-front Park.

After the parade, AMIP will host a party

at Cafe on the Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, to present more than \$28,000 in scholarships to college-bound Island youths.

The holiday festivities will end with a fireworks display at about 9:15 p.m. at the Sandbar Restaurant, 100 Spring Ave., Anna Maria, which will coincide with a fireworks display near the MarVista and Moore's Stone Crab restaurants on Longboat Key.

The Sandbar fireworks will be the fourth hosted by the restaurant, which will also hold a beach barbecue that evening.

The Longboat Key display is an inaugural show, co-sponsored by MarVista, Moore's, the *Longboat Observer* and presented with the assistance of the Longboat Key Village Association and Whitney Plaza merchants.



Stars and stripes salute

Penny Frick of Bradenton is this week's winner in the newspaper's six-week-long Top Notch contest, winning front-page placement of the photo and an Islander newspaper "More-Than-A-Mullet wrapper" T-shirt. Frick's entry — a striking red, white and blue-themed photograph taken at New Pass near Mote Marine — will go into a pool of weekly winners eligible for the grand prize of \$100 from the newspaper and a bevy of gift certificates and other prizes from Islander advertisers.

Island readies for holiday full house

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

As Anna Maria Island tourist accommodation owners and managers look forward to the July 4 weekend with many locations already sold out or at near capacity, the summer season could be even better than last year.

"We're already booked solid for this weekend," said David Teitelbaum, who operates the Tortuga, Tradewinds and Seaside motels.

"And based upon what we had in June and what we are expecting in July and August, we are way ahead of last year, which was a banner year," he said.

People waiting to the last minute to plan a July 4 weekend on the Island perhaps shouldn't wait so long.

Tom Buehler at Haley's Motel, Holmes

Beach, said he only has a few units left for the holiday weekend, and expected those to be taken quickly.

"We are filling up fast. It's been a good summer and going to be a great weekend," he said.

Likewise at the White Sands Resort in Holmes Beach, where Jeff Gerry said the summer business has been "very good." He is booked 100 percent for this coming weekend.

A few rooms for July 4 remained at the Club Bamboo Resort in Bradenton Beach last week, but were quickly taken by enterprising visitors by the end of the week.

Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce president Mary Ann Brockman said visitors can check with the chamber if they can't find a room.

"We have a few vacancies for this week-

end, but at the rate they are going, I wouldn't wait until the last minute," she said.

At the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, marketing manager Jessica Grace said it's good news to hear that the Island is going to be full this weekend.

"Summer is when we traditionally market to our drive-up market, people from Florida with families looking for a vacation. So far, it's been going very well," she said.

PLEASE SEE FULL, NEXT PAGE

Need a room?

For information on available accommodations on Anna Maria Island for the July 4 weekend, call the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce at 941-778-1541.

Private fireworks face confiscation, ticket

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Individuals thinking about having their own fireworks display this weekend on Anna Maria Island should think twice.

As they did last year, Island law enforcement will patrol the beach, confiscating illegal fireworks and educating offenders. Tickets will be issued only as a last resort, police said.

Anna Maria Mayor Fran Barford, a member of

Full house for Fourth on Island

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The BACVB will continue to advertise in Florida publications and media outlets, and Grace said she expects August to be quite busy, particularly since Florida public schools don't open until the last half of August.

Between 2001 and 2007, the Florida Legislature mandated that public schools open the first week in August, but pressure from the Florida tourist industry — which relies heavily on Florida residents vacationing at the beach in August — forced the Legislature to move the opening dates back two weeks.

The results were significant for Anna Maria Island. From an occupancy rate of 32 percent in August 2006, Island occupancy climbed to 50.7 percent in August 2007, the first year since 2000 that Florida schools did not reopen until the last week of August. Last August, Island occupancy was 49.5 percent.

Based on the current occupancy for Island accommodations and from reports of owners and managers, the BACVB summer advertising campaign is off to a good start.

The BACVB reported occupancy at Island accommodations in May 2009 was 62.2 percent, up 3.7 percent from the May 2008 figure of 58.5 percent, and 10 percent from the 52.2 percent recorded in May 2007.

the Island Fireworks Task Force, said the task force has done considerable work educating owners and managers of tourist accommodations to inform guests that fireworks are illegal without a permit.

The task force has also issued a number of public service messages and the portable signs on Cortez Road and the Palma Sola Causeway leading to the Island this weekend will announce that private fireworks on the beach are illegal.

A Manatee County ordinance prohibits the use of fireworks without a permit.

That doesn't mean the rockets red glare won't be seen this weekend. Two licensed fireworks displays are planned for the weekend on Anna Maria Island, one on July 3 and one on July 4.

Barford urged the public to respect the law and not shoot off any illegal fireworks.

Two years ago, a man watching the fireworks show in Anna Maria suffered a hand injury when an

illegal firecracker exploded just inches from his hand. That same year, a young boy was almost blinded by an exploding firecracker.

After those two incidents, Barford, Island law enforcement and West Manatee Fire Rescue officials formed the task force to educate the public and enforce the law.

Manatee County Sheriff's Office Sgt. John Kenney, then head of the Anna Maria substation, said it would take 1,000 officers to stop all illegal activity, but education and the presence of the walking patrols last year drastically reduced the number of illegal fireworks. Thousands of dollars worth of fireworks were collected — and disposed of properly — during the 2008 July 4 weekend by law enforcement.

"If you're coming to the Island this weekend, we hope everyone has a happy Fourth of July weekend," said Barford. "Just be safe and don't bring illegal fireworks."



A parade and fireworks highlighted last year's Fourth of July holiday. This year, the Privateers will parade on July 4 and fireworks shows will take place in Bradenton Beach on July 3 and in Anna Maria July 4.

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PAR, Mainsail purchase Tidemark

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The Tidemark projects in Holmes Beach were sold last week to an investment group that includes Anna Maria developer Pine Avenue Restoration LLC.

Joe Collier of Mainsail Development Group LLC of Tampa said his group will be the managing partner, while PAR is the majority limited partner. Other individuals and groups also have invested in the Tidemark projects, he said.

Collier said it was a chance meeting he had with Ed Chiles of PAR as Mainsail was considering an \$8.25 million bid to Mercantile Bank to purchase the Tidemark mortgage that led to PAR's involvement. Mercantile was in the process of foreclosing on the mortgage.

"Ed talked about the Island and did quite a sales job," Collier said. "We liked what we saw and Ed's passion for doing things in keeping with the charm and natural beauty of Anna Maria Island is the best new start for this project."

The Tidemark purchase included the 12-unit Tidemark Beach Club on the Gulf of Mexico on 66th Street and the Tidemark Lodge and Marina property adjacent to Wachovia Bank on Marina Drive.

The Chiles' sales pitch was convincing.

"We fell in love with the old Florida charm and quaintness, and the site plan for the hotel at the marina location fits in with that charm," Collier said.

Chiles said he was "delighted to be able to bring in a local component to this project. Joe Collier has embraced our approach to Island development, stressing green technologies, native landscaping and architectural influences responsive to this very unique Island on which we live."

New PAR partners Lizzie and Mike Thrasher of Anna Maria were likewise pleased about the Tidemark purchase and their future involvement.

"We would like to see this [project] realize its potential and make the marina/resort area a good place to spend time, rather than the sad and sorry place it is now," Lizzie Thrasher said.

She said she and her husband were also excited to be part of PAR, noting that Anna Maria and the Island "work in a very human way. We love it here. People are friendly and care deeply about future developments and their community. And the natural resources are just beautiful."

Moving forward

After nearly eight years of inactivity at the Tidemark Lodge and Marina site adjacent to the Wachovia Bank in Holmes Beach, Collier said he is ready to

"rock and roll" as soon as possible.

"We hope to begin vertical construction within a year. We really want to get this going," he said.

The "Tidemark" name will disappear at both projects, Collier said. The lodge and marina will become the Mainsail Lodge and Marina at Anna Maria Island, while the Tidemark Beach Club will be renamed the Mainsail Beach Inn.

Before construction begins at the lodge project, Collier said Mainsail will complete the marina portion and get it fully operational.

At the same time, the beachfront resort will convert to condominium sales, but remain as rentals during the sale period. Collier said Mainsail has no plans for fractional ownership at either the lodge or the beach.

"We will continue to operate the beach resort as rental property while selling the units," he said.

Reliance out

Lance McNeill of Reliance-Tidemark LLC, the former owners, said he put together an investment group that submitted a bid to the bank, but Mainsail had the higher bid. That put McNeill and partner Ken Dardis out of the picture.

"Reliance Partners is no longer involved with Tidemark," McNeill said. Reliance was the group that bailed original Tidemark developer Nick Easterling out of bankruptcy in 2005.

"I regret I was not successful in our bid, but I'm happy that a local group is involved. I wish them nothing but good things. It's a great project for the entire Island," McNeill said.

Mainsail

According to Mainsail's Web site, Collier has been involved in the hotel and hospitality industry for a number of years and formed Mainsail in 1998. The company has developed a number of resort and business properties in Florida and the Caribbean and is currently developing a \$200 million resort in the British Virgin Islands.

Tidemark history

The Tidemark hotel-marina project received its controversial site-plan approval from the Holmes Beach City Commission in August 2001, but then encountered a number of delays.

Although some infrastructure work on the 40-unit hotel was completed, there has been no vertical construction, despite several false starts and public announcements that construction was imminent.

Easterling ran into financial difficulties and placed the company in bankruptcy in 2003.

He and the bankruptcy court eventually reached a financial agreement with Dardis that brought the company out of bankruptcy. Easterling was subsequently dismissed from the new company, Reliance Tidemark LLC.

But a downturn in the real estate market forced McNeill and Dardis to reconsider the hotel-condo project until real estate values stabilized.

Instead, they invested in the Tidemark Beach Club project, which was planned as a fractional ownership complex.

Mainsail future

Holmes Beach superintendent of public works director Joe Duennes said he has not received a building permit application for the lodge and marina, but has talked to people from Mainsail about future plans.

As long as there is no "major change" from the original footprint, Duennes said, the new owners can apply for a building permit when ready. If major and substantial changes are incorporated in the permit application, however, the developers will have to start over with a new site-plan application and public hearings, he said.

Meetings

Anna Maria City

- July 7, 6:30 p.m., planning and zoning board meeting.
- July 9, 7 p.m., city commission work session.
- July 23, 7 p.m., city commission regular meeting.

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

Bradenton Beach

- July 2, 1 p.m., city pier management team meeting.
- July 2, 7 p.m., city commission regular meeting.
- July 16, 1 p.m., city commission regular meeting.

Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 941-778-1005, www.cityofbradentonbeach.org.

Holmes Beach

- July 14, 7 p.m., city commission regular meeting.
- July 16, 10 a.m., code enforcement meeting.
- July 23, 9 a.m., board of adjustment meeting.
- July 24, 1:30 p.m., police retirement board meeting.
- July 28, 7 p.m., city commission regular meeting.

Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 941-708-5800, www.holmesbeachfl.org.

West Manatee Fire Rescue District

- July 16, 6 p.m., district commission meeting.
- WMFR Station No. 1, 6001 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, 941-741-3900.

Of Interest

- Independence Day is July 4, when government offices are closed, as well as many businesses, including *The Islander*. Government offices also will be closed July 3.

- July 8, 3:30 p.m., Palma Sola Scenic Highway Corridor Management Entity quarterly meeting, Manatee County Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton.

- July 15, 2 p.m., Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials meeting at Anna Maria City Hall.

- July 20, 2 p.m., Island Transportation Planning Organization meeting at Holmes Beach City Hall.

- Aug. 17, 9:30 a.m., Manatee County Tourist Development Council meeting, Palma Sola Botanical Park, Bradenton.

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



Musical setting

Movie-goers settle in to watch "High School Musical 3" at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. The July 17 feature movie will be "Lion King." Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

Island cities asked to share trolley costs

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

The Island's elected officials will be discussing as early as this week whether to pledge funding to the campaign to keep the trolley fare-free.

The county commission, as it deals with major budget cuts, was asked to consider instituting a \$1 daily fare for the trolley.

But a campaign introduced in mid-June by Island businessman David Teitelbaum put the county on a different route.

Teitelbaum, in a campaign called Save Our Trolley, has proposed that the system continue to operate partially subsidized by local governments, but also with funds raised with an annual festival, a donation box and the sale of naming rights and advertising.

"Lots of support is coming in," Teitelbaum said last week.

For fiscal year 2010, which begins in October, Teitelbaum proposed that each of the Island cities contribute \$8,000 to the trolley operation, the Manatee County Tourist Development Council would contribute \$26,000 and the county would provide \$50,000 in funding.

For fiscal year 2011, the Island cities each would contribute \$10,000, while the Manatee County Tourist Development Council would provide \$40,000 and fundraising would contribute \$50,000 toward the \$900,000 operation of the trolley to relieve county taxpayers of some burden.

Teitelbaum said county administrator Ed Hunzeker and County Commissioner John Chappie, who has said he does not support a fare on the trolley, planned to talk with Island mayors this week about

SOT.

Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach officials also are expected to address the trolley funding at meetings in the coming weeks.

On July 2, Bradenton Beach City Commission is expected to discuss trolley funding, including an application to the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization for funding assistance.

The trolley system, which operates from the city pier in Anna Maria to Coquina Beach, provides service to stops about every 20 minutes.

About 60 percent of the riders are local residents and a primary purpose of the trolley was to reduce traffic congestion, according to Manatee County Area Transit.

But from its start on March 18, 2002, the trolley

served as a tourist attraction, a no-hassle — and free — way for vacationers to see the Island from one end to the other.

The trolley was to be free at least for the first year, but county commissioners at the time had hopes to pay for the trolley with grants and revenue from advertisements to keep the trolley free — at least through 2003. The trolley has remained free to riders, even after the county began facing major budget challenges two years ago.

Teitelbaum presented the SOT idea at a county budget hearing in mid-June and found county commissioners and Hunzeker receptive.

"I know we can get enough money to pay for this," said County Commissioner Carol Whitmore, who has said she is committed to a fare-free trolley.

County to seek proposals for beach concessions

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Manatee County is drafting a request to seek proposals for its beach concessions despite objections from the county commission's two Island residents.

The commission voted 5-2 on June 23 to request proposals to operate the concessions at the Manatee Public Beach in Holmes Beach and Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach. Commissioner John Chappie, who represents the Island and lives in Bradenton Beach, voted no, as did Commissioner Carol Whitmore, an at-large board member who lives in Holmes Beach.

The issue had been listed on the commission's consent agenda until Whitmore called for a discussion on the proposal.

"I got so mad," Whitmore said later. "They were just going to put it on consent, and just to do it. I said, 'No, no, no.'"

P.S. Beach Associates, which began oversight of the concessions in 1992, operates the concessions, but its license agreement with the county is up for review.

"We were going for our five-year renewal," said P.S. Beach Associates' Dee Percifield-Schaefer. "We were quite taken by surprise" when county staff proposed surveying concessionaires for competitive options rather than simply extending or renewing the agreement.

"Why, in this economy, would you change horses
PLEASE SEE BEACH, NEXT PAGE

'Top Notch' photo contest deadline Friday

If you've got a top notch snapshot, we've got a contest you could win.

The *Islander* Top Notch photo contest will begin publishing weekly winning photos on June 24. Six weekly winning pictures will be featured on the cover of *The Islander* and one photo will be a grand prize winner with \$100 cash prize from *The Islander* and other prizes and gift certificates from local merchants. Weekly winners will receive a "More Than a Mullet Wrapper" *Islander* T-shirt.

The weekly deadline is noon Friday throughout the contest with the next deadline July 3.

Top Notch judging begins with a selection of pictures that may include family, landscapes and scenics, candid snapshots, action, holidays, humor and animal pictures. Nothing is overlooked, including great kid pics, sentimental moments and moments of personal triumph.

Digital contest entries should be submitted in the original JPG format via e-mail to topnotch@islander.org or on a disc.



Don Lee of Springfield, Mo., was a weekly winner last year with his underwater photo of a sea turtle and friends taken in Belize.

Only photo cropping is allowed. No retouching, enhancements or computer manipulation is allowed on digital or print photos.

And while digital entries are encouraged, you may send or deliver your favorite prints weekly to Top Notch Contest Editor, *The Islander*, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217.

Complete rules and entry forms for the contest are published below. Please attach a photo contest label to each photo or CD you submit.

E-mail entrants are required to submit the label information in the e-mail text and the signature is waived, one photo attachment per e-mail. There is no limit to the number of weekly entries. Entries need not be repeated weekly, as any photos preferred by the judges but not selected are moved forward each week of the contest.

Photos without entry forms will be disqualified. Additional labels are available at the newspaper office or they may be copied.

Islander photo contest rules

1) **The Islander Newspaper Top Notch Photo Contest** is strictly for amateur photographers. Amateur photographers are those who derive less than 5 percent of their income from photography.

2) Black-and-white and color photographs taken after Jan. 1, 2008, are eligible. Photos previously published (in any format/media) or entered in any *Islander* or other competition are not eligible.

3) Photographs may be taken with any make of camera. No retouching or other alteration (except cropping) is permitted.

of negatives, prints or electronic photos; no composite pictures or multiple print images will be accepted. Digital photos must be submitted in their original JPG file format (via e-mail or CD). Prints from digital or film are accepted. Slide (transparency) photos are not accepted.

4) Entrant's name, address and phone number must be written clearly on the contest label and affixed to the back of each print submitted, or listed similarly in the e-mail message along with the digital photo attachment. One e-mail per photo submission. E-mail digital entries to topnotch@islander.org. Mail print entries to *The Islander* Top Notch Photo Contest, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217.

5) Entrants by their entry agree that *The Islander* may publish their pictures for local promotion. Entrants must be able to furnish the original negative or original digital image if requested by the contest editor. All photos submitted become the property of *The Islander*. **Photos will not be returned.** *The Islander* and contest sponsors assume no responsibility for submitted negatives, CDs or photo prints.

Entrant must know and submit the name and address of any recognizable persons appearing in the picture. Names must be enclosed/attached with the entry.

6) Employees of *The Islander* and their immediate family members are not eligible to enter the contest.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____
 PHONE _____
 DATE PHOTO WAS TAKEN: _____
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 I have read the contest rules and affirm that this entry is in compliance with them.
 SIGNATURE: _____
(signature not required for e-mail entries)

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 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____
 PHONE _____
 DATE PHOTO WAS TAKEN: _____
 LOCATION PHOTO WAS TAKEN: _____

 I have read the contest rules and affirm that this entry is in compliance with them.
 SIGNATURE: _____
(signature not required for e-mail entries)

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____
 PHONE _____
 DATE PHOTO WAS TAKEN: _____
 LOCATION PHOTO WAS TAKEN: _____

 I have read the contest rules and affirm that this entry is in compliance with them.
 SIGNATURE: _____
(signature not required for e-mail entries)

Pipeline project may aid renourishment

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

A local beach renourishment project may take place several years ahead of schedule under a new proposal for a natural gas pipeline.

The pipeline, which would run from the Gulf of Mexico into Tampa Bay and reach the mainland at

Beach concession bids sought

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in the middle of the stream," she added.

County administrator Ed Hunzeker stressed that the recommendation did not stem from a problem with P.S. Beach.

"There is nothing wrong with the current vendors and their operation," he said.

However, he added, no vendor "has a lock on the public's business."

Whitmore disagreed and recommended renewing the agreement with P.S. Beach for another five years.

"We have not had one complaint since 1992," she said.

P.S. Beach runs a good operation that draws crowds daily to the beaches, Whitmore said, singling out the popular Cafe on the Beach and its all-you-can-eat pancakes offering.

"It's about the character of the Island," Whitmore said. "It's about the experience at the beach."

Cafe on the Beach patrons agreed.

"When I have visitors, this is where I bring them," said Hayley Bystrom of Bradenton Beach. "When I lived in New York, I took guests to the Statue of Liberty. On the Island, I take them to Cafe on the Beach and the piers."

"I hope they don't mess with a good thing," said Paul Bystrom, who dined last Friday morning on the all-you-can-eat pancake special — one serving of sausage patties, two servings pancakes.

Percifield-Schaefer said P.S. Beach will participate in the bidding process, and she hopes to continue to operate the concessions for years to come.

"I love that place," she said. "And we've done an absolute terrific job."

the Port of Manatee, has generated some concern that white sand needed for beach renourishment would be made off limits. Officials on Longboat Key were the most vocal with concerns for the pipeline route, which already was revised once to avoid another area of beach-quality sand.

On June 23, during a Manatee County Board of Commissioners meeting, a possible solution to the conflict was announced: Instead of relocating the pipeline route to avoid submerged beach-quality sand, the sand would be removed before construction of the pipeline.

"It's a win-win for all parties," Manatee County natural resources director Charlie Hunsicker reported.

Hunsicker said representatives with the county, Longboat Key, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Port Dolphin Energy LLC are working on the compromise strategy.

"We hope this will work," he said.

If an agreement can be reached and the sand removed before Port Dolphin places its pipeline, renourishment for Longboat Key and Anna Maria Island might take place several years ahead of schedule — as early as 2011 — and with some cost-sharing on Port Dolphin's part.

Hunsicker said, "We've found a solution to bring additional natural gas to the southwest coast of Florida through Port Manatee, at the same time protecting our white beach sand and the living resources in the Gulf of Mexico."

Port Dolphin maintains the pipeline will help Florida utilities move away from a reliance on coal, will supply clean-burning natural gas to meet 15 percent of the state's needs — or a million homes a day.

The company also maintains the project will generate \$42 million in economic benefits during construction, including the creation of 82 jobs, \$1.5 million in local and state revenue taxes.

Over the life of the project — about 20-30 years — Port Dolphin estimates the economic benefits will total more than \$85 million, as well as spur competition that could reduce energy costs for consumers.

In the pipeline

The Port Dolphin Energy LLC proposal includes:

- A deepwater natural gas port about 28 miles off the coast of Anna Maria Island.
- Ships carrying gas from other areas will anchor next to buoys at the deepwater port in the Gulf of Mexico to deliver natural gas.
- Gas will be transported through a pipeline running from the deepwater port into Tampa Bay to Port Manatee.
- The pipeline will continue several miles inland, where it will connect with other natural gas pipelines.

The proposal is online at www.regulations.gov. The docket number is USCG-2007-28532.

Signal changed at key intersection

Motorists on East Bay Drive in Holmes Beach should notice a change in the traffic light operation at the intersection with Manatee Avenue.

The signal change took place early June 25, with a Manatee County traffic crew on sight before morning commuters crossed the Anna Maria Island Bridge.

The change, requested by Holmes Beach Police Chief Jay Romine and urged by residents of Westbay Cove condominiums, involves a short delay for motorists turning left from northbound East Bay Drive onto Manatee Avenue.

The delay, said Romine, will keep the left-turning drivers from cutting off motorists leaving Westbay Cove.

A sign at the intersection cautions the left-turning East Bay motorists to yield, but residents complained that too many drivers did not heed the caution.

"The timing has been changed... It will take some time for people to get used to it, but hopefully it will eliminate the right-of-way confusion issues," Romine said.

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Our Opinion

Be careful what you wish for ...

Be careful when saying "Yes" quickly to "free sand" because, as the saying goes, "you will surely get it."

And there may be more to this wish — a downside.

In the case of a proposed deepwater natural gas port some 28 miles off the coast of Anna Maria Island and the accompanying pipeline to Port Manatee, the company that is pushing the project obviously sees big dollars signs.

Our legislators, county and local Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key officials are touting the newest plan that will provide free sand and move up the schedule of beach renourishment if Port Dolphin Energy's preferred path for the pipeline, through beach-rich sand northwest of the northern tip of Anna Maria, is approved.

But be careful, because that white sand source will forever be off limits after the pipeline is laid. It's a one-time only offer.

And some caution is needed, because to date, only the pipeline path has been challenged. We've heard no argument on the merits or detriments to our area of an offshore gas port, where large tankers will hook up and unload gas, or the pipeline in our front yard.

It seems the focus of discussion is directed — or misdirected? — to the pipeline path, and discussion about the port-pipeline project has been blurred in the background.

According to Glenn Compton, chairman of the respected environmental group ManaSota-88, "Relocating the sand for pipeline construction is a very temporary solution with questionable results. It would be easier to relocate the pipeline route than attempt to change the offshore forces of nature that produce the high quality sand located there."

"Port Dolphin needs to continue to completely avoid the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve and ... the high-quality sand deposits located offshore."

And while no oil or natural gas processing is yet proposed, as Sandscript columnist Paul Roat points out this week, the possibility looms large in Congress.

Visit www.islander.org for a list of contacts, and let your elected officials know your "wishes."

Our beaches and estuaries have value far beyond corporate debauchery.

And keep it safe

It's that holiday that some Islanders — small pets, marinelifers and wildlife — deplore and others adore, when things really do go boom in the night.

Please, do not tolerate dangerous, illegal fireworks that can cause personal injury and damage to our fragile environment. Instead, report abusers to law enforcement and have a safe and fun holiday at the parade and the legal fireworks shows.

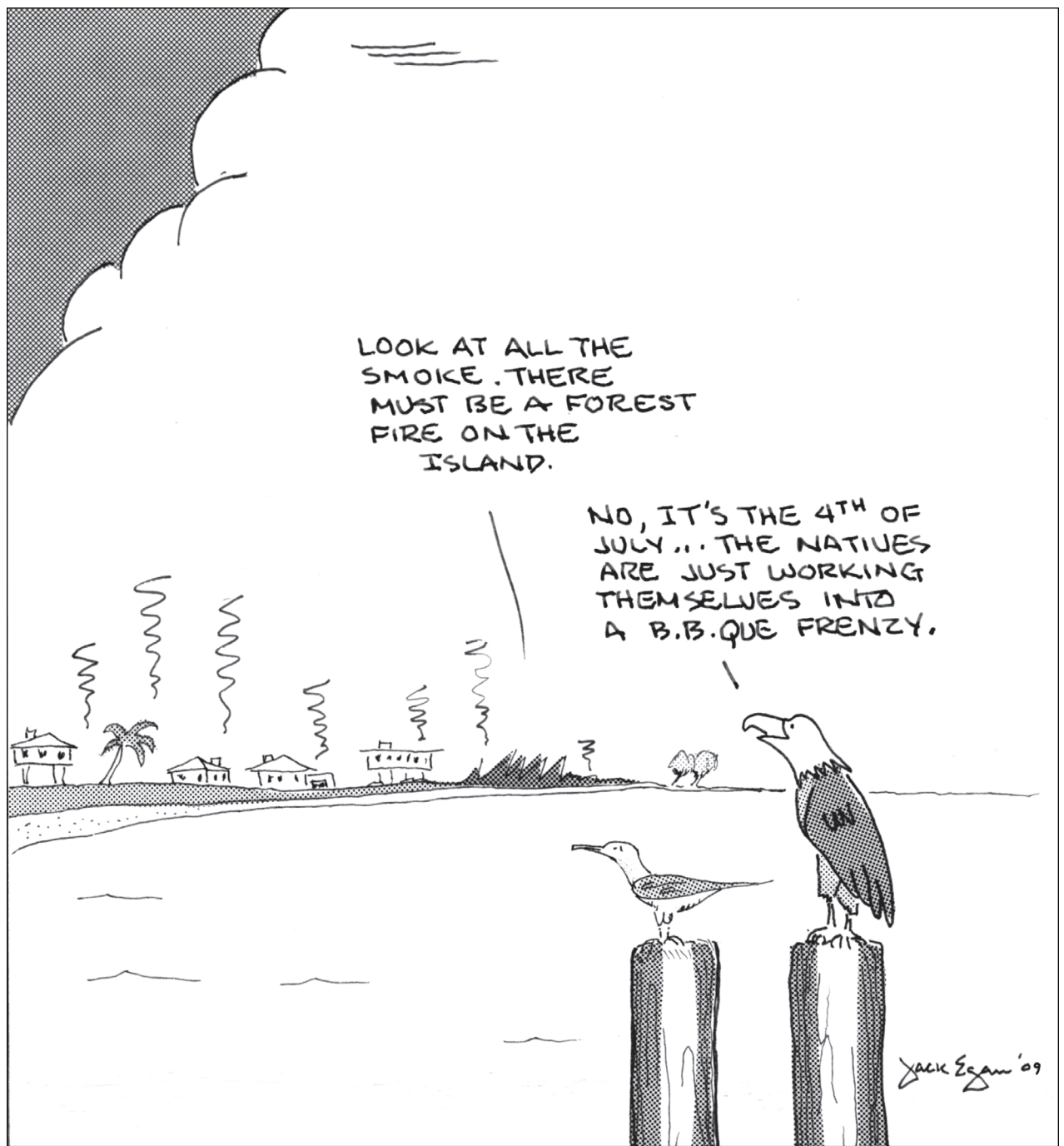
It's about our country's independence, not decadence.

Happy Fourth of July.

The Islander
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Slick

By Egan

Your Opinion

Trolley fare fairness

Manatee County administrator Ed Hunzeker has expressed a need for a rationale for transit riders on the mainland in order to justify continuing the free trolley on Anna Maria Island.

How's this for a rationale? Island property taxes represent such a large percentage of the county tax base that we Islanders already pay for countywide transit and a lot more, so I think we can afford to keep our little trolley free.

Or how about everybody coming from town gives us a \$1 at the bridge until we reach the \$900,000 annually we need for our trolley.

That way you'll pay ours and we'll pay yours, but you'll still be ahead.

Maybe we can think of some other ways to "even things out." What a ridiculous statement: a rationale for the in-town transit riders.

Give me a break.

Janet Aubry, Anna Maria

Thanks for pet story

My thanks go to Lisa Neff for her wonderful profile on Julie Royal and Royal Pet Rescue in the June 24 edition of *The Islander*.

When I first moved to Anna Maria Island, there were a number of stray and feral cats living near my home. Royal was one of the generous people who taught me about trap-neuter-release and helped me spay and neuter those cats. I now have a wonderful small family of cats in my care.

Her compassion and dedication knows no bounds. She helps all the animals she can and also works to mediate when people want strays exterminated. Killing animals that live in the sparse habitat left on the Island is ineffective — other animals will simply move into the area. TNR is a more balanced and humane solution.

Instead of complaining to the mayor, code

enforcement officer or animal control, please, consider TNR.

I hope everyone who reads Royal's story will consider adopting one of her rescued animals or donating to Royal Pet Rescue, even if it's only a small amount. Shelters are full of animals whose owners can no longer afford them, and Royal's tireless work helps give those pets a chance for a new home.

Stacie Suttles, Holmes Beach

Kudos for save the beach

Well done all who have fought for the renourishment of the beach in Anna Maria.

We come to Anna Maria Island for two months every year and stay between Bean Point and the Rod & Reel Pier/Motel and have been concerned that the erosion is endangering the property and Bean Point.

Norman Norfolk, Frinton, U.K.

Have your say

We welcome and encourage your original comments on topics, columns and editorials in *The Islander*.

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

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

Address letters by e-mail to news@islander.org or mail to 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217, deliver your letter in person to the office, or fax toll free to 1-866-362-9821.

Holmes Beach honored for beautification

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach parks and beautification committee members spent months shopping for a sponsor to improve the traffic islands on the city's highly commercial East Bay Drive.

With no takers, the advisory group began last winter to work on an in-house beautification project with the mayor's office and the city public work's department.

Last week, the work on the islands at the intersection of Manatee Avenue earned the city a beautification award from the Manatee River Garden Club.

Club members formally presented Mayor Rich Bohnenberger with a plaque June 23 while standing on an island with cars swooshing past in the right-turn lane.

"Every year we find a spot that has been beauti-

fied," said club member Lori Richie, adding that the club's membership and interest is countywide.

"I think it's beautiful," said Barbara Null, another club member.

Bohnenberger said a member of the club was driving past the traffic islands and noticed their improvement from months ago, when plantings were sparse and consisted, most noticeably, of wilting poinsettias.

Last winter, parks and beautification committee members created a plant list that included sunflowers, gaillardia and gold lantana and helped public works employees design the garden spots.

"We really appreciate this recognition," Bohnenberger said. "We have a committee that serves our city well, and a public works department that does so, too."



Holmes Beach Mayor Rich Bohnenberger holds a plaque from the Manatee River Garden Club. He was joined by members of the club and the Holmes Beach Parks and Beautification Committee, as well as public works employees, to formally accept the plaque June 23. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff



In the June 30, 1999, issue of *The Islander*, headlines announced:

- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection announced it had approved a \$100,000 grant for Anna Maria to restore the city pier. Public works director Phil Charnock said he hoped the money would cover replacing the length of the pier.

- Three people were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard when the engine of their 45-foot cabin cruiser overheated and caught fire about 10 miles west of Anna Maria Island. A Coast Guard spokesperson said it was the third boat fire in three months to require a Coast Guard rescue.

- Bradenton Beach got an unexpected bonus when it received a check for \$24,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for reimbursement of expenses incurred during the evacuation for Hurricane Georges. City commissioners decided to put the money into the general fund rather than purchase new police radios, as requested by Police Chief Sam Speciale.

TEMPS AND DROPS ON AMI

Date	Low	High	Rainfall
June 21	82	92	0
June 22	83	94	0
June 23	74	93	.60
June 24	74	89	.30
June 25	75	90	0
June 26	78	87	.40
June 27	80	89	.10
Average Gulf water temperature 86 °			
24-hour rainfall accumulation with reading at approximately 5 p.m. daily.			

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Formal charges pending against burglary suspects

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Formal charges are still pending against two men accused of committing a series of local burglaries this spring.

John O'Keefe and Patrick S. Banker, both 18 of Sarasota, were arrested May 19 after Manatee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Alan Judy observed signs of a break-in at the Waterfront Restaurant in Anna Maria. Both men were arrested fleeing from the area.



Banker



O'Keefe

Banker and O'Keefe were subsequently accused of breaking into more than a dozen local businesses, including in Anna Maria, Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach and on Longboat Key.

But, as of *The Islander* press time, O'Keefe and Banker had only formally been charged in connection to one incident, a May 1 burglary at the Waterfront Restaurant.

Until June 24, both men had been held in the Manatee County jail on \$5,000 bond for each charge.

Last week, attorneys for both O'Keefe and Banker filed motions calling for the release of uncharged defendants.

The motion in Banker's case references the Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure, which states, "The state shall file formal charges on defendants in custody by information, or indictment ... within 30 days from the date on which the defendants are arrested or from the date of the service of capias upon them."

The rule also requires that if a defendant remains uncharged on the 30th day, the court shall order the defendant's release on personal recognizance.

The motion was filed June 19, 31 days after Banker's arrest.

The motion on O'Keefe's behalf made a similar argument.

On June 24, Circuit Court Judge Diana Moreland issued an order for O'Keefe to be released on his own

recognizance for most of the state accusations against him. But, facing a formal charge for the Waterfront burglary and awaiting bond, O'Keefe remained in jail

as of *The Islander's* press time.

Banker, however, was released from custody on June 24.

Holmes Beach man faces child sexual battery charge

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

A Holmes Beach man faces a charge of sexual battery involving a minor after his arrest for allegedly fondling a girl.



Legore

Richard S. LeGore, 66, was arrested at his home in the 2800 block of Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, at about 1:30 p.m. June 20.

A probable cause affidavit filed in Manatee County Circuit Court states that LeGore molested a young girl with whom he is related on June 18.

The child's mother and a representative with a rape crisis center in Bradenton brought the girl to the Holmes Beach Police Department to report the incident.

The child was sitting on LeGore's lap and the

two were watching television when he committed the sexual battery, according to the report.

After, LeGore allegedly told the child that he should not be doing this and then put her to bed.

The charge LeGore faces is a capital felony.

Bail was set at \$50,000.

LeGore, described in the police report as a self-employed environmental consultant, posted bail June 22.

Manatee County Circuit Court Judge Gilbert Smith set the conditions for the man's release from the Manatee County jail. He can have no contact with the alleged victim and must wear an ankle bracelet.

A separate case in the courts was filed by a victim's advocate requesting a temporary injunction to prevent LeGore from coming within 500 feet of the child.

Man charged with sex crime against underage victim in Holmes Beach

Holmes Beach police arrested William E. Lindsay, 41, of San Francisco, June 25 on charges of lewd or lascivious molestation of a victim 12-16 years of age.



Lindsay

According to the report by Holmes Beach Police Officer Stanley R. House, Lindsay groped a juvenile

on the buttocks and attempted to kiss the victim at about 2 a.m. June 24 while they were on the beach in the 3800 block of the city.

The victim told HBPD that the defendant was intoxicated at the time of the incident and it was a complete surprise to the victim.

Lindsay admitted at the time of his arrest that he was intoxicated when the incident occurred, according to the report.

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Bradenton Beach commission OKs draft harbor plan

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Bradenton Beach commissioners approved a broad-stroke draft of a harbor management plan June 24, a week ahead of a deadline to submit the plan to the state for a preliminary review.

Commissioners, as well as city project/program manager Lisa Marie Phillips and city attorney Ricinda Perry, stressed that much work remains on the plan and the long-term effort to establish a mooring field in Bradenton Beach.

"The draft plan itself does not need to be comprehensive," Perry said. "This is a draft harbor management plan — very different from a finalized plan."

"As exciting as it would be to have this be the end all, it's just not," said Phillips, adding that eventually a feasibility study for the mooring field will be needed.

The harbor plan is part of the city's broader recreational boating master plan, which also contains a proposal for a non-motorized boat launch at Herb Dolan Park.

Phillips shipped a draft of the boating plan to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to meet a June 30 deadline, a requirement under a grant to the city to hire a consultant to help with the plan, as well as to get a preliminary review of the document.

"They will look at our draft and make sure we are hitting the points," Perry said.

The draft plan focuses on environmental and recreational issues, and not the finer details of how mooring spaces in the harbor would be rented and the rules boaters would be required to follow.

In a series of meetings this spring, an advisory mooring field committee reviewed other harbor management plans and, using a St. Augustine plan as a model, discussed in detail how a harbor would be operated in Bradenton Beach.

Much of what the committee decided will be used to draft a rental agreement for boaters in the mooring field, Perry said.

"We have a road map of ultimately where we want to go," the attorney told commissioners.

During last week's meeting, commissioners



Bradenton Beach commissioners approved a draft harbor management plan for a mooring field south of the Historic Bridge Street Pier. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

reviewed a number of issues previously discussed by the mooring field committee, including how boaters would establish residency, the relationship between a harbor master and city departments, the hours a harbor master office would be open and how codes and ordinances would apply to the mooring field.

"How is the mooring field going to interact with our laws?" Perry said.

She offered an example of her concern. The city has an ordinance that generally prohibits open con-

tainers of alcohol on public property, and the mooring field is a public space.

"Would an open container on a vessel violate our city ordinance?" Perry asked. "Are we in general going to apply our land ordinances to our mooring field? Or are we going to carve out exceptions?... Understand how many different ordinances are going to be tripped up."

Commissioners reached a consensus that the city eventually will have to adopt exceptions to some current provisions and adopt new ordinances to apply solely to the mooring field.

Discussing the harbor master post, commissioners agreed that they want to contract for the work rather than expand city staff.

Commissioners also agreed that the harbor master would have some role in enforcement, but would not act as a police or code enforcement officer.

Discussing harbor master hours, there was a consensus that the office would not be staffed 24 hours a day, but that the harbor master must work week-ends.

"A person has got to be there on the weekends," said Bradenton Beach Police Lt. John Cosby. "They have got to be there on the weekends because that is when it is going to be the most chaotic."

Two members of the mooring field committee, Bill Shearon and Michael Harrington, attended last week's meeting.

Both raised concerns that the committee was rushed to complete the draft plan, that the committee was not well informed of the process, and that the committee wants to be more involved as the process goes forward.

"I think if you are going to utilize the mooring field committee, you need to create some direction for them on what you want done," Shearon said.

Commissioner Bob Bartelt said the committee will have more opportunities to work on the plan.

"What we are just doing is finding out if we can get the permitting and what this is going to cost the city," Bartelt said. "And then we will have a feasibility study.... This will be one of the smallest mooring fields in the state. We're not even sure we can afford this."

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Rocking Roser

Children attend a celebration in the chapel during Roser Memorial Community Church's vacation Bible school, Crocodile Dock. The sessions took place at the church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, in early June, with the chapel and church halls and classrooms decorated like a swamp.



Students in Roser's vacation Bible school program work on crafts. Bible school director Kelley Tribble, along with about 60 assistants, spent mornings in early June teaching children Bible stories, songs, crafts, games and to look for "God sightings" every day.



A student in Roser Memorial Community Church's vacation Bible school program shows off her artistic talent. More than 120 children participated in the program at the Anna Maria church.

Groups hosts non-profit forum

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County Nonprofit Resource Center and the Association of Fundraising Professionals will host a non-profit forum July 10 in Anna Maria.

The 2009 Fundraisers Forum: A Day on the Island will take place at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

The program will feature fundraising expert Carol Weisman as a keynote speaker and a series of discussions on the subject.

The forum will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The cost to attend will be \$50 and includes breakfast and lunch.

For more information, call the Community Foundation of Sarasota County at 941- 556-7106.

Rotary to meet

The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island will meet at noon Tuesday, July 7, at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach.

The guest speaker will be Nicholas Drizos of SMART Riders Sarasota. He will talk about horse-riding as therapy for challenged children.

For more information, go to www.annamariarotary.com.

Center to hold mid-summer classes

The Anna Maria Island Community Center will host personal trainer Bettina Bade leading a "Sculpt and Strengthen Boot Camp."

The classes will take place Mondays at 6 a.m. starting July 13 at the Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

Other classes include:

- Baby and Beyond or After the Stork, also with Bade, and for new mothers, meeting Saturdays at 10 a.m. starting July 18.

- Group personal training with Bade, meeting Mondays at 6:30 p.m. beginning July 20.

For more information, including registration and price details, call the Center at 941-778-1908.

White ends term on state tourism board

Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau executive director Larry White stepped down last week after 25 years as a member of the board of Visit Florida, the official state tourism agency.

"This change will allow me to focus my efforts on growing the Bradenton-area tourism product," said White, who will continue as executive director of the BACVB.

BACVB marketing director Jessica Grace serves on the Visit Florida public relations committee.



Weisman

Library announces July programs

The Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, will host a family origami program at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 11.

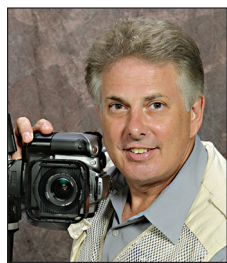
Other programs include a book discussion group meeting for adults at 10:15 a.m. Thursday, July 16, and, for children, a yo-yo demonstration at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 9 and a drum circle demonstration at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 30.

For teens, the library will host a talk on archaeology at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 8; instruction on making beaded bag charms and bookmarks at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16; a visit by the Elmira Wildlife Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22.

Also, the library will co-host a presentation by Sarasota Jungle Gardens at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 16.

Library to host photo classes

The Island Branch Library will host James Corwin Johnson teaching a series of digital photography classes in July and August.



Johnson

The Friends of the Island Branch Library will present the Adventures in Imaging and Safari Ventures program at the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

The July classes will take place from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and include:

- July 8, Travel and Adventure Photography.
- July 15, Introduction to Digital Photography.
- July 22, Portrait Photography and Lighting Demonstration.

- July 29, Landscape and Nature Photography.

The August classes will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and include:

- Aug. 5, Introduction to Digital Photography.
- Aug. 12, Outdoor Lighting Techniques.
- Aug. 19, Better Birding Photography.

During the summer, the library also will showcase photographs by Johnson and his students.

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

Island eatery to host working artists

Artists, all members of the Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island, will be "working" at the Sun House restaurant Mondays through Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., demonstrating their techniques and showing their work.

The restaurant, 111 Gulf Drive S., Bradenton Beach, will showcase artists at work through September, and this month's lineup includes:

- July 13-16: Barbara Hines demonstrating watercolor, silk painting and fiber art.
- July 20-23: Joan Voyles demonstrating watercolor and mixed-media.
- July 27-30: Karen deLeon Stuart demonstrating oil, pastels and pottery.

Other artists in August and September include Mariarosa and Roger Rockefeller, Ann Terhardt, Karen Cunningham, Faye Rosechild-Nierman, Elayn Leopold, Mary DuCharme "Hadj," Judy Strom and Jo Anne Curtan.

Center to host writing workshop

The Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, will host a writer's workshop July 27 and Aug. 3.

The two-session workshop will begin both days at 6:30 p.m. The instructor is Ellen Jones.

The Center also is offering a crash course in social networking on the Internet that Jones will teach at 6:30 p.m. July 13-14.

A third class with Jones covers making video legacies and ethical wills and will take place at 6:30 p.m. July 20-21.

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

County to fill seats on TDC

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Manatee County commissioners soon will be making five appointments to the Tourist Development Council.

The TDC, which generally meets the third Monday of every other month, makes recommendations to the county commission concerning projects in the tourist development plan and the uses for tourist development tax revenue.

The TDC consists of one county commissioner, two elected municipal officials, four owners or operators of hotels, motels or other accommodations who are subject to the resort tax and two people involved in the tourist industry who are not subject to the resort tax.

The county commission will be appointing an interested citizen to serve out the remainder of a term that expires in June 2010.

Also, the four-year terms of the four people involved with hotels, motels and other accommodations in the county are expiring.

Current TDC members Sean Murphy, David Teitelbaum, Barbara Rodocker — all Island businesspeople — and Tom Jung with the Courtyard Marriott in Bradenton have applied for reappointment to the accommodations posts.

Additional applications for a seat on the TDC board were received, as of June 9 from *Islander* publisher Bonner Joy, Bradenton resident Earl Morgan, University Park resident Dianne Belk and Kim Ibasfalean, who runs a charter boat operation out of Cortez.

Application PDFs can be downloaded from www.mymanatee.org and returned via e-mail to Shirley Talley at shirley.talley@mymanatee.org or faxed to 941-745-3790.

Officials recommended that applicants also print and mail a copy of the application, and follow up if they do not get confirmation the application was received.

The mailing address is County Administrator's Office, Advisory Board applications, PO Box 1000, Bradenton FL 34206-1000.

Joy said her initial online application did not reach the Manatee County administrator's office and she had to send a second application.

Sato Real Estate owner Barbara Sato also said her online application did not reach the county and she planned to re-apply.

Evacuation re-entry tags available in cities

The kits are packed.
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But is a re-entry tag in hand?

Anna Maria Island residents should make sure they have obtained from their local government a hang-tag — a card that hangs from a vehicle's rear-view mirror — needed to re-enter the Island after an emergency evacuation has ended.

And they should make sure they have the tag stored in an accessible place.

Re-entry tags are available in Anna Maria at city hall, 10005 Gulf Drive; in Holmes Beach at city hall, 5801 Marina Drive; and in Bradenton Beach at city hall, 107 Gulf Drive N.

Islanders should bring proof of their residency and photo identification cards when applying for a tag.

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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Anna Maria approves amending non-conformities

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Owners of non-conforming structures in Anna Maria will now be allowed to enlarge their homes or re-roof the house.

After months of discussion and work sessions on the issue by both the city commission and planning and zoning board, the commission at its June 25 meeting approved an amendment that allows non-conformities to be enlarged and re-roofed.

The problem began when the city inadvertently created a number of non-conforming properties when it lowered the density per acre to six units in the 2007 comprehensive plan.

According to city planner Alan Garrett, that made a number of dwellings non-conforming because they are situated within an acre of land containing more than six units. The further problem was how to decide which properties within that acre were conforming and which were non-conforming.

The city's ordinance on non-conforming structures prohibits expansion or re-roofing.

But by removing the words "intensity and density" from the ordinance, owners of those properties can now legally remodel, expand or re-roof their homes.

Commissioners noted the concern of the P&Z board with how fair market value is determined in the event of a disaster that damages or destroys a percentage of a non-conforming structure.

But determining fair market value is the province of the Federal Emergency Management Authority and its flood plain regulations, not the city, said building official Bob Welch.

FEMA determines fair market value through an independent, licensed appraiser, he said. The only other way to determine FMV is through the tax rolls, Welch added.

Garrett did note that a non-conforming structure that contains a non-conforming use still cannot be re-roofed or expanded under the amendment.

The commission voted 4-1 to approve the amendment, with Commissioner Dale Woodland

in opposition.

In other business, commissioners unanimously approved a change in sending notices to members of the public about planning and zoning hearings.

Instead of requiring a return receipt, the city will give the U.S. Post Office a mailing list and the post office will certify to the city that each person on the list received the city's first class letter.

The problem, observed Garrett, is that many people have declined to come to the post office counter to sign for the registered letter.

He showed commissioners a stack of letters that had been returned by the post office because the addressee declined to pick up the city mail.

Although Garrett said there will always be a small percentage of people who will claim they never received a letter, city attorney Jim Dye said there are many other ways in which a public meeting is noticed.

In other business, commissioners heard a presentation by Dye on a local agency program with Manatee County that will allow the city to use county resources for design and construction of projects funded by a \$385,000 transportation enhancement grant due the city in 2010.

Commission Chairman John Quam was concerned that there would be oversight by the city with county agencies and staff working on the designs.

"We have to know if we have to come up with advance money and when we have to give it to the county," he said. "We also don't want the county making a change order without city approval."

He also wants to ensure there is not a cost overrun by the county that will be billed to the city. Quam suggested the city have someone oversee the county work and liaison with the commission.

Dye said it's best to do the oversight informally, rather than establishing a number of legal "milestones and guideposts."

Dye said he hoped to have all the LAP documents ready in time for the August commission meeting. The Manatee County Commission also has to

approve the LAP.

Commissioner Jo Ann Mattick, who wrote the grant for the city, said the grant is not being issued until fiscal year 2010-11.

The money will come from a federal grant, but will be administered by the Florida Department of Transportation.

DOT officials had recommended an LAP with Manatee County as a cost-saving measure, saying DOT costs would be significantly higher because the DOT has to follow federal guidelines, which are more expensive than those for the county.

Mattick, who is chairperson of the city's transportation grant enhancement committee, said the committee has proposed construction of a boardwalk at the city pier along with landscaping a number of areas on Pine Avenue.

The grant can only be used for enhancements of the city's retail-office-residential district and only for new projects, according to the DOT.

Commissioners also approved a resolution to have Mayor Fran Barford sign a joint statement by the Island Transportation and Planning Organization that Manatee County be responsible for funding the Island trolley.

Correction

Anna Maria resident and developer Mike Coleman asked this week to clarify the story in the June 24 *Islander* about his application to be a member of the planning and zoning board.

The Islander reported that City Commissioner Dale Woodland originally supported Coleman's application, but later withdrew his support, and that Coleman, a partner in Pine Avenue Restoration LLC, indicated he would support Woodland's removal from office during the next election.

Coleman has asked to be quoted as saying, "I would certainly seek to replace him." And, in a subsequent e-mail, he added, "on my list of supporters."

Further said Coleman, "Dale and I are friends who often disagree on policy. Dale and I have stood by our early commitment to separate city hall from city life, disagreeing without being disagreeable."



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First turtle hatchlings due July 1

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

A due date has arrived.

The first hatchlings of the 2009 nesting season were due to emerge from a nest this week — on or around July 1.

Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch volunteer Fred Mack identified the first nest of the season May 8 near the Martinique in Holmes Beach.

“We’re watching the nest now,” said AMITW executive director Suzi Fox. “We’re keeping an eye on it.”

Nesting sea turtle No. 2 arrived on the shore of Anna Maria Island May 12, dropping its eggs just feet from a chair left on the beach in the 800 block of Gulf Drive North in Bradenton Beach.

Incubation ranges from about 45 to 95 days, depending on sand temperatures, but averages 55 to 60 days for most clutches in Florida.

With the first hatchlings due to arrive at about the same time as crowds for the long July 4 holiday weekend, officials in the Island cities and representatives of AMITW are reminding people to avoid interfering with night-time nesting activity.

“People should try to use common sense and be as kind as they can when visiting the beaches at night,” Fox said. “Sharing the nesting beaches with a fabulous endangered species is a gift and should be celebrated as well as the birthday of our nation.”

Fox, who weekly sends a report to code enforcement officers in Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach, said local enforcement officers are aware of the potential for people vs. turtle conflicts.

AMITW’s most recent report to the cities indicates that nesting activity, as of June 26, is double what it was last year. The report also identifies where turtle nests are located, and when they are due to hatch, assisting officers checking beaches for lighting



A loggerhead hatchling. Hatchlings usually emerge from their nest at night. *Islander File Photo*

problems.

Local ordinances prohibit the illumination of beaches from sunset to sunrise because artificial light can disorient the turtles, which are naturally drawn to light.

Trash left on the beach and abandoned beach chairs and other items also pose a threat to turtles, as well as other animals, including nesting shorebirds.

Last year, on their July 4 walks, AMITW volunteers found an abundance of furniture left overnight.

Also last July 4, the Holmes Beach Police Department responded to callers reporting that someone had driven a vehicle onto the beach and about 1,000 people had gathered for a party as two loggerheads crawled from the Gulf of Mexico to nest.

“We had to have officers and volunteers form a chain around a nesting mom last year and guide her out,” Fox said. The turtles “will crawl right into crowds of people, so stay clear of a female that is about to give birth.”

Fireworks set off from the beach also can disturb turtles, but especially nesting birds.

Skimmers and least terns are “just now beginning to sit on their eggs” on the beach near 25th

Street in Bradenton Beach, Fox said. “Loud noises make the birds flee from their nest, leaving the eggs unprotected.”



New member

Kristen Wilson is sworn in by Commander Bill Osolin as the newest member to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 85 in Palmetto June 16. Wilson will receive training in boat crew operations, communications and recreational boating safety missions. She is taking time off from college to explore joining the USCG and emergency medical training. Wilson’s mom is owner of Native Rentals in Holmes Beach.

Nesting by the numbers

Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch reported 93 loggerhead sea turtle nests on the beach as of June 26.

AMITW also reported 73 false crawls.

Three nests were reported washed out and 24 nests were washed over in recent high tides.

Nesting season continues through Oct. 31, with the first hatchlings due about July 1.

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Obituaries

Gertrude 'Schatzie' Mann

Gertrude "Schatzie" Mann, 68, of Holmes Beach, died May 3.

Memorial services will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, with a celebration of her life to follow at the Roser Fellowship Hall.

She is survived by daughter Patricia L. White of Holmes Beach; son Richard and wife Sharon of Las Vegas, Nev.; sisters Hildegard and Louise, both of Switzerland; brother Huntz Noller of Germany; and grandson J.D. White of Holmes Beach.

Carla Barr Price

Carla Barr Price, 57, of Holmes Beach, died June 23 in Bradenton.

Mrs. Price was born in Owensboro, Ky., moved to Bradenton in 1963 and became an Island resident in 1979. She was formerly married to the late Rex A. Price



Carla Barr Price

of Holmes Beach and was a real estate professional for more than 25 years on Anna Maria Island. She was most recently affiliated with Bark & Company Realty of Holmes Beach.

Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 2, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

She is survived by parents Ann and Charles Barr of Bradenton; daughter Tiffany Price Cumberland of Bradenton; siblings Pamela Murphy of Bradenton, Steven Barr of Indiana, Samuel Barr of Bradenton and Elizabeth Craig of Palmetto; and grandchildren Logan and Leah Cumberland of Bradenton.

Holmes Beach prepares for flood-rating audit

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach is working to earn some extra credit points that could earn property owners a larger discount on their flood insurance premiums.

The test for the city will come in September, when the Federal Emergency Management Agency conducts an audit of Holmes Beach's floodplain management program and determines whether the city has accumulated enough points to improve its score on the community rating system under the National Flood Insurance Program.

The CRS is a national incentive program that encourages communities to adopt floodplain management activities exceeding the minimum National Flood Insurance Program requirements.

CRS has three goals:

- Reduce flood losses.
- Facilitate accurate insurance ratings.
- Promote the awareness of flood insurance.

While the major government goal is to reduce property damages in floods, property owners see another positive result with improved CRS scores — a reduction in flood insurance premiums.

The discounts are designed to reflect the reduced flood risk to property owners resulting from the community's floodplain management activities, and the amount of the discount varies according to the community's level of effort, according to a FEMA spokesperson.

All three Island cities participate in the national program.

On the CRS scale of 1-10, Anna Maria's rating is 5, with a 25 percent discount for properties in what FEMA designates a Special Flood Hazard Area or the

What is a flood?

Flood insurance covers direct physical loss caused by "flood." In simple terms, a flood is an excess of water on land that is normally dry. The official definition used by the National Flood Insurance Program is a flood is "a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of two or more acres of normally dry land area or of two or more properties ... from:

- Overflow of inland or tidal waters.
- Unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.
- Mudflow.
- Collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or similar body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels that result in a flood as defined above."

100-year floodplain, and Bradenton Beach's rating is 6, with a 20 percent discount for SFHA properties.

Holmes Beach's current community rating or class is 7, with a 15 percent discount for SFHA properties.

However, over the past two years Holmes Beach has made efforts to better its score, said public works superintendent Joe Duennes.

The CRS uses a point system to evaluate city activities in four major areas:

- Public information.
- Mapping and regulation.

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Island center hosts safety seminar

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

“There aren’t any signs that say, ‘My mother eats people,’” the deputy acknowledged to the chuckle of a number of kids and several adults attending her crime safety seminar.

But there are other signs that can ward off the bad guy or gal, Manatee County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Dawn Stroup advised during a safety program June 26 at the Anna Maria Island Community Center.

Stroup, a member of the MCSO crime prevention section, suggested to protect a home, that people post signs warning “Beware of dog” or alerting people that the home is wired with an alarm system — even if it isn’t.

She offered a number of other practical steps for children and adults to take to protect their property and themselves during the 40-minute program.

She emphasized that law enforcement officers play a crucial role in keeping a community safe, but that citizens also must be vigilant.

“You are the eyes and ears of your community,” said Stroup, encouraging people to pay attention to their neighbors and to get to know the faces in their community.

For example, she said, pay attention to whether a neighbor’s newspapers are piling up in the driveway or to whether the smell of smoke is from a grill or a house fire.

“Try,” Stroup said, “to be aware of what’s hap-



Manatee County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Dawn Stroup talks about personal safety during a program at the Anna Maria Island Community Center June 26. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

Flood audit flows

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

- Flood damage reduction.
- Flood preparedness.

“We’re making strides toward a 6,” he said, and with each lower point, premiums under the national program go down 5 percentage points.

To improve its score, the city has made annual improvements to its stormwater drainage system, Duennes said.

He said the city also should earn credit with FEMA for revising related ordinances, conducting a public information campaign on flood insurance, acquiring severe-repetitive loss property on Holmes Boulevard for open space of, a mapping program and his certification in floodplain management.

“All that,” Duennes said, “should give us points” in September.

pening.”

Addressing the children in the audience of about 40 people, Stroup urged them to use a buddy system and to always keep guardians informed of their whereabouts.

“It’s very important when you are going to go from point A to point B, you get hold of Mom,” the deputy said. “You need to tell somebody where you are going.”

To teenagers who might be walking alone, she advised that they walk against traffic because, if there is a problem, the walker can run ahead but a motorist must turn around.

“It really, really is important to walk against traffic,” Stroup said.

And to all, she recommended, “If you are home, always have your home locked.”

Totems selected for WMFRD study

In a special meeting July 26, the West Manatee Fire Rescue District board of directors awarded Totems Architect, Planning and Design of Sarasota a \$75,485 contract to conduct a study of district facility needs and design new facilities for the district.

The company was one of four short-listed by the WMFR facilities committee and presented to the board and the committee’s No. 1 recommendation.

WMFR wants to consolidate all its administrative services at one fire station, while at the same time enlarging its present stations to meet the requirements of personnel, including firefighters and EMS technicians.

In other business, the board approved a resolution to maintain \$250,000 in matching funds for WMFR’s application to the federal government for stimulus money to build any new facilities or remodel current buildings that the Totem study might recommend.

WMFR Chief Andy Price said the matching money will make the WMFR application that much stronger.

“The government likes to see matching money,” he told the board.

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Holmes Beach plans trash talks

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Waste Management's contract for hauling garbage from Holmes Beach is set to expire next spring. So city commissioners are preparing for trash talks with the company.

Commissioners briefly discussed putting the job out to bid, but have agreed to focus instead on negotiations with Waste Management.

"It is going to cost upwards of \$12,000 to go out for bidding," said Commissioner Pat Morton, who is the city's liaison to Waste Management. "There is a whole process we have to go through."

Mayor Rich Bohnenberger said the city would lose money in a bidding process.

"I think in this economy, it would be foolish to waste money to go out to bid," he said. "There is no savings."

Commissioner David Zaccagnino said perhaps the Island cities could negotiate a single contract with Waste Management.

However, while Waste Management also provides trash collection in Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach employs its own sanitation workers and owns its equipment.

The Waste Management contract with Holmes Beach expires in May 2010, so negotiations on a new contract likely will begin later this summer and be completed by January 2010.

"I've been very happy with Waste Management," said Commissioner Pat Geyer. "They've done an excellent job."

Waste Management consultant Rose Quin-Bare said under the next contract the company might offer enhancements to the city's recycling program.

Meanwhile, Waste Management is preparing to introduce its neighborhood watch program in Holmes Beach.

The program is called Waste Watch, and it involves drivers and collectors looking out for their customers and their property. Waste Management drivers would be trained to report suspicious activity.

"Those men know their homes," said Quin-Bare. "They are very alert and conscious of what is going on in the neighborhood."

Waste Watch is in place in other parts of the country, but not locally.

"We want to put that program in Holmes Beach," Quin-Bare said.



Visual aid
Artist Pam Fortenberry studies images as she begins work on a marine-themed mural sponsored by the Friends of the Island Library volunteer group. The mural on an interior south wall in the library is near the children's section and the DVD collection in the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

Marker improvements headed to Palma Sola Bay

Getting to and from the waters of Palma Sola Bay will remain a murky for a while longer.

Manatee County commissioners were scheduled to approve a plan for better waterway markings last week. But the item was pulled on the advise of Keith Bettcher, manager of the Resource Management Division of the Manatee County Natural Resources Department. The new signage was proposed to have been funded through a grant by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission "to mark several channels in Palma Sola Bay and south," he wrote in an e-mail to commissioners and others.

"The privately maintained channel markers are not consistent with ours and are out of compliance with U.S. Coast Guard standards," he continued. "We were awarded the grant to bring all identified channel marking into compliance. However, the only channel which is under a public permit is the main channel from the Intracoastal Waterway through Palma Sola Bay, ending at Palma Sola Causeway.

"Manatee County is not the permit holder for the other channels identified for upgrade," Bettcher said. "We would need the permit holders authorization to do the upgrade or let Manatee County become the permit holder. We had one year from the date of execution to spend the grant money. We were also apprehensive about adding private channel markers to the public inventory."

Bettcher suggested to county officials that the official channel markers be replaced with funds to

come from the West Coast Inland Navigation District. He also suggested meetings with the private permits holders to discuss upgrading signage to meet current standards.

The upgrades and maintenance of the channel markers in places such as San Remo Shores would be the responsibility of the individual groups, with possible funding from WCIND.

"Once complete and compliant, they would be responsible for maintaining them and would retain the permit to do so," Bettcher said. "In this way, we can still provide safe waterways without taking on more financial and maintenance responsibility."



Sand shifting
A work crew removes sand, part of a routine maintenance schedule, June 26 at the boat ramp on the Palma Sola Causeway, according to Seth Kohn of the city of Bradenton. The ramp and an adjacent parking lot at the southeast end of the causeway beach opened June 1. *Islander Photo: Bonner Joy*



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Watering restrictions extended

The Southwest Florida Water Management District governing board voted last week to continue irrigation restrictions for Manatee County through July 31.

“While the region is out of the immediate crisis, we are still contending with the effects of the long-term drought,” said David Moore, Swiftmud executive director. “The May rainfall helped but the summer rainy season hasn’t begun. We’re going to monitor conditions closely over the next month before easing any of the restrictions.”

The region received above normal rainfall in May and aquifer levels are in the low normal range, lakes are still averaging between 2-5 feet below the lowest normal readings. Lake Manatee levels have held steady at 39 feet recently, about 3 feet above historical averages for this time of year according to John Zimmerman, Manatee County Deputy Director of Utilities.

“The real importance of extending these restric-

tions is, we’re all part of this regional system,” Zimmerman said. “Swiftmud wants to make sure the Manatee County system will be strong when we come out of the rainy season. We need the aquifer system to recover also.”

Under the restrictions, Manatee County is required to fine property owners who use irrigation systems during unauthorized days.

First-time violators could be subject to \$110 in fines and administrative fees. A second violation could result in a \$210 fine. A third violation could cost \$550 and a potential court appearance.

Most watering violations are related to irrigation of lawns, but other restrictions are in effect and are subject to fines, as well.

Under the restrictions:

- Lawn watering remains limited to a once-per-week schedule.
- Irrigation is allowed on Mondays at addresses ending in “0” or “1” and on Tuesdays at addresses

H2O violations

To report a violation of water restrictions in Holmes Beach, call the police department at 941-708-5804.

Bradenton Beach violations should be reported to the police department at 941-778-6311.

And violations in Anna Maria, which is policed by the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office, should be reported to 941-708-8899.

To contact the Manatee County utilities department, call 941-792-8811.

ending in “2” or “3.” At addresses ending in “4” or “5,” irrigation is allowed on Wednesdays and irrigation is allowed on Thursdays at addresses ending in “6” or “7.” Irrigation at addresses ending in “8” or “9” is allowed on Fridays.

Native plant sign project in Anna Maria

Anna Maria’s environmental education and enhancement committee recently completed an educational plant-identification sign project.

The signs include name, habitat and benefit information to help residents and visitors incorporate native plantings at their homes and businesses, EEEC member Amy Bayard said.

The majority of the signs have been placed at native vegetation sites around city hall and at the Anna Maria Island Historical Society on Pine Avenue.

Additionally, the committee is purchasing three large signs for installation on Gulf Boulevard, at the historical society and at the city pier that will educate visitors about coastal habitats, said Bayard.

These signs will be entitled “Share the Shore with Wildlife” and provide information on shorebirds and the manatees that inhabit the coastal waters.

Funding for all the signs was provided by a grant from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.

Bayard said the EEEC is focusing on improving

some of the city’s beach access walkways and has developed an “Adopt-A-Beach-Access” program that will coordinate volunteer maintenance.

Trust seeks to preserve lodge

The Anna Maria Island Preservation Trust with support from the Pine Avenue Restoration partners recently announced a capital campaign to save the historic Angler’s Lodge.

The lodge, built in 1914, faces the bay by the entrance of Lake LaVista canal.

The lodge’s location a few steps north of the Anna Maria City Pier was no accident when the first Island developers platted the northern end of Anna Maria Island after it was opened for homesteading in the early part of the 20th century. Since many of the people visiting the Island arrived by steamers and ferry, as the bridge from Cortez was not built until 1922, accommodations for stay over were important

to “seal the deal” for anyone wishing to build on this pristine stretch of land immediately south of the Tampa Bay, according to one history.

The lodge is a two-story structure built of “rusticated block” on its lower level— a precast concrete stone made by Sears, Roebuck & Co. — and other materials of the time on the second floor. A small porch overlooks the bay on the second floor with another across the front.

The blocks, along with other building supplies were shipped by barge to the Island, and used in much of the construction of that period. Still in its original footprint, the lodge and a small shed in the rear have been relatively untouched for more than 95 years.



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A long, long parasail ride for Ohio visitors

In a scene reminiscent of the "Gilligan's Island" refrain of a "three-hour tour," an Ohio man and his son got an unexpected three-hour parasail trip last week.

A 15-minute ride for dad Mike Calacci and son Alex stretched to more than three hours due to high winds in the Gulf of Mexico off Anna Maria Island June 24.

"Sun N Fun Parasail would not elaborate on what exactly caused the Calacci's to spend so much time in the air," according to a report online at Sarasota television's ABC-7 Web site, mysuncoast.com. "They say this was extremely unusual. Florida storms can move in quickly, and they blamed the parasail problem on the high winds. They say they were in contact with the U.S. Coast Guard."

Sun N Fun Parasail, which operates out of Bradenton Beach, declined comment. Coast Guard officials were unavailable for comment.

According to the TV report, "The wind on Wednesday was blowing strong. They say it was those winds that were too strong for them to be pulled back in. After more than three hours, Mike and Alex were finally able to be pulled back to the boat, and soon the entire family was happily back on solid ground."

The parasail incident last week was not the first on the Island. Two teenage girls from Massachusetts ended up tangled in a power line on Gulf Drive in Bradenton Beach in December 2006, when the tow-line snapped while parasailing with U-Fly Parasailing of Cortez.

Their parasail hit the power line on Gulf Drive near the BeachHouse Restaurant, dropping the two girls to the pavement 30 feet below.

Both girls escaped any serious injury.



William "Billy" Lee Parker, 31, of Holmes Beach, was arrested by federal marshals on an outstanding warrant from Ohio at Jessie's Island Store in Holmes Beach June 25. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

Streetlife

Island police reports

Anna Maria City

No new reports.

Bradenton Beach

June 20, 2300 block Gulf Drive, felony theft. No further information was available.

June 21, 100 block Gulf Drive South, beach, resisting arrest without violence. The complainant was arrested. No further information was available.

Holmes Beach

June 22, 73rd Street beach, theft. The complainant said that someone took his beach cabana, valued at \$100, which he had left on the shore overnight.

June 22, 500 block 69th Street, burglary. The complainant said someone took his \$300 sunglasses from his unlocked car.

June 22, 500 block 74th Street, theft. The complainant said someone took a backpack containing baby clothes from his car. The clothing was recovered; the backpack, valued at \$50, was not.

June 23, 500 block 72nd Street, theft. The complainant said someone took various electronic equipment, valued at \$1,450, from his house.

June 23, 500 block Key Royale Drive, theft. The complainant said someone apparently took her \$90 trash can from her house within the last three months.

June 25, 5424 Marina Drive, Jessie's Island Store, warrant. William "Billy" Lee Parker, 31, of Holmes Beach, was arrested by federal marshals on an outstanding warrant from Ohio.

June 26, 4100 block Gulf Drive, domestic. Two sisters while visiting from out of town got into an altercation. According to the report, one had scratches on her face; the other sister said her sibling "has kids but was hanging on different guys while she was out. She said they got into a fight and that her sister deserved it," according to police. The sister who delivered the scratches was arrested.

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ISLANDER CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 1

5:30 p.m. — DIY T-Shirt Surgery teen program at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

Friday, July 3

4 to 9 p.m. — Outdoor Bridge Street Farmer's Market, with Highway 41 performing at 6 p.m., at 107 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-518-4431.

9:15 p.m. — Fireworks show at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach.

Saturday, July 4

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Outdoor Bridge Street Farmer's Market at 107 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-518-4431.

10 a.m. — Roadside revelers are invited to the Anna Maria Island Privateers Fourth of July Parade, departing from Coquina Beach, traveling north to Bayfront Park, Anna Maria.

Noon — Anna Maria Island Privateers Fourth of July Party and scholarship awards at Cafe on the Beach, Manatee Public Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

5 p.m. — Holiday picnic at the Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.

9:15 p.m. — Fireworks show at the Sandbar Restaurant, 100 Spring Ave., Anna Maria.

9:15 p.m. — Fireworks show at the Mar Vista Restaurant, 760 Broadway, Longboat Key.

Wednesday, July 8

2 p.m. — Travel and adventure photography presentation with James Corwin Johnson at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

5:30 p.m. — PB&J Archaeology teen program presented by the Florida Public Archaeology Network at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

Ongoing:

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

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

2009-10 AME school calendar

- Aug. 3, administration office reopens.
- Aug. 18, noon, student-teacher classroom assignments posted on the front entrance window and cafeteria doors.
- Thursday, Aug. 20, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Back-to-School night.
- Monday, Aug. 24, 8:30 a.m., first day of the 2009-10 school year.
- Monday, Aug. 24, 8:45 a.m., new parent welcome in the cafeteria.
- Monday, Sept. 14, 3:15, School Advisory Committee meeting with board nominations in the media center.
- Tuesday, Oct. 20, family dinner night and third-grade play.
- Saturday, Oct. 31, Fall Festival.
- Tuesday, Nov. 17, family dinner night and second-grade play.
- Dec. 5 and 6, AME student art exhibit at the Anna Maria Island Art League Winter Arts and

Crafts Festival, Holmes Beach.

- Tuesday, Dec. 15, family dinner night and first-grade play.
- Saturday, Jan. 16, Dolphin Dash.
- Tuesday, Jan. 26, family dinner night and third-, fourth- and fifth-grade talent show.
- Tuesday, Feb. 23, family dinner night and kindergarten play.
- Tuesday, March 23, Family dinner night and kindergarten, first- and second-grade talent show.
- Saturday, April 17 or 24, Spring Fling at St. Bernard Catholic Church.
- Tuesday, April 27, Family dinner night at fourth-grade play.
- Tuesday, May 25, Family dinner night at fifth-grade play.

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

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

Coming Up:

- July 9, yo-yo demonstration at the Island Branch Library.
- July 9, "Think and Drink" film and music celebrating Elvis at South Florida Museum.
- July 10, skate night at the Anna Maria Island Community Center.
- July 11, family origami at the Island Branch Library.
- July 15, digital photography presentation at the Island Branch Library.
- July 15, bead crafts for teens at the Island Branch Library.

Save the date:

- July 16, Sarasota Jungle Gardens visits the Island Branch

Library.

- July 17, Reels at Rossi Park presents "Journey to the Center of the Earth" in 3D.
- July 18, Snooty the Manatee's 61st birthday party at the South Florida Museum Parker Manatee Aquarium.
- Aug. 8, Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce 60th Anniversary celebration at St. Bernard Catholic Church.
- Sept. 28, Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce golf outing at Bradenton Country Club.
- Oct. 9, Anna Maria Island Community Center golf outing at IMG Academies Golf and Country Club.

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

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Are oil rigs coming to our offshore vista?

Could offshore drilling for oil and natural gas be inching closer to Anna Maria Island's shores?

Maybe.

Depends.

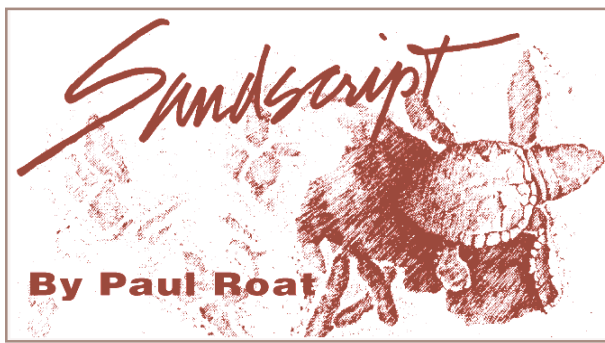
According to the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune's* Joe Follick, "Drilling for oil and natural gas within 10 miles of Florida's coast has suddenly become one of the chief objectives for [state] Republican legislative leaders and industry backers who see a rare convergence of political opportunity and public sentiment."

However, the paper's Jeremy Wallace, on the same day, said of offshore exploration in the eastern Gulf of Mexico — that's us — regarding congressional leaders, "The proposal, led by Democratic Sens. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, would allow drilling 45 miles from most of the Gulf Coast, and as close as 13 miles in the Panhandle. The surprise amendment passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee by a 13-10 vote [June 16.]"

Huh? Yeah.

There is a 2006 law passed by Congress that stops any drilling within 234 miles of Tampa Bay. That limit has been nibbled at by lawmakers ever since, with some proposals suggesting that 10 miles would be a good distance from shore for offshore rigs.

According to the *Herald-Tribune*, "Floridians are realizing that now more than ever it's time to make



this decision that's in Florida's best interest economically," said U.S. Rep. Seth McKeel, R-Lakeland, regarding near-shore offshore drilling.

He's countered by environmentalist Mark Ferulo of Progress Florida, who said, "We expect to see an assault on our beaches from Big Oil the likes of which we've never seen in the 25-year history of this fight."

A key player to all this fuss is state Rep. Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, who is expected to become Florida House of Representative speaker in 2010. He's been pushing drilling in the Gulf for a year or so.

As the *Herald-Tribune* reported: Eric Draper, a longtime lobbyist for Audubon of Florida who is running as a Democrat for state agricultural commissioner next year, said the public does not want expanded drilling. "I think the public is going to look and say, 'Do we want Florida to be a state where we protect our coastal beach economy which is worth

\$50 billion or more for a gamble, a promise, a bet, from Texas oil men?' If I have to choose between a guy who owns the hotel on Clearwater Beach and the guy who owns the oil rigs in Texas, I'm choosing the guy in Clearwater Beach."

Or Anna Maria Island.

What's out there

Here's some numbers.

Florida's pro-drilling folks say oil and gas collected offshore will reap the state between \$7 billion to \$10 billion. Most of the revenue would come from the Florida Panhandle in an area off Destin. Gas, that is, natural gas.

Also from the *Herald-Tribune* comes this, probably the most telling of all the arguments:

"The Department of the Interior estimates that the eastern Gulf could provide up to 3.88 billion barrels of oil. The U.S. consumes more than 7.5 billion barrels a year."

Huh? There's less than a half-year's worth of U.S. oil out there, threatening a \$50 billion annual tourism asset to the state?

Huh?

Sandscript factoid

The United States produces about 3 percent of worldwide fuel, yet gobbles up about 25 percent of global product.

Fish galore out there both in bays, Gulf

By Paul Roat

Jeez, what does it take to make fishing more great?

There's trout and redfish galore in the bays.

Mackerel and catch-and-release snook are in the passes. Tarpon are still thick off the beaches and around Tampa Bay, as well as mangrove snapper both near shore and out in the Gulf of Mexico. There's also some amberjack lurking around the artificial reefs in the Gulf.

Two things: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at its June meeting agreed to hold off on taking final action on its proposed Reef Fish Amendment 31, saying it needs more time to review the data before making a decision. The decision regards longline grouper fishing. A ban remains in effect until the board action.

And the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries announced that the commercial deep-water grouper fishery will close at 12:01 a.m. June 27. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service "has determined the 2009 commercial quota of 1,020,000 pounds of deepwater grouper will be reached by this date. During the closure period, no person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for reef fish has been issued may fish for or retain misty grouper, snowy grouper, yellowedge grouper,

Warsaw or speckled hind grouper in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

"The fishery will remain closed until 12:01 a.m., Jan. 1, 2010. During the closure, vessels with commercial quantities of reef fish on board are prohibited from retaining a recreational bag limit.

Better be careful with your grouper catches.

And don't forget the 2009 Desoto Fishing Tournament July 10-12. Captains meeting is 6:30 p.m. July 10 at Bradenton Yacht Club, 4307 Snead Island Road, Palmetto. Information is available at desotohg.com.

Danny Stasny at Island Discount Tackle at Catchers Marina in Holmes Beach said it's "tarpon, tarpon and tarpon" off the beaches and in the bays. Silver king fishers are catching fish all along Anna Maria Island, Longboat Key, near Passage and Egmont keys, as well as near the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in Tampa Bay. Pass crabs seem to be working best for bait, as well as redfin herring and mullet. The inshore bite for trout is good, with most fishers saying it's the best catch in years as far as size is concerned. Almost all the fish are within or better than the slot limit. There are also lots of redfish being caught, mostly in northern Sarasota Bay. Look for mackerel in the passes, plus bonito, especially in the shipping channels in Tampa Bay. Offshore action includes lots

of mangrove snapper, with some chumming providing for the best hookups.

At the **Rod & Reel Pier** in Anna Maria, **Frank Whitney** said that mackerel are here in large numbers. Fishers are also catching mangrove snapper, and there are "huge Goliath grouper under the dock," which keep getting caught and released, of course. Rays are everywhere: "They're acting like New York cab drivers," he said with a laugh, "and one ray walked a guy down to Bean Point before he got it ashore." There are also some tarpon hookups from the dock.

At the **Anna Maria City Pier**, **Rocky Corby** reports good catches of mackerel and cobia.

Capt. Logan Bystrom says tarpon are still active on the beaches and in the passes. "We've had several hookups in spite of the windy weather," he said, adding that tarpon fishers should "keep dipping" those crabs for your bait in the passes and fish for the tarpon on those strong outgoing tides."

Capt. Zach Zacharias on the **Dee Jay II** out of **Parrot Cove Marina** in Cortez said high winds early last week kept Gulf fish within the bays. "At weeks end, scorching hot weather broke, tides got back to normal, and fishing improved," he said. Mangrove snapper was the mainstay on Monday and Tuesday

PLEASE SEE FISHING, NEXT PAGE

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Beach volleyball training great workout, fun

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

Some young volleyball enthusiasts are flocking to the Manatee Public Beach in Holmes Beach on Tuesday and Thursday evenings to participate in beach doubles volleyball training with St. Stephens Episcopal School volleyball coach Nancy Cothron.

Some of the participants are simply looking to improve their skills for the upcoming high school volleyball season, while others are trying to improve their beach game for summer tournaments.

Cothron, who played college volleyball at Florida State University and professionally in Italy, Sweden and on the beach here in the United States, really puts the participants through a great workout.

Cothron starts them out with a nice run on the beach before switching it up with some core training. Then she incorporates volleyballs, but don't think this portion of the training is easy. On one of the drills, she has participants going line-to-line, digging out volleyballs that she tosses to them. The second time through, Cothron makes the players get dirty, having to dive from sideline to sideline for every ball.

Another drill that works on conditioning and court coverage is the four-corners drill in which Cothron tosses balls to the front corner, back corner, front corner, back corner, with the players having to track down each ball and at least get a touch on the ball. After going through that drill a few times, all of the young women trainees are seriously winded.

As the training session progresses, Cothron approximates actual match play more and more, with practice on serving, setting, hitting, digging and strategy. The training ends with some controlled scrimmaging in games of "King of the Beach."

The beach volleyball training sessions are open to anyone at a cost of \$5 per session.

For more information on group and individual

Fishing is great!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

last week, along with grouper, trout and ladyfish. "After the windy weather pattern broke, we started to pick up some snook, trout and a few redfish inshore around North Sarasota Bay, Palma Sola Bay and Anna Maria Sound," Capt. Zach said. "There have been numerous sharks in and around the mouth of Tampa Bay. As we progress into the dog days of summer, large whitebait will become increasingly hard to find, but finger mullet can often be found milling around lighted docks just before dawn when they can easily be netted. Chubs, or killifish, are another hardy bait that can be found in extremely shallow backwater areas." And don't forget pinfish.

Capt. Larry McGuire of Show Me The Fish Charters said his he's been putting his charters onto limit catches of red grouper, American red snapper, gag grouper, mangrove snapper, scamp, amberjack, triggerfish, plus lots of sharks and smoker kingfish. "Best grouper action is out past 100 feet, and the deeper you fish the larger they are," he said. "For the guys that want monster fish, go deep. There are also some big gag grouper in close and in the Tampa shipping channel. We are catching lots of smoker kings from close in to out to 35 miles using a variety of live bait. On the calmer days, there are a lot of tarpon along the beach, Egmont Key and around the Sunshine Skyway Bridge area."

Good luck and good fishing.

Fishing news and photos are welcome and may be submitted to Paul Roat by e-mail at paul@islander.org.



Nancy Cothron talks to some of the participants about the next drill on the agenda during beach-doubles volleyball training at the Manatee Public Beach.
Islander Photo: Kevin Cassidy

training sessions, contact Cothron by e-mail at tcothron@tampabay.rr.com.

Her-icane golf challenge on horizon

The Manatee High School Her-icanes girls soccer team will host its fourth-annual fundraising golf tournament at the Bradenton Country Club at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26. The team utilizes the money raised for uniforms, warmup suits, soccer equipment and tournament travel.

For a \$100 donation, players can test their golf skills in a four-person scramble on the challenging layout at Bradenton's exclusive club course.

All players registered prior to the Aug. 1 deadline will receive a goody bag, cart and greens fees, a post-tournament banquet and guaranteed fun throughout the day. Also on tap are a straightest-drive contest, two closest-to-the-pin contests, a putting contest and tons of prizes will be awarded. The field is limited to the first 100 golfers, so don't delay.

The Her-icanes also are looking for tournament sponsors to help their cause. For \$800, a business can purchase the Hat Trick, a package for a foursome of golf, banquet, tee or green sign on the course and a banner that will be displayed at all Manatee Her-icane home soccer games. A golden goal sponsorship includes a foursome and a tee or green sign on the

course for \$500, and a tee or green sign for the tournament for \$125.

To sign up, list four players and each player's phone number and send the list and check payable to Manatee Girls Soccer Booster. Mail it to me, Her-icane Coach Kevin Cassidy, 2011 79th St. N.W., Bradenton FL 34209. For more information, call me at 941-807-1105.

AMICC to host golf outing

The Anna Maria Island Community Center is hosting a golf outing Oct. 9 at the IMG Academies Golf and Country Club. The tourney will have a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start, and money raised will support the Center's program and scholarship funds.

Cost for the golf outing is \$175 per golfer or \$600 per foursome for golf, carts and dinner. Non-golfers are invited to join the after-play party for awards, refreshments and dinner.

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

Stay in touch

Don't forget to e-mail me at kevin@islander.org or call me at 941-807-1105 with your summer sports news. And look online for more sports this week, including golf and horseshoe reports.



Double the pleasure

Andrew Honaker, left, helps his cousin, Alexander Nelson, board his shark catch, a 3-foot-long bonnethead, caught and released off Bean Point. Alexander then hooked up again, and on reeling in the catch, they realized it was the same shark and they were able to remove both hooks. The inset photo shows the hook and line and the second hook.

Anna Maria Island Tides							
Date	AM HIGH	PM HIGH	AM LOW	PM LOW			
July 1	7:31	2.3	10:48	1.3	12:35	1.1	3:24 0.2
July 2	8:14	2.4	—	—	1:03	1.2	4:23 0.0
July 3	8:58	2.5	—	—	5:14	-0.1	—
July 4	9:43	2.6	—	—	5:58	-0.2	—
July 5	10:26	2.6	—	—	6:37	-0.2	—
July 6	11:07	2.6	—	—	7:12	-0.2	—
July 7	11:47	2.7	—	—	7:43	-0.2	—
July 8	3:10	1.4	12:25	2.6	5:33	1.3	8:12 -0.1

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

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Island Biz

By Rick Catlin

Galati team member on Manatee chamber board

The Manatee Chamber of Commerce recently announced that **Mike Eiffert** of Galati Yacht Sales in Anna Maria has been elected to the chamber's board of directors. Eiffert is the chief financial officer at Galati.

Islanders grow up to make great doctors

Coastal Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Bradenton was recently named 2009 Small Business of the Year by the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, and the medical facility said it couldn't have done it

Billy Staley, center, owner of Feeling Swell in Anna Maria, welcomes his "surfing safari" guests from the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, including, left, Mary Ann Brockman, and, right, Mark Davis. The crowd enjoyed music by Chuck Caudill, pictured behind Staley, plenty of boiled peanuts, menu specialties and refreshments at the new eatery. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy



Natural Sea here
Owners Jim and Annette Rossi of the Natural Sea health food store at the Anna Maria Island Centre shopping plaza on East Bay Drive, Holmes Beach, held a grand opening Friday, June 26. The store is located adjacent to Island Mail and More and carries a complete line of health foods, vitamins and natural products. Islander Photo: Toni Lyon

without the help of two Islanders who are surgeons on staff.

Dr. Daniel Lamar grew up on Anna Maria Island and played football at Manatee High School and Davidson University prior to medical school.

Dr. Arthur Valadie didn't grow up on the Island, but he's now a resident of Holmes Beach and said he can't imagine living anywhere better than Anna Maria Island.

Both doctors are orthopedic surgeons with

Coastal, which has been in operation for 33 years. In addition to orthopedic surgery, the facility offers pain management, physical therapy, research and surgery centers.

Prior to his return to the area, Lamar was a team orthopedic physician with the University of Miami Hurricanes football team.

Coastal is the team orthopedic physicians for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Pittsburgh Pirates, US Soccer, USA Olympic teams, IMG Academies and a number of area high schools.

Coastal Orthopedics is located at 6015 Pointe West Blvd., Bradenton, with branch offices in Lakewood Ranch.

For more information, call 941-791-1404 or visit Coastal's Web sites at www.coastalorthopedics.com and www.coastalpainandrehab.com.

Island real estate transaction

504 58th St., Holmes Beach, a 1,549 sfla/ 1,951 sfur 3bed/2bath/1cat canalfront home built in 1962 on a 78x108 lot was sold 06/08/09, Elliott to Blackiston for \$410,000; list \$445,000.

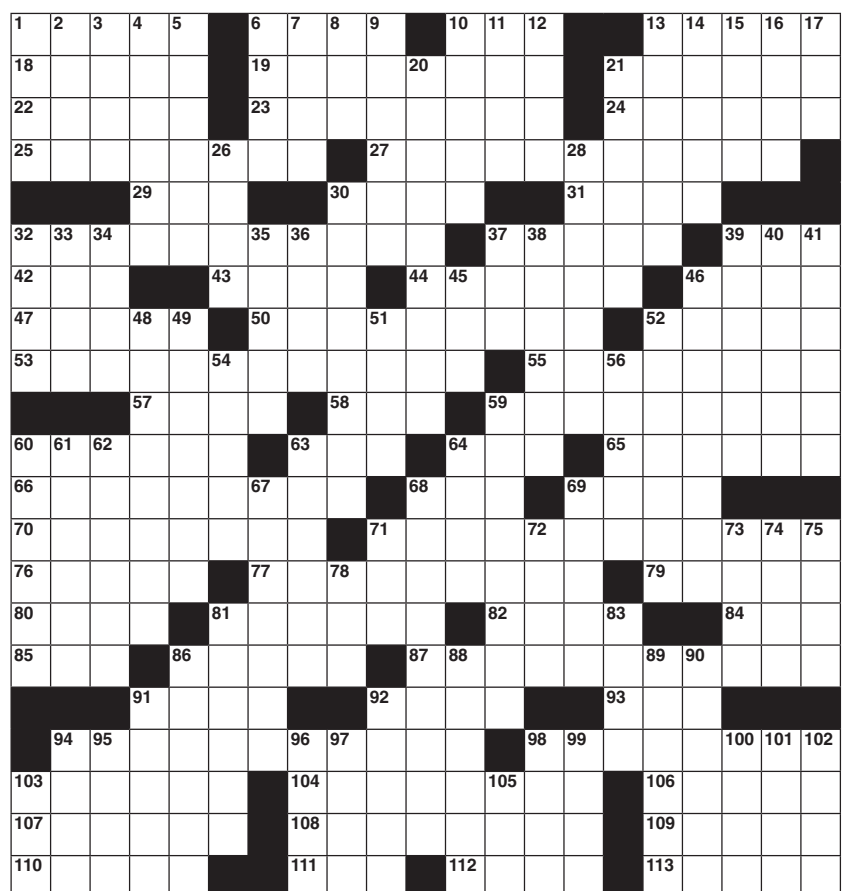
Jesse Brisson, broker/associate at Gulf-Bay Realty of Anna Maria, can be reached at Gulf-Bay 941-778-7244. Current Island real estate transactions may also be viewed online at www.islander.org. Copyright 2009

New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

FAMOUS LAST WORDS By Matt Ginsberg and Pete Muller / Edited by Will Shortz

- Across
- 1 (With 13-Across) "My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go"
- 6 "Pow!"
- 10 Cutup
- 13 See 1-Across
- 18 Kapa haka dancer
- 19 "I, Robot" extras
- 21 Fit, once
- 22 Cuba y Puerto Rico
- 23 Carpet store bargain bin
- 24 Get angry
- 25 Concern coming up?
- 27 "Die, my dear? Why, that's the last thing I'll do!"
- 29 Mineral suffix
- 30 Pair in an ellipse
- 31 Red ball?
- 32 "That was the best ice cream soda I ever tasted"
- 37 Way up
- 39 Actress Thurman
- 42 Huskies' org.
- 43 Cushion site
- 44 Mathematician ___ de Fermat
- 46 PC cores
- 47 Scottish hillsides
- 50 Words of disappointment
- 52 Character sets?
- 53 "Where is my clock?"
- 55 Adolescent admonishment
- 57 Fleischer and Onassis
- 58 Vocalist Yoko
- 59 Puts in a box, maybe
- 60 Kim Jong-il, e.g.
- 63 Yellowknife is its cap.
- 64 Madison or Monroe: Abbr.
- 65 Mild-mannered Mister
- 66 Taxpayer request
- 68 ___ American
- 69 Hose color
- 70 Ibsen title character
- 71 "Leave the shower curtain on the inside of the tub"
- 76 Others, in Andalusia
- 77 Building safety features
- 79 Pot grabber
- 80 Wii user, maybe
- 81 Rial spender
- 82 Ones sharing Durocher's astrological sign
- 84 Took sides?
- 85 Packed, in brief
- 86 Communal customs
- 87 "I've had 18 straight whiskies. I think that's the record"
- 91 Press
- 92 Some pitcherfuls
- 93 Dark time, for short
- 94 "Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something"
- 98 Vatican rules
- 103 "You are not!" response
- 104 Raid targets
- 106 The Amazing ___ (magician)
- 107 Korean carmaker
- 108 Magnified
- 109 Yore-ic?
- 110 (With 113-Across) "I've had a hell of a lot of fun and I've enjoyed every minute of it"
- 111 Nine-digit ID
- 112 Supreme leader?
- 113 See 110-Across
- Down
- 1 Strike out
- 2 Tiara go-with
- 3 Porter, for one
- 4 Like 1, not I
- 5 Meet
- 6 Voting area
- 7 Apricot and tangerine
- 8 Green machine?
- 9 Invader of Europe in 1241
- 10 McCain residence for 51/2 years
- 11 U.S. island occupied by Japan during W.W. II
- 12 Not fem.
- 13 ___ Republic, toppled in 1933
- 14 Its literal translation is "submission"
- 15 Look like a wolf
- 16 French pair
- 17 Nero, e.g.: Abbr.
- 20 "I have not told half of what I saw"
- 21 1970 N.F.L. M.V.P. John
- 26 Capone's nemesis
- 28 Cheer
- 30 Hail
- 32 Bell ___
- 33 New Orleans staple
- 34 It has 10 branches: Abbr.
- 35 Minor errands
- 36 ___ effort
- 37 Date
- 38 Chief concerns?
- 39 Enlarge
- 40 [Grumble, grumble, grumble]
- 41 Weigh
- 45 Magician's name suffix
- 46 "I live!"
- 48 "Eva is leaving"
- 49 Some beachwear
- 51 Eugene ___, hero of "Look Homeward, Angel"
- 52 Fill with a crayon
- 54 Clueless
- 56 Exsiccate
- 59 Employers must meet them
- 60 Points on some lines
- 61 Academy town
- 62 Two-channel
- 63 "I'm late!"
- 64 2007 film that won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay
- 67 Ball of fire
- 68 "I'm going to heaven!"
- 69 Pelé's real first name
- 71 About 877,000 hrs.
- 72 Info in a real estate ad
- 73 Disneyland sight
- 74 Eight: Prefix
- 75 Con man's responses?
- 78 Hi-___
- 81 "Hello-o-o!"
- 83 Part of a program
- 86 Hipster's persona
- 88 First supersonic human
- 89 Learn by word of mouth
- 90 Like many hospital doctors
- 91 Cloven
- 92 Detective Pinkerton
- 94 Carson's predecessor
- 95 Part of O.A.S.: Abbr.
- 96 Stars
- 97 Contents of Pandora's box, except for hope
- 98 Anode indicator
- 99 Phobia of 100-Down
- 100 Ford role, familiarly
- 101 Xanadu
- 102 ___ Fein
- 103 Chemical suffix
- 105 Kerfuffle

Answers found on page 24.



- 62 Two-channel
- 63 "I'm late!"
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WICKER FURNITURE: NINE pieces. Barbecue, table, umbrella, TV, all for \$100 or best offer. 941-779-1081. Holmes Beach.

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ITEMS FOR SALE Continued

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AERIAL PHOTOS of Anna Maria Island. View and purchase online: www.jackelka.com.

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WANTED: FISHING GEAR: Anna Maria Privateers are collecting new or used, repairable fishing poles and reels, nets, tackle, buckets, etc. to give to children. Donate your gear at The Islander newspaper office, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

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

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

GARAGE SALES

FOURTH OF JULY antique and art fair: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Whitney Beach Plaza, 6828 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Free admission, free parking. Benefits the Longboat Key Turtle Watch. Information, 941-383-1901.

A SALE EVERYDAY at The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Miscellaneous office supplies, t-shirts, treasures.

LOST and FOUND

SET OF KEYS on blue clip found by newspaper racks near Skinny's restaurant, 3901 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Claim at The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

LOST: YOUTH PRESCRIPTION glasses, silver frames, oval lenses. Lost on Manatee Public Beach Monday, June 15. Please, call 941-792-4801 or 941-209-8585.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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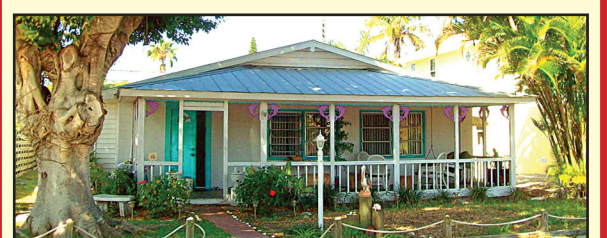
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RENTALS Continued

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A message to Anna Maria Island home seekers...

One of the reasons we all love Anna Maria Island is its diversity of neighborhoods. From the five million dollar McMansions on Bean Point to the historic, tiny cracker cottages in Bradenton Beach; from a sixth floor suite at the Martinique with a ten mile view to exclusive North Point of Key Royale, this paradise island has a home for every taste and preference.

There is a unique neighborhood that most are unaware of. Everyone that drives on or off the island via Manatee Avenue has seen the outer edge of this private enclave of grand Mediterranean residences with their wrought iron gates and barrel-tile roofs. The only one entrance to this small pocket of exclusive homes is 42nd Street off Sixth Avenue just north of Manatee Avenue. Your first thought would be, "I had no idea this was here." Both 42nd Street and 5th Avenue are dead-end streets, which adds to the feeling of exclusivity.

After four years of inactivity, I am excited to announce that construction on the remaining lots has restarted. One of these 3200 square foot Mediterranean homes is nearly completed. Each will feature six bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, private heated swimming pools, an elevator, multiple covered decks, spacious two-car garages, upscale solid wood cabinetry with granite counters, fine moldings, top quality flooring throughout. The lush landscaping with privacy fencing around the garden pool creates a peaceful setting designed for low maintenance. Walk to our world-class beach to the west, launch your kayak into the bay to the east, and enjoy a variety of shopping and dining options to the south, all within a few hundred feet. Rental income of comparable homes in the area are generating nearly \$100,000 annually.

The first of these finely crafted residences are now available for viewing by appointment only. The asking price is a surprisingly affordable \$795,000.

Call Barry Gould at 941-448-5500 or email Barry@realtorgould.com.



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Father-son MLB players to be honored

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Former Major Leaguer Milt May of Bradenton will be honored July 3-4 in Laconia, Ind., when a baseball field there is named May Field.

The ballpark will be dedicated both to May and his late father, Merrill "Pinky" May, who also played in the big leagues.

"I'm honored both for my dad and for me," Milt said a week before the ceremony. "It's a pretty nice thing that's happening."

Milt is a familiar figure on the Island. He and his wife, real estate agent Brenda Boyd May, own a cottage in Anna Maria. And he and son Scott, another former Major League ballplayer, operate Catchers Marina in Holmes Beach.

"We get out there, golly, most of the year on a daily basis and of course we lived there last year full-time," Milt said of the Island. "And we've always stayed out there summers.... We don't take cross-country trips in the summer. We just go to the Island."

Pinky May also lived in Holmes Beach for several years in the 1970s.

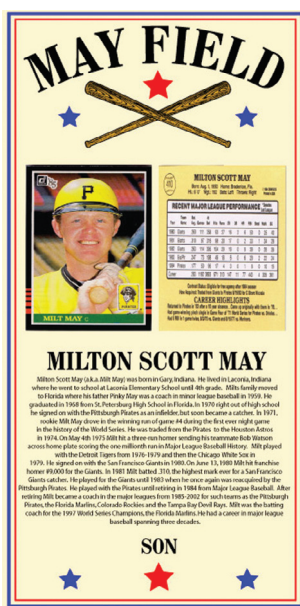
"I think some of the people that have been there a long time probably remember," Milt said.

Milt was born in Gary, Ind., in 1950 and lived on the family farm in small-town Laconia until the fourth-grade, when his family moved to Florida.

The Pittsburgh Pirates picked Milt up in the 11th round of the amateur draft in 1968 and he debuted



One of the large tribute plaques that will be erected at May Field.



A plaque honors baseball player Milt May of Bradenton.

in the big leagues in September 1970. The catcher's career included time with the Pirates, Detroit Tigers, Chicago White Sox, San Francisco Giants and Houston Astros.

Milt was with Pittsburgh in 1971, and, during his first World Series, drove in the winning run of Game 4.

Another highlight in his career came in 1975, when he hit a three-run homer that sent teammate Bob Watson across the plate to score the millionth run in MLB history.

From his father, Milt learned his baseball fundamentals.

"Just being around it so much with him, you can't help but learn as a young fella," Milt said. "Dad threw me a lot of batting practice and taught me fundamentals."

Pinky, a member of the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame, was born in Laconia in 1911.

"My dad was raised there and lived over 60 years of his life there," Milt said. "And he played locally."

Pinky's Major League debut was with Philadelphia in April 1939. His last game was with Philadelphia in October 1943, just before he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

"He got his nickname because he had reddish hair," said Teresa Sutton, a member of the Harrison County, Ind., parks and recreation board who led the effort to name the ballpark for the Mays. "And, when he got fired up, his face would turn a reddish pink."

Pinky played baseball while in the Navy and then, after his service, went on to manage in the minor leagues for more than 30 years.

In 1959, the May family moved to Florida, where Milt graduated from high school and where Pinky managed the Tampa Tarpons.

Laconia's celebration will begin July 3, with Milt serving as the grand marshal of the holiday parade.

On July 4, the baseball field and complex in Laconia's South Harrison Park, with a galvanized steel archway, will be dedicated as May Field and then serve as the site of a local Babe Ruth youth league tournament.

"Milt, he is the nicest man I've ever met," Sutton said.

She said the events, part of the community's July 4 Spirit Days celebration, will honor two local heroes but also inspire future heroes.

"Children will know that they can be Major Leaguers too," she said.

"I think that's very true," Milt said. "In a rural area, a small town, sometimes the Major Leagues might as well be on the moon. But the idea that a couple of guys who lived right down the road made, shows that it is accessible, gives kids hope that those things can happen."

That, Milt added, "is a good thing."

May Field

A crew moves a galvanized steel archway that will greet fans at May Field, dedicated to baseball players Milt May and his father, Merrill "Pinky," in Laconia, Ind. *Islander Photos: Courtesy Teresa Sutton*



Holiday brings citizenship for Islander

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach resident Saowalux "May" Karpthip will experience the magic of the Magic Kingdom and Independence Day on July 3.

And, on July 4, Karpthip, who works at the BeachHouse Restaurant in Bradenton Beach, will celebrate her first July 4 as a U.S. citizen.

"I'm on top in my life, now," Karpthip said. "I'm on top."

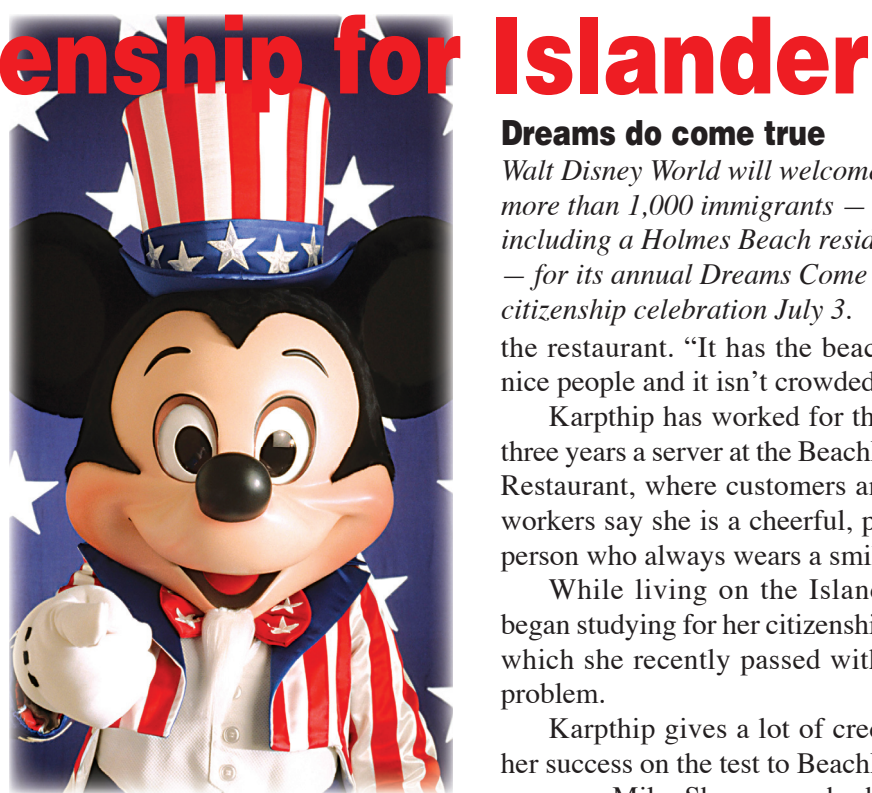
Karpthip, who was born in Thai-

land, will take her citizenship oath July 3 during the Dreams Come True ceremony at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Annually, about 700,000 people are naturalized, but only about 1,000 each year get to say, "I'm going to Disney World" for a citizenship swearing-in ceremony jointly hosted by the U.S. government.

Karpthip moved to the United States in early 2001. She had been looking for work in Thailand when she

Daughter Irada Karpthip with proud mom, Saowalux "May" Karpthip, who lives in Holmes Beach and works at the BeachHouse Restaurant, will take her citizenship oath July 3 at Walt Disney World. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*



Dreams do come true

Walt Disney World will welcome more than 1,000 immigrants — including a Holmes Beach resident — for its annual Dreams Come True citizenship celebration July 3.

the restaurant. "It has the beach and nice people and it isn't crowded."

Karpthip has worked for the past three years a server at the BeachHouse Restaurant, where customers and co-workers say she is a cheerful, playful person who always wears a smile.

While living on the Island, she began studying for her citizenship test, which she recently passed without a problem.

Karpthip gives a lot of credit for her success on the test to BeachHouse manager Mike Shannon, who helped her study.

"That's why I passed," she said. "He was my professor."

After the ceremony July 3, Disney will host Karpthip and her daughter, Irada, 6, as guests in its park.

The Chiles Restaurant Group, which owns the BeachHouse, is sponsoring Karpthip and her daughter for a two-night hotel stay in Orlando.

"It's really, really exciting," said Karpthip. "We're going to Disney World."

won about \$20,000 on a game show and was encouraged by others in her homeland to make plans to secure a passport and go to the United States. "I hit a jackpot," said Karpthip. "I spent all my money to go to Hong Kong and to China for a passport." After living in several different locations in the United States, Karpthip settled on Anna Maria Island in the spring of 2005. "I like it here," she said of the Island one morning before her shift at