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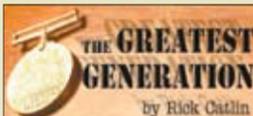


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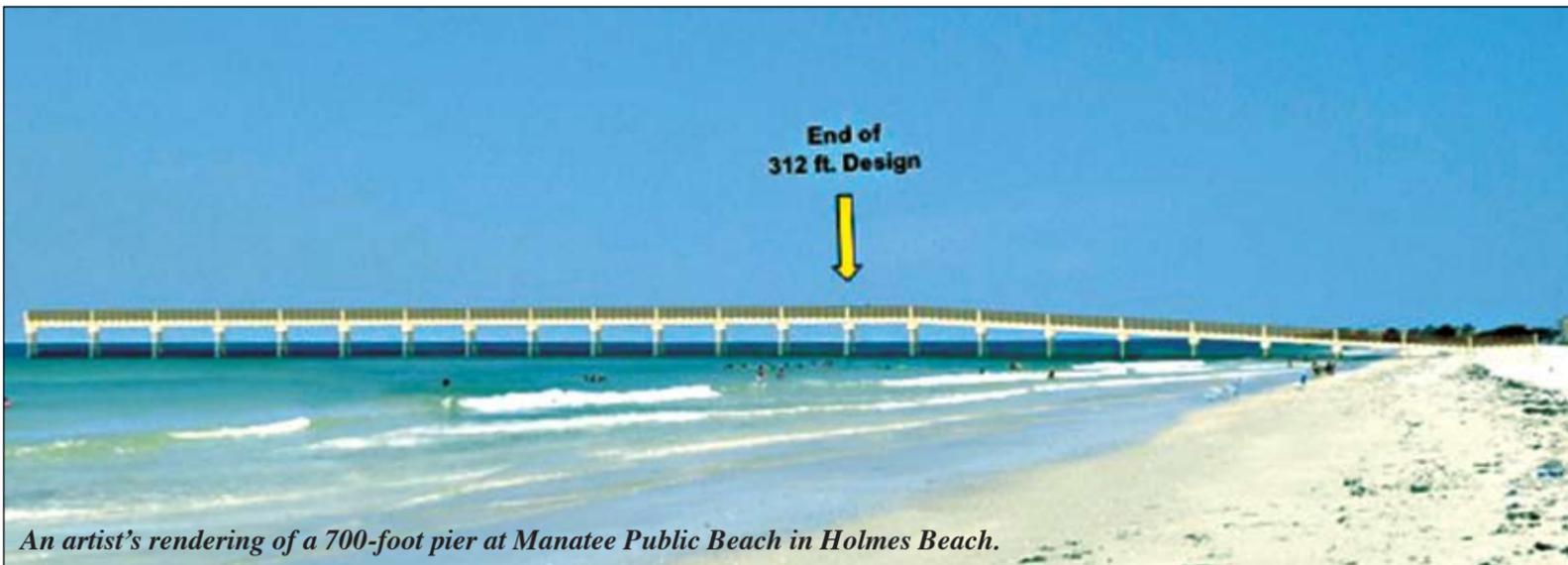
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The Islander

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An artist's rendering of a 700-foot pier at Manatee Public Beach in Holmes Beach.

Pier to come down, replacement uncertain

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

The pier at the Manatee Public Beach will come down in November, but what — if anything — will replace the deteriorated structure remains an uncertainty.

The Manatee County Board of Commissioners declined to act on a request to authorize county staff to proceed with work to replace the pier with a 700-foot pier similar to structures in other coastal cities.

That's due to the price tag on a longer pier and concerns about the appropriateness of a long pier at the county beach in Holmes Beach.

Instead of endorsing a long pier, commissioners agreed to ask the Manatee County Tourist Development Council to consider funding priorities, including a new pier at the public beach, but also potential renovations for the city-owned pier in Anna

Maria and a new pier in Bradenton Beach.

The existing pier was closed due to safety concerns and the decision made to demolish the structure.

In March, county commissioners reviewed a plan for a 312-foot replacement pier. The cost to demolish the existing pier and rebuild a new pier was estimated at \$1.5 million.

On Sept. 15, county natural resources director Charlie Hunsicker presented commissioners with artistic renderings of a replacement pier.

The rendering of a 312-foot pier designed to be accessible under the U.S. Americans with Disabilities Act and meet minimum heights above the sea floor shows a "dramatically different" structure than the one to be torn down, Hunsicker said.

The pier, to meet height requirements over the gently sloping Gulf shore at Manatee Public Beach, goes up and then abruptly

stops.

Another rendering showed a 700-foot pier, a structure about the same length as a pier in Venice.

The 700-foot structure provides the aesthetic and recreational attributes of a recreational pier designed for fishing and passive recreational uses, Hunsicker said.

Fishing at the end of the longer pier would be in water 15-18 feet deep.

"A 700-foot structure, that is our recommendation," Hunsicker said.

He told the board the longer pier would cost more, but that a financing plan was in the works.

The total cost to demolish the existing pier and build a 312-foot pier would be \$1.4 million, according to a county memo.

The total cost to demolish the existing pier and build a 700-foot pier would be \$2.7 million.

"It looks very nice," Commissioner Carol Whitmore said of the longer pier. But, she added, "Where in the heck are we going to get the money?"

Commissioner Joe McClash added, "I think it is out of character for Holmes Beach.... I couldn't stomach seeing a Venice pier there. ...I'd rather just remove it."

PLEASE SEE **PIER**, NEXT PAGE

Island loses voters, but county makes gains

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Will the last person to leave Anna Maria Island, please, turn off the lights?

It might sound like a pun, but according to online figures from the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office, the Island has lost 17.6 percent of its registered voters during the past nine years. For the same period, Manatee County increased its voter rolls by 31,000 voters, a 15.4 percent gain.

Most Anna Maria Island elected officials said the Island is not losing population, but the rate of decline in registered voters is at odds with population figures.

Some of those officials say there are fewer voters, but the same number of people on the Island, because more houses are investment properties and part-time residences.

Since 2000, the number of registered voters in the three Island cities has dropped from 6,679 to 5,505, a loss of 1,174 voters (16.6 percent).

But the rate of decline has slowed since 2005.

That year, the Island had 5,857 registered voters. Compared with the August 2009 figure of 5,505 registered voters, the four-year decline is 6 percent (minus 352 registered voters).

The Anna Maria decline is not cause for alarm, at least at this point in time, said Anna Maria Mayor Fran Barford.

"Our population is still about the same, so I believe the drop reflects the economy and the real estate market," she said.

More people are coming to the Island and buying homes for investment, or becoming part-time residents, she indicated.

She also noted that many people in the boom years of 2004-2006 sold their Island home and moved inland, making a nice profit on the escalating real estate value of Island properties.

"The economy has done a lot of this. It's not because people don't like Anna Maria or the Island, and it's not because people have lost interest in politics. It's just the nature of the Island economy," Barford said.

Anna Maria City Commissioner Dale
PLEASE SEE **VOTERS**, NEXT PAGE



Anna Maria Elementary School students, teachers and staff and members of the community gather outdoors at AME Sept. 21 in celebration of Peace Day. Islander Photo: Kimberly Kuizon

Voters drop on Island

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Woodland, however, said the loss of registered voters shows the Island is changing.

"I grew up out here and so many of my friends have sold out and moved off the Island because they could no longer afford to live here. It's distressing. I'm not overly concerned right now, but I am going to keep an eye on the issue," he said.

Anna Maria City Commissioner Christine Tollette was more direct.

"Any time you lose that many voters, we should be concerned. It shows an economic trend," she said.

Her concern is that too many homes are being bought for investment or a part-time home, or built as investment property. The city needs to attract more residents, particularly families.

"That's why it is important to keep our duplexes. They retain the village atmosphere and provide affordable housing," she said.

People still live on the Island, Tollette said, it's just that more of them are only part-time residents and don't register to vote here.

Holmes Beach City Commissioner Sandy Haas-Martens was not overly disturbed about the decline in her city and attributed the loss to more than just economics.

"It's not fully due to the economy because a few years ago, the number of homestead exemptions went way up," she said.

Haas-Martens said a lot of people who bought 20 or 30 years ago on the Island have passed away or moved off the Island. Their children get the home and decide to rent it half the year and use it as a vacation home, she said.

The economy, taxes and investment potential are all part of the reason for the decline, she said.

Haas-Martens did note that Holmes Beach has always had a large number of rental properties. "But people still come out and vote and we still have about

the same population as five years ago," she said.

Not so in Bradenton Beach, said Mayor Mike Pierce.

"When you lose that many voters in nine years, you have cause for concern. We barely have 900 voters. It's just become too expensive to live on the Island," he said.

Pierce is not ready to turn out the lights, but noted the tax disparity.

"You have to have a lot of money to afford to live on the Island. I paid \$400 in taxes 20 years ago and now it's more than \$5,000, and I have a homestead exemption."

The 2005 prediction of former Bradenton Beach Mayor John Chappie may be coming to fruition.

"Just look around at all the small properties that have been converted the past few years to condominiums for rental units or second homes," Chappie said in a 2005 *Islander* story. "We are in serious danger of losing our voting and population base."

According to available historical records, Bradenton Beach had nearly 1,400 registered voters in 1990.

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 3 election is Oct. 5.

By the numbers

Anna Maria

Anna Maria had 1,357 registered voters as of August 2009, according to the SOE Web site, a drop of 128 (8.6 percent) from the 1,485 voters registered for the 2005 election.

Compared with the 2000 number of registered voters of 1,615, Anna Maria has lost 258 voters (16 percent) the past nine years.

Bradenton Beach

Bradenton Beach, which lost 189 voters (16.6 percent) from 2000 to 2005, when the number fell from 1,136 to 947, has lost just 38 voters the past four years. The city has 909 registered voters as of

Pier length debate starts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, Commissioner Larry Bustle said he has walked long piers in other cities and "I wondered why we don't have that in Manatee County. ... I think it's great. It's exactly what our tourist dollars are for."

But the commission was reluctant to vote on the extension without more information on the financing and agreed to turn to the Manatee County Tourist Development Council for its recommendations.

"I'd like to kind of move it along but would like to see the financing," said Commissioner John Chappie. "This is clearly a want, not a need."

"Perhaps they have a more pressing need out there," Commissioner Ron Getman said of TDC priorities.

The board agreed to seek a priority list from the TDC, which Whitmore said would be discussed at the council's next meeting.

Correction: The story in the Sept. 16 issue of *The Islander* about expansion of Anna Maria duplexes should have stated that city planner Alan Garrett will draft amendments to the current ordinance, not write a new ordinance.

August 2009, a drop of 4.1 percent from 2005.

Since 2000, however, the city has lost 20 percent, or 229 voters from its registered voting population.

Holmes Beach

Holmes Beach fell from 3,425 registered voters in 2005 to 3,239 voters as of August 2009, down 5.4 percent.

Since 2000, when the city had 3,928 voters registered, Holmes Beach has dropped 689 registered voters (down 17.5 percent) when compared with the current number.

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Five for three in Anna Maria city race

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Two political newcomers face three incumbent Anna Maria city commissioners in the Nov. 3 municipal election.

Challengers Harold "Harry Stoltzfus" of Poinsettia Drive and David Gryboski of North Shore Drive qualified to face incumbents Dale Woodland, Christine Tollette and John Quam.

Mark Alonso, who lost his 2008 bid for a commission seat, picked up an election packet at city hall, but chose not to mount another challenge.

The office of Anna Maria city commissioner pays \$400 per month. The stipend has not changed in more than 10 years.

Commissioners are elected for a two-year term.

Harold "Harry" Stoltzfus

This is the first time Harold Stoltzfus has sought political office.

He said he is running for a seat on the commis-

Anna Maria Island ELECT 2009

sion because he believes in the "uniqueness of Anna Maria as a residential community and would like to protect that uniqueness."

Stoltzfus, 55, owns Harcon Corp., a company that provides access equipment to people working on bridges. The company's head office is in Pennsylvania.

He and wife Kathy moved permanently to Anna Maria from Lancaster, Pa., six years ago. Daughter Molly is a freshman at Manatee High School.

David Gryboski

David Gryboski, 29, of North Shore Drive also

is seeking his first-ever political office.

A four-and-a-half year resident of the city, Gryboski said he is running for city commissioner to "get more involved in the community and have a better Anna Maria."

He said he can bring a fresh approach to government and is dedicated to keeping Anna Maria a residential community.

Gryboski attended Emory University in Atlanta and is involved in commercial property leasing with an office in Holmes Beach, he said.

John Quam

Incumbent John Quam, a city commissioner since 2002, is seeking his fifth consecutive term.

He is a retired businessman and moved to Anna Maria about 10 year ago.

He is the chairman of the city commission, and has been elected to that position by other commissioners every year since joining the commission.

Quam also is the vice mayor of Anna Maria.

Christine Tollette

Incumbent Christine Tollette, first elected in 2005, is seeking her third consecutive term in office.

She and husband Tom moved to Anna Maria from Tampa 10 years ago.

Prior to her first election, she was active with the Anna Maria Island Community Center and was a volunteer with several Tampa-area nonprofit organizations.

Dale Woodland

Dale Woodland, also an incumbent commissioner, was first elected in 2003.

Prior to becoming a city commissioner, Woodland was a member of the city's planning and zoning board, capital improvements advisory committee and ad hoc comp-plan committee.

He owns a pool servicing business on Anna Maria Island and has lived in Anna Maria since he was about 8 years old.

Woodland is seeking his fourth consecutive term as a city commissioner.

Meetings

Anna Maria City

- Sept. 24, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, 941-708-6130, www.cityofannamaria.com.

Bradenton Beach

- Sept. 23, 7 p.m., final budget hearing.
- Sept. 29, 1 p.m., city commission work meeting.
- Oct. 1, 1 p.m., city pier team meeting.
- Oct. 1, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 941-778-1005, www.cityofbradentonbeach.org.

Holmes Beach

- Sept. 24, 9 a.m., board of adjustment meeting.
- Sept. 30, 3 p.m., floodplain management plan review.
- Oct. 13, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
- Oct. 27, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 941-708-5800, www.holmesbeachfl.org.

West Manatee Fire Rescue District

- Oct. 15, 6 p.m., district commission meeting.
WMFR Station No. 1, 6001 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, 941-741-3900.

Of Interest

- Oct. 5, 1 p.m., Communities for a Lifetime Task Force meeting, Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.
- Oct. 12, Columbus Day.
- Nov. 3, municipal elections.
Send notices to Lisa Neff at lisaneff@islander.org.

BB voters to decide mayor

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Bradenton Beach voters will cast ballots in one race Nov. 3 — the mayoral contest between incumbent Michael Pierce and challenger William Shearon.

The two ran against each other in 2007 seeking to succeed John Chappie, who could not run again due to city-mandated term limits.

During the 2007 campaign, both Shearon and Pierce said if elected they would treat the mayoral post as a full-time job and that their commitment was to maintaining the city's "old Florida" charm.

Pierce, of the 2300 block of Avenue B, is a former city commissioner from Ward 2 — he served a year — and a former chair of the city's scenic highway group.

Pierce moved to Bradenton Beach more than 20 years ago from Lansing, Mich., where he worked for 36 years for General Motors.

"It takes a long time to get big projects done," Pierce said, explaining his decision to seek re-election. "And when I start something I see it through."

In a second term, he said he would focus on drainage improvements and clearing up problems with alleyways "without heavy-handed ways."

"I enjoy doing it," Pierce said of the mayoral job.

Shearon, of the 300 block of Gulf Drive South, is a former commissioner from Ward 4 — he served three years — and currently serves on the planning and zoning board.

After a career of building up his business in Chicago, Shearon moved to Bradenton Beach, where he built up the business of the Linger Longer Resort with his partner, Tjet Martin.

Registration closes Oct. 5

The deadline to register for the November municipal elections on Anna Maria Island is Oct. 5.

The elections will take place Nov. 3 in each of the Island cities.

In Anna Maria, five candidates are vying for three city commission seats.

In Bradenton Beach, with two commission seats uncontested, the race is for mayor.

In Holmes Beach, five candidates are campaigning for three commission seats.

To register to vote in Manatee County, an applicant must be a U.S. citizen, a county resident, at least 18 years old, not mentally incapacitated and not possessing a felony conviction on his or her record.

People can find registration applications at a number of locations, including local banks, city halls, public libraries, post offices and businesses, such as *The Islander*, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

The registration application also can be completed online at www.votemanatee.com, the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections' Web site.

Shearon said his No. 1 priority, if elected, would be finances.

Referring to the commission decision to dip into reserves for the 2009-10 budget, Shearon said, "That's been built up over a decade. Someone has to bite the bullet."

Shearon also said he wanted to see the city use a better system for carrying out tasks and initiatives and update policies, procedures and equipment.

Voters in November will not decide any contests for a seat at the commission dais.

Incumbent Janie Robertson of Ward 3 faces no opposition.

And, in Ward 1, newcomer Gay Breuler is the only candidate to qualify for the seat being vacated by John Shaughnessy, who cannot run again due to a term limit.

Robertson, a resident of the 600 block of Gulf Drive North, will be serving a third term on the commission. She also faced no opposition in November 2007.

When she began her second term, Robertson said her focus would be on Bridge Street, the newly opened Historic Bridge Street Pier complex, the establishment of a mooring field south of the pier, the development of a water taxi system, the expansion of the "Trolley Up" campaign to increase ridership and protection of the dunes.

"I'm not done yet," Robertson said of her decision to run again.

She said she plans to follow her agenda, with a focus on the dunes and also balancing the budget for 2010-11.

Breuler, who lives in the 2600 block of Gulf Drive North, works for the U.S. Census Bureau on surveys and previously worked as a life and retirement coach.

She moved to the Island two years ago, after three years living in Bradenton and many years of living "all over the place."

Breuler said she knows Shaughnessy and, when she learned he could not run again, decided to become a candidate.

She said she wanted to make sure the Sandpiper community was represented since it makes up a large part of Ward 1.

Voting is from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 3 at Bradenton Beach's polling place, Tingley Memorial Library, 111 Second St. N.

Five for three seats in HB

Holmes Beach voters will elect three city commissioners from a field of five candidates in the Nov. 3 election.

Incumbents Pat Geyer, Pat Morton and David Zaccagnino are seeking re-election.

Challengers are Andy Sheridan and Al Robinson.

New fire district facilities costly

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Unless the West Manatee Fire District hits the winning combination in the Florida Lottery soon, it will have to hope that its application for federal stimulus funds for new facilities and upgrades is approved.

WMFR Chief Andy Price told the district board at its Sept. 17 meeting that the company hired to inspect the district facilities estimates it will take about \$7 million to \$8 million to do all the work under consideration at the three district stations.

That work includes bringing the structures up to present building codes, refitting the existing structures and adding a new administration building.

“That amount covers all three stations and facilities for the next 20 years,” Price said.

But that’s if the board wanted to do everything, Price noted.

“Remember, we do not have to come up to code,” he said. New building codes were adopted after the construction of the buildings, which are grandfathered for code compliance.

The district could just repair and improve its existing structures, but Price said that’s an estimate the company is still working to determine. He expected that figure to be available around Jan. 1.

Price said the estimates are for informational



WMFR collects for MDA

Firefighters from West Manatee Fire Rescue raised \$5,262 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association at a recent Fill the Boot drive. The donation will enable the MDA to purchase two sets of leg braces or wheelchairs, send one child to camp and cover two clinic visits, a WMFR press release said.

purposes only at this point.

“There’s nothing to be done now. There are a lot of things that have to happen before you make a decision,” he said.

True, said board member Jesse Davis, “But the longer we wait, the more expensive it will become.”

Annexation talks to begin on Kingfish ramp

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Negotiations for annexing the Kingfish Boat Ramp and the vicinity into Holmes Beach will soon begin.

Manatee County commissioners on Sept. 15 approved a resolution to enter talks with Holmes Beach officials, who want to incorporate the area west of the Anna Maria Island Bridge to the city line.

The county operates the boat ramp and a survey shows it lies in unincorporated Manatee County on Florida Department of Transportation right of way.

County commissioners not only agreed to enter a discussion on the issue, some suggested that Holmes Beach consider extending the possible annexation area to include the bridge on Manatee Avenue.

That idea was raised by Manatee County Sheriff Brad Steube, who addressed county commissioners prior to their discussion on a resolution to negotiate boundaries.

Steube attended the meeting in Bradenton to clarify the record on claims that public safety is a significant concern in the boat ramp area.

During a county board meeting several weeks ago, commissioners discussed annexation with Holmes Beach Mayor Rich Bohnenberger and Holmes Beach Police Chief Jay Romine.

Bohnenberger and Romine said their push to annex the area is based on concerns about public safety — the HBPD is closer to the boat ramp area and for years policed it based on assumptions that the land was within city limits.

The boat ramp and unincorporated area just east of Holmes Beach are under jurisdiction of the MCSO, but the Florida Highway Patrol has jurisdiction on State Road 64/Manatee Avenue on the bridge. Bradenton has jurisdiction for most of Perico Island and on the east end of the bridge.

Some commissioners, during that earlier meeting, relayed complaints from people who said they were involved in accidents on Manatee Avenue near the boat ramp or on the bridge and waited as long as two hours for law enforcement.

Steube did not focus on annexation, but instead provided commissioners with statistics showing public safety is not an issue in the area and that response times for accidents in recent years were not extraordinarily long.

In 2006, there were 35 calls for service to the boat ramp — about one service call every 10 days — according to the sheriff.

In 2007, Steube said there were 38 calls for service or one service call every nine days.

There were 63 service calls in 2008 — one every six days.

So far this year, the statistics show one service call every four days, but, the sheriff said, a majority of the service calls were initiated by MCSO deputies and only 12 resulted in written reports.

“There were 21 calls for service that actually went to 911,” Steube said, adding that the average response time to a call in 2009 is six minutes.

“Here’s my problem,” Steube said. “If we are talking about one call for every four days, I’m not sure we have a crime problem here.”

Steube also provided some statistics for FHP responses to accidents in the area. The average response time is 17 minutes, he said, adding, “I don’t think that this is a long time to be waiting for the FHP.”

Steube challenged complaints that during an accident on Manatee Avenue or the bridge, disabled vehicles cannot be moved until law enforcement arrives.

FHP, he said, will get wreckers on the way when the road is blocked, the sheriff said.

“People keep saying this is a public safety issue,” Steube said. “I don’t see that. ... It is ultimately your decision, but as far as being a public safety problem, I don’t see that.”

Steube added that by annexing just the area west

Price said if the district gets its entire stimulus request, it could probably begin construction very soon, and do all the estimated work. Without the stimulus package, it will take the district two to three years to begin even one part of its new facilities program.

It might have to consider borrowing the money for repairs and improvements to WMFR facilities, he suggested.

The least expensive option is to refit and repair what the district has now, without adding an administration building or bringing the buildings up to code, Price observed.

But the district’s facilities are aging. One station is 40 years old, while two are 20 years old, Price said.

“There comes a time when they start breaking down and you have to replace them,” he said. “It’s time to start doing major work” on the facilities.

Of the estimated \$8 million price tag, Price said the district is “not the small, little fire district that we used to be” when he and every other fireman on the Island were volunteers.

Times have changed and WMFR now has an annual budget in excess of \$5 million.

Price said he did not know when the government would announce if WMFR was getting any of the \$210 million earmarked by the administration for fire stations facilities across the nation.

of the bridge to the city line, Holmes Beach would still be leaving the small area under multi-jurisdictions.

Why not go all the way across the bridge? Steube asked.

When the sheriff concluded, Commission Chair Gwen Brown said, “I believe we hit a nerve.”

The commission next took up a resolution on an interlocal service boundary agreement provided by deputy county attorney Maureen Sikora.

The resolution, approved by the commissioners, authorizes county staff to negotiate with Holmes Beach officials on annexation.

Commissioner Joe McClash suggested that those negotiations include a discussion on Holmes Beach annexing the bridge.

“Is it possible?” Commissioner Ron Getman asked, posing a question no one was prepared to answer. “If we are going to do this, I would support this if they would include all the way to Bradenton.”

Commissioner Carol Whitmore, former mayor of Holmes Beach, said perhaps the city doesn’t want to annex as far as the east end of the bridge.

“All Holmes Beach wants is what they thought they had jurisdiction of,” she said. “They didn’t ask for any more.”

Whitmore said pushing to annex more might open “a whole bigger can of worms,” especially with the Florida Department of Transportation working on long-term plans for a replacement bridge.



Shipping out

Boaters arrive with the dawn to the Kingfish Boat Ramp, operated by Manatee County government and in unincorporated Manatee County. The city of Holmes Beach wants to annex the land, but not manage the ramp. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff

BIEO waiting for state fertilizer guidelines

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Members of the Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials would like to see the same, or a similar fertilizer ordinance in all three Island cities to ensure chemical runoff from lawn fertilization doesn't pollute local waters.

Each Island city the past year has discussed implementation of an ordinance.

But any ordinance adopted by an Island city likely won't be modeled after the Longboat Key fertilizer ordinance, some BIEO officials at a Sept. 16 meeting said.

Bradenton Beach Mayor Mike Pierce, who chaired the meeting, said the Longboat Key ordinance has many good points, but the cost of enforcing it is high for smaller cities.

Enforcement of that ordinance would require several officers working daily on just that issue, suggested Manatee County Commissioner Carol Whitmore.

"We looked at it and decided the county just couldn't afford it," she said.

Bradenton Beach City Commissioner Janie Robertson, however, said it "would be nice if all three Island cities had the same ordinance."

That's probably not going to happen, but Robertson suggested that when the Florida Department of Environmental Protection issues its guidelines for the use of fertilizers and pesticides, the BIEO should meet again to discuss how city ordinances can be similar.

If the ordinances are similar, it will help landscaping companies that do business on the Island, she said.

Good idea, responded Holmes Beach City Commissioner Sandy Haas-Martens.

Before Holmes Beach adopts a fertilizer ordinance, the city is waiting for federal and state guidelines on the use of those chemicals.

"We want to see if the landscaping companies will do what they are supposed to do under federal and state guidelines," Haas-Martens said.

Presently, Holmes Beach has adopted management practices limiting the use of harmful fertilizers by the public works department and other city departments.

"You're right," said Pierce. "There's a need for guidelines. I don't think everyone will have the same ordinance, but we can all look at the same guidelines

and work from those."

Robertson agreed, but she was concerned that some "snow birds" who come down just for three months during the dry season will want green grass. That means using harmful chemicals, she said.

"There's no problem during the rainy season," Robertson said.

Once regulations are adopted in each Island city, landscaping companies will face a fine if they ignore the criteria for fertilizing lawns, said Haas-Martens.

"The licensed landscapers will have to abide by the rules," she said.

It might be some time, however, before each Island city has rules regarding the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Pierce said he's "expecting something from the state within the next year," but hopes it will arrive sooner.

"We want to save the environment as much as we can," he said.

Whitmore said that when the DEP issues its guidelines, the county commission will look at those and make suggestions to the cities.

"Remember, you can always make your ordinance more strict than the state, but the county is not

going to tell you guys what to do," Whitmore said.

"Let's all get on the same page when we get the state and county guidelines," Robertson concluded.

Cortez Bridge closure

Pierce noted that the Cortez Bridge will close "intermittently" during night-time hours the next month for maintenance and painting.

Bradenton Beach Police Chief Sam Speciale is aware of the closures and will have officers on the bridge for traffic control, Pierce said.

Joint planning committee

The BIEO nominated Pierce to replace Holmes Beach Mayor Rich Bohnenberger on the Joint Planning Committee established by the 2002 Accord agreement on development in Manatee County and its incorporated cities.

Bohnenberger has been the Island representative since the JPC's inception and it's time for a replacement, said Haas-Martens, speaking for Bohnenberger, who was unable to attend the BIEO meeting.

"As mayor, he's just got a lot on his plate and would like to be replaced," she said.

The nomination must be approved by the Bradenton Beach City Commission.

Negotiating to begin for marine HQ

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

County staff is set to begin negotiations with a firm for design and construction services on a marine rescue headquarters in Bradenton Beach.

The building will house the county's marine rescue operations, including lifeguards, and the Manatee County Sheriff's Office marine division, will be located south of Leffis Key on Coquina Bayside.

On Sept. 15, the Manatee County Board of Commissioners authorized county staff to negotiate a contract with Zirchelbach Construction Inc. of Palmetto.

The county's plans for the structure call for a 4,250- square-foot headquarters elevated on pil-

ings with parking underneath.

The board had initially authorized staff to negotiate a contract with Power Contracting LLC of Palmetto, which submitted the lowest bid on the project.

However, according to a county memo to commissioners, "As the negotiations progressed, significant changes in the original stated offer occurred. ... Costs rose to ... an increase of 30.4 percent. As a result, staff cannot recommend continuing negotiations with Power Contracting LLC based on the committee's lack of confidence and the difficulties this firm has had in developing and pricing the minimal scope of work for this project."

Zirchelbach's proposed design and construction estimate is \$1,361,983.



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Our Opinion

Winning the race

While we understand folks on Anna Maria Island get tired of hearing about how folks up north do it better by offering worn-out advice on how to drive, we were prone years back to admire the use of golf carts on the roadways in not-so-far-north Sun City Center — and slow, slow speeds, including, yes, on a state road.

Now, finally, comes Bradenton Beach, ready to gear up for the race to allow low-speed vehicles on Island roads, changing our course in the right direction — toward greener, safer, calmer transportation.

Long ago, we wished for lower speeds, aka 25-mph as in Anna Maria, for Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach. Lower speeds are proven to reduce accidents and would allow the use of what's desired now for alternative modes of transportation.

Do we really need speeds of 40-plus mph on Manatee Avenue and the volume of accidents at the intersection with East Bay Drive?

Quaint "old Florida" destination slows the pace. We can see the headlines now ...

It's worth a green flag.

Next step

Manatee County commissioners are presently considering replacement for the soon-to-be-removed, badly deteriorated pier at the Manatee Public Beach.

We hope they'll take a long look at the proposals and go for the long pier.

In fact, even though money is hard to find, they should dig deep for the best possible pier.

It would be short-sighted to give short-shrift to the No. 1 county asset — the beach.

Why not look at the best possible pier, one that would serve more than fishers and strollers, but serve as the jewel on our beach for miles and miles? Make it wider, longer and more beautiful than ever imagined and provide amenities.

Dig deep. Show us you do better than a short pier. Give us a showpiece. Put the crown on the beach.

We have an attraction that is unparalleled. It deserves to be an investment, and just as we did with our elementary school, and as we should with any project, including bridges, we should look for the very best we can do, and never compromise.

Ferris wheel? No. T-end, bait shack, gazebo, benches, rest rooms, services? Yes!

If you agree, please, encourage our officials to see the light. You can find their contact information online at www.islander.org on the opinion page.



Slick

By Egan

Your Opinion

Thanks stranger

It happened on the beach this morning, Sept. 17.

Wife Laurie and I sat down to rest on a bench at the bend end of Magnolia. It had two empty coffee cups on it.

A couple came walking up the beach and the man stopped to retrieve the cups.

I joked: Next time you leave these cups here, be sure they're full.

He asked: Cream and sugar?

I replied, Yes.

Fifteen minutes later he was back with two hot cups of coffee, with cream and sugar, of course.

I said: You're a gentleman and a scholar.

That's the nicest thing that ever happened to us on the beach in more than 50 years.

Thanks stranger.

John Adams, Holmes Beach

Rainy day

What is the purpose of having "road flooded" signs if people cannot get any signs placed when the road floods?

We were told that they were out of them yet last week there were several locations with signs posted in areas that were not impacting property owners.

I saw a BrightHouse truck throw a wake of 4 feet in a flooded area, causing more flooding to areas in distress.

My videotape can back up that event if anyone cares to see how people act during a non-hurricane event.

If a driver spots a flooded street, why would he or she attempt to go through it and cause more problems?

The answer, in my opinion, is that the motorist can. He or she has an SUV, and no place to go so the driver cruises the Island to cause more wakes than necessary.

Next time, consider the viewpoints of your neighbors and their situation and give the Island a break. Stay home and pretend it is a "Snow Day!"

Kathy Caserta, Holmes Beach

Arf, thanks

Thank you so much to the people who helped me and my dog Barry out of a canal Sunday morning!

We are grateful to the nice woman who was driving past us on Marina Drive and who offered and went to go get help from my home, and to Ed Sterba and the two other men who helped lift us out.

Barry was looking at some fish and lost his footing. He tumbled into the water and slipped right out of his collar. And he couldn't jump up to me because his paws were stuck in the muck.

When help arrived, I was able to jump in and lift him up and then they lifted me up and out. We were pretty dirty and a little cut up, but fine, and grateful.

Thank you all for the rescue.

Lisa Williams, Holmes Beach

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, or comment on matters on the *Islander* Web site at www.islander.org.

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Your Opinion

There goes the neighborhood

As a Holmes Beach property owner neighboring a proposed development on Sunrise Lane, I would like to voice my opinion and concerns.

Several of the residents of Sunrise Lane have lived there for some 40 plus years. This lane is unique on Anna Maria Island as it includes only six waterfront homes, all of which have deep lots allowing for long driveways and estate-type features.

The new owners of one platted lot on Sunrise Lane apparently plan to build two homes, but will require a variance to do so. With regards to the development request, it is only natural, I believe, that as a resident, it would be more acceptable to me to have two single-family homes built next door rather than two or more condo/homes as property values are always a concern.

No where have I ever witnessed the legal manipulations of density and frontage codes by condo-type of development than Holmes Beach. It is quite obvious that this type of condo development has changed the face of the Island. We have literally been swallowed up by this need to feed the greed. We are on the fast track to losing this quaint Island that has been featured in so many travel magazines and national publications.

I propose that instead of the city continuing to allow or offer variances with reduced roadside frontage in an effort to avoid overdevelopment, that the city change the ordinances regarding "condo" development and make it a priority. After all, wasn't it just recently that the city had to get involved with many two-owner "condos" because they were at risk of losing their ownership status due to the lack of abidance to the laws governing condominiums?

Our land-development code provides criteria in order to grant a variance. I've always thought that

variances could be granted to property owners who meet those requirements, including a hardship based on the current codes.

Does expanding the density of an existing single-family \$1 million piece of waterfront property constitute a hardship?

People need to start realizing what is going to become of this "quaint" Island by this blatant lack of accountability. The Island as it "was" brought these developers here. Increasing density and reducing setbacks and frontages all for increased profits will be the demise of our slice of "old Florida."

My suggestion to the developing neighbors is that they replace the one beautiful house that they tore down with only one beautiful house and sell it to a family that will truly enjoy living on this tremendous street and, in so doing, become good neighbors themselves.

Judy Titsworth, Holmes Beach



Plaza peaks

Workers put the top on what appears to be a tower for the AMI Plaza in Holmes Beach, bridging the gap between two commercial buildings at the corner of Gulf Drive and Holmes Boulevard.

Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

THE BEST 16 YEARS
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In the Sept. 22, 1999, issue of *The Islander*, headlines announced:

- Tropical Storm Harvey, forecast to make landfall on Anna Maria Island on Sept. 21, veered south just hours before landfall and struck the Fort Myers area. The expected 60-mph winds and accompanying storm surge failed to materialize. The Island received only minimal rain and winds.

- Anna Maria Mayor Chuck Shumard said developer Jim Toomey planned to purchase the six vacant lots on the northwest corner of the Pine Avenue-Bay Boulevard intersection and offered to sell the three lots closest to the humpback bridge to the city for an undisclosed price. The price for six lots was \$1.1 million.

- An Anna Maria resident living in the 200 block of South Bay Boulevard was robbed at knife-point by his ex-roommate, who took \$1,500 from the man's wallet and fled with his car. Police later found the vehicle abandoned at a mainland department store and issued an alert to arrest the former roommate.

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Date	Low	High	Rainfall
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Sept. 14	77	90	0
Sept. 15	76	88	.10
Sept. 16	75	88	0
Sept. 17	76	90	0
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Sept. 19	75	93	0
Average Gulf water temperature 87			°

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

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Community Center eyes wedding revenue

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Beset by a sagging economy that has seen donations and income decline by almost 10 percent the past year, the Anna Maria Island Community Center is looking at the hottest business on the Island as a source of revenue.

"The wedding trade has become extremely popular on the Island and it's time the center went looking for that business," said AMICC executive director Pierrette Kelly.

"We've got the largest indoor facility on the Island and the banquet hall can handle a wedding reception of 240 people comfortably and could go up to 400 people," Kelly said. "I think we are perfect for the larger wedding receptions."

The Center has been holding wedding receptions for the past 20 years, she said. It just hasn't advertised that fact.

"We did it long before Island weddings became so popular, but we did it primarily for our members and Island residents," Kelly said.

Times have changed.

The Center now has a color brochure advertising its location and amenities for large wedding receptions. Additionally, the Center will have a representative at the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce Wedding Festival in February to showcase the Center.

The Center doesn't have a budget to advertise online or in wedding trade magazines.

"It would be great if we did, but we've never had an advertising budget. We rely mostly on word-of-mouth for our wedding receptions," Kelly said. "If we can get the word out to more people about our facility, it would be a great thing for the Center."

With good reason.

Times are tough for all nonprofit organizations, Kelly observed. Donations and endowment funding are off by 10 percent and the Center still makes monthly mortgage payments for its new facility.

"Our financial situation is OK, but not great," she

said. "I'm now devoting a lot of time to writing grant proposals and letters to endowment funds and donors, but it's difficult everywhere for nonprofit organizations," she said.

"A lot of our donors just don't have the funds they used to have, so we have to take every opportunity to find funding sources," she said.

The Island's escalating wedding industry might help.

From about 100 weddings annually five years ago, the wedding business has grown remarkably fast. Several Island hoteliers recently estimated that there would be about 700 Island weddings this year and more than 1,000 in 2010.

In addition to weddings, the Center can accommodate business meetings, special event receptions and parties.

Island businesses are used for catering, floral arrangements and entertainment for receptions and events, Kelly said.

"We like to take care of our Island businesses as much as possible. I only wish we had more events where we can hire their services. Hopefully, the wedding festival will help spread the word about the Center."

The Center is at 407 Magnolia Ave. in Anna Maria.

For more information, call 941-778-1908.

County approves funds for wedding fest

Manatee County joined Island businesses in a civil union Sept. 23.

The county board of commissioners committed its support to the Anna Maria Island Wedding Festival scheduled for Feb. 28, 2010. The board approved awarding the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce up to \$9,980 to market the event.

In August, the Manatee County Tourist Development Council recommended the allocation, which will be used to reimburse the chamber's advertising expenses in newspapers, magazines and on the Internet and television.

As a condition of receiving of the money, the chamber must include the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau logo in festival advertising.

Also, county officials stressed that the allocation comes from tourist tax dollars, not property taxes.

Businesses Islandwide, as well as many off-Island operations, plan to participate in the festival, now in its third year.

The marketing budget for the event is about \$38,000.

... and hold back those wedding tears

Planners hope to finalize a draft of Holmes Beach's floodplain management plan during a meeting at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30.

The meeting will take place in the commission chambers at city hall, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

City staff, elected officials and planning consultant Bill Brisson began working on the plan in mid-summer.

A final draft will be presented in October to the

city commission for consideration.

"All property and business owners, civic groups, and interested citizens are invited to participate," read a city news release announcing the meeting. "This plan determines our flood insurance rating and may affect flood insurance premiums."

Questionnaires on flood problems in Holmes Beach also can be completed at city hall and downloaded from the city's Web site at www.holmes-beachfl.org.

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City easing up on carts, low-speed vehicles

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Low-speed drivers, start your engines.

Bradenton Beach city commissioners agreed last week that they do not want to pursue an ordinance banning low-speed vehicles within city limits.

Additionally, commissioners said they wanted to explore lifting a prohibition against golf carts — which go slower than low-speed vehicles — in certain areas of Bradenton Beach.

The decisions were reached during a Sept. 17 meeting.

City attorney Ricinda Perry introduced the topic, explaining that she and Police Chief Sam Speciale were looking into what ordinances needed to be revised or enacted to allow a low-speed vehicle to transport people from the Coquina Beach parking lot to their workplaces in the Bridge Street area.

While researching ordinances and state statutes, Perry said she learned that low-speed vehicles that meet certain requirements are legal on Florida roads where the speed limit is 35 mph or less. That means state law allows low-speed vehicles in Bradenton Beach except for Gulf Drive from the north end of Coquina Beach to the bridge to Longboat Key.

If the commission wanted to prohibit LSVs, an ordinance would be required, Perry said. Then she asked what avenue the commission wants to take.

Commissioners looked to Speciale, who in the past has raised concerns about slower, smaller vehicles traveling in Bradenton Beach's sometimes bustling traffic.

"The only concern that I had regarding these is the safety issue," Speciale said, adding that his apprehension was more with golf carts than LSVs. "These LSVs are nice little trucks. I know they are eco-friendly. I have no issue ... if the commission doesn't."

Golf carts, however, still should be restricted, Speciale advised.

"Golf carts don't go 35 mph," he said. "The LSV is a totally different animal" from the golf cart.

He suggested that if the commission wants to ease restrictions, then perhaps the carts could be allowed in the city's historic district — the downtown area around Bridge Street — and the "avenues" just south of the Sandpiper Resort community.

Early in the meeting, commissioners also heard an appeal from Lauren Sato of Beach Bums in Anna Maria, which rents LSVs and carts.

"Bradenton Beach is a vibrant, eclectic area," she said, and it presently is off-limits to vacationers

On the books

Florida law defines "low-speed vehicle" as "any four-wheeled vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 mph but not greater than 25 mph, including neighborhood electric vehicles."

Florida law allows a "low-speed vehicle" to be "operated only on streets where the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less." It does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle from crossing a road or street with a posted speed limit of more than 35 mph.

Florida law defines a "golf cart" as a vehicle for operation on a golf course or for recreational purposes, not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 mph.

State law prohibits the operation of "golf carts" on roads unless "a county or a municipal street ... has been designated by a municipality for use by golf carts. Upon a determination that golf carts may be safely operated on a designated road or street, the responsible governmental entity shall post appropriate signs to indicate that such operation is allowed."

cruising the Island on LSVs.

Sato asked commissioners to ease restrictions.

After some discussion, commissioners agreed not to pursue an ordinance prohibiting LSVs and to have Perry and Speciale work on a plan to allow golf carts in the historic district and side streets on the north end of the city.

In other business Sept. 17, commissioners:

- Approved special event applications from the Anna Maria Island Privateers for Thieves Markets on a number of Saturdays and a Christmas parade and party on Dec. 12.
- Discussed a growing concern with delinquent sanitation and stormwater accounts, which will be continued at a workshop meeting at 1 p.m. Oct. 6.
- Authorized the city attorney to review a county ordinance on panhandling for consideration in the city.
- Agreed to hold a workshop meeting to discuss updating the city's Web site at 1 p.m. Oct. 20.

And commission gets strict on Sunshine class

Seeking to avoid dark days under Florida's Sunshine Law, Bradenton Beach commissioners last

week stressed that those who fail to attend a class on the subject will be booted from boards or committees.

Government in the Sunshine was a topic raised by city attorney Ricinda Perry at the Sept. 17 commission meeting.

Perry also prepared a memo on the issue in response to questions from members of the Scenic-WAVES advisory committee about the application of the state Sunshine Law and Public Records Act to them and to e-mail correspondence.

"E-mails are being sent before and after meetings," Perry said. "I have been told that comments are not being expressly solicited; however, certain topics may have the effect of generating responsive e-mails," Perry wrote. "Arguably, each member may submit an independent e-mail on the same topic without violating the Sunshine Law; however, this can quickly and easily lead into a gray area of responsive e-mails that would violate the Sunshine Law. It is a slippery slope and a dangerous precedent to set."

Perry stressed the importance of educating committee and board members about the statutes, as well as including the city clerk on any e-mail correspondence related to city business.

Commissioners and city clerk Nora Idso agreed.

Perry recommended three policies:

- Create limitations on communications, such as restricting electronic correspondence to facsimiles and e-mail messages, but not allowing city business to be conducted in social networking venues, such as Twitter.
- Mandate that e-mail communications of any business of a board or committee be copied to the city clerk.
- Mandate that board and committee members attend the city-sponsored class on the Sunshine Law and Public Records Act and institute a policy that failure to comply would result in the person's removal from the board.

"The city has been very good about making sure we offer Sunshine classes," Perry said. "But we haven't been extremely forceful in making sure they attend or make up the class or be removed from the committee."

Commissioners, with John Shaughnessy absent, endorsed Perry's recommendations.

"I'm a real stickler about this," said Commissioner Janie Robertson. "If you haven't been to a Sunshine class, you should not be on the board."

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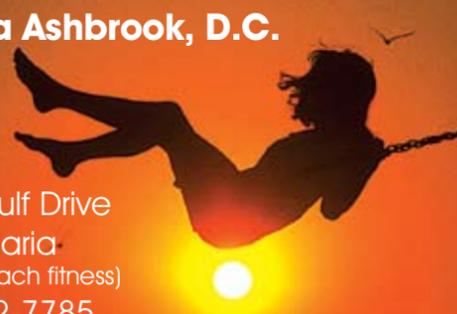
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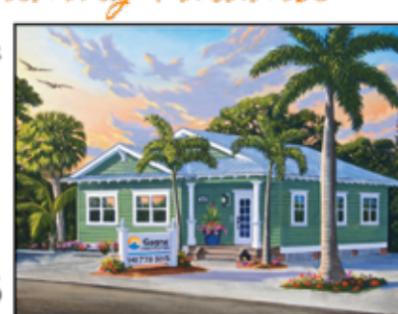
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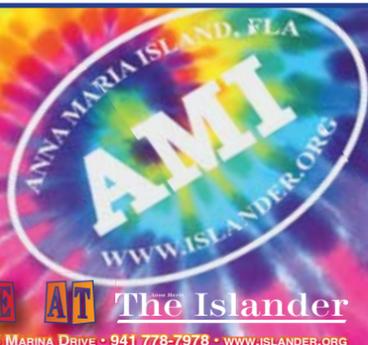


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Birds on a clean shore at Coquina Beach. County officials are working with state and federal officials, as well as environmental groups, to reduce raking and leave more wrack on the shore for feeding birds. Islander Photos: Lisa Neff



County reviewing beach-raking practices

'It's the wrack that truly brings a beach to life.'
 — FWC biologist Blair Witherington

By Lisa Neff
 Islander Reporter

Manatee County is testing a change in its beach-raking practices on Anna Maria Island to better protect the natural wrackline.

"It's the wrack that truly brings a beach to life," said Florida Fish and Wildlife biologist Blair Witherington.

County officials have met with representatives from state and federal agencies, as well as talked with representatives from nonprofit organizations such as Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch and the Audubon Society about changing beach-raking practices for environmental benefits, said Charlie Hunsicker, the county natural resources director.

The focus, Hunsicker said, is on protecting the natural wrack, the buildup of vegetation that provides habitat for a variety of wildlife. The county already adheres to beach-raking restrictions to protect sea turtles that nest on Florida's beaches.

Regular beachgoers know that sometimes the buildup on the shore stinks, but the county's intent in raking the shore at Manatee Public and Coquina beaches is not to remove the natural wrack that contains bones, seaweed, coral, seeds, seagrasses, shells, sea beans and sponges, said Hunsicker.

The intent is to remove soiled diapers, plastic bags, straws, aluminum cans and other litter that either washes ashore or that people leave behind after a beach day.

"We're also animals of the beach," said Hunsicker. "And we leave behind bottles and cans and waste paper and used diapers and all manner of things."

Raking serves safety and sanitary purposes, he said, but "our challenge is to find a balance."

What's the cost of raking the beaches?

That's a rhetorical question Audubon of Florida put to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection a year ago.

"Audubon is very concerned about the impacts of beach 'cleaning' permitted by your bureau on imperiled shorebird and seabird species protected under state and federal law. Many of these species

depend on Florida's beaches for nesting, wintering or migratory stopover habitat and are rapidly declining as a result of human disturbance and habitat alteration, including beach 'cleaning' (raking)," Audubon wildlife policy coordinator Julie Wraithmell wrote the DEP Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems.

Audubon detailed the effects of raking on nesting imperiled birds: "Because beach-nesting birds do not build nests but lay their eggs in shallow scrapes right on the open beach, their only protection is camouflage. ... Because these birds, their nests, eggs and chicks are so well camouflaged, it is very easy for pedestrians to overlook them and to even tread on eggs and nests. As you might imagine, these eggs and chicks are impossible to detect from the driver's seat of heavy machinery used on our beaches for raking."

Raking also impacts imperiled and migrant birds, according to Audubon. The state's beaches are essential habitat for a hemisphere's worth of migratory shorebirds, such as piping plovers, which spend winters on the coast, and red knots, which use the coast for rest stops.

"Many of these species depend on wrack as an important food source," Wraithmell said. "Removing this resource diminishes the habitat value to these species and in some cases may render the habitat unusable to them. It is for this reason that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service frequently conditions its approval of beach renourishment projects on the prohibition of wrack removal and restricts turtle tilling to the zone above the wrackline."

The Florida Master Naturalist Program of Coastal Systems of Florida also advocates leaving the wrack on the beaches.

"The more we study beach wrack, the more we learn how important this source is to coastal ecology," reads a public awareness notice from FMNP.

The wrack, according to the FMNP, an extension service under the University of Florida, can help stabilize the shore in unpopulated areas. Seagrass provides habitat for small animals and, when it washes back to sea can give hatchling sea turtles a ride.

Biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also have endorsed more natural beaches.

"While a natural beach may not look as manicured as a raked beach, the diversity and richness of a natural, functioning beach is infinitely more interesting than the sterile landscape of one that is groomed."

PLEASE SEE BEACH, NEXT PAGE

Raking coordinated for turtle safety

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

To protect sea turtles nesting and hatching on Anna Maria Island's beaches, Manatee County's beach-raking operations do not begin without an all-clear signal from Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch.

That's one of the reasons AMITW volunteers walk the beach at sunrise. They collect data, mark nests and signal the start to routine operations on the shore.

The county's raking program, which officials are now reviewing in an effort to also protect nesting and migratory birds on the shore, is permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems based in Tallahassee.

The permit is specific regarding raking — called "mechanical beach-cleaning activities" — during marine turtle nesting season, which is from May 1 through Oct. 31.

Raking, under the permit, must be confined to daylight hours, from sunrise to sunset, and it cannot take place until the survey of nesting activity is completed.

AMITW volunteers mark turtle nests for a number of reasons — to monitor activity is one reason. Another is to keep equipment off the nest. The beach-cleaning permit requires that nests have a circle of tape or string having a radius of 3 feet, with the center being the location of the egg clutch.

"No mechanical cleaning equipment is allowed inside of this circle," the DEP restriction states.

Beach raking under review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

said FWC biologist Nancy Douglass.

Audubon, in its statement to the DEP, concluded that beach cleaning is "an elective, cosmetic activity that is resulting in irreparable damage to public trust resources" and DEP is "complicit in the take of protected species by sanctioning raking in the most sensitive of these areas."

Hunsicker said the county also is concerned with the plight of imperiled species and the success of nesting on its beaches.

And, in the year since Audubon questioned government-permitted raking on Florida's beaches, state, federal and local officials have begun work to study the impact of beach cleaning and initiated test programs to reduce already limited raking programs.

Raking takes place on less than 30 percent of the Island's shore, primarily at Coquina and Manatee Public beaches, and the raker's goal is to try to leave behind some vegetation and shells.

"It's not a sweep of the beach," Hunsicker said.

Still, he added, "We're looking at reducing the frequency of beach raking and avoiding raking in some strategic areas."

One area, said Hunsicker, is the "no swim" zone on south Coquina Beach near Longboat Pass. With no swimmers allowed, that's an area where fewer people congregate.

"It's where we can realize the benefits of reduced raking without necessarily reducing sunbathing," Hunsicker said.

And the county is working with Audubon and AMITW to monitor bird populations on the beach.

"We need to do a better documentation of where the protected birds are," Hunsicker said.

Another component of a reduced raking initiative will be a public education campaign to raise awareness "of the role that shoreline vegetation plays," he added.

Yet another element might involve added efforts to non-mechanically remove litter from the beaches.

"We'll embrace every volunteer," Hunsicker said.

In the event that nest markers are lost, which can occur in stormy weather or high water, the DEP states that "no mechanical beach cleaning shall be conducted until the marine turtle permit holder identifies the nest and restores the markers.

"In the event that the nest cannot be found and may have been lost during high water conditions, the permittee shall contact FFWCC staff ... to determine if mechanical beach cleaning can resume."

Restrictions also regulate the depth of raking on the beach — no more than 2 inches from the beach surface. And the maximum tire pressure of the tractor is 10 psi — pounds per square inch.

Also, "mechanical beach-cleaning equipment shall avoid all native, salt-tolerant dune vegetation by a minimum of 10 feet."

Nesting by the numbers

Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch reported 167 loggerhead sea turtle nests on the beach as of Sept. 18.

AMITW also reported 137 false crawls, 139 hatched nests and 10,410 hatchlings to the sea.

Nesting season continues through Oct. 31.

AMITW will celebrate the 2009 season with a breakfast gathering at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Smugglers Landing in Cortez.

Volunteers sought for cleanup

Volunteers are needed for the annual Coastal Cleanup that will take place in Manatee County from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 3.

Keep Manatee Beautiful organizes the event in Manatee County, part of a worldwide effort to remove litter from shores, parks and roads.

KMB's adopt-a-highway and road and shore groups will clean up at their regular sites, but volunteers are needed for other locations in the county, including several on Anna Maria Island.

Volunteers can register for cleanup duty at 9 a.m. at:

- Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive.
- Kingfish Boat Ramp, north of East Bay Drive on Manatee Avenue.
- Coquina Beach gulfside by the concession stand.
- Sixth Street South beach access on Gulf Drive in Bradenton Beach.
- Cortez Maritime Museum, 11601 Cortez Road W.
- Palma Sola Causeway at pavilions on the north side of Manatee Avenue.
- Historic Wares Creek at Bradenton Woman's Club, 1705 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton.
- Church of Christ, 201 Ninth Ave. E., Bradenton.
- Emerson Point Conservation Park at the west end of 17th Street West in Palmetto.
- Terra Ceia on U.S. 19 at the northwest corner of the bridge by Crab Trap I.
- Ray's Canoe Hideaway at 1289 Hagle Park Road.
- Jiggs' Landing at Braden River Road and Linger Lodge Road.
- Riverside Park pavilion at 801 Riverside Drive in Palmetto.

For more information, call KMB at 941-795-8272.

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ScenicWAVES pursues gateway project

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

A Bradenton Beach advisory committee wants city commission authorization to explore a gateway project at Cortez Road and Gulf Drive.

Members of the ScenicWAVES advisory committee, meeting Sept. 14 at city hall, agreed to ask commissioners to appoint staff or a committee to explore a gateway project.

That exploration will involve discussions with the owners of the property on the west side of Gulf Drive at Cortez Road.

“There is a private parcel where we thought we had a street end,” city building official Steve Gilbert said of the area, which also consists of Florida Department of Transportation right of way for Cortez Road and Gulf Drive.

Gilbert said property owners could be asked if they might agree to a lease that could lead to the placement of a gateway art installation and possibly a pocket park.

“The problem now is there isn’t room in DOT’s right of way to do the project right now,” Gilbert said.

Another option, which has been discussed briefly at previous ScenicWAVES meetings, is for a gateway installation over Cortez Road on the west end of the bridge.

“It can be done,” Manon Lavoie, the DOT representative to the committee, said, stressing that there would be a host of requirements to meet.

“I would not take anything off the table,” said city project/program manager Lisa Marie Phillips.

In other business, the committee voted to recommend that the city place the majority of newly purchased solar-powered decorative lights on historic Bridge Street.

The lights, according to public works director



Going for gateway

The Bradenton Beach ScenicWAVES advisory committee is promoting an effort to improve the entrance to the city at Cortez Road and Gulf Drive with a gateway art project. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

Tom Woodard, could be installed before the holiday season.

“The sooner I can get some placement with these ... the better off we’ll be. We can get these in before Thanksgiving,” Woodard told ScenicWAVES.

Woodard presented the committee with a map showing eight lights on Bridge Street, eight more at the roundabout in the intersection of Bridge Street and Gulf Drive and five lights along Gulf Drive between Bridge Street and Second Street North.

After some discussion, the committee approved a motion to decrease the number of lights at the roundabout by four and to increase the number of lights on Bridge Street.

Woodard then took the recommendation to the city commission, which had asked for advice from ScenicWAVES as well as Bridge Street merchants.

Woodard also stressed that the lights are decorative, not for safety, and that if more lighting is needed in the central business district he would request more street lights from Florida Power & Light.

CHECK OUT OUR FALL HAPPENINGS

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and *The Islander* will be fundraising and promoting awareness by publishing special pink pages of advertising. Short acknowledgements, up to 15 words (similar to classified ads) will each publish with a pink “awareness” ribbon and cost will be \$15. Display advertisers are welcome to join us in acknowledging awareness, encouraging survivors of cancer and memorializing loved ones lost. Ten percent of all ad sales will go to Nancy Ambrose’s American Cancer Society Relay for Life team.

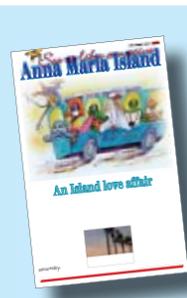


Yee Haw! Round up the pooches for *The Islander* newspaper Canine Costume Contest. Prizes and fun await the canines and owners and participants in the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce Trail of Treats in the Holmes Beach shopping district. Kids contest at the chamber, canines coral at *The Islander*, and treats all along the way. Register pets, advertise your pet friends, contribute prizes. Call *The Islander* for more information.



Veterans Day is Nov. 11 and *The Islander* will again honor all service

veterans, spouses and family members at the Holmes Beach Veterans Memorial and Butterfly Park with a continental breakfast, honor guard and presentation of colors by the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post and the final salute to fallen comrades, Taps.



With its Nov. 18 edition, *The Islander* will again publish its Island Vacation Guide with a special focus for holiday visitors. Don’t miss the second edition of this highly acclaimed special edition. Preview the spectacular “page-turning” e-edition of the fall Island Vacation Guide online at www.islander.org.

Thanksgiving is the time for giving thanks and for remembering the organizations that serve the community and needy individuals on Anna Maria Island. Special sponsor ads help produce the annual “*Islander Wish Book*,” which highlights the needs of nonprofits serving the Island and allows readers to compile shopping lists to help meet those needs. It’s the “joy of giving” with some special sprinkles of Island style.

Mark your calendar for the Holmes Beach Downtown Holiday Open House Dec. 4 sponsored by *The Islander* newspaper, and be sure to join us at the newspaper for visits with Santa aboard his sleigh, surprises for kids and holiday merriment with the Privateers

aboard their ship. Raffle prize registration and refreshments will abound at the area merchants and there’s always a little holiday magic in the air for this event.

Dec. 5 will find young and old alike celebrating the holiday season at the Chuck and Joey Lester-*Islander* Fun Day at the Anna Maria Island Community Center. Prizes, Santa, games, food and refreshments are offered at “old-fashioned prices for an old-fashioned good time.”



Next up: Dec. 12 brings the Anna Maria Island Privateers Holiday Parade and Kids’

Christmas Party. The parade runs the length of the Island from Anna Maria Bayfront Park to Coquina Beach, where Santa greets kids with a hearty “ho ho ho” and a gift aboard the Privateer ship.

Dec. 19 is the annual “Where’s Woody Candish” Sidewalk Art Sale outdoors along the walkways at *The Islander* newspaper office in the Island Shopping Center. There are last-minute shopping bargains from local artists — something for everyone on your list — at this once-a-year sale event.



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National Estuaries Day celebrated Sept. 26

For the ninth consecutive year, the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is celebrating National Estuaries Day with the offer of a discounted ticket package that includes a cruise with Sarasota Bay Explorers and admission to Mote Aquarium.

Cost for the package is \$7 per person and is good only for Saturday, Sept. 26.

On the Bay Explorers cruise, participants will join a marine biologist for a 105-minute cruise around Sarasota Bay. Cruisers will observe bottlenose dolphins and manatees, while learning about the area's ecology, history and folklore.

Cruise times are 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Tickets for the National Estuaries Day celebration must be purchased and picked up in advance at the Sarasota Bay Explorers desk at the Mote Aquarium entrance, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota.

Patrons will not be able to purchase discounted tickets on the day of the event.

Health warning for Palma Sola waters

The Manatee County Environmental Health Services department on Sept. 17 issued an advisory for the waters on both the south and north sides of the Palma Sola Causeway near the mainland.

The advisory said marine water bacterial indicators show that contact with the water in either area may pose "an increased risk of infectious disease, particularly for susceptible individuals."

Director Tom Larkin said it is "not uncommon" for bacteria levels to increase after heavy rainfall due to stormwater runoff.

Water quality criteria is based upon standards set by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Larkin said.

The water in the affected areas was to be tested again on Sept. 21.

Cortez family organizes for Boyd

Star Fish Company and the Bell family of Cortez welcome the public at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28 to a meet-and-greet reception for Jim Boyd, Republican candidate for Florida House of Representatives.

The event will feature light appetizers, including "mullet spread, of course," according to host Karen Bell, refreshments, conversations and a "Q&A about current issues facing Manatee County and Florida."

The gathering will be held from 5:30 p.m. to approximately 7 p.m. on the docks behind Star Fish Company Market and Restaurant, 12306 46th Ave. W., Cortez.

For more information, call Bell at 941-704-7643.

Yacht club plans hunt

The Cortez Yacht Club will host its first "Can You Find It By Water" scavenger hunt Saturday, Sept. 26, beginning at Rotten Ralph's at Galati Marine in Anna Maria.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the distribution of the hunt list to scavengers at 10:15 a.m. and a start at 10:30 a.m.

Scavengers will have about three hours to collect items from the list, and prizes will be awarded to those who place first, second and third in several categories.

For more information, call Tim "Hammer" Thompson at 941-780-1668.

Robinson Preserve welcomes volunteers

Manatee County's Natural Resources Department will host a volunteer information meeting at Robinson Preserve at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24.

For more information, call the county at 941-742-5757 ext. 2.

County appoints TDC members

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Manatee County commissioners have appointed one new member and shuffled some seats on the county Tourist Development Council.

During a county commission meeting Sept. 15, the board appointed Vernon DeSear to the TDC as an "interested citizen, as well as Beach Bistro owner Sean Murphy, who has been serving on the council as a hotelier since 2005, but requested to be appointed as an "interested citizen."

DeSear, the executive director of the Manatee Memorial Hospital Foundation, has been involved in a number of community efforts, including the Downtown Development Authority in Bradenton, the Manatee Education Foundation, the Wellness Community of Southwest Florida and the Hernando DeSoto Historical Society.

County rules require that of the nine positions on the TDC, at least three but no more than four members must be owners/operators of motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks or other tourist accommodations in the county and subject to the county resort tax.

The board appointed four people, all of them already members of the TDC, to serve as representatives of the accommodations industry. The appointees include Tom Jung of the Courtyard Marriott in Bradenton, David Teitelbaum of Tortuga Inn, Tradewinds and Seaside Motels on the Island, Barbara Rodocker of the Bridgewalk and Silver Surf Resorts on the Island and Ed Chiles of the Beach Inn in Holmes Beach. Chiles was first appointed to the TDC in 1996 and has, in the past, served as an "interested citizen."

The county received 13 applications for the posts, including a number from Islanders.

County Commissioner Carol Whitmore, who chairs the TDC, said, "All the other applicants were very qualified."

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County ready to dredge Coquina Beach sand

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Manatee County director of natural resources Charlie Hunsicker is ready for federal approval of the agreement between Port Dolphin LLC and Manatee County to build a natural gas pipeline.

Hunsicker is in a race with time to get sand from the path of Port Dolphin's 30-mile-long pipeline from the Gulf of Mexico to Port Manatee by June 2012 — or possibly lose the sand and the money Port Dolphin is escrowing to Manatee County.

He needs Port Dolphin to get environmental permits and for the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Maritime Administration to approve the agreement. The agencies will not announce a decision until Oct. 26 at the earliest.

"We want to start investigating the sand in November," Hunsicker said.

Hunsicker and officials of Coastal Planning and Engineering, the county's marine engineering company, have to test the sand that will be dredged for

beach quality, then have it moved to Coquina Beach by June 2012.

It's not as easy as it sounds. "We have to be finished by the start of pipeline construction in June 2012," Hunsicker said. Before it can begin dredging, however, the county needs a permit.

"The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has agreed to put our application to dredge at the top of the stack, but that's no guarantee it will be approved quickly," Hunsicker said.

Also at stake is the \$400,000-\$500,000 that Port Dolphin LLC will escrow to Manatee County to fund a variety of projects.

If the sand is not removed by June 2012, all bets could be off, Hunsicker indicated, although he said it's likely that Port Dolphin LLC would grant an extension.

Much depends upon the speed of the DEP permit and the weather, Hunsicker said.

The dredged sand will be headed for Coquina

Beach renourishment, he said, not beaches in Holmes Beach or Anna Maria.

Hunsicker said preliminary indications are that the sand from the pipeline area is of beach quality, but only about 200,000 cubic yards are available to Manatee County from the borrow area.

Better to use it for the Coquina Beach renourishment that's just about ready to start, rather than the Islandwide effort planned for 2014.

With quick approvals, Hunsicker said the county could put sand on Coquina Beach in 2011.

But there have been objections, including a number by the town of Longboat Key. Longboat Key has a borrow area for beach renourishment sand in the area affected by the pipeline.

Anna Maria Mayor Fran Barford said she had no objection to the sand going to Coquina Beach.

"Coquina Beach was always ahead of the cities for renourishment. I think that's the right use of the sand. We never thought Island renourishment would begin before 2014," she said.

Bradenton Beach commission adopts flu policy

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Bradenton Beach commissioners adopted a resolution Sept. 17 that authorizes a city supervisor or the mayor to send home someone who appears sick.

The resolution, a late addition to the commission agenda, states that a supervisor or mayor, after consultation, may order a city employee, contractor of volunteer home "if that person reports or shows signs or symptoms of a communicable disease, including the H1N1 virus."

The policy, which will be added to the city's employee handbook, requires that to return to city facilities the person must be able to provide certification from a doctor that "there is no threat of a

communicable disease."

The commission approved the resolution because communicable diseases such as the H1N1 flu virus — more commonly called the swine flu virus — pose a "threat to the safety and welfare of the public, as well as city employees."

City attorney Ricinda Perry read the resolution prior to the commission vote and noted that the city had lacked a communicable disease policy.

"My understanding is that the city doesn't have

anything in place for these types of things," she said. "We're looking for a way to make sure that we protect ourselves and our citizens.... And also to make sure we don't have a singling out of anybody."

Commissioner Bob Bartelt questioned requiring people to obtain a doctor's notice before returning to city facilities, but the resolution passed with a unanimous vote.

Commissioner John Shaughnessy was absent from the meeting.

TIFF fundraiser at Rays game

Organizers of the To Inform Families First Initiative will raise money for the group through the sale of tickets to the Tampa Bay Rays game Oct. 4.

The Rays will be playing the New York Yankees at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.

TIFF is selling tickets in the lower level of the outfield tickets for \$24, with a portion of each sale benefiting the campaign to register emergency contacts with driver's licenses.

For more information, call Christine Olson at 941-795-1869 or e-mail christine@helptiff.org.



Give peace a chance
Second-grader Kamron Reo decorates a puzzle for Peace Day. During Peace Day, Sept. 21, students exchanged their puzzle pieces. *Islander Photos: Kimberly Kuizon*



Jessica Lafferty shows her peace puzzle design. "I love peace because it makes a better world," she said.



Noah Fischer decorates his puzzle piece with peace signs. "It's all about peace," he said.

Dr. Diane Michaels
Chiropractic Physician

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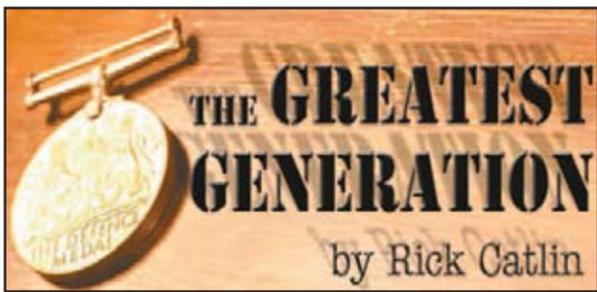
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The greatest before greatest generation

Bradenton Beach resident Ed Bruendl was 31 and married with children when World War II began in 1941.

But Ed, now 99, did his service to his country in a country where the fighting would eventually lead to the world war.

Ed was a U.S. Marine stationed in Shanghai, China, between 1932 and 1935, a time when Japan had already invaded Manchuria and was beginning to set the stage for its 1937 invasion of China proper.

As a member of the 4th Marine Regiment, Ed and his fellow Marines were part of the large international settlement of more than 100,000 people established in Shanghai in the 1920s.

Western countries such as the United States, France, Britain, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands — along with Japan — all had military forces stationed in Shanghai to protect the various business interests of its citizens in China and to protect those citizens from the Chinese civil war between Mao Zedong and Chiang Kai-shek.

Each country maintained a military presence in Shanghai, and the main public services, such as police, fire, water and sewage, were all run by westerners or western companies.

The various military were also to keep Japan from gaining full control of the remainder of China after it captured Manchuria, China's northern province, in 1931.

Originally from Flint, Mich., Ed entered the Marine Corps in 1929 and volunteered for China duty.

Other Marines had told Ed that the duty was easy and, for a few dollars a month, he could keep an off-base apartment, complete with someone to clean up, wash and iron his uniforms and cook.

A Marine Corps private first class only made about \$25 a month in those days, Ed recalled, but he was eventually promoted and was able to afford an off-base apartment. The Marines also paid a few dollars extra each month to those who qualified as an expert with the standard Marine rifle, a 1903 bolt-action Springfield.

Ed was a qualified expert with that weapon, along with the .30-caliber, water-cooled machine gun. Those expert badges were worth an extra \$6 a month, which was big money in those days, Ed said.

At 99, Ed's memory often fails him, but he remembers that the U.S. Navy operated a Yangtze River patrol of gunboats stationed at Shanghai, and Marines from the 4th Regiment accompanied those patrols up and down the 3,000-mile-long river. Ed was assigned to several such patrols, which lasted more than a month.

The gunboats were to protect American companies such as Standard Oil and Texaco from the civil war and from Chinese warlords and bandits. They were also to prevent the Japanese from considering military ventures against China.

The gunboats additionally provided medical and dental services to Chinese and American citizens working along the river.

Ed and his fellow Marines were not too worried about the Japanese at that time, although Japan also maintained a military force in Shanghai. Japan, however, had a much larger military presence in northeast China than other countries and controlled the roads near China's border with Manchuria. The Japanese also sought open conflict with Chinese forces, but not a full-scale war.

Still, all the countries that occupied Shanghai appeared to get along well, said Ed. The main enemies were the bandits and warlords along the Yangtze.



Ed Bruendl as a U.S. Marine in China in 1935.

The Marines also had units at the U.S. Embassy in Peking, now Beijing, and in Tistien along the China Sea coast. Marines were told to avoid any conflict with Japanese soldiers, he recalled.

By 1935, Ed said, it had become apparent that the Japanese were building up their forces to attack China.

Prior to its 1937 invasion of China, Japanese aircraft in 1936 bombed the U.S. Navy gunboat Panay during a Yangtze River patrol, killing several Marines and sailors and sinking the Panay. The Japanese claimed it was a case of mistaken identity and they thought the boat, although flying the American flag, was being used by bandits.

After apologizing profusely for its mistake, Japan paid nearly \$4 million to the United States as part of its apology. The Japanese pilots apparently could not see the large U.S. flag that flew from the Panay's stern, according to a *Shanghai Times* newspaper account of the incident.

Although Ed had returned to Michigan by the time of the Panay bombing, he knew that Japan and the United States would eventually come to war over China.



Bradenton Beach resident and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Ed Bruendl of the Sandpiper Resort recently celebrated his 99th birthday. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

Summer vacationers

Holmes Beach residents Cynthia and Jon Sachtjen, graphic designer at *The Islander*, spend a holiday at the falls in Jon's hometown of Chagrin Falls, Ohio.



After Japan invaded China in 1937, the U.S. government invoked economic sanctions against Japan and warned it to leave China.

Japan would lose too much face in Asia if it left China. It chose to ignore American warnings, a decision that would lead to the Day of Infamy, Dec. 7, 1941, and the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Ed was discharged from the Marines in 1937, returned to Flint and got married. He took a job with General Motors and moved up to the engineering and design department.

By the time the United States entered WWII, he had a family and was considered too old for combat. He tried to go back into the Marines, but was rejected because he was married and his job was considered critical to the war effort.

Indeed it was.

Ed's contribution to the war is still remembered and in use today.

Automobile spark plugs lasted only a few thousand miles prior to the war. As America prepared to enter WWII, the U.S. military needed a spark plug that would last for thousands of miles, as in 20,000-30,000 miles.

With its dependency on jeeps, tanks and motorized transport, the military planned to drive vehicles many miles in a short time when it invaded Europe and the Pacific. A normal spark plug that would last just a few thousand miles and perhaps just a few weeks in combat was unacceptable.

Given the task of building a better spark plug, Ed and his engineering team developed the ACDelco spark plug designed to last 40,000 miles and more.

The U.S. military bought hundreds of thousands of the new spark plugs before and during the war and military vehicles around the world were maintained considerably longer than originally anticipated because of Ed and his team's invention. Ed and his team received an award from the U.S. government for their war efforts.

Ed would eventually retire from GM and move to Bradenton Beach.

He and his wife first visited the Island in 1958, when there were only a few houses and businesses, and a few trailer parks, such as the Sandpiper Resort, where Ed lives today.

Ed doesn't get around much these days and has a caretaker to look after his needs.

Still, he has a sense of humor and a deep pride in being a Marine Corps veteran and contributing to the war effort.

"I can't remember much, but I still wave the flag when I can," said Ed. "Once a Marine, always a Marine."

Semper Fi, Ed.

"*The Greatest Generation*" and "*Forgotten Generation*" columns are for Island, Longboat Key, Perico Island, Palma Sola, Village Green, west Bradenton and Cortez veterans, man or woman, who served in the armed forces of any allied country during World War II or the Korean War. We'd like to hear from you. Please, call Rick Catlin at 941-778-7978.

Streetlife

Island police reports

Anna Maria City

Sept. 15, 200 block Gladiolus Street, domestic. The complainant and her daughter got into an argument. The complainant said her daughter came home drunk. Both were given domestic violence packages.

Bradenton Beach

Sept. 12, 2513 Gulf Drive N., warrant. No further information was provided.

Sept. 13, 1900 Gulf Drive S., Coquina Beach, trespass. No further information was provided.

Sept. 14, 200 block Gulf Drive South, credit card theft. No further information was provided.

Sept. 16, 2200 block Gulf Drive North, theft. No further information was provided.

Holmes Beach

Sept. 12, 5600 block Gulf Drive, burglary. Manatee County Sheriff's Office deputies contacted police after finding a "large box on the beach" that contained

receipts for ammunition and a name for the purchaser. After contacting the apparent owner, he determined that two vehicles had been burglarized and items stolen, including bullets, a handgun, briefcase, checkbook, sunglasses, a GPS unit and the box.

Sept. 12, 500 block 69th Street, burglary. The complainant said someone took a silver tea set, valued at \$700, from her home.

Sept. 12, 600 block Concord Lane, burglary. The complainant said she was watching the home for a friend and noted the rear door was ajar and that a plastic container valued at \$10 was missing.

Sept. 13, 5410 Marina Drive, D.Coy Ducks, obstruction. Officers responded to a fight outside the lounge. The two men were asked to leave by the doorman "because they were too intoxicated," according to the report. Both men left, then returned, began to fight, and others joined in. One man appeared to have a broken

hand. He eventually gave a taped report of the incident; the other man was arrested on battery charges.

Sept. 13, 200 block 79th Street, theft. Manatee County Sheriff's Office deputies contacted police regarding a possible theft. A man had been stopped for not wearing a seat belt and a roll of black wire was found on the passenger seat of his vehicle. The man said he found the wire on the side of the road near the Verizon building off 52nd Street. Value of the wire was estimated at more than \$300. The investigation is ongoing.

Sept. 15, 611 Manatee Ave., CVS Pharmacy, counterfeit. A store clerk said a man purchased cigarettes with a \$10 bill and, after he left the store, it was determined the bill was not legal tender.

Sept. 16, 600 block Key Royale Drive, theft. The complainant said he believed someone took the decal off his license plate, valued at \$40.

Obituary

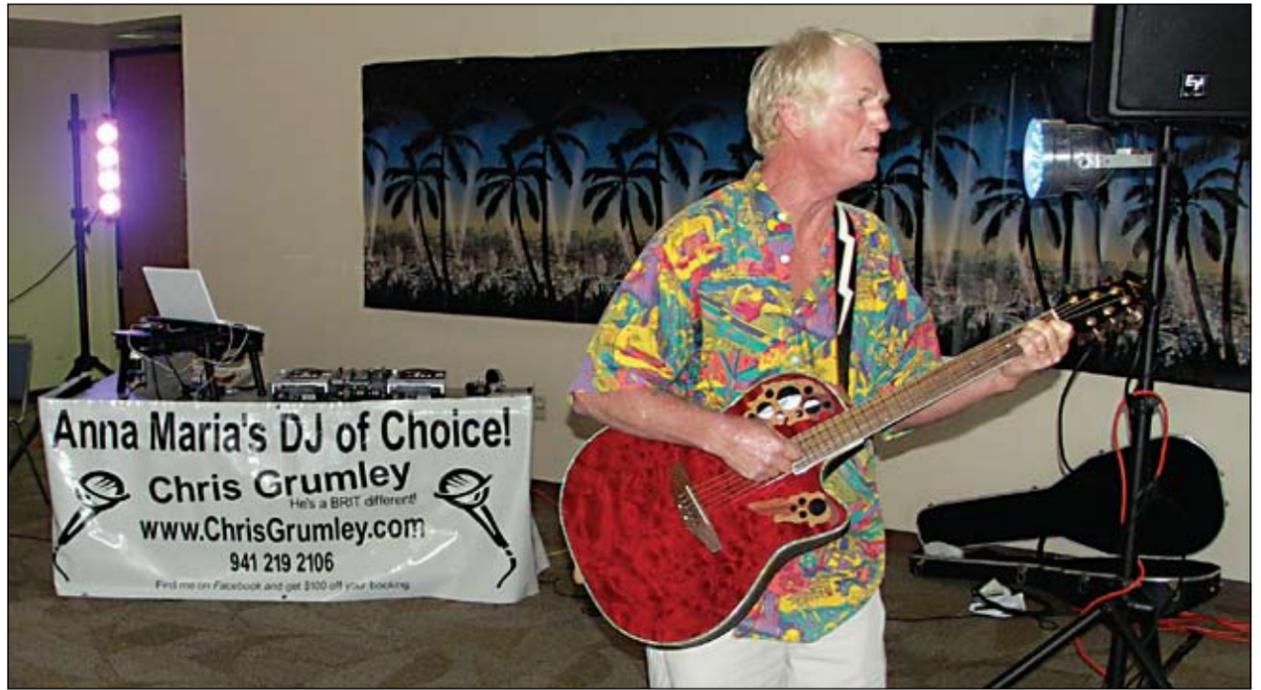
Pauline J. Pasco

Pauline J. Pasco, 66, of Anna Maria Island and formerly Alliance, Ohio, died Sept. 12.

Mrs. Pasco was a member of Charter Manatee Sail & Power Squadron, a volunteer at Blake Medical Center and the Regional Food Bank. She was a business owner of her own company called Sugar Fashions, where she designed and created fashions, clothing people and sewing wears. She loved living on Anna Maria Island with her companion Jack DeUnger and their three Maltese dogs, Rudolph Valentino, Roxie Rose Hart, and Ralph Lauren.

Memorial services on the Island were private.

She is survived by daughters Bobbi Lynn Rowe, Paula Hameline, and Amy; their father Robert G. Pasco; six grandchildren, and sister Lillian Stephans.



Got talent

An estimated 4,000 people attended the Sept. 19 Gulf Coast Talent & Film Expo at the Manatee Convention and Civic Center in Palmetto. The event was sponsored by Cortezians Mark and Kim Ibasfalean to showcase local talent, as well as film and publishing avenues. Pictured is Chip Ragsdale, a popular Anna Maria Island musician. Islander Photo: Paul Roat

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Suspect arrested in Holmes Beach resort burglary

By Lisa Neff
Islander Reporter

Police early Sept. 18 arrested a Sarasota man in connection with an alleged burglary and battery at the Bali Hai Beach Resort, 6900 Gulf Drive.

The arrest of Sarasota resident Francis Romano Gerry, 56, took place shortly after 4 a.m., when Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach police officers responded to a call of a "burglary in progress," according to Holmes Beach Police.

A man entered an occupied room at the resort by forcing open the door, HBPD reported.

Room occupants woke up and saw the man, whom they chased out.

The man allegedly said he was looking for other resort guests, but HBPD alleged that he had removed money from a woman's purse.

Gerry, held at the Manatee County jail on Sept. 18, faces a charge of burglary involving battery, a felony charge, and a charge of burglary, a misdemeanor charge. Bond was set at \$750.

And not guilty plea made in Bradenton Beach sex case

A Bradenton Beach man recently pleaded not guilty to illegal sexual activities with a minor.

Joseph Edmund Chiquet, 34, of the 500 block of Gulf Drive South in Bradenton Beach, was arrested July 14 and for allegedly committing lewd and lascivious battery on a child 12-15 years old and exposing a minor to harmful motion pictures.

Chiquet, according to a police report, allegedly

met the teenager in January at The Yard, a skateboard shop he was operating in Bradenton.

The report indicated that the teenager said she and Chiquet had a sexual relationship, and that he took sexual photographs of her in his apartment that were downloaded on his computer.

Police executed a search warrant earlier this month and seized the computer.

In addition to charges of lewd and lascivious battery on a child, investigating officers have asked the state attorney's office to file numerous charges against Chiquet for alleged possession or promotion of child pornography.

Chiquet has been released from the Manatee County jail pending trial, but remains on a home-detention, electronic monitoring system.

Manatee County Area Transit Manatee Trolley on Anna Maria Island



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The Islander



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

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

Note: Trolleys run at 20 minute intervals until 9 p.m. then run every 30 minutes until 10:30 p.m.
Black time points: A.M. (before noon).
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Box tops collected for education at AME

By Kimberly Kuizon
Islander Reporter

The Anna Maria Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization is asking for help to collect box tops this year.

Box tops can be found on different items, such as cereal, yogurt or cake products. Anyone is asked to cut out the box tops and turn them into the school. The collected tops raise money for the school.

“We are trying to make people aware of this pro-

gram. Until you know what the Box Tops for Education program is, you don’t understand why you should collect them,” said PTO president Monica Simpson.

Last year, AME received close to \$2,000 from Box Tops. The PTO helped fund field trips, books and supplies for classrooms with its donation to AME.

People can also participate by shopping online at www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace. Online, shoppers will find more than 70 stores,

including Barnes & Noble, Oriental Trading Company, Office Depot and The Gap. Online retailers make a donation to the specified school.

This year, the PTO will provide prizes or a party to the classes that collect the most box tops.

“It doesn’t have to be just parents who are collecting the box tops. We want the whole community to participate,” Simpson said.

For more information e-mail Simpson at greenplanner@hotmail.com.

Anna Maria Elementary School upcoming events

- Sept. 24, progress reports.
- Sept 25, no school.
- 2 p.m. Oct. 2, book club.
- Oct. 8, health screening.
- Oct. 9, fire drill.
- Oct. 15, picture retake.
- Oct. 15, Domino’s pizza day.
- 8:30 a.m. Oct. 16, Parent Teacher Organization meeting.
- 5 p.m. Oct. 20, Parent Teacher Organization

dinner followed by third-grade performance.

- Oct. 23, blood drive.
- Oct. 29, report cards and teacher conferences.
- Oct. 31, annual AME-PTO Fall Festival; start 10 a.m. costume contest; 10:30 a.m. parade; 11 a.m. festival.

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

AME MENU

Monday, Sept 28

Breakfast: Waffles, Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Hot Dog on Bun, Fiestada, Potato Smiles, Carrot Sticks with Dip, Mixed Fruit Cocktail.

Tuesday, Sept 29

Breakfast: Egg and Cheese Biscuit, Bagel, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Homemade Mac and Cheese, Riblets, Warm Roll, Fresh Broccoli with Dip, Mandarin Oranges.

Wednesday, Sept 30

Breakfast: Choice of “Jump Start” selection, Super Donut, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Breaded Chicken on Bun, Green Beans, Peaches, Sherbert, Assorted Sandwiches, and Salads.

Thursday, Oct 1

Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Yogurt, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Nachos with Meat or Cheese, Corn Dog, Tomato and Lettuce Cup.

Friday, Oct 2

Breakfast: Pancakes with Sausage Patty, Grits, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Cheese or Pepperoni pizza, Ravioli, Garden Salad, Corn, and Chilled Pears.

Juice and Milk are served with every meal.



Yoga for fun

Anna Maria Elementary School third-grade students practice yoga Sept. 18 with LaRae Brownwell from Laughing Lotus Kids. *Islander Photo: Karen Newhall*

The Islander

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The Islander

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ISLANDER CALENDAR

Wednesday, Sept. 23

11:30 a.m. — "Outlook and Opportunities: 10 Reasons to be a Long-term Bull" seminar with financial advisor Mike Valley at the Sun House Restaurant, 111 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-779-2499.

5 to 7 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce networking at the Blue Water Beach Club, 6306 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1541. Fee applies.

Friday, Sept. 25

6:30 to 9 p.m. — Skate night at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908. Fee applies.

Saturday, Sept. 26

9 a.m. — Cortez Yacht Club scavenger hunt begins at Rotten Ralph's north end location, 900 Bay Blvd. S., Anna Maria. Information: 941-780-1668. Fee applies.

Sunday, Sept. 27

10:30 a.m. — Anna Maria Island Privateers "Shipreck Poker Run and Bike Show" registration at Peggy's Corral, 4511 US Hwy 41, N. Palmetto. Information: 941-720-0436. Fee applies.

Monday, Sept. 28

11:30 a.m. — Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce golf outing at the Bradenton Country Club, 4646 Ninth Ave. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-778-1541. Fee applies.

Ongoing:

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

• Tuesdays, noon, Anna Maria Island Rotary Club meeting at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-794-8044.

• 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.

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

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

Off Island Events:

Thursday, Sept. 24

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Volunteer orientation at Robinson Preserve, 1704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-742-5757.

7:30 p.m. — "Hello, Dolly!" opens at the Manatee Players, 102 Old Main St., Bradenton, through Oct. 11. Box Office: 941-748-5875. Fee applies.

applies.

8 p.m. — Classical voice recital featuring Martha Lopez at Neel Performing Arts Center, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-752-5351. Fee applies.

Friday, Sept. 25

6 to 8 p.m. — DeSoto National Memorial Junior Rangers activity guide release party at the South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131.

Saturday, Sept. 26

1 p.m. — Golf tournament to benefit Manatee High School Hurricanes girls soccer club at Bradenton Country Club, 4646 Ninth Ave. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-807-1105.

7 p.m. — Celestial viewing with the Deep Sky Observers in the North Parking Lot of the Bishop Planetarium, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

8:30 & 10 a.m. — Wagon tours through Robinson Preserve, 1704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-742-5757. Fee applies.

Coming Up:

• Oct. 1, "Amphitryon" opens at the Howard Studio Theatre on the Manatee Community College Campus.

• Oct. 1, "Eat, Drink + Be Merry Film Series" presents "Big Night" at the South Florida Museum.

• Oct. 2, Anna Maria Island Rotary Club "A Touch of Tuscany" classical music concert.

• Oct. 2, Anna Maria Island Community Center film presentation "Kicking and Screaming."

• Oct. 3, Coastal cleanup.

• Oct. 3, Night at the South Florida Museum presents Latin drumming and dance for kids.

• Oct. 6, Inquiring Minds non-denominational bible study group meets.

• Oct. 6, Fall Festival of Music concert at Neel Performing Arts Center.

• Oct. 7, Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce lunch at Freedom Village.

• Oct. 7, Ringling International Arts Festival begins.

• Oct. 7, Book club at Tingley Memorial Library.

Save the date:

• Oct. 8, 61st season begins at Island Players.

• Oct. 9, Anna Maria Island Community Center golf outing at IMG Academies Golf and Country Club.

• Oct. 13, Pianist Joyce Valentine at Neel Performing Arts Center.

• Oct. 16-17, Anna Maria Island Bayfest.

• Oct. 23, Goblin Gathering at G.T. Bray Park.

• Oct. 30, Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce Trail of Treats and kids' costume contest and The Islander Newspaper Canine Costume Contest.

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.



Restaurant to feature Strom

Judy Strom of Bradenton will be the featured artist at the Sun House Restaurant in Bradenton Beach from Sept. 28-Oct. 1. She will show her watercolor art, note cards and jewelry from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the restaurant as part of an ongoing series organized by the Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island. Islander Photo: AGAMI

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COMING SOON: OCTOBERFEST!

Weather changes subtle, plus fishy stories

Fall plopped down on us Sept. 22.

No falling leaves, no dramatic change in temperatures, no significant change in air — except for true natives.

Some of us — natives — noticed the weather change a few weeks ago. Sure, we finally got some rain and subsequent cooler air and water temperatures, but the air felt, well, different.

More dry. More fall-like. And there was that early morning breeze.

Seasonal changes don't hit us over the head in Florida, unlike the changes that whack our northern neighbors.

No green-to-orange change in tree leaves.

No 80- to 50-degree days — yet.

No wake-up-to-a-foot-of-snow times.

Yee-hah!

It's subtle down here on Anna Maria Island.

There was a scant dry scent in the air a couple weeks ago. The clouds looked different. Despite all the rain, things felt different.

And now we are into fall, arguably the best time of the year on AMI.

Although we love our winter friends, October is probably the best month of the year as long as the whirly winds from the Atlantic and Caribbean, and even the Gulf of Mexico, stay away.

We love this time because we have our Island to ourselves.

And there's almost nobody here to create lines at our favorite places.

October has always been one of those elusive months. The weather is about as perfect as it can be. Gulf water temps are superb. Fishing is beyond belief.

Yay!

Go scuffle in the sand on the beach, cast a line in the surf or just soak up some rays in your back yard. You deserve it after a long, hot summer.

...and coming soon is winter

It's time to delve into the future as predicted within the "Old Farmer's 2010 Almanac" for what's ahead.

The little book is wonderful, by the way. Especially love the hole on the top corner of the cover so you can hang it by the door, on a cabinet knob or wherever it will be convenient.

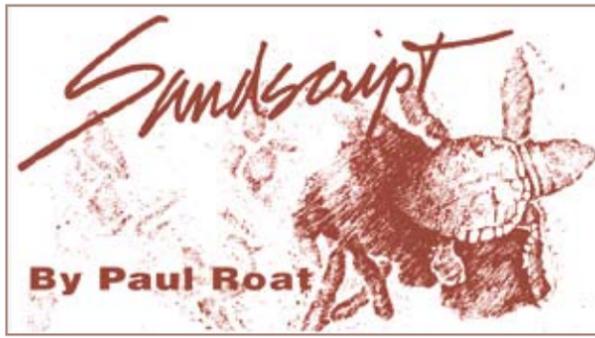
Anyway, the missive for Florida is:

"Winter will be warmer than normal, on average, with the coldest temperatures occurring in mid-January. Rainfall will be above normal, with the best chance for any snow in the north around Christmas.

"April and May will be warmer and much drier than normal.

"Summer will be cooler and rainier than normal, with the hottest periods in early to mid- and mid-to-late August. Watch for a major hurricane in late August or early September.

"September and October will be slightly cooler



and much rainier than normal."

Wet fish, good eats

The rainy weather didn't do a lot to help the Second Annual Ben Gullett Mullet Invitational fishing tournament, but it sure didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the 100-plus folks who turned out to eat the catch at Star Fish Company Market and Restaurant.

Although the guy with the snake-in-a-box can stay home next year, please. Or leave the darn snake home.

Mullet always reminds me of my old buddy Bob Ardren, who died Jan. 1, 2008. He was a writer for a slew of newspapers and magazines, including *The Islander*, and knew a good mullet eye-to-eye.

Or tooth-to-stomach.

Bob stories are myriad.

There was the time we were out in my little boat, coming to the dock. He looked at me, grinned, said, "Man overboard drill" and toppled over the side. I retrieved him after my heart started again. The feat became a regular ritual.

But he loved mullet. Really loved mullet. Especially Cortez Hot Dogs, crispy fried mullet on a hot dog bun with tartar sauce. He used to gobble them down like, well, hot dogs. But better.

Bob had a cat that was literally on his last legs when I brought Bob some smoked Cortez mullet one

afternoon.

Cat hadn't eaten in days.

Cat sniffed.

Cat purred.

Cat ate.

Cat gained weight on his new mullet diet, which continued for another year.

When Bob got sick, we pumped him with mullet and I'm convinced gave him another six months of a very good life.

Sandscript factoid

This column doesn't often feature cooking or recipes.

Usually.

Wanda Fulford's Original Smoked Mullet Spread is a whole different animal.

I watched Bob eat — oh, about a ton? — of the spread one afternoon.

From the book "What's Cooking in Cortez" comes this:

2 pounds smoked mullet.

1/2 cup small onion, grated.

1/4 teaspoon Accent.

1/4 teaspoon black pepper.

1 1/5 cup Miracle Whip dressing or mayonnaise.

(Go with the Miracle Whip. You'll know why.)

"Flake mullet into medium mixing bowl, being very careful to remove all bones. (That's for someone other than a Cortezian who caught, filleted and smoked the fish.) Add onion, Accent and black pepper and mix will before adding salad dressing, then mix again. Wanda's spread is a mouth-watering treat served on crackers or in an avocado half."

Two things:

Gotta go with Miracle Whip.

Gotta mix twice. And not too much.



Travelers

Bill Hard, manager of the Waterfront Restaurant in Anna Maria, and Karen Robinson of Holmes Beach take time out with their favorite hometown news while visiting Karen's former hometown and attending a family reunion in Ironton, Ohio.

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Go fish! Snook, reds in bays, snapper just off beaches

By Paul Roat

Reports continue to be good for snook and redfish in the backwaters. Snook still are lurking off the beaches as well.

Snapper are thick on the nearshore reefs, as well as offshore, where reports of grouper as well are terrific.

And get this: Tarpon are still being caught around the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Silver kings are generally a spring fishing treat for anglers, but apparently the resident population is large enough to continue taking the bait, even this late in the year.

As an old fishing saying goes, "take a kid fishing, and maybe one day he'll take you fishing, too."

A free Kid's Fishing Contest will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Bradenton Beach Historic Bridge Street Pier at the east end of the street. The event is open to youths age 5 to 12, and will run from 10 a.m. to noon.

Prizes will be awarded for catches that are "biggest, smallest and weirdest" fish, as well as most fish.

Kids need to bring a pole only. Bait and tackle will be provided.

The fun is sponsored by Historic Bridge Street Merchants, Bridge Street Bazaar, ScenicWaves, Rotten Ralph's Restaurant and Fish Hole.



South proves productive for reds

Capt. Mark Howard took a trip to Charlotte Harbor with Capt. Ric Ehlis last week. Capt. Mark caught a 22-pound redfish, while Capt. Ric reeled in a 12-pound spot-tie, all caught on pinfish and big shiners.

Further information is available from Jake Spooner at Bridge Street Bazaar, 941-778-3400.

At the **Rod & Reel Pier** in Anna Maria, Ted Pasky took top honors for weird catch of the week: a snook caught with a kid's round plastic dive toy — a ringer — around its neck. The linesider was of legal size, and he said it was "of kobe-beef grade" in taste since it was so tender. Outside of the fish jumping through hoops at the pier — "circus fish," as Ted put it — are lots of snapper and redfish, most keeper-size. There are also some black drum and mackerel being caught, as well as an occasional shark and ballyhoo at night.

Capt. Mark Howard on **SumoTimes Charters** said fishing around Anna Maria Island has been good for his charters, with redfish, trout and snook hitting well. The fish are in the potholes on the seagrass flats, he said. Beach-area fishing is heating up, he said, since he's catching nice-sized mangrove snapper, mackerel and grouper off artificial reefs. He also said that with fall comes shorter days and cooler nights as well as tarpon being flushed out of Tampa Bay, kingfish should start to run along the coast and grouper will move into the bays.

Bill Lowman at **Island Discount Tackle at Catchers Marina** in Holmes Beach said redfish were a great feature in the backwaters. He advised that the big outgoing high tides were a good time to go fishing, especially around the oyster bars near Long Bar Point in upper Sarasota Bay and in the mouth of Terra Ceia Bay. The fish are big, with most in the upper-slot limit of 27 inches. Snook fishing is also good near mangroves in the bays, but there are still linesiders being caught off the

beaches. Snapper catches are good on the nearshore reefs and should be an even better catch as fall starts. For offshore fishers, grouper and snapper action is terrific. And tarpon fishing by the Sunshine Skyway Bridge is still a good game.

Capt. Larry McGuire of **Show Me The Fish Charters** said he's putting his charters onto red grouper and lots of sharks on his offshore trips.

Capt. Zach Zacharias on the **Dee Jay II** out of **Parrot Cove Marina** in Cortez said it's pretty much same-same for his charters. "Out on the nearshore reefs, there has been some pretty steady action with mangrove snapper, grouper, flounder, Spanish mackerel and an occasional cobia. There's a conspicuous lack of big bait schools out in 30- to 40-feet of water. He said he's catching trout, snapper, reds and snook in that order in the backwaters, and said that the tides are critical for the best catches. "It appears that the best tidal stages to fish are early in a low incoming tide and during the ebb of the huge tides," he said. And about all the rain? "The copious amount of rain and its runoff usually pushes a lot of the intolerant fresh- and brackish-water species, such as trout, flounder, mackerel, pompano, etc., out to the open bay waters and passes. Reds, snook, jacks and snapper do not mind the lower salinities, so the freshwater runoff does not really affect those species."

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.



Shark on, shark off

Jon Scudieri of Gardner, Ill., enjoys the thrill of bringing a shark to the dock at the Rod & Reel Pier in Anna Maria Sept. 17 while another dangles a line. The small shark broke off just as Scudieri prepared to bring it on deck, but he seemed pleased, as he pondered aloud on how to remove a hook from a shark's mouth. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

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Anna Maria Island Tides

Date	AM HIGH	PM HIGH	AM LOW	PM LOW
Sept 23	2:03 2.7	5:20 1.6	9:52 0.3	7:50 1.5
Sept 24	2:39 2.7	— —	10:56 0.4	— —
Sept 25	3:24 2.6	— —	12:11 0.5	— —
Sept 26	4:27 2.4	— —	1:31 0.5	— —
Sept 27	6:04 2.3	10:46 1.8	2:39 0.5	— —
Sept 28	7:53 2.3	10:52 1.9	1:38 1.7	3:31 0.5
Sept 29	9:13 2.3	11:03 1.9	3:01 1.5	4:12 0.5
Sept 30	10:12 2.3	11:12 2.0	3:54 1.3	4:45 0.6

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

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Island Biz

By Rick Catlin

Goodwill coming to Anna Maria Island

Get ready to go through the garage, attic and closet looking for unwanted clothes, toys, games, furniture and household appliances no longer used, but still in serviceable condition.

Goodwill Industries is opening a donation center Oct. 1 at 3614 E. Bay Drive, Holmes Beach, just south of Publix.

LuAnne Kirschner of Goodwill said the donation center will open with a staff of three people to accept items from Islanders and nearby residents.

"We studied the location and found that anyone on the Island should be more than seven minutes away from the store," Kirschner said. "We're delighted to be coming to Anna Maria Island. We really believe that Islanders will support our efforts."

At the present time, Kirschner said infant and kids clothing and household furniture are in great demand.

Other items the Island center will accept include household appliances, books, toys, games and adult clothing.

"We will take just about anything that can be used or worn, especially for families," she said.

With the current economic conditions, Kirschner said business at Goodwill has increased and the organization has difficulty keeping up with demand.

If someone is unsure if it can be used by Goodwill, they can call the Island center first to check, she said.

Although the Island location will only be a donation center, Kirschner said the long-range plan is to add a retail operation.

"I want to thank Islanders in advance for supporting us. We've had so many from the Island drive into town and give us items. Now, we'll be just around the corner."

Kirschner said Goodwill employs about 300 people in Manatee County, including a number of staff who would not likely be employed because of special needs and conditions, she said.

"Your donations will help put these people to work and give meaning to their lives," Kirschner said.

Goodwill also has a pick-up service for heavier items, such as refrigerators and large household furniture, she said.

Center hours will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, Kirschner said.

To reach Goodwill's pick-up service, call 941-351-8946, or call Goodwill's office at 941-355-2721.

The Island Goodwill telephone number is 941-778-1082.

Slim's arrives

Richard and Laurie Shahinian plan to open Slim's Place at the former site of Matt and Dom's Pastry Cafe at Powers Plaza, 204 Palmetto Ave., in early October.



Three generations at Back Alley

Helen Papazoros, left, along with granddaughter Briana Lass and daughter Anna Lass, right, recently celebrated the display of their individual artistry at Back Alley, 121 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Back Alley features local artists and their work. For more information, call Back Alley at 941-778-1800. Islander Photo: Amy Talucci

The couple, who have lived in Anna Maria for more than 20 years, plan a menu of good food and great desserts, with accompanying beer and wine.

"We're still working on the menu, but we plan on having a lot of good things to eat and drink," Richard promised.

He said he was unsure if there would be a grand opening, but he would let his friends on the Island, old and new, know in advance of the opening date.

"We will have a great time on opening day," he said.

Slim's Place will serve customers daily from 11 a.m. to midnight.

For more information on Slims Place, call 941-567-4056.

Chamber election

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce is holding elections to its board of directors.

Candidates for the five available seats include incumbent board members Judy Giovanelli, Ellen Aquilina, Joe Landolfi, Michael Vejins and Chuck Webb, along with Linda Dickson and Lynn Zemmer.

Chamber members are asked to have their ballots marked and returned to the chamber office at 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, by Sept. 30. Ballots may be faxed to 941-778-9679.

Candidates elected will serve three-year terms.

Max move

Fran Maxon Real Estate at 9701 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, will relocate its office on Oct. 1 to 9801 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.

Broker-owner Stephanie Bell said she will begin moving this week to be open for business at the new location on Oct. 1. The telephone number will

remain the same, Bell said.

Maxon Real Estate will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Anna Maria Island next year. The business opened in 1970.

To reach Maxon Real Estate, call 941-778-1450.

Hot freebie

Sean Murphy, owner of the Beach Bistro restaurant on 66th Street in Holmes Beach, has developed a unique promotion to help Islanders to beat the heat, while waiting for the first cold wave to strike the Island.

Murphy has promised a free drink from now until Oct. 15 for every local patron who comes to the Bistro and says, "Sure is hot."

Drinks associated with the "Sure is Hot" program are a watermelon cosmo and a pineapple-infused martini, Murphy said.

In addition to the free drink, the Bistro also has its air-conditioned Bistro bus available for free on-Island transportation to and from the restaurant for parties of six or more with dinner reservations.

The Bistro staff also will play weatherman and post advisories on approaching cold fronts on the restaurant's Web site. When the first cold front of the season reaches the Island, the restaurant will host a "Cold Front Beach Party" with wine, entertainment and dancing on the beach.

For more information, contact the Beach Bistro at 941-778-6444.

Realty raves

Zee Catanese has joined the staff of Wagner Realty at its main office at 7411 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton.

She is a former owner of Smith Realtors on Anna Maria Island.

For more information, call Wagner at 941-761-3100.

South Africa visit

Islanders Dave and Deb Pate outside Cape-town, South Africa, with a local resident, Ntombekaya, at the Moyo Restaurant. "A fantastic once-in-a-lifetime trip," said Dave Pate of the recent vacation.



Island real estate transactions

517 Blue Heron Drive, Anna Maria, a vacant 85x105 canalfront lot zoned R1 was sold 09/04/09, Martin to Hasler for \$1,100,000.

4805 Second Ave., Holmes Beach a 2,600 sfla / 3,200 sfur 4bed/3½bath/2car home built in 2009 on a 100x100 lot was sold 09/04/09, Hutchison to Carl for \$657,500; list \$719,000.

519 77th St., Holmes Beach a 1,573 sfla / 1,906 sfur 3bed/1½bath/1car canalfront home built in 1960 on a 90x104 lot was sold 09/01/09, Peck to FV Bradenton Residential Properties LLC for \$472,500; list \$499,900.

6806 Gulf Drive, Unit 6806, West Winds, Holmes Beach, a 1,281 sfla / 1,457 sfur 2bed/2bath condo with shared pool built in 1977 was sold 08/28/09, R. Nunez LLC to Frye for \$457,500.

104 Gulf Drive S., Unit 201, Gulf View, Bradenton Beach, a 1,029 sfla / 1,065 sfur 2bed/2bath Gulffront condo with sahred pool built in 1980 was sold 09/03/09, Zorn to Lipscomb for \$425,000; list \$475,000.

201 35th St., Unit 4, Anna Maria Beach Place, Holmes Beach, a 810 sfla 2bed/1½bath condo with shared pool built in 1969 was sold 08/31/09, Pariso to Berra for \$390,000.

214 67th St., Holmes Beach, a 1,240 sfla / 2,093 sfur 2bed/2bath/2car home built in 1970 on a 75x105 lot was sold 08/31/09, Rufner to Hohenadel for \$385,000; list \$429,000.

6250 Holmes Blvd., Unit 45, North Beach Village, Holmes Beach, a 1,536 sfla / 2,105 sfur 2bed/2½bath/2car condo with shared pool built in 1992 was sold 09/02/09, Lee to Marslender for \$359,500; list \$399,000.

4102 Fifth Ave., Holmes Beach, a vacant 100x100 lot zoned R4 was sold 08/28/09, Menendez Enterprises LLC to Hanson Ventures LLP for \$350,000.

401 73rd St., Holmes Beach, a 1,368 sfla / 2,268 sfur 3bed/2bath/2car home built in 1972 on a 100x85 lot was sold 09/01/09, Korican to Crawford for \$331,000; list \$397,000.

430 63rd St., Holmes Beach, a 1,170 sfla / 1,404 sfur 2bed/1bath canalfront villa built in 1971 ona 38x98 lot was sold 09/01/09, Johnson to Herrman for \$316,000; list \$349,000.

3100 Gulf Drive, Unit 5, The Terrace, Holmes Beach, a 884 sfla / 1,080 sfur 2bed/2bath/1car condo with shared pool built in 1982 was sold 09/01/09, Leggat to Leep for \$225,000; list \$235,000.

Jesse Brisson, broker/associate at Gulf-Bay Realty of Anna Maria, can be reached at Gulf-Bay 941-778-7244. Transactions may also be viewed online at www.islander.org.

Let the games — fall soccer season — begin

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

Sept. 18-19 proved to be a nice warmup for players, coaches and team supporters in the Anna Maria Island Community Center fall recreational soccer league.

After practicing against each other for a few weeks, soccer teams got a chance to see where they stand in their preparations for the season. Coaches surely had questions answered about trying players in one position and another and perhaps received performances from players they didn't expect.

Fans and supporters at the two games I attended during what was promoted at Spirit Week, a call for outrageous fan support, failed to bring on an "A" game like last year when team colors were everywhere.

But fans from Jessie's Island Store surely captured the Spirit Week prize of end-of-season ice cream treats as the only fans dressed to the nines in team colors.

And some teams managed to distinguish themselves as favorites heading into the regular season. Ross Built easily won both of its games in Division I, while Panoramic looked good in Division II with a pair of shutout victories. Harcon won both of their Premier Division games, but one was a nail-biter, so they appear to have some competition for league supremacy.

The season got started for real this week. Take in a game or three and some refreshments at the Center, and look for the schedule and weekly results in *The Islander* or online at www.islander.org.

More soccer

Coastal Orthopedic, a U9 (under age 9) indoor soccer team featured this summer in *The Islander*, has just captured the league title in its division in Big Kick Indoor Soccer. The Ortho kids, including some Islanders and siblings of some former Island soccer standouts, defeated Big Kick 9 by a 5-1 score in the championship game Sept. 19.

Manioly Issac led the way with two goals, while Shelby Morrow, Carter Remelin and Melissa Katzen-



Chrissy Bowers, Maggie Cucci, Krista Bullard, Stephanie Bell, Arminda Mata, Caroline Pardue, Kristin Laviolette and Jen Rodgers cheer their team on during Spirit Week festivities for the Anna Maria Island Community Center Soccer League. *Islander* Photo: Kevin Cassidy

berger each notched single goals. Brennan Bowers, Sam Bieker, Lane Bowers, James Richards, Conal Cassidy and Robbie Fellowes all played strong games in front of Coastal goalie Joe Joe Rodgers.

Coastal Orthopedic finished its season with an impressive 18-1-3 record. Way to go, Coastal.

Horseshoe news

Sam Samuels and Steve Grossman outlasted Norm Good and John Johnson to earn the day's bragging rights during horseshoe action on Sept. 19 at the Anna Maria City Hall pits.

The Sept. 16 games saw Samuels and Good take first place over the team of John Johnson and Jay Disbrow.

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

AMICC soccer schedule

Instructional Division: (ages 4-5)

Date	Time	Teams
Sept. 23	6 p.m.	IRE vs. Coastal Ortho.
Sept. 23	6:30 p.m.	A&E vs. Oyster Bar
Sept. 28	6 p.m.	Dental Spa vs. Oyster Bar
Sept. 28	6:30 p.m.	IRE vs. Panoramic

Division III (ages 6-7)

Sept. 23	7 p.m.	Island Pest vs. Jessie's
Sept. 24	6 p.m.	WCAC vs. LaPensee
Sept. 24	7 p.m.	Island Pest vs. Bistro
Sept. 28	7 p.m.	Jessie's vs. Bistro

Division II (ages 8-9)

Sept. 23	5:30 p.m.	Panoramic vs. Sandbar
Sept. 23	6:30 p.m.	Sparks vs. Surf Shop

Division I (ages 10-11)

Sept. 24	6 p.m.	Bones vs. Autoway
Sept. 25	6 p.m.	Bones vs. Wash
Sept. 29	6 p.m.	Ross vs. Autoway
Sept. 29	7 p.m.	Bones vs. Wash

Premier Division (ages 12-15)

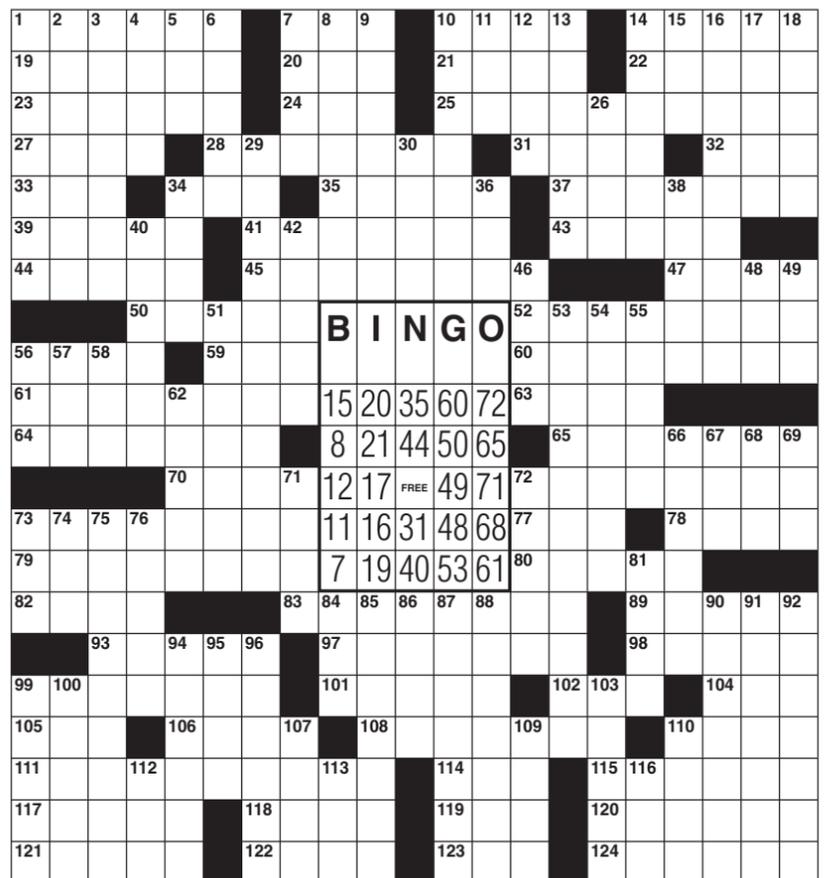
Sept. 23	7:45 p.m.	Harcon vs. Norman
Sept. 24	7:15 p.m.	Harcon vs. Wash
Sept. 28	6 p.m.	Norman vs. Wash

New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

LET'S PLAY BINGO By Todd Gross / Edited by Will Shortz

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Across | 43 Other side | 102 Golfer Michelle | 13 Statement of self-confidence |
| 1 <i>Mark your card!</i> | 44 Manfred ____, 1967 Chemistry Nobelist | 104 Org. headquartered in Detroit | 14 "Who wants to go next?" |
| 7 Items in an ed.'s in-box | 45 Classic Disney film that includes "The Nutcracker Suite" | 105 Cover girl Carol | 15 With 49-Down, order at a Chinese restaurant |
| 10 Covered, in a way | 47 Gravy holder | 106 Placed | 16 <i>Mark your card!</i> |
| 14 Briefly, after "in" | 50 Hulu, e.g. | 108 Vaughn's co-star in "The Break-Up," 2006 | 17 "Walk Away ____" (1966 hit by the Left Banke) |
| 19 1960s-'70s Ford muscle car | 52 Enter | 110 "This round's ____" | 18 Combine that makes combines |
| 20 On one's ____ | 56 Pair | 111 <i>Mark your card!</i> | 26 Second-most common Vietnamese family name, after Nguyen |
| 21 Companion of Artemis whom Zeus changed into a spring | 59 The Equality State: Abbr. | 114 Deuce, e.g. | 29 <i>Mark your card!</i> |
| 22 It comes after a "long time" | 60 <i>Mark your card!</i> | 115 Paris couturier Pierre | 30 Novelist Janowitz |
| 23 The Pequod, e.g. | 61 See 54-Down | 117 Occasional 1960s protest | 34 Hollywood crosser |
| 24 Giggle syllable | 63 Parking lot mishap | 118 Prefix with directional | 36 Prefix with center |
| 25 <i>Mark your card!</i> | 64 Lose luster | 119 What an aurilave cleans | 38 Circuit |
| 27 Slacken (off) | 65 State with the least populous capital | 120 Affirm, with "to" | 40 Bone attachment |
| 28 Sign off on | 70 Raison d' ____ | 121 Elates | 42 World Economic Forum host city |
| 31 Emperor who married his stepsister | 72 Thrown off course | 122 Horse of a different color? | 46 Base's opposite |
| 32 Child of the '70s, in brief | 73 <i>Mark your card!</i> | 123 Genetic stuff | 48 Put away |
| 33 Third year in 31-Across's reign | 77 Genetic stuff | 124 <i>Mark your card!</i> | 49 See 15-Down |
| 34 Like any channel between 30 and 300 MHz | 78 Tailors | Down | 51 Sick |
| 35 Plumbing or heating | 79 What "prn" on a prescription means | 1 <i>Mark your card!</i> | 53 <i>Mark your card!</i> |
| 37 Endangered Everglades mammal | 80 Muscular Charles | 2 "Me too" | 54 With 61-Across, prospectors' targets |
| 39 Starbucks size bigger than grande | 82 Any trump | 3 Writing's opposite | 55 The 13th item in a baker's dozen |
| 41 Diagram used for brainstorming | 83 Worry words | 4 Depraved | 56 Banned insecticide |
| | 89 The "it" in the 1990s slogan "Gotta have it" | 5 Chemical suffix | 57 Vote for |
| | 93 Writer Zora ____ Hurston | 6 Singer Jones | 58 Mo. when the Civil War started |
| | 97 Opposite of charge | 7 Jay who once hosted "Last Comic Standing" | 62 Number of wonders of el mundo antiguo |
| | 98 Exposed sandbar, maybe | 8 Better, as an offer | |
| | 99 Prodded | 9 Mock | |
| | 101 Pigs | 10 Places of worship | |
| | | 11 "____ Wiedersehen" | |
| | | 12 Monopoly token | |

Answers found on page 20.



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 66 Department store department | 76 Celebrated in style | 91 Sailor's vision obstructor | 103 Like some pyramids |
| 67 Roar for a toreador | 81 "... blackbirds baked in ____" | 92 <i>Mark your card!</i> | 107 Try it out |
| 68 Untested | 84 Baseball stat. | 94 Popular 1940s radio show "____ Alley" | 109 Trillion: Prefix |
| 69 Football stat. | 85 Skin colorer | 95 Get ready to fall, maybe | 110 "____ put it another way ..." |
| 71 Within: Prefix | 86 School near Windsor Castle | 96 Star employee | 112 YouTube clip, for short |
| 72 Soap opera, e.g. | 87 Went around | 99 Does perfectly | 113 Bambi's aunt |
| 73 Undergrad degs. | 88 German mercenary | 100 ____ Janis, star of Broadway's "Puzzles of 1925" | 116 Agcy. regulating guns |
| 74 The A.C.C.'s Seminoles | 90 Spoils | | |
| 75 <i>Mark your card!</i> | | | |

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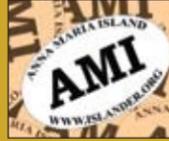
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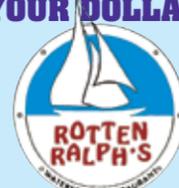
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- *The Islander* pays \$50 to the person with the most correct game-winning predictions. Collect prize in person or by mail.
- Entries must be postmarked or hand delivered to the newspaper by noon Saturday weekly.
- A winner will be drawn from tying entries. The decision of *The Islander* football judge is final.
- All entries must be submitted on the published form or a copy of the form. Be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

- All advertisers must be listed to be eligible to win.
- ONLY ONE ENTRY PER PERSON, PER WEEK.

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