

# The *Anna Maria* Islander

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*Small crafts take center stage at Cortez festival April 16-18.*

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## Season 'wonderful' for Island retailers

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Island retailers are echoing the sentiments of their accommodation counterparts: This has been one of the best seasons in recent memory.

And the season didn't end with Easter. "Absolutely wonderful," said Signa Bouziane of Mister Roberts Resortwear in the S&S Plaza in Holmes Beach.

"And there's still a lot of people here. I think we have some more colleges on Easter break. The past three months have been very busy, and this is the best season in the last few years," she continued.

Bouziane welcomed the influx of visitors the past three months, as the February-April period is the time many retailers have to do well to offset the slow periods in the summer and fall.

"We used to have a six-month season, but now it's three months, so we're really pleased with all the traffic," she said.

Bouziane said she expected the flow of



**No Easter break**

Even after Easter, beachgoers flocked to Anna Maria Island as evidenced by this scene at the Manatee Public Beach April 7. It's been one of the best winter seasons in recent years, according to many Island accommodation and store owners. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

visitors to lighten after mid-April as winter residents and visitors head north.

At the Sterling Anvil jewelry store on Marina Drive in Holmes Beach, co-owner Roxanne Robinson also was pleased with

business.

"I don't know what the figures are going to show, but we've been very busy since March. I think it's been a great season. Just

**PLEASE SEE TOURISM, NEXT PAGE**



**Regatta De Soto**

Daughtrey Elementary School races refine their strokes in the bottle boat regatta held April 10 along the Palma Sola Causeway. The event was part of the De Soto Heritage Festival. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

## Anna Maria public records furor churns on

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

The lines drawn in Anna Maria over public records grew substantially last week, and city attorney Jim Dye cautioned that more legal action should be expected.

A writ filed April 8 by two lawyers for public records expert Michael Barfield of Sarasota on behalf of Pine Avenue Restoration LLC asked the court to order the computer hard drives of Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus and planning and zoning board member Jim Conoly be surrendered for inspection.

At the same time, Anna Maria residents Robin Wall, Nicky Hunt, former Commissioner Duke Miller and Cathy Stoltzfus, wife of Harry Stoltzfus, have yet to respond to an official records request from Barfield.



Stoltzfus

Barfield made his

request two weeks ago as part of his investigation into e-mails that pertain to city business to and from Stoltzfus.

Barfield alleged that Wall, Hunt and Miller were operating a "shadow government" with Stoltzfus and may have e-mails showing they conducted official city business "off the radar." Barfield also has alleged Stoltzfus may have used Wall, Hunt, Miller and his wife, Cathy, as conduits to send and receive information to other elected and appointed city officials.

Efforts to reach Hunt, Miller and Cathy Stoltzfus were unsuccessful, but Wall said she has retained Tampa attorney Richard Harrison of the law firm of Alan Dell, P.A. She directed all further inquiries to Harrison.

Calls and e-mails placed to Harrison were not returned.

Meanwhile, Dye sent a memo April 7 to city clerk Alice Baird for distribution to all elected and appointed city officials and city staff reminding them of their duties under Florida's Sunshine and public records laws

and warned that litigation about public records is coming. He said city officials should save and make public all e-mails that might be considered public record.

"As we know, some kind of litigation regarding public records is imminent," wrote Dye.

"I've been told the city will not be named as a party. Still, please, let the city officials, both elected and volunteers, know that they are not to delete public records from their personal computers.

"I'm afraid for right now this instruction needs to include those e-mails they may receive on their personal computers that are also copied to the city e-mail system.

For more on the Stoltzfus-Conoly records request, the parking issue and the subsequent actions, see pages 4 and 8. Court documents are online at [www.islander.org](http://www.islander.org).

- Conoly's discarded hard-drive.
- Details on the writ filing.
- Commissioner Chuck Webb's take.
- Parking safety revisions.
- PAR seeks to quell rumors.

# Scenic highway extension on hold

By Nick Walter  
Islander Reporter

Because the Florida Department of Transportation has put a hold on recognizing new or existing scenic highways, the Palma Sola Scenic Highway won't be extended to the Manatee Public Beach or on East Bay Drive to the Bradenton Beach boundary.

"I think the idea is we have applied for these extensions and the applications are frozen, but at some point we hope they'll be unfrozen and we can go ahead and make those extensions formal," said Molly McCartney, chair of the Palma Sola Scenic Highway Committee. "That doesn't mean we can't start thinking about what we might do if it became formal at some point."

McCartney said extensions could have led to more DOT funding for those areas. "But we can apply

for grants other than through FDOT," she said.

A letter from the DOT to district scenic highway coordinators stated, "The department believes it can better serve the current collection of Florida Scenic Highways by adjusting the current program focus and realigning its resources to providing more training, and supporting the needs of existing Corridor Management Entities. In addition, the National Scenic Byways Program would like all the state programs to focus more on the sustainability of byway organization."

Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization planning manager Bob Herrington said that massive cuts in transportation programs would impact a lot of prospective projects.

"It could be that basically everybody's tightening their belt," Herrington said.

AMI TOURISM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

look at all the traffic on the roads," she said.

Robinson found the steady stream of visitors to the Island after Easter encouraging, and a sign of a good April for Island retailers.

"We haven't seen a slow-down in traffic even after Easter. I'm hoping the season keeps going for a few more weeks," she said.

Diane Havelka of Beach Bums Island Attitudes, a gift shop with kayak, golf cart and bicycle rentals in Anna Maria, said the season has been great and she has yet to see a slowdown.

"We're doing real well right now. In fact, we're so busy, I don't have time to talk right now," she said apologetically.

For the Island's restaurant industry, the season has been a mixed bag.

Restaurants that specialize in outdoor dining were hurt by the cold weather from January through early March, but indoor dining for some exceeded expectations.

"Our outdoor dining took a hit with the cold weather," said Dave Russell of Rotten Ralph's, which has restaurants in Anna Maria and on the Historic Bridge Street Pier.

"But now that the weather has improved, we're doing great. The season looks like it's going to last through April and we'll be OK," he said.

The cold weather also affected the Island's charter fishing business, but Capt. Mark Howard of Sumotime Charters said the last few weeks have "been really good." So good that his total numbers for this year are now ahead of last year's pace at this time.

Laura Shely of Tide and Moon Jewelry in the AMI Plaza in Holmes Beach, concurred that April should be a good month. She had a considerable amount of business after Easter weekend, which surprised her.

"I thought it might slow down, but it didn't. I think we've got one more week of a lot of visitors, then it will slowly come back to normal," she said.

Looking east toward the Palma Sola Scenic Highway from the Kingfish Boat Ramp. Islander Photo: Nick Walter



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## BB group seeks role in bridge design

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Bradenton Beach's ScenicWAVES committee is seeking a role in the process to replace the Anna Maria Island Bridge.

Members of the advisory committee discussed the replacement process during a meeting April 5 at city hall.

"There will be a new bridge," said committee member and local businessperson Ed Chiles. "We know where the bridge will start. We know where the bridge will end. We know how high the bridge will be. Now the focus should be on having a world-class design for that bridge."

Great bridges tell a story, Chiles said.

The current drawbridge, connecting Anna Maria Island to Perico Island on State Road 64/Manatee Avenue, was built in the late 1950s and refurbished over the years, but identified for replacement.

The recommended replacement would be a two-lane, high-level fixed bridge with a minimum navigational clearance of 65 feet above the Intracoastal Waterway. The proposed replacement would be built south of the existing bridge and include two 12-foot lanes with 10-foot paved shoulders for cyclists and 10-foot sidewalks for pedestrians.

While the Florida Department of Transportation has identified a replacement, bridge work is not included in the DOT's five-year work program, which stretches to 2014.

Still, ScenicWAVES members said Islanders should show an interest in the project now.

"Now is the time to be very active," said committee member and businessperson Barbara Rodocker, adding that even if the project is 10-20 years off, "in government, that's a short time."

Chiles, a vocal proponent of a replacement bridge, said, "We're going to have one bridge in our lifetime. ...I would love to see this group get behind it. We ought to go out and have a world-class designer."

Chiles said a new bridge should be as associated with the Island as the Sunshine Skyway Bridge is with Tampa Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge is with San Francisco.

Bob Herrington, of the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, said the DOT plans to establish a design committee and both local scenic highway groups should be involved.

"Make sure you get folks from this group sitting on that committee," Herrington said.

The committee plans to discuss its potential role in designing a new bridge at a meeting at 1 p.m. May 3 at city hall.



Anna Maria Island Bridge. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

### Expect Cortez Bridge night closures

The Florida Department of Transportation was to begin a maintenance project April 12 on the Cortez Bridge that would result in intermittent lane closures between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. each Thursday beginning April 15.

The Thursday closures will continue until the project is completed, the DOT said. No completion date was given by the DOT.

## Meetings

### Anna Maria City

- April 19, 10:30 a.m., capital improvements committee.

- April 22, 7 p.m., city commission.

Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, 941-708-6130, [www.cityofannamaria.com](http://www.cityofannamaria.com).

### Bradenton Beach

- April 15, noon, emergency management work session.

- April 15, 1 p.m., city commission.

- April 20, 1 p.m., community redevelopment agency.

- April 20, 4 p.m., charter review committee.

### CANCELED

- April 21, 9 a.m., special master.

- April 21, 1 p.m., city commission work session.

Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 941-778-1005, [www.cityofbradentonbeach.org](http://www.cityofbradentonbeach.org).

### Holmes Beach

- April 21, 10 a.m., code enforcement.

- April 22, 9 a.m., board of adjustment.

- April 23, 1:30 p.m., police retirement board.

- April 27, 7 p.m., city commission.

Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 941-708-5800, [www.holmesbeachfl.org](http://www.holmesbeachfl.org).

### West Manatee Fire Rescue District

- April 15, 6 p.m., district commission.

WMFR Station No. 1, 6001 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, 941-741-3900.

### Of Interest

- April 19, 9 a.m., Manatee County Tourist Development Council, Holmes Beach City Hall.

- April 19, 2:30 p.m., Island Transportation Planning Organization, Holmes Beach City Hall.

- April 21, 2 p.m., Barrier Island Elected Officials, Holmes Beach City Hall.

Send notices to Lisa Neff at [lisaneff@islander.org](mailto:lisaneff@islander.org).

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# PAR attorney seeks Stoltzfus, Conoly computers

By Rick Catlin

Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus was right.

"It's going to get worse before it gets better," he wrote in one of his recent e-mails.

It got worse April 8.

Attorney Valerie Fernandez, representing Michael Barfield of Sarasota, filed an emergency motion with the Manatee County Circuit Court asking that the court seize the computers of Stoltzfus and planning and zoning board member Jim Conoly to allow for "inspection of public records."

On March 10, Barfield made a public records request for the e-mails of both Stoltzfus and Conoly relating to public business. Stoltzfus has delivered four sets of e-mail records to the city, amounting to more than 2,000 pages, but Conoly provided a relatively small number of e-mails.

Fernandez said there was reason to believe that Stoltzfus and/or Conoly may have deleted e-mails pertaining to public business.



Stoltzfus

Fernandez also claims Conoly originally told the city that he had taken his computer to the Manatee County landfill, but later said that he gave it to the Salvation Army.

## Conoly jokes over missing computer, e-mails

By Rick Catlin

Islander Reporter

Anna Maria planning and zoning board member Jim Conoly sent the city a letter April 9 explaining some of his actions following a request for his e-mails, the response he gave the city and the disposition of his home computer.

Conoly was served with a public records request March 10 from government watchdog Michael Barfield of Sarasota. Barfield asked Conoly for copies of all e-mails relating to public business sent or received on his personal computer.

Barfield filed a legal action last week claiming Conoly had not sent all of the requested e-mails and may have deleted some. An attorney representing Barfield filed the writ with the Manatee County Circuit Court asking that Conoly hand over his computer.



Conoly

In his letter, Conoly wrote: "This letter should clear up some questions regarding the e-mails I have forwarded the city recently.

"First, let me say that I have never knowingly deleted any city-related e-mails from my computer, and over the years, have conducted very little city business on the Internet. I hope you agree that I have responded to all the city requests in a timely manner and a spirit of cooperation.

"When I made a remark to Mr. Dye that my old computer was going to the Lena landfill, I was only joking. This will confirm in writing that my old computer was disposed of by donating it to the Salvation Army."

Conoly apologized for the confusion caused by his joke, and suggested he should have kept his

She asked the court to enter an emergency order that the defendants turn over all electronic devices that send or receive e-mails or other electronic messages.

Fernandez also asked the court to allow each defendant's Internet service provider to access their accounts to determine if any additional e-mails relating to public business are still available.

Attorney Ricinda Perry of Bradenton Beach also signed the motion on behalf of Barfield.

While efforts to contact Stoltzfus were unsuccessful, attorney Richard Harrison of the Tampa law firm of Allan Dell, P.A., said in an e-mail to the city that he is representing Stoltzfus.

Harrison said in an e-mail reply to Perry that "the requested relief is grossly overboard in light of the facts," and that Stoltzfus has made every effort to comply with Barfield's requests.

Harrison said that Conoly's conduct "may furnish a more legitimate basis for some form of emergency relief," but that has nothing to do with Stoltzfus.

Harrison also said in the e-mail that he was willing to talk with Perry about the possibilities of reaching an agreement to "preserve the information" on Stoltzfus' computer, but would "vigorously oppose any attempt to seize the commissioner's computer or hard drive under the circumstances of this case."

Harrison said further he was willing to work with Perry to schedule a hearing, but he did not believe the allegations against Stoltzfus warranted an emergency

personal computer instead of giving it away. But he claimed he only gave away the computer after complying with Barfield's request.

"Each e-mail was forwarded to the city as individual e-mails," Conoly said, "and for that reason, I believed they would be in an acceptable format and a part of the city of Anna Maria e-mail public records."

While Conoly has said he does not have an attorney, he may be eligible for an appointed attorney according to the city's participation in the Florida League of Cities.

City attorney Jim Dye, in an April 9 e-mail to city clerk Alice Baird, said the city is not involved in the case of Barfield v. Stoltzfus and Conoly.

"Additionally, Commissioner Stoltzfus has independent counsel at this point," wrote Dye.

But Dye suggested Conoly might be covered for legal counsel under the city's insurance.

"I can't tell from the e-mails whether this involves Mr. Conoly," Dye continued, "and a decision has not been made on whether Mr. Conoly will get independent counsel or whether an attorney can be provided through the city's insurance coverage.

"Even if counsel comes from insurance coverage, it won't be me. I do appreciate being kept informed on all of this, however," Dye concluded.

A spokesperson with the Florida League of Cities said the city would have to file a claim for legal counsel with the city's insurance carrier to determine if Conoly is eligible for coverage.

Mayor Fran Barford was out of town April 9 and could not be reached for comment.

However, on contacting the Salvation Army in Bradenton, *The Islander* confirmed, in direct contrast to Conoly's claim, that the charity does not accept computer donations.

hearing.

Conoly declined to comment when asked about the motion, saying he does not have an attorney and can't afford one.

Efforts to reach Harrison for further comment were unsuccessful.

To view the court documents related to the writ of mandamus filed by Fernandez, visit the *Islander* Web site at [www.islander.org](http://www.islander.org) and click on the link for Stoltzfus public records on the right side of the page.

## Fernandez is attorney for PAR

By Rick Catlin

Islander Reporter

Mike Coleman last week announced what many in Anna Maria suspected or knew: His company, Pine Avenue Restoration, had retained an attorney in addition to Ricinda Perry "early on," he said, to "protect the record and our rights." That attorney is Valerie Fernandez.

Fernandez subsequently hired public records expert Michael Barfield to obtain and analyze the communications relating to city matters of Anna Maria Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus and city planning board member Jim Conoly through a public records request.

Barfield also has requested the e-mails pertaining to public business of Cathy Stoltzfus, wife of the commissioner, along with those of city residents Robin Wall, Nicky Hunt and former Commissioner Duke Miller.

Barfield has alleged that Commissioner Stoltzfus and the others named in his public records requests formed a "shadow government" in the city that may have operated outside of Florida's Sunshine laws.

"PAR has consistently operated according to the codes and ordinances of the city, but we have heard and seen evidence that PAR was being targeted behind the scenes," Coleman said. "We thought it necessary and responsible to establish the facts on the record."

"Our legal counsel engaged Mr. Barfield knowing of his past transgressions," Coleman said. "He was forthcoming about his past and he has paid the price" for any wrongdoing. "He is now a citizen in good standing. "If the objective is to get at the truth of the public record, however hidden or manipulated, Mr. Barfield is the recognized expert in that field.



Coleman

"Efforts by Commissioner Stoltzfus to distract the message by attacking the messenger are yet another example of his practice of hiding his real agenda behind a manufactured one."

Coleman said he believes the e-mails obtained thus far indicate Harry Stoltzfus was targeting PAR.

"The record is the record and we will let it speak for itself," he said.

But, he said, "Many decent citizens voted for Commissioner Stoltzfus. Only a very isolated few voted for this."

The basis of the Florida Government-in-the-Sunshine law is to preserve the public's right to know.

According to the Government in the Sunshine Web site, the Florida Supreme Court determined that public records are all materials made or received by an agency in connection with official business that are used to perpetuate, communicate or formalize knowledge. Public records are subject to inspection unless a statutory exemption exists.

And to allow the maker or sender of documents to dictate the circumstances under which documents are deemed confidential would permit private parties instead of the Legislature to determine which public records are public and which are not.

Additionally, nothing in the law requires the requestor to disclose the reason for the request.

## Webb: 'Let the game play out'

By Rick Catlin

Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Commissioner Chuck Webb, an attorney, said the city should not request an investigation into potential Sunshine Law violations related to Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus.

"There is the appearance of a very serious problem, but nothing where the city should act as an enforcement agency," Webb said.

Webb was responding to a request by resident Gene Aubry that the city forward all of Stoltzfus' e-mails about city business recovered in a public records request to the Florida attorney general.

Webb said it's more appropriate for individuals to make such requests to the attorney general or other agency that investigates public figures.

"It's whatever an individual wants to do," he said.

Webb said he does not plan to become involved in the controversy, just pay attention and learn all he can about the e-mails.

"It's not something I want to stick my nose in yet," he said. "Let the game play out."

Webb worked for Charlotte and Broward county governments in Florida before entering private practice on Anna Maria Island about 10 years ago.

# ScenicWAVES seeks to enhance city scenery

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

The Bradenton Beach ScenicWAVES advisory committee is embarking on a stepped-up effort to enhance public space — and encourage improvements to private space — in 2010.

Meeting April 5, committee members took a slide-show tour of locations in the city for improvements — public art, bicycle racks, news racks and plants — and also viewed inspired improvements in other cities.

The committee, in its discussion, focused on functional public art — metalwork bicycle racks, brightly painted traffic light and utility boxes, murals on walls and fixtures.

City project/program manager Lisa Marie Phillips, who showed the slides, flashed an image of a newly painted gas tank at the Bradenton Beach Marina, 402 Church Ave.

The marina commissioned artist Pat O'Neill, employed in the city's public works department, to paint the mural, and has plans to commission more murals.

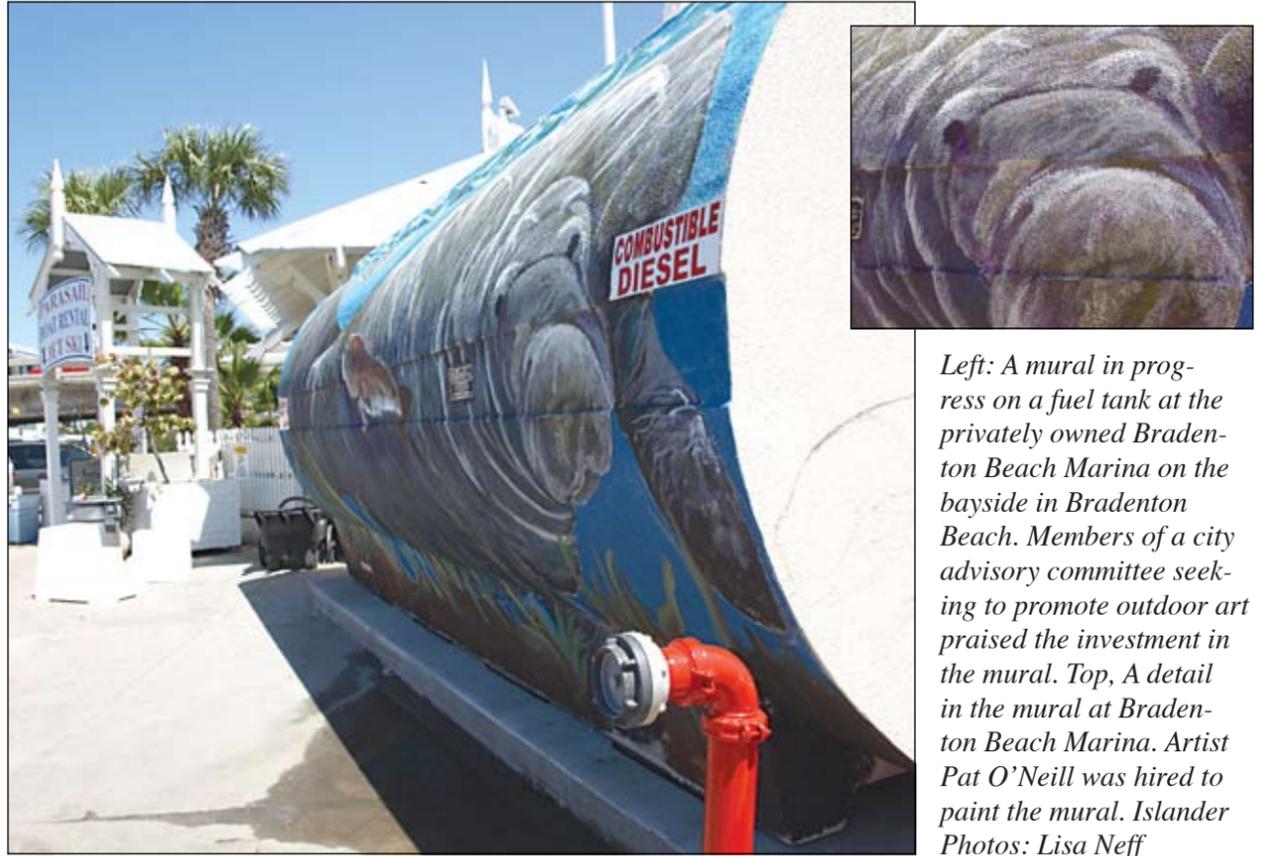
"This is exceptional," said Phillips. "Give them a call and tell them how much you appreciate this."

Committee members added that they hoped other Bradenton Beach businesses might support a mural campaign.

The committee also discussed adding more shade and plants to Bridge Street, as well as planting wildflowers along the north side of Cortez Road from the west end of the bridge to its intersection with Gulf Drive.

At the end of the review, committee member Ed Chiles motioned that a ScenicWAVES subcommittee on beautification identify specific opportunities for expanding and promoting public art, which passed unanimously.

In other business, committee members dis-



Left: A mural in progress on a fuel tank at the privately owned Bradenton Beach Marina on the bayside in Bradenton Beach. Members of a city advisory committee seeking to promote outdoor art praised the investment in the mural. Top, A detail in the mural at Bradenton Beach Marina. Artist Pat O'Neill was hired to paint the mural. Islander Photos: Lisa Neff

cussed:

- Expanding the hours of the bus service to the Island. Bob Herrington, committee liaison from the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, said expanded hours would not be happening in the next fiscal year.

Herrington said Manatee County Area Transit is facing budgetary constraints and possibly cuts in service.

"Nothing is sacred, per Ed Hunzeker," Herrington said, referring to cuts and the county administrator. "There's no extensions being looked at right now."

- Seeking park-and-ride grant funding for a shut-

tle service from Cortez and Coquina beaches to the Bridge Street area.

"There are park-and-ride funds that are out there and they get very little utilization in (Florida Department of Transportation) District 1," Herrington said.

He suggested applying for a grant to help pay for electric vehicles, as well as a charge station.

ScenicWAVES will next meet at 1 p.m. Monday, April 26, at city hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach.

The committee also will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, May 3, at city hall.

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# Our Opinion

## Stand up, speak up

Sometimes you have to step up and say something. You might be thinking, that's just not right, and you find the motivation to speak up.

Maybe you don't dine too often at Cafe on the Beach at the Manatee Public Beach. But you should know that the pancakes and the view can't be beat by any measure. Whether you go for coffee in the morning, a hot dog or the fried chicken buffet, the atmosphere, the friendly people and the view improve every bite you take. It's golden, and so are the sunsets.

And the couple who contracted years ago to run the beach restaurant have woven their way into the fabric of Anna Maria Island. They both have a long history on the beach, and it includes a spirit of generosity and caring for the Island community — a place they and their families have long called home.

Who could have more effervescence than Dee Schaefer? She has welcomed guests to the beach with a panache for so long, it's hard to imagine Cafe on the Beach without her. She and husband Gene have partnered with two restaurateurs for the past few years to make the cafe even more appealing. And Dee's boutique at the beach is a family affair, with daughter Dori on the team.

But this may all come to an end. And it could be because you didn't speak up.

Last November, without so much as a phone call, Manatee County decided not to renew the Schaefer's option for another five years, and instead decided to fish for a better deal.

Better deal? The Schaefer's and P.S. Beach Associates are guaranteeing \$27,000 a month — rain, shine or red tide — for the privilege to serve you.

The county committee reviewing the bids made it clear they wanted new ideas and expanded appeal for tourists, and three other companies bid to operate both Manatee and Coquina beach concessions.

The committee got what it asked for, and will be recommending another company to run both operations.

Now we're not saying that Coquina couldn't use appeal. Bike and kayak rentals might go well there, and the company offers to have more in the way of events and youth programs. That sounds good.

But we think Dee and Gene should remain for another five years at Manatee Beach, while the other guys prove themselves at Coquina.

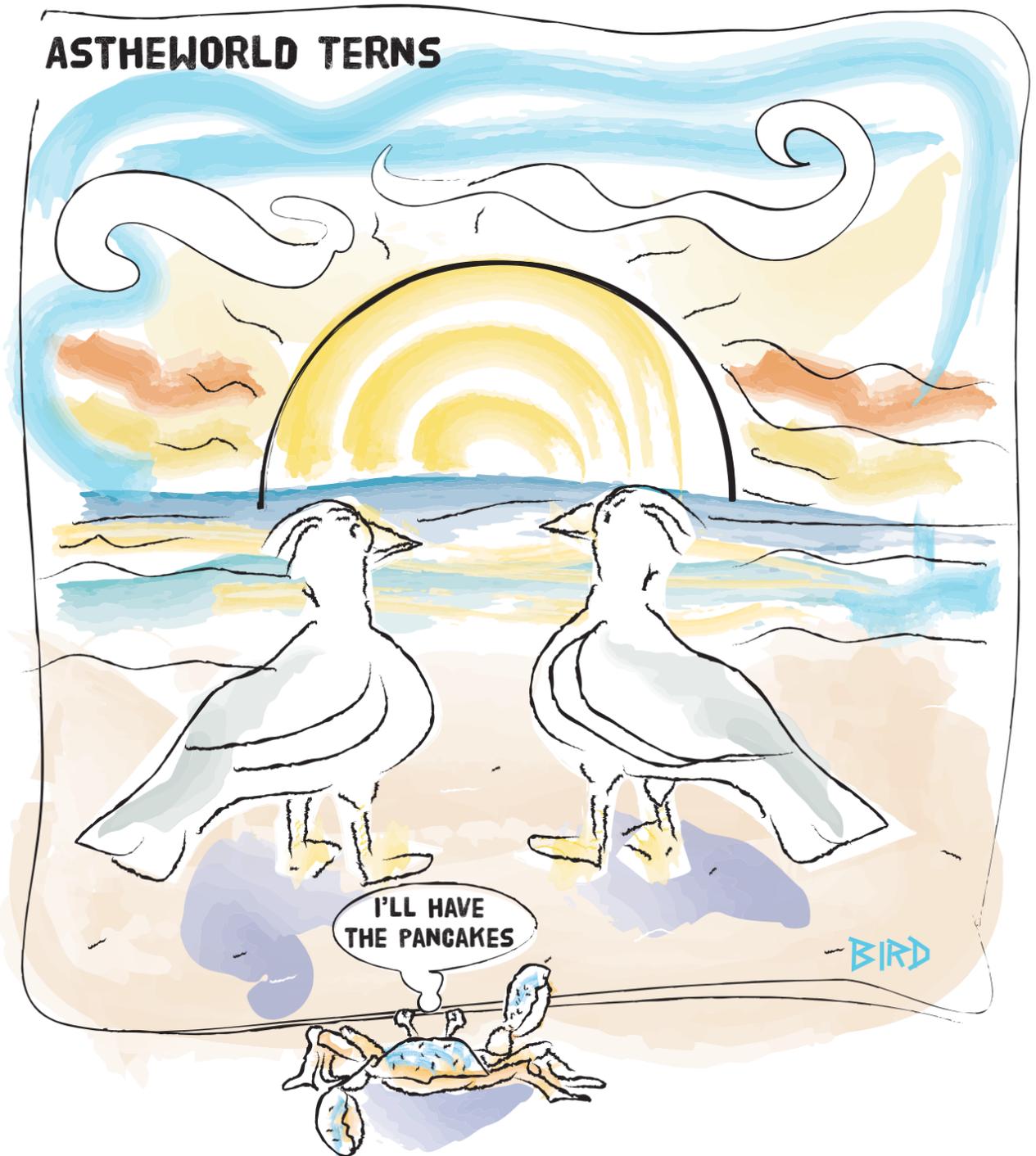
P.S. Beach offered to keep the status quo at Manatee, and that's because they listened to their customers, who wrote letters and signed petitions pleading for them to stay.

Our community needs to keep Cafe on the Beach — Dee, Gene, Dori, Tommy and Ioannis and the team at the restaurant — because it is part of our community.

Hurry and speak up.

Look online at [www.islander.org](http://www.islander.org) for phone numbers and addresses to lobby your county commissioners.

## ASTHEWORLD TERNS



## Your Opinion

### Relax

I think we all need to relax a little. Harry Stoltzfus is not the problem, he is the solution.

It must be apparent by now that we have had the developers deep into our city government and they have had their way for around two years.

We, the residents of Anna Maria, have been asleep while the Pine Avenue Ruination people have been stacking the deck.

We rallied to the cause in November when we elected Stoltzfus to be a commissioner. He told us he was a fighter and he was in our corner. He is a fighter, and he is fighting for us.

We probably can't stop the buildings that are planned on Pine Avenue (21 lots so far), but we can make them conform to our codes, land-development regulations and comprehensive plan.

We have three really good commissioners working to try and preserve our beautiful city. Hats off to John Quam, Dale Woodland and Stoltzfus.

In November, we will have a new mayor and more people representing the residents and less for the developers. Let's support the people who are working hard for us.

We are proud of you, Stoltzfus.

Steve Doyle, Anna Maria

### Community in chaos

As a residential property owner on Pine Avenue in Anna Maria, I felt compelled to voice my opinion on the ongoing war and unacceptable antics of some of the Anna Maria city commissioners.

City government must be done in the sunshine in front of the world, not behind closed doors with secret e-mails and phone calls.

The city must put a stop to this at once by all legal means.

I feel the Pine Avenue Restoration project is just beautiful mixed-use. Going green and only going

two stories high with Island architectural flare has enhanced the beauty and charm of Anna Maria. Bravo.

Trying to stop this great PAR project is opening the city to major lawsuits, which could bankrupt Anna Maria. As a property owner, this is my greatest fear. Please, let clearer heads prevail — in the sunshine.

Jane Grossman, Anna Maria

### 'Kettle' question

Regarding the front page articles in the April 7 issue of *The Islander* — "Shadow government records requested" and "County funds EDC, business tax on hold":

In the Anna Maria "shadow government" controversy, one might wonder what shadow has hired "watchdog Michael Barfield" and who is funding his attorney. Is it a matter of the pot calling the kettle...?"

Meanwhile, countywide the county commission allocated \$196,000 and then approved an additional \$400,000 to "an arm of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce."

Anna Maria citizens could only hope for such freedom and such influence on government.

Diane Caniff, Anna Maria

### Welcome 'the Bird'

*The Islander* is proud to welcome Joe Bird to its talented team of contributors with his editorial cartoon, featuring "Asttheworld Terns."

Bird worked at the former *Islander* newspaper in the 1970s, attended Ringling School of Art and Design and works now in electronic media. He is currently working on several projects for the Discovery TV network from his Mississippi home, while staying in touch with Anna Maria Island "electronically."

**The Islander**  
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# Easter parade nixed, maybe next year

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

A planned Easter parade in Anna Maria April 3 was canceled after an anonymous complainer telephoned Anna Maria code enforcement officer Gerry Rathvon.

Mike Coleman of Pine Avenue Restoration LLC organized the parade, which he described as a stroll from the Sandbar Restaurant to a vacant lot on Pine Avenue owned by PAR to hold an Easter party. But he did not apply for a permit.

Coleman said he didn't think he needed a permit because the kids and parents would follow the Easter bunny on the sidewalk, not down the vehicle lanes on Pine Avenue.

But Rathvon said she got an anonymous telephone call prior to the event asking if a special event permit had been issued.

Rathvon called Coleman to say the parade could not be held because of safety concerns on Pine Avenue.

Coleman said he told parents to bring their children to a Pine Avenue lot for an Easter party after the

Sandbar's annual egg hunt.

"It wasn't going to be a real parade," said Coleman. "The parents and kids were going to follow the Easter Bunny down the sidewalk. I didn't think we had to kill the Easter Bunny, but somebody did."

City policy is to allow anonymous complaints to the code enforcement officer, and Rathvon said she had two anonymous complaints about the planned parade.

She said a permit was required because the parade would cross the Pine Avenue-Gulf Drive intersection.

Any event in which people have to cross a city street or walk on a city street requires a permit, Rathvon said.



Dina Gomez, 14, and Carolyn Cullinan, 13, oversee the egg roll contest hosted by businesses on Pine Avenue April 3.

# The Islander 10 years ago

In the April. 12, 2000, issue of *The Islander*, headlines announced:

- Bradenton Beach commissioners rejected a plea by then-Mayor Gail Cole to discuss a third bridge from the mainland to Anna Maria Island that would bring traffic directly to Coquina Beach. Vice Mayor John Chappie said he'd gladly discuss the issue if the bridge were located on Longboat Key. Cole brought the issue up after Longboat Key approved a resolution supporting a bridge from the mainland to Coquina Beach.

- Janine Robinson of Anna Maria was cited by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers for mutilating a dead loggerhead turtle at Bean Point. Witnesses said the woman told them she planned to chop up the turtle and sell its shell. Robinson also was cited for having an open container of alcohol on the beach.

- Anna Maria city officials amended a grant to the Florida Department of Community Affairs to request that undisbursed funds for a halted \$500,000 stormwater drainage grant be used to redesign Spring Avenue, where some swales had been constructed as part of the defunct project.

## Historical society to house newspaper collection

The Anna Maria Island Historical Society museum, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, will archive a bound collection of *Islander* newspapers.

The collection will be complete for the years 1992 through 2009.

*The Islander* provides its publication in books of six months worth of weekly editions to the Island Branch Library in Holmes Beach, Tingley Memorial Library in Bradenton Beach. The historical society board recently accepted a gift of books from the newspaper to add to its museum collection.

## TEMPS AND DROPS ON AMI

Date	Low	High	Rainfall
April 4	56	81	0
April 5	57	80	0
April 6	58	79	0
April 7	57	81	0
April 8	62	81	0
April 9	61	80	0
April 10	60	84	0
Average Gulf water temperature 79°			

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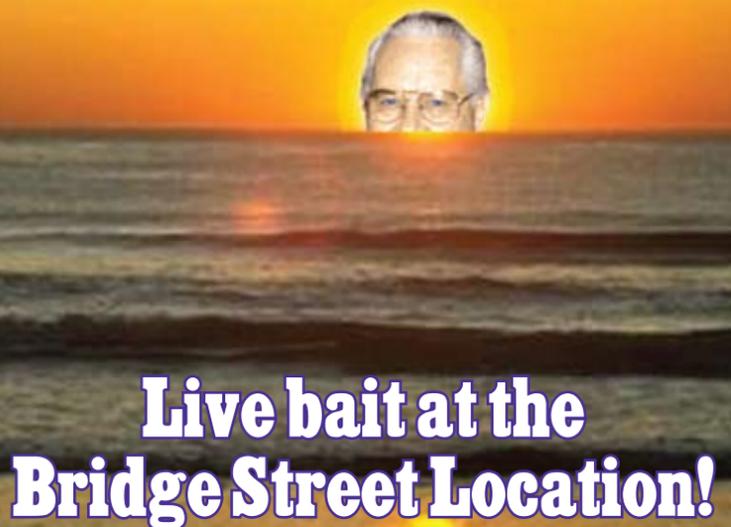
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# Am commission, P&Z ponder parking solutions

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria's joint work session of the city commission and planning and zoning board April 8 made some headway toward revising parking and traffic regulations in the city's retail-office-residential district on Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive.

But the proposed changes presented by city planner Alan Garrett were not received with unanimous consent. There remains a dispute over whether a parking-safety issue exists on Pine Avenue.

Commission Chairman John Quam said the work session was to develop an ROR parking plan that is "consistent with the comprehensive plan," is a "workable plan for development and redevelopment" and is "acceptable to our community."

The parking safety issue was raised by Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus, who alleged that many ROR projects approved by the city added to a safety problem on Pine Avenue. He claimed the approved plans contradict the city's comprehensive plan and land-development regulations.

Commissioners and board members were split over a number of proposals, but, eventually agreed to ordinance changes that, if adopted, would:

- Tailor the size and number of driveways and curb cuts on each property to each zoning district, noting there is less intensity in the residential district.
- Allow developers of a corner lot to have flexibility on where driveways should be located.
- Reduce the minimum size of a parking stall to 9 by 19 feet.
- Require one parking space for each 400 square feet of commercial space in a development.
- Prohibit parallel parking in the rights of way on Pine Avenue.

An informal vote was 7-5 against allowing a property owner to use parallel parking spaces in front of a business.

Stoltzfus objected to giving ROR developers flexibility on driveway location and said he was opposed to giving any developer the right to use parallel parking spaces.

But city attorney Jim Dye cautioned that, despite popular opinion, the city does not own the right of way. The right of way is owned by property owners, although the city has a permanent easement to use that area of ROW, he said.

Stoltzfus next said he wants to eliminate all back-out parking in the ROR, but Stover noted that this would make a lot of properties non-conforming. The city should be "very careful" with the issue, he said.

Garrett said the city could grandfather current parking arrangements, but P&Z board member Frank Pytel opposed that because of parking problems at Galati Marine at the end of South Bay Boulevard.

In fact, the city has back-out parking at a number of city-owned properties, including Bayfront Park and the city pier, as well as numerous commercial locations, including the former post office plaza and the community center.

The group discussed allowing flexible setbacks to developers to create a rear parking area, and Garrett proposed a 5-foot setback at the front of a property to allow parking in the rear.

Garrett also provided a scale drawing of an ROR development with a 5-foot setback that would have all parking on-site. The drawing, however, was for a 104-by-145-foot corner lot.

Mike Coleman of Pine Avenue Restoration LLC said Garrett should examine parking on a 52-by-100-foot lot — the size of many ROR lots — and bring that diagram to the next meeting to see how on-site parking will work.

Members and commissioners agreed to continue talk of flexible setbacks at their next meeting.

Commissioner Jo Ann Mattick said that from the discussions, it appears the city has discarded the parking plan offered by architect Gene Aubry that included angle parking on Pine Avenue.

Not quite, responded Quam.

"We may have to come back to the Aubry plan" if the drawings for a smaller lot show on-site parking is unworkable.

Lizzie Vann Thrasher, owner of the Anna Maria General Store and several other properties on Pine Avenue, also wondered what happened to the Aubry

plan.

She suggested the city hire impartial experts to study the parking problem. At the same time, the study could project how Pine Avenue parking will look in 10 years and provide professional advice on how to deal with that projection.

From her observations of traffic in front of her store Easter weekend, she said if the city adopts its parking plan requiring curb cuts, it would be "a disaster" for cyclists and pedestrians.

Businessman John Cagnina predicted the proposed changes to traffic circulation will produce nothing but strip centers on Pine Avenue and Gulf Drive.

Aubry concurred with Cagnina. "It will be a disaster," he said, adding that Garrett's diagram of parking is unworkable because of the required turning radius.

Janet Aubry said the meeting is "back to where it started." She suggested the "perceived safety issue" is being brought forward "to go after a developer," although Quam said her comment was out of order.

And Coleman objected that the comprehensive plan's goal and objective of "encouraging mixed use" is being ignored.

Nothing proposed at the meeting encourages mixed-use and there are no lots on Pine Avenue that will fit Garrett's configuration, he said.

The reason the city is ignoring the Aubry plan, Coleman said, is "because it doesn't fit the objective. The objective is to bulldoze buildings."

Coleman was referencing an e-mail from Stoltzfus to Nicky Hunt in which Stoltzfus said he'd like to see a "bulldozer visiting 315/317, 403/405, and maybe even certain residences along Pine."

The subject properties owned by PAR are 401 and 403 Pine Ave. and 315 and 317 Pine Ave.

The owner of a private home at 405 Pine Ave. visited *The Islander* and city hall last week to ask why her home was targeted for the bulldozer, but it is assumed Stoltzfus erred in naming the PAR address.

The next joint work session was scheduled for 6 p.m. April 29 at city hall.

## Stoltzfus tells Hunts back-out parking 'OK'

By Rick Catlin  
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Commissioner Harry Stoltzfus has condemned back-out parking at Pine Avenue Restoration LLC's completed retail-office-residential projects on Pine Avenue as unsafe, and he claims the practice violates the city's comprehensive plan.

At the same time, Stoltzfus said in a March 10 e-mail to developer Nicky Hunt that plans for the ROR project she and her husband have for 303 Pine Ave. — including back-out parking — are OK because they were approved before the city began investigating the rules for parking.

Nicky Hunt had e-mailed Stoltzfus earlier that she and her husband's site-plan "contravenes these rules" and she expressed concern.

"Your site plan was approved prior to these rules being brought to the attention of the city," wrote Stoltzfus.

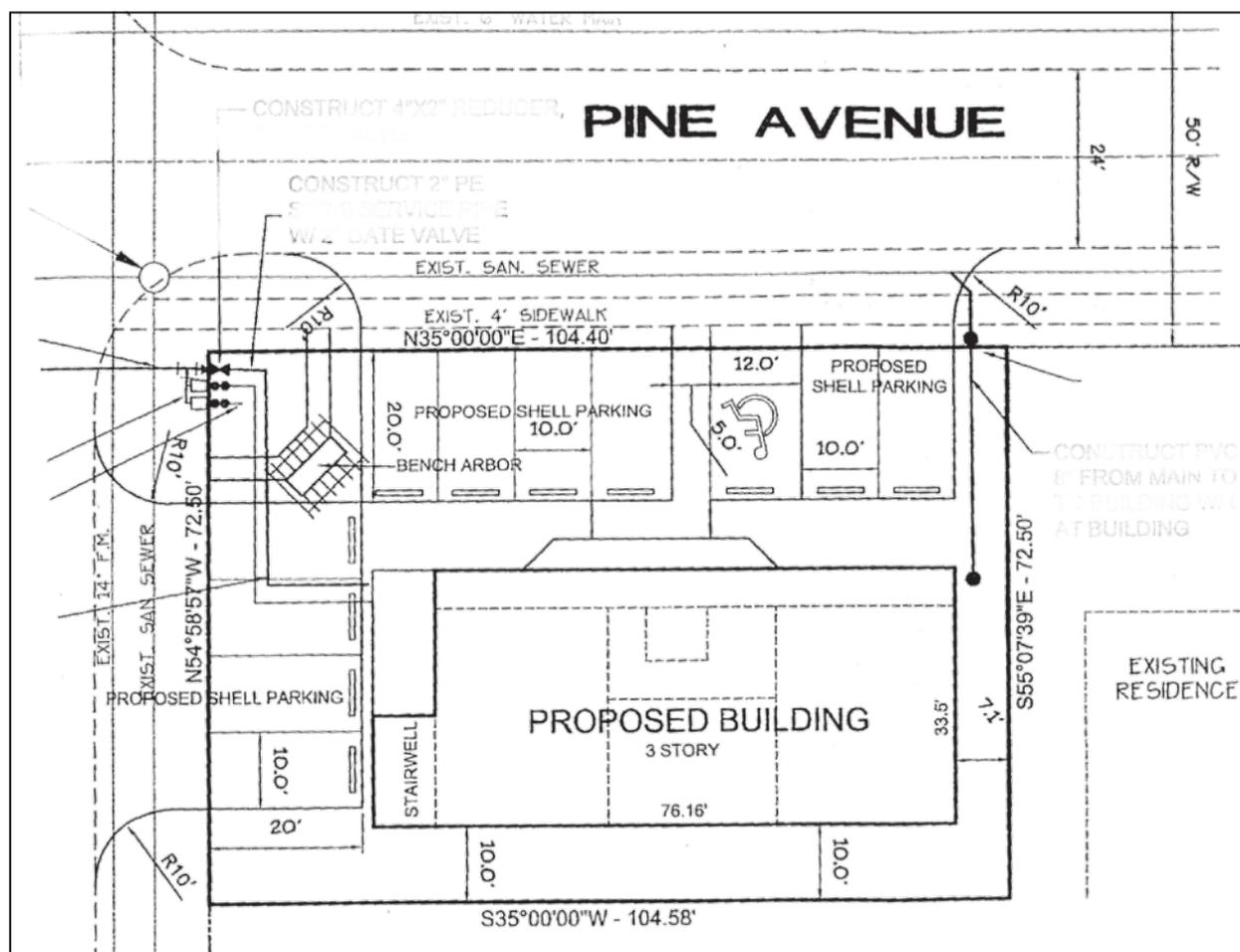
However, Stoltzfus advised the Hunts not to begin construction until the issues with parking and safety on Pine Avenue get settled.

"I'm going to suggest you delay building anything until these issues get hashed out," Stoltzfus wrote in the same e-mail.

The Hunts site-plan shows back-out parking on Pine Avenue, the same type of parking arrangement that Stoltzfus has claimed is illegal at PAR projects.

Coincidentally, the Hunts' property was the subject of controversy during the November 2009 election campaign, when rumors circulated blaming two of Stoltzfus' opponents for taking down a large poinciana tree on the property, when in fact it was the Hunts who cleared the land.

Two of PAR's already completed projects — with back-out parking — were approved by the planning



A copy of the site-plan for 303 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, shows the proposed three-story building that will have at least seven parking spaces that would require vehicles to back out onto Pine Avenue.

and zoning board in 2008 and 2009 respectively prior to Stoltzfus' election to the commission.

Parking on Pine Avenue only became a focus for the commission after Stoltzfus was elected in November 2009.

And in recent e-mails, Stoltzfus suggested he wanted to see back-out parking eliminated and PAR's completed projects bulldozed.

Anna Maria's revised comprehensive plan was adopted by the commission in November 2007.

# United Parks Service given first nod for beaches

By Nick Walter  
Islander Reporter

The Manatee and Coquina public beaches are a step closer to a remodel that would include a Key West look, as well as equipment and scooter rentals and youth education programs.

A Manatee County committee April 7 recommended that United Parks Services Inc. operate the concessions at both Manatee Public Beach and Coquina Beach.

Manatee Public Beach is in Holmes Beach and Coquina Beach is in Bradenton Beach, but both parks are managed and maintained by the county.

For about two months, the committee of Melissa Assha of the county purchasing department, Elliott Falcione, executive manager of the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Cindy Turner of the county parks and recreation department, reviewed four companies' proposals and presentations.

The committee's overall ranking for Manatee was, in order, UPS, P.S. Beach Associates, Loggerhead's Beach Cafe and Blue Wave.

For Coquina, the committee's ranking was UPS, Loggerhead's and Blue Wave.

P.S. Beach Associates has operated both concessions for 18 years, but its contract expires July 21 and the operators did not submit a proposal for Coquina.

If the Manatee County Board of Commissioners approves the committee's recommendation, UPS will have a five-year contract to operate both beaches.

UPS president Alan Kahana said in his proposal that he established his company in 2006 to provide food and beverage sales and rental services at Fort De Soto Park in St. Petersburg and other venues.

At Manatee, Kahana said he plans on keeping the all-you-can-eat pancakes tradition. He also proposed an ice cream and coffee shop to replace the indoor dining room.

UPS told the committee that it wants to add a tiki

bar outside the restaurant.

"I also thought they shared the same vision as us on where they looked at the building and where they would make capital improvements to make the building more aesthetically pleasing, but at the same time keep that Island feel," Turner said.

Assha said of UPS, "Their marketing plan was the strongest of the proposals because they branched out and took on mediums that were pleasing to me. They're a solid company."

For Coquina Beach, UPS emphasized kayak and bicycle rentals. The committee liked UPS's ideas, saying the bay side of the beaches is ideal for kayaks, and the new trail system is fitting for bikes. UPS also proposed a dinner buffet and special events.

"I think they covered all corners," Falcione said. "It goes back to my mindset as a tourism person is, 'How we can be different from other destinations?' Amenities play a part in that. I think their unique style they bring to the table makes our destination different. There's so much competition worldwide for tourism business that we have to think that way."

After the committee first reviewed the proposals, it felt the proposals were neglecting Coquina.

"I really believe Coquina lends itself for becoming a true destination," Turner said at the time.

But by the April 7 meeting, UPS had come up with better ideas for Coquina. Falcione added, "I don't think (UPS) let off the gas pedal for the second (Coquina) presentation. They were right up there with how they presented themselves at Manatee Beach. The vision was there and obviously the uniqueness and creativity."

The committee predicted UPS would attract more tourists than the others, something they said the state sorely needs. Falcione reminded the committee that tourism generates sales tax needed by the state to buffer a \$3 billion deficit.

Although P.S. Beach Associates was ranked

second of the four Manatee Beach proposers, the committee cited a lack of creative ideas. On the other hand, the committee commended P.S. Beach Associates' quality of food and experience.

Loggerhead's Beach Cafe impressed the committee with its enthusiasm and plan. It proposed a Loggerhead turtle theme at both beaches, including Loggerhead T-shirts and hats.

"Of all the presentations, in my opinion, Loggerhead's had the best business model and presentation," Turner said.

But the committee cited a lack of experience in the company led by Robert Kline, a food-concession company operating from Tampa to Key West since 1999.

Blue Wave, a division of Sunrise Sunset Concessions in Nokomis, with president Peder Jansson, made proposals for both beach operations. The business has contracts providing concession food services at Siesta Key Beach, Snook Haven Restaurant, Manatee Golf Course and Buffalo Creek Golf Course.

The committee acknowledged Blue Wave's experience and proposal for cheap prices. But the committee didn't think Blue Wave's compensation package to the county was the best, nor did it think the proposals showed creativity.

"(Jansson) had ideas and threw them out there, and they just weren't well thought out," Assha said.

If selected by the county, UPS would begin operations at both beaches July 21.

Manatee County Commissioner Carol Whitmore, who chairs the county tourist development council, said she is not happy with the recommendation, but she will have to examine the details.

"I've never heard one complaint about the current vendor (P.S. Beach) since they had it," Whitmore said. "I haven't looked at what was offered because I personally tried to stay out of it as not to be swayed in anyway."



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# Island happenings



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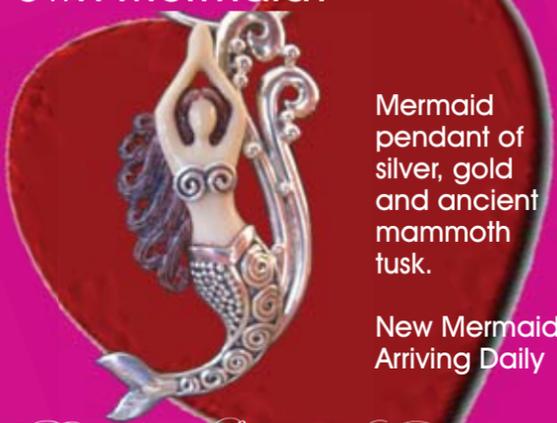
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Boat-builder Bob Pitt, left, and Jerry Bien, right, discuss the soon-to-be-completed 25-foot longboat at the FISH boat-building facility at the Cortez Community Center with Roger Allen, center. Inset: Jerry Bien sands the bow of a 25-foot longboat being constructed at the FISH garage. *Islander Photos: Nick Walter*

## FISH replicates longboat for small craft festival April 16-18

As they sand the wood and construct the various parts of a 25-foot longboat, the boat builders speak of Hernando de Soto and the various expeditions he is said to have taken.

After all, de Soto's boat nearly was the same, but 10 feet longer.

The Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage boat-building volunteers are days from completion of a replica boat used by de Soto.

Boat-builder Bob Pitt said the boat will first be on display during the Florida Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival April 16-18 at the Florida Maritime Museum, 4415 119th St. W., Cortez.

The festival will have a range of events and

features including sailing, paddling, racing, boat building, guest speakers, sea shanty singing, food, exhibits, children's activities, a nautical flea market and a post-festival gunk-hole trip around Tampa Bay.

"We're also looking for volunteers, preferably with talent," Pitt added.

FISH volunteers are building the boat from scratch. The hull is Okoume plywood, the deck is Spanish cedar, the oar locks are buttonwood, and the rest of the boat is Cortez pine.

"This keeps me busy," said volunteer Jerry Bien as he sands the tip of the bow. "Otherwise, I'd go crazy."

Roger Allen, Cortez historic sites manager, said the project is contracted for about \$10,000, including design and construction.

The boat also will be on display at the De Soto National Park in a re-enactment of de Soto's landing as well as at the April 24 grand party and after-party parade, all part of Bradenton's DeSoto Heritage Festival. The enactment will depict how de Soto may have arrived on this area's shores in the early 1500s.

"De Soto used to go up rivers and kill Indians and take their stuff," Pitt said. "It's all about heritage now, not hate."

## Island chamber offers Tampa Bay Rays tickets

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce is offering discounted Tampa Bay Rays tickets.

The chamber has tickets for each Rays' home game at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg.

The tickets for outfield seats are available at the chamber office, 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, on a first-come first-serve basis.

The ticket prices are \$24 to \$27.

For more information, call the chamber at 941-778-1541.

## Rotary announces programs

The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island meets Tuesdays at noon at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach.

The calendar of programs includes:

- April 20, Angela Walsh of Manatee Children's Services discussing homelessness.
- April 27, past district governor Carter Montross discussing polio immunization in India.

## Island Dems to meet

The Anna Maria Island Democratic Club will meet at noon Monday, April 19, at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton Beach.

The club's speaker will be Doug Heinlen of AARP discussing senior-related legislative issues.

Lunch will cost \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members.

For more information, call Harry Kamberis at 941-779-0564.

## Knight Foundation awards library grant

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation awarded a \$250,000 to Manatee County to expand its library computer program.

The grant will allow information systems to expand the bandwidth on existing computers at each of the library branches, as well as provide for the installation of 10 stand-alone computers, including two new computers at the Island Branch Library.

The new computers will be used for completing government forms, filling out job applications and legal paperwork.

"Libraries have always been an invaluable resource for job-hunters — this is especially true in today's difficult economic times," said Cheri Coryea, director of Manatee County's neighborhood services department.

"Libraries are the greatest providers of free Internet — offering residents access to the critical news and information they need to make decisions about their lives," said George Martinez of the Knight Foundation. "Through this initiative, we hope to augment libraries' roles as vital community centers while helping to create engaged and informed communities."

The grant is part of a \$5.5 million Knight Foundation initiative benefiting library users in 20 communities across the United States.

## WMFR Auxiliary collects for sale

Members of the West Manatee Fire Rescue Auxiliary are collecting goods to sell at a yard sale Saturday, May 29, at the historic fire station, 201 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach.

Items can be dropped off at the fire station or donors can arrange for pickup by calling Rhoda D'Ambra at 941-720-0426.

## Garden club to hold meeting

The Anna Maria Garden Club will hold its final meeting of the 2009-10 season at noon Wednesday, April 21.

The club will meet at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

# Island happenings



Island Gallery West members Cecy Richardson, Lee Mears, Shirley Rush Dean, Joe Fletcher and Carole Dougherty at a mural outside the gallery, which is observing its 20th anniversary this month.

## ISLAND GALLERY ART CO-OP TURNS 20

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

The morning minutes tick by, and, one by one, members of Island Gallery West arrive.

Each is an artist.

Each is a member of the IGW co-op.

And each contributes in a variety of ways to the Holmes Beach gallery marking its 20th year in operation this month.

Joe Fletcher, for example, is known as a nature photographer, but also is known as IGW's handyman, electrician, "fix-it guy."

And painter Lee Mears is affectionately known at IGW as "the boss."

"I think that's because I write the checks," said Mears. "And because, if someone doesn't have an answer to a question, they say, 'Call Lee.'"

Island Gallery West opened in April 1990 at its current location, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

The gallery has always operated as an artist co-op, with no paid employees — members take turns staffing the store and help run the business.

Co-op originals include James Pay, Sidney McKenna, Mary Worobec, Helen DeForge, Thelma Weeks, Irene Murphy, Judy Adams, Bren Jackson and Jane Fitzgerald.

But Mears has been involved almost from the start, when the Anna Maria Island Art League was headquartered in a backroom at the gallery.

Mears, originally from New York City and a local resident since 1968, paints, as well as works in mixed media.

Painting, she said, is a source of happiness.

"I wanted to have someplace to show my work," said Mears, who was invited to apply to become an IGW member, a competitive, juried process. The gallery currently has a waiting list of potential members.

Cortez artist Cecy Richardson became an IGW member about 12 years ago, after completing a three-month trial period at the gallery.

Richardson's path to becoming an artist is an interesting one. A nurse by profession, she was making sketches of newborn babies. Someone in the neo-natal ward noticed how good the sketches were and said they should be left with the children as keepsakes, not tossed in the trash as doodles.

Irene Murphy, a beader and one of the original members of IGW, was gallery "sitting" the day a fire started in the restaurant next door. After evacuating, she continued "sitting."



Richardson, in turn, talked painter pal Shirley Rush Dean into becoming an IGW member. Dean and Richardson had been showing and selling their work at outdoor shows, but, Dean remembered, "I was beginning to accumulate paintings."

She was aware that she needed to sell some of those paintings to recoup her investment in their creation.

"I like to say I like to pay for my vice," Dean said.

Recouping investment also is part of the reason Fletcher became an IGW member about six years ago. He had been encouraged to join by IGW member and photographer Richard Stewart.

Fletcher also received some encouragement from his wife. He remembered his spouse saying, "No more photography stuff until you sell something."

Some artists can date their membership in the co-op as B.F. or A.F. — before or after a fire, which took place 13 years into operation. The fire broke out next door to the gallery, in a now defunct restaurant, but caused smoke damage at IGW.

Mears remembered that Fletcher became a member "right around the time of the fire," in part because Fletcher "refurbished the whole back room. He became our handyman."

Artist Carole Dougherty is an after-the-fire member. She had been a member at Art Center Manatee in Bradenton and was recruited to the IGW.

She remembered Mears inviting her, calling her work "different."

IGW membership is currently at 28 artists, which is about capacity.

"We all bring something a little bit different in art," Dougherty said.

Artists, who mostly work in home studios, rent space in the gallery, as well as sit in the gallery one day a month, from open to close. The gallery also gets 15 percent of a sale, which members say is considerably less than the 50 percent or more that many other galleries collect in commission.

By monitoring the gallery, the artists become familiar with one another and the work on display.

"It's a great way to learn what the other artists do," Richardson said.

By sitting, the artists also learn about the interests of patrons, especially tourists.

"Everybody wants to take a piece of the Island home with them," said Dougherty.

### Mark the date

Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, will celebrate its 20th anniversary from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 17. The gallery will host a sidewalk sale with live music, refreshments and art demonstrations.

For more information, call the gallery at 941-778-6648 or visit IGW's Web site at [www.islandgallerywest.com](http://www.islandgallerywest.com) and its fan page on Facebook.



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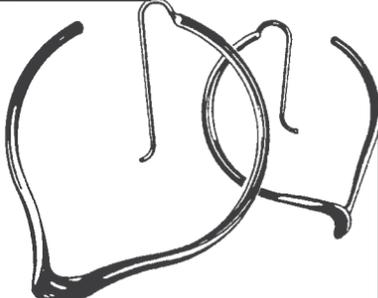
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# Look what's happening...

## Cortez hosts Rancho Regatta, Bradenton next

A glimpse into diverse fishers from about 200 years ago invaded the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez April 10.

Visitors to the museum viewed exhibits featuring maps, artifacts and historical information, as well as presentations about handmade fishing boats, fishing nets and the culture of Cuban ranchos.

Bob Edic, author of "Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor," gave a slide-show presentation.



Bob Edic, author of "Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor," speaks to an audience at Rancho Regatta April 10 at the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez.

"He showed how commercial fishing in Boca Grande is gone," said Roger Allen of the Florida Maritime Museum. "This fishing village is still here because people have had to fight so hard and that became apparent in the presentation."

The exhibit depicted, in part, a history about Cuban fishing ranchos from the late 18th century. Cuba's south Florida fishing fleet was comprised of several shallow-drift sailing vessels that in the late fall and winter months would sail north to the Florida coastline. The fishermen would spend four or five months fishing in areas such as Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor and return to Cuba to sell their catch.

"I thought it was great," said visitor Linda Edic about the presentations. "It's important to educate."

University of South Florida graduate student Meg Stack researched much of the information for the exhibits.

"People don't know much about this," Stack said.

The exhibit will continue at the De Soto National Memorial Park April 18, Wheedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center May 15, and Lemon Bay Indian Mound Park June 19.

## Affaire tickets on sale, sponsors sought

The Anna Maria Island Community Center is selling tickets and sponsorships for its signature fund-raising event — the annual Affaire to Remember.

The black-tie optional gala will take place at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at the Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

This year, the jazz-themed event will include a reception with hors d'oeuvre at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner catered by Harry's Continental Kitchens on Longboat Key and a dance.

The evening also will include silent and live auctions.

Tickets cost \$150 per person, and tables for eight are available.

Sponsorships range from the bronze \$1,000 to the diamond \$10,000.

Last year's Affaire to Remember raised \$125,000 for the Center.

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

## Kiwanis to meet

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

The calendar includes:

- April 17, Cindi Harrison of the Anna Maria Elementary School.
- April 24, Lori Johnson of the Literacy Council of Manatee County.

For more information, call Ralph Bassett at 941-795-8697.



## Outside

Ruby C. Williams, acclaimed outsider artist from Bealsville, Fla., shows her work on the outside wall at the Back Alley art gallery and coffee shop in Bradenton Beach. The sale and reception, including produce from Ruby's road-side stand where her signs first brought her notice, were a one-day event April 10. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy



## Ringin' praise

Bob Parker of the Salvation Army thanks the Island Kiwanis Club at a recent meeting for ringin' the bell during the Red Kettle drive at the Island Publix. Islander Photo: Ralph Bassett

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**A priate's life**

The Anna Maria Island Privateers raise the tent on their last Thieves Market of the 2009-10 season at Coquina Beach April 10. Next on the nonprofit's calendar are a kids' day and a July 4 celebration. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff



**Show for butterfly funds**

Haley Holtz, 7, of Atlanta, catches some "sparkle" at the Anna Maria Island Butterfly Garden arts and crafts show April 10. The two-day event at the Holmes Beach field was to raise money for the garden to the south of city hall, 5801 Marina Drive. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff



**Artists chat, shoppers shop**

Artists and shoppers gather on the sidewalk outside the Guild Gallery for the Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island spring-cleaning sale April 10. AGAMI artists sold paintings, prints, jewelry, photography and an array of crafts. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

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# First shorebird nesting area marked

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch's shorebird protection program last week marked off a possible nesting area on the beach in Anna Maria.

AMITW executive director Suzi Fox said four snowy plovers and one piping plover were observed on the beach behind North Shore Drive near Linda Lane.

"The birds are on the beach and not walking around," Fox said. "I believe it is possible they have chosen their nesting spots. Sure wish it were back farther in the dunes, but there were cat tracks there ... so maybe this is best."

AMITW has stepped up its monitoring of shorebirds over the past year, and volunteers will monitor for bird nesting activity as well as sea turtle activity on the beaches during the 2010 season, which offi-

cially begins May 1.

Fox said she was concerned about the nesting location because she saw ATV tracks.

"I feel it is time to give these little birds a hand with a little more protection and also to get a chance to educate some beach walkers," Fox said.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, meanwhile, issued an appeal for beachgoers to not disturb nesting birds and to keep out of staked areas.

"Many species are threatened, including the least tern, black skimmer, American oystercatcher and some plovers," said FWC chairman Rodney Barreto. "Most of the 42 million tourists here just from January to June will be on the beach at some point. That's a lot of foot traffic where birds might be nesting."

Big-beaked oystercatchers usually nest in shallow depressions scraped out of the sand.

Black skimmers nest in colonies, also in simple scrapes in open sand. The skimmers, found on the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts, are a species of special concern, according to FWC.

The least tern lays eggs from mid-April in South Florida to the beginning of May to the north. The eggs don't hatch until 21 days later and, although the young leave the nest in a few days, they can't fly to safety for another three weeks.

Snowy plovers build shallow, open scrape nests within sight of the Gulf and near the front dune line. Nests often are located near objects, such as logs, debris or small clumps of vegetation and are frequently located near least tern colonies.

"Next time you are enjoying the scenery along Florida's beaches, also look down and watch your step," Barreto said. "Resist the temptation to run toward a flock of birds to get them to take wing for that great photo opportunity. You wouldn't like it if an elephant came running toward you just to see you flee."



## Bird lunch, beach break

Doris Kline and Dawn Biermacher each caught a photo of an osprey having its lunch on a sign post while driving together March 20 through the Coquina Beach parking lot. Kline is from Grand Rapids, Mich., and Biermacher is from Coopersville, Mich. They were staying at Sunbow Bay in Holmes Beach while on their Island vacation with family.

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# Mote founder inducted into hall of fame

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women inducted Mote Marine Laboratory founder Dr. Eugenie Clark into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame March 23.

Clark lives in Sarasota.

The commission, with Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum at the induction ceremony in Tallahassee, also inducted the late Claudine Ryce of Miami and Dara Torres of Coral Springs into the hall of fame.

"I'm proud to be associated with such a dynamic group of leaders, innovators and role models," said Attorney General McCollum. "These inductees and the Commissioners are truly remarkable Floridians."

Gov. Charlie Crist provided the commission with a list of 10 nominees from which to select this year's inductees.

Crist, in a statement, said, "These women are shining role models and are not only pioneers in their respective career fields, but also making a difference in Florida communities statewide. I am confident each will continue to be a leader and offer counsel and guidance to future generations of Florida women."

The Florida Women's Hall of Fame honors women who, through their lives and efforts, have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and for all citizen of Florida. The event honoring the inductees serves as an acknowledgment of lifetime achievement, as well as a celebration.

Clark — an explorer, marine biologist and teacher — is known worldwide as "The Shark Lady."

In 1955, she founded a small marine laboratory that became the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, now a national center for shark and marine mammal research.

A professor emerita at the University of Maryland, Clark is the recipient of many awards for explo-

ration, science and education, including her 2008 induction into the International Explorer's Society.

She continues to lead diving expeditions to many parts of the world in search of new knowledge about the nature and habits of ocean animals.

Clark said, "Even as a young girl, I never let being a woman stop me from trying to do something I really wanted to do, especially if it concerned fishes or the underwater world."

"Now, after more than 50 years in science, this same drive to understand the sea life I love keeps me active and always learning. My advice to girls who want to get into science is: Follow your heart and take a lot of math. You'll grow to understand the importance of the pure science of math as much as

the fascinating creatures you study."

Mote, as it celebrates 55 years, also received state honors last week in the form of a resolution introduced by state Sen. Mike Bennett, R-Bradenton.

Bennett recognized Mote's "broad array of Marine research," its "first-rate" education efforts and its outreach through the public Mote Aquarium.

Mote president Kumar Mahadevan said last week, "We owe this honor to our astounding Mote family of scientists, staff, trustees and volunteers, along with the Florida communities and legislators that have supported us through 55 years of marine research and education efforts. Thanks to you, our one-room laboratory has grown to be a world-class research and education institution."

## Mote to host coast lighting workshop

Mote Marine Laboratory will host its fifth Turtle and Coastal Lighting Workshop from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 20.

The free program will take place in Mote's Hendry Conference Center, 1600 Ken Thompson Pkwy., Sarasota.

The program focuses on lighting regulations on the coast during turtle nesting season, which officially begins May 1.

Speakers include Tony Tucker and Kristen Mazzarella from Mote Marine, Bruce St. Denis and Heidi Micale from Longboat Key town government, Keri Nelson from Sarasota County Environmental Services, Suzi Fox from Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch, Don Sayre from Florida Power & Light, Ann Marie Lauritsen from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Eric Seckinger from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

For more information, call Mote at 941-388-4441, ext. 235.



### Dead sea turtle found

Beachgoers discovered a dead green sea turtle, about 18 inches in length and weighing less than 10 pounds. It was partially covered by sand on the shore near the 38th Street beach access in Holmes Beach April 9. It was the second report of a dead sea turtle that day to Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch. A cause of death was not yet known, but AMITW executive director Suzi Fox said, "On the West coast, we are feeling the fall out of the cold." However, Fox said an AMITW saw a juvenile green turtle feeding in the Intracoastal Waterway, which was welcome information. *Islander Photo: Lisa Neff*

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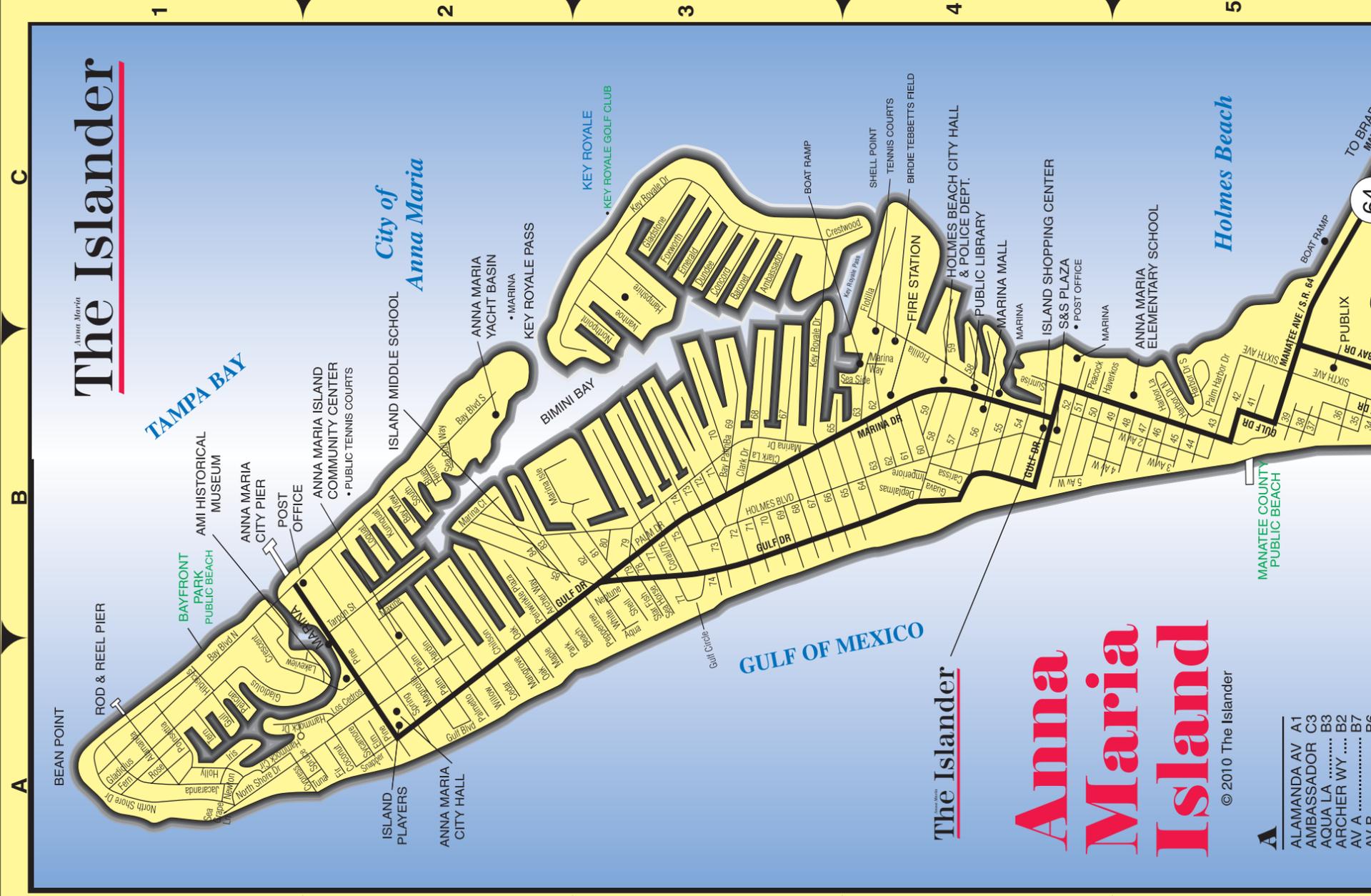
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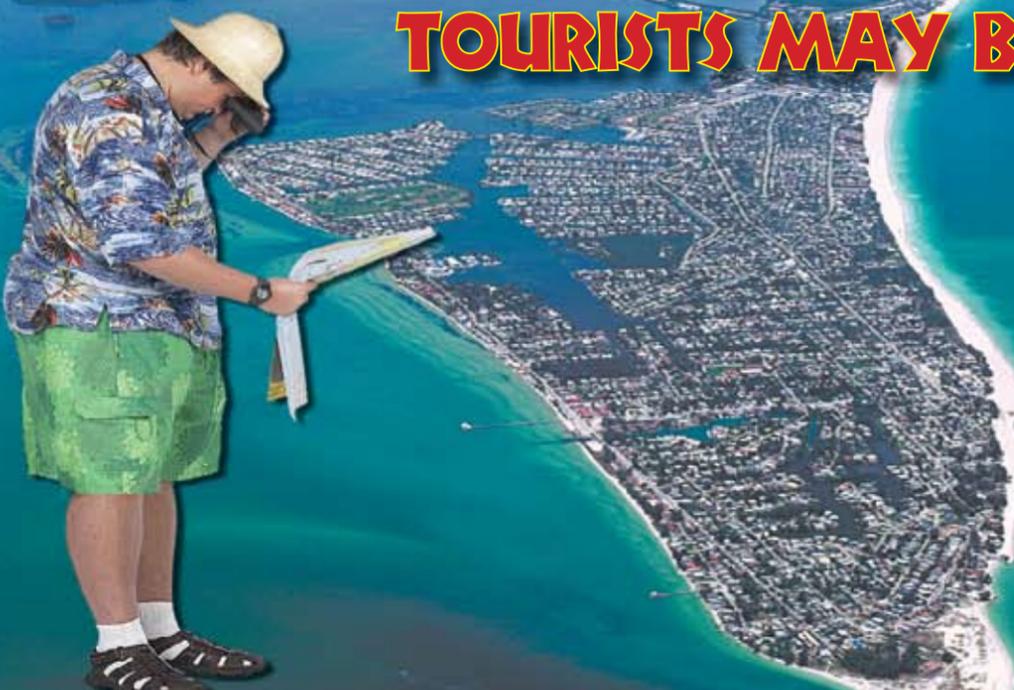
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# Pelicans fly off endangered list

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

The brown pelican is taking flight — from the list of threatened and endangered species.

“At a time when so many species of wildlife are threatened, we once in a while have an opportunity to celebrate an amazing success story,” U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said in a statement.

“The brown pelican,” Salazar said, “is back.”

To Anna Maria Island residents who see brown pelicans daily, Salazar’s proclamation that the bird “is back” might seem curious.

But the brown pelican as a species was hunted for its feathers, forced out of coastal habitats by development and decimated by the use of the pesticide DDT.

The bird was declared endangered in 1970 under the U.S. Endangered Species Preservation Act, which preceded the Endangered Species Act.

Federal and state agencies, as well as tribal organizations and non-profits responded to the pelican’s plight. In 1972, the government banned the use of DDT and, over the years, a series of programs to bring back the species were carried out, including a 13-year capture-and-release project involving Florida and Louisiana.

“This is truly a success story that the whole nation can celebrate,” stated Sam Hamilton, director of the



*A pelican that was injured and helped by Island veterinarian Bill Bystrom after it became entangled in fishing line. Islander Photo: Courtesy Jeannie Bystrom*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fourteen years ago, the brown pelican population in Florida, Alabama and Georgia was removed from the list of endangered species.

The government action last week certifies that the population is healthy in other areas of the United

States, although federal regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Lacey Act will continue to provide protections for the birds, their nests and their eggs.

Environmentalists welcomed the report — widely anticipated — that the brown pelican would be removed from the endangered species list, but also remained cautious.

“De-listing or down-listing any species is a difficult process that is not taken lightly,” said David Williamson, a Manatee County Audubon Society member who coordinates bird counts in the area, including the annual Christmas count on Anna Maria Island. “Hopefully the appropriate science was done before taking this step. In some cases, special interest can force the issue, which causes politics to get in the way of what is best for wildlife and the greater good.”

Rick Greenspun of the Sarasota Birding Guide noted that safeguards remain and that government agencies, as well as environmental groups, will continue to monitor the pelican population.

De-listing ... indicates that efforts on behalf of an endangered species have paid off,” Greenspun said, adding, “The environmental community is still vigilant and constantly is monitoring sensitive species to ensure that they remain healthy. One victory at a time.”

## Pelican rescuers report spike in injuries

By Lisa Neff  
Islander Reporter

The brown pelican is coming off the endangered species list in the United States, but threats against the birds remain, especially near piers, marinas and other fishing spots.

Earlier this month, Islander Jeannie Bystrom freed two pelicans that had become caught in trees in a rookery in Bimini Bay.

“They were tied up and tangled in the trees,” she said.

Other birds, Bystrom said, could be seen “hanging dead” in the trees.

Her husband, Island veterinarian Bill Bystrom, performed surgery on one of the pelicans.

“He had worn a gaping hole in his neck rubbing on the branch he was tied to,” Jeannie Bystrom said. “His wing was attached to a lower branch and he was stuck in the water.”

The bird, however, did not survive.

Amateur fishers “are hooking pelicans, gulls, herons, egrets like crazy,” said Gail Straight of Wildlife Inc. in Bradenton Beach.

Wildlife rescue experts such as the Straights of Wildlife Inc. urge fishers to clean up their lines and hooks, and have called for the removal of cleaning stations on piers to reduce the number of fishers who toss carcasses into the water, which encourages birds to become too friendly with humans.

They also urge fishers not to toss fish remains in the water, because the carcasses, as well as bones, can be too large to swallow. Instead of feeding, the birds can starve.

“It’s not unusual to see a pelican with a hook embedded in its pouch and fishing line trailing behind it,” said Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission chair Rodney Barreto. “This can cause the soft skin of the bird’s pouch to tear. Such injuries can sometimes become infected, which can lead to those individuals becoming sick and weak. In extreme cases, the bird may die from illness or from starvation because it weakens to the point where it can’t get enough food.”

Straight said Wildlife Inc. is caring for birds recovering that had to have stitches to mend.

“Many pouches ripped open,” Straight said. “Hooks everywhere. I would love to see people use barbless hooks.

“And they need to reel in the bird and get the hook out, not cut the line off so they go into the mangroves at night and the fishing line gets caught ... and they hang until they die.”

Two years ago, the FWC enacted some rules



*A team of bird Samaritans assists a brown pelican injured by fishing line and a hook and found near Catchers Marina in Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy*

intended to protect pelicans and other birds attracted to fishing spots.

One rule banned the feeding of pelicans in an effort to reduce injuries to the birds, as well as dependency on humans for food.

The FWC also banned the dumping or discharging of large amounts of fish scraps or bycatch, which attracts large numbers of pelicans and causes changes in the behavior of the pelicans.

The FWC also encouraged operators of fishing piers and other waterfront venues to install scrap chutes or simply remove cleaning stations.

“Most of the piers have taken the cleaning stations out so people have to take the fish home and clean them there,” Straight said. “They have also supplied barrels or cans to put the bones and stuff in.”

However, Straight said, some fishers don’t use the containers.

Also Straight said she’d like to see cleaning stations removed at local marinas and fishing piers, or make it mandatory for people to use a grinder.

In 2009, Wildlife Inc. treated 225 pelicans — most injured by either monofilament or fish bones.

“We are well on our way already this year by numbers,” said Straight, adding that birds also suffered from the cold this winter.

### Pelican 911

To report an injured bird or other injured wildlife, call Wildlife Inc. in Bradenton Beach at 941-778-6324.



*Pelicans in a rookery near Galati Marine in Anna Maria. Islander Photo: Courtesy Jeannie Bystrom*

# Count down to Spring Fling

## Spring fling is near

Students in Pidge Taylor's fourth-grade class work on a project for the silent auction at the annual Anna Maria Elementary-Parent Teacher Organization Spring Fling. *Islander Photo: Courtesy Kyra Valadie*



The Parent Teacher Organization's annual Spring Fling to benefit Anna Maria Elementary is May 1 — less than a month away. And planning began months ago.

This year's theme calls for an Eighties Extraganza.

The event is held to give teachers, staff, parents and friends of AME an opportunity to unwind and get to know each other in a fun, party atmosphere, as well as to add needed items that have been omitted from the over-stressed budget at the school.

Tickets went on sale this week, and they can be purchased at the school office for \$40 per person or \$280 for a table of eight.

Classes are busy working on projects for the silent

auction and some have even finished their work.

Many local restaurants are donating food — appetizers, entrees and desserts — for the party, which will include a cash bar, entertainment and dancing.

The event be staged this year at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. The doors will open at 6 p.m., but the eighties will go on all evening.

## AME calendar

- 8 a.m. April 16, Parent Teacher Organization meeting.
- 5 p.m. April 21, Book Fair and Science Night.
- 5 p.m. April 27, Parent Teacher Organization dinner and fourth-grade performance.
- 9 a.m. April 29, school speech contest.
- 1:30 p.m. April 29, book club meeting.

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

## AME MENU

### Monday, April 19

*Breakfast:* French Toast Sticks, Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Toast.

*Lunch:* Breaded Chicken on Bun, Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Steamed Broccoli, Chilled Pears.

### Tuesday, April 20

*Breakfast:* Sausage and Egg Patty Biscuit, Yogurt, Cereal, Toast.

*Lunch:* Hamburger or Cheeseburger on Bun, Ravioli, Warm Roll, Steamed Green Beans, Garden Salad, Mandarin Oranges and Pineapple Tidbits.

### Wednesday, April 21

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

*Lunch:* Chicken Tenders, Hashbrown Sticks, Mixed Fruit Cocktail, Clodhoppers, Assorted Salads and Sandwiches.

### Thursday, April 22

*Breakfast:* Cheese Omelet with Hashbrowns, Grits, Cereal, Toast.

*Lunch:* Tostitos Scoops with Meat and Cheese, Chicken Quesadilla, Lettuce and Tomato Cup, Spanish Rice, Cinnamon Applesauce, Happy Birthday Cupcakes.

### Friday, April 23

*Breakfast:* Breakfast Burrito, Super Donut, Cereal, Toast.

*Lunch:* Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Mini Corn Dogs, Garden Salad, Steamed Corn, Chilled Pears.

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# Island Biz

By Rick Catlin

## Fencing for the Island

Anna Maria residents **Doug Van Gundy** and mother **Suzanne Van Gundy** recently started **ForemostFence** at 513 Sixth Ave. W., in Bradenton.

With more than 20 years experience in the contracting industry, Doug is experienced at installing any type of fence, be it wood, aluminum or vinyl. The company installs for both commercial and residential uses, he said.

Doug believes excellent, friendly service will be his trademark for the company, and he's looking forward to working on Anna Maria Island.

"What sets us apart is our service and that we live on the Island," said Doug. "We're right around the corner when anyone needs us."

For more information, call 941-748-2700.

## Segway move

**Zegway by the Bay** has relocated its Segway rentals to the Anna Maria Island Centre shopping plaza at 3216 E. Bay Drive, Holmes Beach, adjacent to Walgreens in the Hair's to You Saloon.

Owner **Becky Kramer** began her operation in August 2009, and her Segway tours and rentals have become extremely popular.

"We show off the Island in a very special way," said Becky.

Store hours are from 9 a.m. to sundown, seven days a week. Guides are available for group tours, Kramer said.

For more information, call 941-565-2082.

## Tradewinds, Tortuga honors

The Web site **Trip Advisor** has named the Tradewinds Resort as the No. 1 resort in Bradenton Beach, while the Tortuga Inn was ranked No. 2 in that city by Trip Advisor.

Both resorts are owned and operated by **David Teitelbaum**, who also owns SeaSide motel in Bra-

denton Beach.

Teitelbaum is a board member of the Manatee County Tourism Development Council and the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce.

He also is the founder of the Real Florida Festival to be held this weekend in all three Island cities.

For more information, call 941-779-0010 or 941-778-6611.

## Chamber breakfast, exchange

The **Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce** will hold its April sunrise breakfast from 7:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. Wednesday, April 14, at Cafe on the Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

The cost is \$8 and reservations are requested.

The chamber's April business card exchange will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, at the Anna Maria Island Historical Society, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

The cost is \$5 and reservations are requested.

Members are encouraged to bring a guest.

For more information on both events, call 941-778-1541.

## AMI Parasail anniversary

**Capt. Daryl Conecy** of **AMI Parasail**, 135 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach, recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of his business.

AMI Parasail offers a unique view of Anna Maria Island to its customers, said Bridget Insinna, who handles reservations for AMI Parasail.

"It's the best view anyone can have of this beautiful Island. We have so many repeat customers each year," she said.

AMI Parasail is licensed and insured, and Capt. Daryl is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard.

AMI operates daily from dock next to the Historic Bridge Street Pier, weather permitting. For information and a reservation, call 941-778-5000.

## Bradenton Beach hot

Air New Zealand's Web site recently announced its Top 10 list of new destinations of interest among its passengers, and ranked Bradenton Beach as No. 6.

The rankings were for Air New Zealand passengers flying or planning to fly to a previously unvisited destination.



## Early dinner?

**Sean Murphy** welcomes guests to the Beach Bistro for last week's Manatee Chamber of Commerce Breakfast with the Chairman. Invited guests discussed business issues and how the chamber can improve business for members. The group also discussed how it could support **Dee and Gene Schaefer**, foreground, in their bid to renew their contract for the Manatee Public Beach concessions. Cafe on the Beach at MPB was once small business of the year for the chamber. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

## New to the chamber

The **Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce** welcomed the following new members in March:

- Artistic Focus Photography, The Loft No. 5, 9801 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, Kimberley Leger.
- Barry Grooms, real estate, 5316 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, 941-920-5757.
- Adventure Kayak Outfitters, 3230 East Bay Drive No. 125, Holmes Beach, Franklin Miller, 941-779-4726.
- SEO Sport, 820 Pineland Ave., Venice, Johnathon Hewitt, 941-284-0964.
- Primetime Limousines Inc., 4017 Overture Circle, Bradenton, Joe Russo, 941-792-3400.
- SignZoo, 4139 N. Washington Blvd., Sarasota, Larry Cavaluzzi, 941-355-5653.
- SellMyTimeShareNow LLC, 303 Central Ave., No. 260, Dover, N.H., Glen Curtiz, 603-516-0234.
- Pro-Motions, 3739 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, Annette Gueli, 941-952-1119.

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## Real estate tailgating on Saturdays

Nicole Skaggs of Duncan Real Estate, 310 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, will hold the second annual "tailgating for homeownership" event from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturdays through May 29. No tailgate party is planned for May 22.

Joining Nicole each Saturday will be area professionals in business, finance, law, insurance and construction to offer advice and answer questions on homeownership.

Nicole said the idea of a tailgate party is to have people "come, enjoy a hot dog and ask questions that fit their situation on their own terms."

For more information, call 941-779-0304.

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Howie Banfield strums a tune on his mandolin at sunset at the beach end of 66th Street, where friends and neighbors congregate, as well as guests of the Beach Bistro, to enjoy the live music and Island ambiance. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy



### Master of golf

Golf legend Jack Nicklaus, center, entertains a press contingent and members of The Concession Golf Club two weeks before attending the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Ga. He was joined by another legend, Tony Jacklin, after a round on the course with owner Bruce Cassidy, rear. Nicklaus and Jacklin gave a hole-by-hole list of planned improvements. Islander Photos: Bonner Joy



### The clubhouse draw

The Concession clubhouse has an elegant "Pebble Beach" feel, and a special attraction for Islanders, the Beach Bistro. The dining room menu and much of its staff are from the highly touted Holmes Beach eatery, and owner Sean Murphy beckons bistro fans to enjoy a "culinary membership" with no other club commitment. "Just make a reservation, and you're automatically admitted," he said. The culinary plan includes two rounds of golf at the club at guest prices. For reservations, call 941-322-1922.

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Pesto Pizza



**Wednesday, April 14**

7:45 a.m. — Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce sunrise breakfast at Cafe on the Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1541.

11 a.m. — Einstein Circle group discussion "Immigration: What should we do?" at The Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-359-4296.

11:30 a.m. — The Off Stage Ladies Auxiliary of the Island Players luncheon and auction at the Sun House, 111 Gulf Drive S., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-518-4431.

12:30 p.m. — Garden stepping-stone craft class begins at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908. Fee applies.

4:30 p.m. — Wine-tasting benefit for the Anna Maria Island Community Center at Harry's Continental Kitchen, 525 St. Judes Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 941-778-1908. Fee applies.

5:30 p.m. — "Shaken, not Stirred: The Lives and Loves of Ian Lancaster Fleming" featuring Howard Burnham at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

**Friday, April 16**

9 a.m. — Holmes Beach Founders Day reception and citizen recognition program, city hall, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1541.

5 to 10 p.m. — Holmes Beach Founders Day Celebration featuring live music, food, art vendors and karaoke contest at city hall field, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1541.

7 p.m. — "Got Talent" showcase at Founders Day, city hall field, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1541.

8 p.m. — Island Idols finals at Founders Day, city hall field, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1541.

**Saturday, April 17**

7:30 a.m. — Skateboard contest at the Pete Lannon Skate Park, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1541.

8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. — Florida Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival on the waterfront in Cortez. Information: 941-708-6121. www.cortezvillage.org.

8:30 a.m. — Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island hosts guest speaker Cindi Harrison, Anna Maria Elementary School counselor, at Cafe on the Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-795-8697.

9 a.m. — Keep Manatee Beautiful "Great American Cleanup" at various locations including Anna Maria City Hall, Kingfish Boat Ramp, Coquina Beach, FISH Preserve and Palma Sola Causeway. Information: 941-795-8272.

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Rummage sale at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-4769.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Holmes Beach Founders Day Celebration featuring live music, food, art vendors and karaoke contest at city hall field, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1541.

2 p.m. — Bookmark craft workshop at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

2 to 6 p.m. — Island Gallery West celebrates its 20th anniversary with a sidewalk sale, live music and refreshments, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6648.

6 to 10 p.m. — Parrothead Dance at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1541.

**Sunday, April 18**

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Florida Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival on the waterfront in Cortez. Information: 941-708-6121. www.cortezvillage.org.

8:30 a.m. — Beach yoga south of the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-779-6836.

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Expanded Bridge Street open-air market at 107 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-518-4431.

9:30 a.m. — Save The Trolley walk-run from Bridge Street to Coquina Beach, Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-518-4431.

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Beach-to-Bay Eco Day featuring kayak and Jet Ski demonstrations, go-green seminars, live music, Frisbee golf games and more at Bridge Street, Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-518-4431.

**Monday, April 19**

Noon — Anna Maria Island Democratic Club discusses senior-related legislative issues with Doug Heinlen of AARP at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive N., Bradenton. Information: 941-779-0564.

**Tuesday, April 20**

Noon — The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island discusses homelessness with guest speaker Angela Walsh of Manatee Children's Services, at the BeachHouse Restaurant, 200 Gulf Drive, Bradenton Beach.

**Wednesday, April 21**

11 a.m. — "Watson, Crick, Wilkins: The Story of DNA" lecture at The Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-359-4296.

Noon — Anna Maria Island Garden Club's final meeting of the season at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

**Ongoing:**

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

- The first and third Mondays of each month, the American Legion Post 24, 2005 75th St. W., Bradenton, hosts dinners for the public. Fee applies. Information: 941-794-3390.

- Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., Anna Maria Duplicate Bridge Club at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-0504.

- Tuesdays, 4 p.m., Inquiring Minds non-denominational group meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, through April. Information: 941-778-4579.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Saturdays, 8:30 a.m., Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island meets at

Cafe on the Beach, Manatee Public Beach, Holmes Beach.

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

- Through April 23, "Florida Cowboys Collection" at the Manatee County Agricultural Museum, 515 10th Ave. W., Palmetto. Information: 941-721-2031.

- Through April 28, Holmes Beach artist Barbara Hines exhibit at the Arts Council of Manatee County, 926 12th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-2223.

**OFF-ISLAND EVENTS**

**Thursday, April 15**

6 to 10 p.m. — Get Down Downtown: A Tribute to Jazz block party on Old Main Street in downtown Bradenton.

7 p.m. — Visions of the Future Film Series: "Metropolis" at the South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131 ext. 27. Fee applies.

**Friday, April 16**

6 to 9 p.m. — Cuban Cultural Celebration at South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131 ext. 27. Fee applies.

7 p.m. — Gecko release party and screening of "Godzilla" at Rossi Park, on the waterfront in downtown Bradenton.

**Saturday, April 17**

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Jazzy Farmer's Market featuring jazz and Dixieland music by Tom Barrett on Old Main Street, downtown Bradenton.

1 to 2:30 p.m. — Jazz in the Afternoon at Palmetto Historical Park, 515 10th Ave. W., Palmetto. Information: 941-723-1991.

6 to 9 p.m. — Jazzshow exhibit by abstract artist Lee Baumgard and music by Preston Whaley at the Palmetto Art Center, 907 Fifth St. W., Palmetto. Information: 941-518-2109.

**Sunday, April 18**

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Rancho Regattas program featuring Cuban fishing ranchos at DeSoto National Memorial, 8300 Memorial Hwy., Bradenton. Information: 813-396-2327.

**Tuesday, April 20**

7:30 p.m. — "A Chopin Celebration" at Neel Performing Arts Center at State College Florida, 5840 26th St., Bradenton. Information: 941-752-5252. Fee applies.

**Wednesday, April 21**

6:30 p.m. — Boating GPS seminar at the Anna Maria Island Sailing Squadron, 1200 71st St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-795-0482. Fee applies.

**Coming Up:**

- April 22, Visions of the Future Film Series: Sleeper, South Florida Museum.

- April 24, An Affaire to Remember.

- April 24, Cortez natives picnic, Florida Maritime Museum. CANCELED

**Save the Date:**

- May 1-2, Anna Maria Island Relay for Life.

- May 1, Geckfest Gala Dinner Auction.

- May 2, Annual Island Run.

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

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# Streetlife

## Island Police Blotter

### Anna Maria

April 6, 100 block of Cedar Avenue, animal nuisance. A Manatee County Sheriff's Office deputy responded to an animal nuisance complaint. The complainant said her neighbor's dog was barking, causing a disruption. The deputy sought assistance from Manatee County Animal Services.

April 6, 100 block of North Bay Boulevard, suspicious circumstances. The complainant said she parked her rented beach wagon at the Anna Maria City Pier bike rack and found it missing two hours later. A sheriff's deputy found the wagon on the fishing section of the pier. A fisherman said he had asked someone to use the wagon move his fishing gear, and that person said he could. The deputy took the wagon to the complainant's carport.

### Bradenton Beach

No new reports.

### Holmes Beach

April 3, 7100 block of Gulf Drive, theft. A complainant said his bicycle was stolen from his bike rack. The complainant valued the bike at \$100.

April 4, 4000 block of Gulf Drive, petit theft. A woman went to the Holmes Beach Police Department to report a past burglary to her vehicle at the Manatee Public Beach. She said when she returned to her vehicle, her windows were down and her purse, containing credit cards, a driver's license and \$463, was missing.

April 6, 300 block of 58th Street, burglary. The victim said on April 4 he found the front door of his house open and he was missing a PlayStation console, a digital camera and an iPod.

# Obituaries

## Miriam Chace Chapman

Miriam Chace Chapman, 86, of East Falmouth, Mass., and Anna Maria, died April 8 in Bradenton. She was born in New Bedford, Mass., and graduated from Dartmouth (Mass.) High School in 1941 and St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in New Bedford in 1944. She was a registered nurse at St. Luke's for many years.

Mrs. Chapman was an active member of Smith Mills Congregational Church before moving to Cape Elizabeth, Maine, in 1970, where she was a member of the Cape Elizabeth Methodist Church, the historical society and garden club. She also was an artist.

She and husband William spent winters on Anna Maria Island, where she attended Roser Memorial Community Church. She was a member of the Anna Maria Island Artists Guild. She also was a Red Sox fan.

A memorial service was held April 10 at Roser Memorial Community Church in Anna Maria. Donations can be made in her name to the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in East Falmouth, Mass., the American Heart Association, or the Disabled Veterans National Foundation.

She is survived by her sister, Priscilla R. Chace of Naples, Fla.; three children and their spouses, Paul A. and Margo A. Lafferty of Enfield, Conn., Mark A. and Nina S. Lafferty of East Freetown, Mass., and Kathleen M. Lafferty and Bruce D. Colegrove of Leverett, Mass.; five grandchildren, Brendan M. Lafferty, Paul D. Lafferty, Scott D. Lafferty, Erin E. Lafferty and Meghan L. Bradshaw; five great-grandchildren; three stepchildren, David R. Lafferty Jr. of Jacksonville, Fla., David and Mary Chapman of Manchester, N.H., and Susan J. and Stanley R. Bodner of Pembroke, N.H.; and their children and grandchildren.

## Gordon Brown 'G.B.' Knowles III

Gordon Brown 'G.B.' Knowles III, 56, of Ellenton and formerly of Anna Maria Island died April 10 at Manatee Memorial Hospital.

He was an outdoors writer, fishing and hunting enthusiast, and a friend to many Florida conservationists.

He most recently wrote for the Boca Beacon, a weekly publication based in Boca Grande. Over the years, he wrote for the former *Islander* newspaper and for many other magazines and newspapers throughout the state.

Griffith-Cline Funeral Home, 720 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton is in charge of arrangements. A spokesperson said plans should be announced for a memorial service within the week. Griffith-Cline can be reached at 941-748-1011.

## Ladonna E. Robinson

Ladonna E. Robinson, 79, of Holmes Beach and formerly of Florence, Ky., died April 8 in Edgewood, Ky.

Mrs. Robinson is the wife of former Holmes Beach Commissioner Ron Robinson. She was a homemaker. She belonged to Saramana Model-A Restorers Club and the Key Royale Club. She served the North Kentucky Association for the Retarded, and was a member of Westside Christian Church, Bradenton, and Florence Christian Church, Florence, Ky.

Visitation was held April 12 and a funeral service was held April 13 at Stith Funeral Home, Florence, Ky. Burial was in Highland Cemetery, Fort Mitchell, Ky.

Mrs. Robinson is survived by husband Ron; son Paul Robinson of Burlington, Ky.; four daughters, Nanette Dedman of Florence, Ky., Cyndy Kloeker of Walton, Ky., Lauren Baumgardt of Arnelia, Ohio, and Rhonda Herlinger of Fort Thomas, Ky.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



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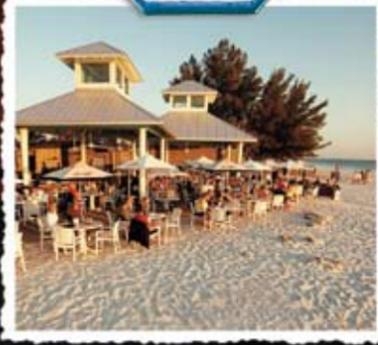
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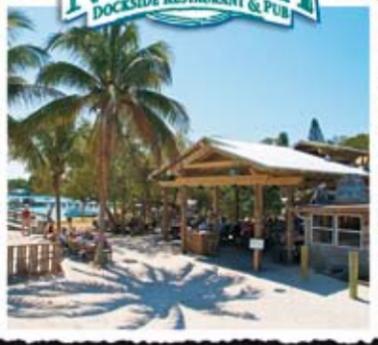
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# Key Royale's new champ, youth basketball begins

By Kevin Cassidy  
Islander Reporter

Mark Mixon defeated two-time club champion Web Cutting March 2 to win his first men's club championship at the Key Royale Club.

Mixon held a three-shot lead with two holes left to play in the 18-hole match March 17. Mark still has a hole or two to play before he matches his father Jim's five championships at the club.

But practice can (almost) make perfect.

In other club play, the men played a three-best-balls-of-foursome tourney during their weekly 18-hole golf outing at the golf course April 7. An eagle by Jim Thorton on the par-4 307-yard fifth hole helped lift the team of Thorton, Lew Winegarden, Gary Harris and Bob Elliott to a 20-stroke victory with a team total of 166. Second place went to the team of Vince Fanton, John Sagert, Ernie Hauser and Bob Landgren with a 186.

The club women played a nine-hole, individual-low-net match April 6. Penny Williams took the top spot in Flight AA with a 1-over-par 33, one shot better than Sue Hookem in second place.

Joyce Reith fired a 6-under-par 26 to grab the top spot in Flight A by three shots over second-place finisher Joyce Brown.

Flight B saw Margrit Lahy card a 4-under-par 28, which gave her a one-shot margin over second-place finisher Donna Soos. And Terry Westby's 2-under-par 30 gave her a one-shot victory in Flight C over Sue Wheeler.

Frankie Smith-Williams and Mary Pat Swamy both carded 2-under-par 30s to finish tied in first place in Flight D. Margaret Schuller was one shot back in second place.

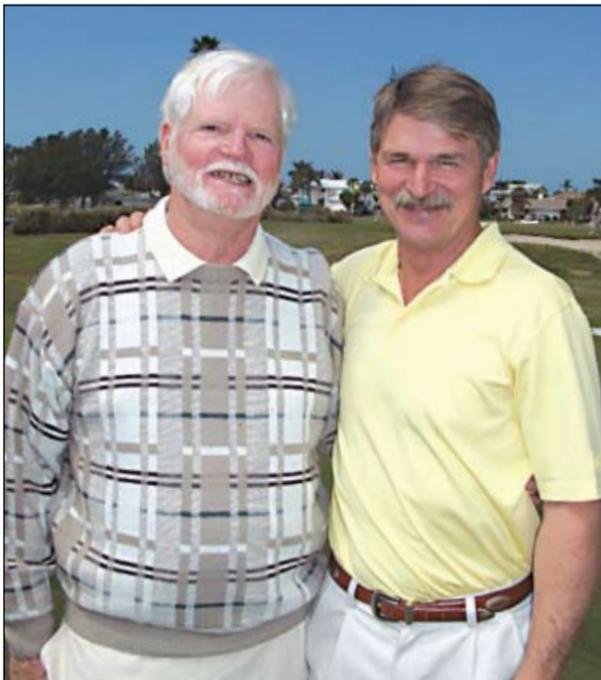
The men played a nine-hole, best-ball-of-four-some match April 5. The team of Tom Lewis, Tom O'Brien, Fred Meyer and Tom Warda combined to card a 13-under par 21 to take first place by three shots over the team of Bob King, Blake Graham, Jon Lindwall and Dave Kruger.

## Kids on the court

The 2010 Anna Maria Island Community Center basketball season is on the horizon, and a pre-season tourney kicked it off April 6. Teams were each guaranteed two games in the tourney to gear up for the season, which gets started in early May.

In Division III action, Beach Bistro opened tourney play with a 14-7 victory over the Sandbar on April 7 behind a team-high 6 points from Joey Stewart. The Bistro also received four points from Aiden Grumley and two points apiece from Andrew Proctor and Trent Shackelford in the victory. Joe Rogers led Sandbar with four points, while Leo Tilelli added two and Brooke Capparelli finished with one point in the loss.

Connie's Landscaping defeated the Sandbar 10-6 to advance to the winner's bracket finals. Leo Rose led the way for Connie's with eight points, while Truman Carlson added two points. Joey Stewart paced Sandbar with four points, while teammate Andrew Proctor



Last year's Key Royale Club champion congratulates Mark Mixon on his 2010 championship.  
Islander Photo: Jim Meena

added two points in the loss. Connie's now awaits the winner of the April 12 game between Sandbar and Bistro to see which team they will play for the title.

Beach to Bay Construction opened the Division II tourney April 7 with a 24-14 victory over Bob Vita Lawn Service behind 10 points from Cameron Brauner and eight points from Michael Latimer. Dayton Modderman added four points, while George Lardas completed the Beach to Bay scoring with two points.

Ross Built got off to a good start in Division II play with an 18-12 victory over Anna Maria Oyster Bar on April 9. Andrew Ross led the way with 8 points while brother Jake added 6. Luke Valadie and Cooper Hardy each scored 2 points to round out the scoring for Ross Built. Oyster Bar was led by Emma Moneuse whose 10 points led all scorers. Tyler Yavalar chipped in with 2 points to complete the scoring for the Oyster Bar in the loss.

Walter & Associates edged Beach to Bay Construction 14-13 April 9 to advance to the semifinals behind 10 second-half points from Moriah Goode that helped make up a five-point halftime deficit. Seth Walter completed the scoring for Walter with four points. Michael Latimer led Beach to Bay with seven points, while Cameron Brauner added four points and George Lardas finished with two.

Ross Built advanced to the winner's finals, thanks to a 21-11 victory over Walter & Associates April 10. Andrew Ross led the way with 13 points, while Jake Ross and Luke Valadie each added four points in the victory. Seth Walter with five points and Moriah Goode with four points led the way for Walter, which also received two points from Jordan Cooley in the loss.

Anna Maria Oyster Bar stayed alive in the loser's bracket thanks to a 17-16 victory over Bob Vita Lawn Service April 10. Brandon Mills paced the Oyster

Bar with seven points, while Tyler Yavalar and Reese Helvey scored four points apiece. Bradley Duffman completed the Oyster Bar scoring with two points. Corey Jaques and Ethan Bertrand scored six points apiece to lead Bob Vita Lawn Service, which also received four points from Adam Clark in the loss.

The Premier Division preseason competition opened April 7 with Tortilla Bay Club edging Rotten Ralph's 50-48 behind a scoring effort led by 16 points from Tommy Price. Daniel Pimental finished with nine points, while Kyle Parsons added eight points for Tortilla, which also received four points apiece from Max Miller and Thomas Pears. Rotten Ralph's was led by Blake Rivers, whose 19 points led all scorers. Brandon Gengler chipped in with 10 points, while Forest Schield added nine points. Chandler McClung finished with six points and Daniel Janisch added four points to complete Ralph's scoring in the loss.

The Gathering Place opened with a 41-35 victory over Tortilla Bay Club in Premier division action April 8 behind the one-two scoring punch of Kyle Aritt and Chandler Hardy. Aritt finished with 18 points, while Hardy added 16. The Gathering Place also received three points from Wyatt Hoffman and two points apiece from Denver Hardy and Patrick Edwards in the victory. Tommy Price and Christian Hightower led Tortilla with 10 points apiece, while Daniel Pimental added six points and Kyle Parsons finished with five points. Travis Belsito and Lauren Hightower completed the Tortilla scoring with two points apiece in the loss.

Look online at [www.islander.org](http://www.islander.org) for the Center youth sports schedules.

## Horseshoe news

John Johnson and Herb Puryear were the only tossers to earn the prerequisite three pool-play victories and walked away with bragging rights for the April 10 horseshoe challenge at the Anna Maria City Hall pits. Five teams battled it out for second place starting with a first-round match that saw John Crawford and Dave Lansaw defeat Ron Pepka and Dave Nolasname 21-14. The second first-round match saw Sam Samuels and Ron Gagnon defeat Debbie Rhodes and Jerry Bennett 21-12. Samuels-Gagnon then rolled past Jeff Moore and Rod Bussey 23-10 in the semifinal, but they weren't so fortunate in the finals, dropping a 21-17 decision to Lansaw-Crawford.

The April 7 horseshoe games saw two teams emerge from pool play to battle it out for the winged trophy. Herb Puryear and Norm Langland edged Art Kingstad and Carl Thomas 22-17. The win sends Langland back home to the tundra with his first career horseshoe victory.

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.

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# Spring fishing hits stride with fast tides, hot temps

By Nick Walter  
Islander Reporter

With four-tide days this week and water temperatures reaching over 70 degrees, fishing should be smoking inshore and offshore.

Bigger shiners are yet to be the primary bait in the area, so fish are still feeding primarily on glass minnows and shrimp.

Kingfish have shown up offshore, with a few scattered around the Sunshine Skyway bridge.

Look for an appearance of tarpon in the next couple weeks off the beaches.

**Capt. Warren Girle** said there are still a lot of redfish in north Sarasota Bay, and he was able to duck southwest winds that made the bay choppy by fishing on the west shoreline. "I also had a couple trips offshore for grouper, and most were undersized. There were some nice mangrove snapper and Spanish mackerel all over the beaches within 200-to-300 yards of the beach."

Girle had mackerel to 5 pounds in the bay as well as pompano to 4 pounds. Girle said that the numbers typically published in maps that show locations of offshore reefs have been loaded with boats. "I was out there Saturday and went 3 miles out, and there were 10 boats there and it wasn't for me. Then I was 7 miles out and saw three boats," he said.

"People haven't been able to get out there and now there's been several nice days, and gin-clear water." But, he said, southwest winds have muddied the waters.

**Capt. Larry McGuire of Show Me the Fish Charters** out of the Cortez Fishing Center said beyond 40 feet of water has been holding gag grouper. But he said anglers overfished areas between 40-60 feet in depths after grouper season opened April 1. "The water needs to get dirtied up before they start biting again," McGuire said.

McGuire said live baits such as pinfish, sand perch and pigfish have been working the best, although he'll begin a trip using sardines and squid. He's been catching gags, red grouper, keeper scamp and amberjack.

"We've seen some cobia swimming around, but couldn't get them to hit," McGuire said. "We also had good-size sharks around 5-6 foot lemons and blacktips."

McGuire predicted that anglers who go out right after a cold front will be rewarded with some nice catches. "Kind of like right after grouper season opened and it was right after a lot of bad weather," he said.

**Capt. Bill Ware of The Damn Yankee** said his anglers got out to the reefs three days last week in calm weather and got into grouper, Key West grunts and an 18-inch flounder on a 3-mile reef using frozen sardines. He said there have been a lot of undersize grouper and snapper on the 3- and 7-mile reefs. On April 8, he hit the flats for Spanish mackerel and trout using live shrimp because the shiners were still scarce. Ware said last week he didn't see any shiners



## No foolin', keeper grouper

Jack Gryboski, 9, Mike Steach of Anna Maria, and Will Gryboski, 12, with Jack's catch, a 27-inch, 11-pound gag grouper caught offshore of Anna Maria Island in 42 feet of water while fishing April 1 with Dr. David "Dad" Gryboski. The Gryboskis reside in Atlanta and Holmes Beach.

under the Skyway.

"We actually went out on Bean Point during the slack tide and we were catching grouper, jack crevalle, and Spanish mackerel. And when you get two-to-three hour slack tides on Bean Point, and fish that 42-foot hole out there, you can catch fish when you get your bait on the bottom. A couple times we had two on at once with Spanish mackerel. We were getting them on CAL jigs, Doc's Jigs and some shrimp." He said the water temperature was 72-74 degrees depending on the depth of the flats. "I think the fishing's going to continue to be good the rest of the week," Ware said. "When it gets into the 50s at night, the water cools back down. But when you can keep it 60-65 at night, the water warms really quickly throughout the day."

Ware said he is seeing redfish, but they're being elusive.

**Dave Golla** from the Sunshine Skyway south fishing pier said the Spanish mackerel had been hitting heavy and pompano and flounder are "above average." He said the flounder bite has been decent as well. A lot of 3-to-4 foot sharks have been caught, along with grouper from 22-40 inches. He said mangrove snapper and kingfish seem to be few and far between

**Capt. Mark Howard of SumoTime Fishing Charters** said this past week has seen the spring pattern start to take hold. "Bait has moved into Tampa Bay," he said. "With chumming and patience, you can fill the live well."

He said Spanish mackerel to 4 pounds are in abundance and threadfin herrings and pilchards have both worked. Pompano also have come on strong with select live shrimp being the bait of choice.

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"For fast, fun, non-stop action, the ladyfish are in 4-to-6 feet of water on the edges of grass flats in Tampa Bay," Howard said. "Snook and redfish have both moved into their springtime spots."

**Capt. Zach Zacharias** of the DEE JAY II said there has been more diverse action with each day. "My charters continue to do very well with as many big sheepshead as they want out in 20-30 feet of water on the Gulf reefs," he said. "There has been grouper, snapper and Key West grunts as well."

Zacharias said along the beaches and in the bays of Manatee County there are trout, pompano, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, flounder and ladyfish keeping rods bent on a regular basis. Sarasota Bay is loaded with redfish and they are beginning to cooperate. "The water temperature out here near the beaches finally broke the 70 degree mark at mid-week," he said. "The only inshore species missing from the picture at this juncture is snook. There are precious few linesiders in their normal haunts for April. Also, the kingfish run is poised to break loose any day."

Zacharias said the white bait situation is looking better as schools of pilchards are showing on the flats. "The sheepshead, pompano, mackerel, trout and redfish do not require live shiners as they have all cooperated quite well on live shrimp and artificial," he said. "Unless you are targeting catch-and-release snook, white bait is not necessary for a productive trip right now. It would be great to have some nice big pilchards or threadies for the kingfish though."

**Kim Schearer** from Annie's Bait & Tackle has received reports of trout, Spanish mackerel and redfish in Palma Sola Bay. "Most of the reds were under size but a few keepers are being caught," she said. "Sheepshead are still abundant around Longboat Pass Bridge and some small grouper have been pulled up."

She said **Capt. Mark Johnston** of Legend Charters caught redfish and sheepshead around the sunken boats in the Cortez Kitchen area. On incoming tide, he caught lots of sheepshead to 4 pounds in Longboat Pass, Spanish mackerel up to 24 inches, trout and ladyfish.

She said **Capt. Sam Kimball** of Legend Charters is slaying the gag grouper with an occasional red grouper about 15 miles offshore. Also, hogfish have made an appearance. Kimball still prefers the cut sardines and squid for bait, but is teasing the fish with an occasional live pinfish. On his short trips, Kimball is using live shrimp and slaying the sheepshead approximately 5 miles offshore. Kingfish and pompano have showed up on the beaches, with the best time from daybreak to 8 a.m., Shearer said.

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

**Anna Maria Island Tides**

Date	AM HIGH	PM HIGH	AM LOW	PM LOW
April 14	1:07 1.6	11:53 2.3	5:48 0.9	7:04 -0.2
April 15	1:49 1.5	12:17 2.4	6:05 1.0	7:43 -0.3
April 16	2:35 1.4	12:47 2.5	6:22 1.0	8:27 -0.4
April 17	3:29 1.3	1:22 2.6	6:38 1.1	9:18 -0.4
April 18	4:44 1.2	2:03 2.6	6:48 1.1	10:18 -0.3
April 19	2:53 2.5	—	11:27 -0.3	—
April 20	3:54 2.4	—	—	—
April 21	5:17 2.2	—	12:38 -0.2	—

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

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# ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

## ITEMS FOR SALE

BOOKS ASSORTMENT: 50 cents to \$1. Also music, organ books cheap. 941-794-3292. [cnminshall@earthlink.net](mailto:cnminshall@earthlink.net).

DELL 964 COLOR printer/fax/scanner. Works perfectly. Has new ink cartridges. \$50. Brother fax machine with ink cartridges. \$30. Call 941-751-4777.

JEEP "LIFE IS good" 30-inch spare tire cover. Less than year old. \$25. Very good condition. 937-475-7731.

STAINLESS-STEEL 17-inch bow railing. Never used, came with Mako boat, \$85. New pull-along golf bag cart, \$70. 937-475-7731.

GARDEN PANELS: WROUGHT iron, four. \$80. Brass nuts and bolts, assorted sizes, 25 per jar. \$3. 941-778-2901.

EARTH BOX LATTICE work enclosures, no Earth box, \$15. 941-778-2901.

BULK WALNUTS \$5.99/lb, ear candles \$2.50, and New Chapter Supplements, 25 percent off. Vitamin Sea, 941-778-5015.

FISHING RODS, REELS: Two Kunnan ultra-light rod, Sigma 025 reel, \$30. 7-foot Daiwa, Garcia 3000 reel, \$25. 941-761-1415.

BIKE: BOYS NEXT Chaos freestyle, 20-inch with pegs. One year old. Excellent condition. \$45. 941-761-1415.

FISHING NET: FLOATING landing, Cummings. \$8. 941-761-1415.

GENERATOR: CRAFTSMAN 3600 watt. Three years old, never used. Get ready for hurricane season. \$350. Call 941-779-9101.

GLASS TABLE AND chairs. "Brown & Jordan." Four coral and white chairs. \$549. 941-792-4097.

CASCO CHILD CAR seat, new. Paid \$95, sell for \$50 or best offer. 941-778-1264.

MORE CLASSIFIEDS equals more readers.

## ITEMS FOR SALE Continued

MANY PLUMERIA PLANTS: (Frangi Pani). \$3 each. Pink, 3.5 feet tall, multi-stalks. Anna Maria Garden Club, 941-778-0256.

SOFA AND LOVESEAT: Excellent condition. \$99 each. 941-779-0881.

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

COMMERCIAL RESTAURANT SUPPLIES: Ice machine: install and service \$2,100. You pick up, \$1,600. Assorted stainless shelves: \$75. Six-burner gas cooktop and charbroiler: \$1,800. 941-730-2606.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

LOST LAWN CHAIR: we left a small boat motor for the taking at our curb, and the lawn chair we used to prop it up disappeared, too. If you have the chair, we'd like it back. Imperiore Avenue, call 941-778-0436.

HAITI \$\$\$ DONATIONS to the Ministry of Presence Inc., [www.ministryofpresence.org](http://www.ministryofpresence.org), urgently needed for local representatives to aid homeless children. Info: The Islander, 941-778-7978.

TERRY HAYES, REALTOR. Signature Sothebys International. 941-302-3100. [Terry.hayes@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:Terry.hayes@sothebysrealty.com). [Discoverannamaria.com](http://Discoverannamaria.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

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

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

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

## ESTATE SALES

ESTATE SALE: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 17, and noon-3 p.m. Sunday, April 18. 6118 Riverview Blvd., Bradenton. (Please park on 61st or 63rd Street West. Two large breakfronts, chandeliers, French-style cabinets, pictures and paintings. Wicker desk, large urns and office statuary, console tables, entertainment center, credenzas, French-style curios, brass beds, armoire, marble chests, patio furniture, fountains, china, glass kitchenware and bric-a-brac. Other details to follow as we unpack. Sale conducted by Palma Sola Sales. Numbers given out at 8 a.m. Saturday.

## GARAGE SALE

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

YARD SALE: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18. Furniture, small appliances, housewares, kitchen items, rattan bar, bikes and beach stuff. 512 69th St., Holmes Beach.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 16-17. Tarawitt Drive, 5600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE at The Islander, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

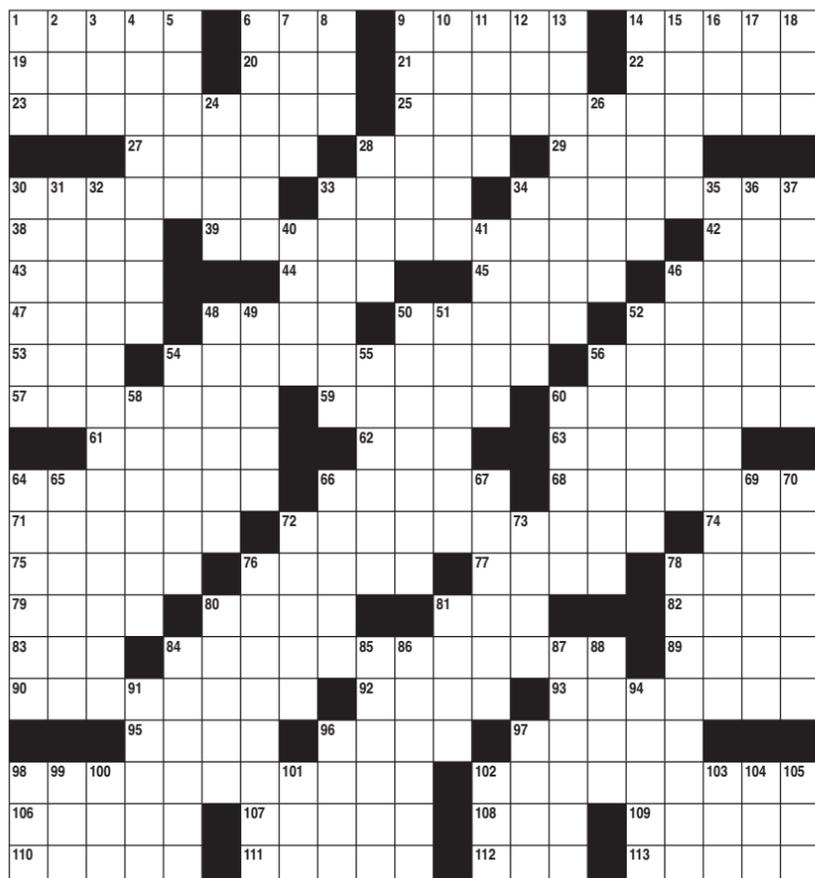
# New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

AFTER WORD By Bob Klahn / Edited by Will Shortz

BONUS QUESTION: WHAT WORD CAN FOLLOW EACH HALF OF THE ANSWER TO EACH STARRED CLUE?

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Across   | 47 Org. that gives approval                         | 83 Display in the Auckland Museum                  | 9 June "honoree," briefly                                    |
| 1 Economy  | 48 Dirt   | 84 *Tally  | 10 Sense of taste  |
| 6 "Spare" part   | 50 Obloquy, e.g.                                    | 89 Choice  | 11 Big wind  |
| 9 Direction for violinists   | 52 ___ dish   | 90 *Lamp holder                                    | 12 Spanish bear  |
| 14 Rubbish   | 53 Print maker                                      | 92 "The Flying Dutchman" tenor                     | 13 F-14, e.g.  |
| 19 Relieve   | 54 *Zigzag trail up a mountain                      | 93 Armpits   | 14 1977 Liza Minnelli musical                                |
| 20 "Cold Mountain" heroine   | 56 Better writing, e.g.                             | 95 Exotic berry in some fruit juices               | 15 Family name in Frank Miller's "Sin City" series           |
| 21 Hot stuff   | 57 Wry  | 96 Missed signals from Little Boy Blue, maybe      | 16 Gary's home: Abbr.  |
| 22 High trump card   | 59 Big band   | 97 Director Kurosawa                               | 17 "The Purloined Letter" writer                             |
| 23 *"Either that ___ goes, or I do" (Oscar Wilde's reputed last words) | 60 Navigator William with a sea named after him     | 98 *Lure   | 18 Foozle  |
| 25 *Legislative V.I.P.   | 61 Jazzy Chick                                      | 102 *Cover-up                                      | 24 A Baldwin   |
| 27 "As You Like It" role   | 62 Decline in value                                 | 106 1986 rock autobiography                        | 26 Pages (through)   |
| 28 Curved nail, perhaps  | 63 Sitting around for years waiting to get drunk?   | 107 New addition                                   | 28 Gregg Allman's wife who filed for divorce after nine days |
| 29 Dentiform : tooth :: pyriform : ___                                 | 64 Tedious trips                                    | 108 Lunkhead                                       | 30 Sudden  |
| 30 Certain   | 66 Something that might be hard to drink?           | 109 Babushkas                                      | 31 Oscillate   |
| 33 Chin  | 68 Open up  | 110 Actress Streep                                 | 32 *Wonder product   |
| 34 *Object of superstition   | 71 Jostles  | 111 Cultivates                                     | 33 Critical situation  |
| 38 Wiped out   | 72 *Green Bay Packers fan                           | 112 Interjection added to the O.E.D. in 2001       | 34 Sharp and stimulating                                     |
| 39 *Annual N.F.L. event  | 74 Chartres shout                                   | 113 Land called Mizraim in the Bible               | 35 *Risking detention  |
| 42 Project Blue Book subj.   | 75 Femme fatale                                     |  | 36 Something unprecedented                                   |
| 43 Get a flat  | 76 They may offer rides                             | Down   | 37 Major party   |
| 44 "___ Love" (1978 hit for Natalie Cole)                              | 77 Site of numerous firings                         | 1 Harsh call                                       | 40 Yahoo   |
| 45 German unity  | 78 A guard may protect it                           | 2 Suffix with boff                                 | 41 Dickens   |
| 46 Kind of crazy?  | 79 Imitated   | 3 Purely   | 46 Some naturals   |
|  | 80 Real first name of Alfalfa of the Little Rascals | 4 Birthplace of William Thackeray and Satyajit Ray | 48 Wins everything   |
|  |   | 5 Wired  | 49 Cursed alchemist  |
|  |   | 6 Spanish fleet?                                   | 50 Sands, e.g.   |
|  |   | 7 Brain matter?                                    | 51 Stars in many westerns                                    |
|  |   | 8 Block  | 52 Stop sign?  |
|  |   |  | 54 Cast about  |
|  |   |  | 55 One stocking stockings                                    |
|  |   |  | 56 Coat named for a British lord                             |
|  |   |  | 58 Made an individual effort                                 |
|  |   |  | 60 Scene of confusion  |
|  |   |  | 64 "Open ___"  |
|  |   |  | 65 Like some earrings  |
|  |   |  | 66 Serving from a pot  |
|  |   |  | 67 Football do-over  |
|  |   |  | 69 Epithet for Elizabeth I                                   |
|  |   |  | 70 Sassy lassies   |
|  |   |  | 72 Meat, as in 66-Down                                       |
|  |   |  | 73 Liliuokalani Gardens site                                 |
|  |   |  | 76 Half-circle window over a door                            |
|  |   |  | 78 Rogue   |
|  |   |  | 80 Resident of Daiquiri                                      |
|  |   |  | 81 Frequent disclaimer                                       |
|  |   |  | 84 Like some census categories                               |
|  |   |  | 85 Closed in on  |
|  |   |  | 86 Marks   |
|  |   |  | 87 Dashing   |
|  |   |  | 88 Out   |
|  |   |  | 91 Light brown   |
|  |   |  | 94 Galsworthy's Mrs. Forsyte                                 |
|  |   |  | 96 One raised on a farm                                      |
|  |   |  | 97 "Got it!"   |
|  |   |  | 98 Empty-headed  |
|  |   |  | 99 Rural address abbr.                                       |
|  |   |  | 100 It's in circulation                                      |
|  |   |  | 101 French firm: Abbr.                                       |
|  |   |  | 102 Bankroll?  |
|  |   |  | 103 A little or a lot  |
|  |   |  | 104 Dupe   |
|  |   |  | 105 Pres. with the Marshall Plan                             |

Answers found on page 28.



# ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

## LOST and FOUND

LOST: TIMEX YELLOW gold watch. Sentimental. Spring Street beach, Anna Maria. 215-582-6282.

FOUND ITEM: DID you lose an item from a moving car in front of the Garden Shop on Marina Drive? Call 941-778-6207 to claim.

LOST: COCKATIEL. White headed. Named Donald. 770 North Shore area, Anna Maria. Flew out door as we came inside. 941-201-6733. jllol-sen@live.com.

LOST: PRESCRIPTION GLASSES. Red rims, lost on Coquina beach, Friday, April 9. Reward. 616-402-5765.

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## BOATS & BOATING Continued

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**ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS**

**HELP WANTED Continued**

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**SERVICES Continued**

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## RENTALS Continued

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# Island gets 'Real' with first 'Real' festival

By Lisa Neff

Islander Reporter

People are squawking.

People are squawking about the Parrothead Dance, a highlight of the second day of the three-day inaugural Real Florida Festival.

"It just seems perfect for the Island," said Anna Maria resident Tricia Porter, who plans to attend. "That jazz festival they did, I had to wonder. But a Jimmy Buffett-inspired dance. That's all right."

Porter describes herself as a natural-born Parrothead and she talks the lingo of a big Buffett fan. "My kids are Parakeets," she boasted.

The dance, sponsored by the Anna



Katie Greenwood from Palmetto is the first contestant to qualify in the Island Idols contest that began April 10 at the Gulf Drive Cafe in Bradenton Beach. *Islander Photos: Edna Tiemann*

Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, will take place beginning at 6 p.m. at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

Organizers expect 300-600 people to arrive wearing flip-flops, board shorts, tropical shirts and

Tickets are \$10 per person or \$70 for a table for eight. Dancegoers will hear Buffett and other Sunshine State-of-mind music, dine on \$2 cheeseburgers and appetizers and see performances by the Island Idol winners, who will be christened the night before at the Holmes Beach Founders Day celebration, also part of the Real Florida Festival.

Proceeds from the Real Florida Festival, which includes activities in all the Island cities, will help support the fare-free Island trolley operated by Manatee County Area Transit.

"It will be a blow-out celebration, featuring all the three Anna Maria Island cities," said founder David Teitelbaum.

Teitelbaum proposed the festival, which has been coordinated under the chamber, with some proceeds to benefit that organization's scholarship fund and the Center's programming, in addition to the Save The Trolley campaign.

"As much as we can make," chamber events coordinator Susanne Arbanas said of the RFF fundraising goal.

The festival will take place April 16-17 in Holmes Beach, with the city's Founders Day celebration; April 17 in Anna Maria with the Parrothead Dance and April 18 in Bradenton Beach with an eco-focused celebration on the bayside, Gulfside and Bridge Street.

Bradenton Beach's Historic Bridge Street Merchants Association will host

an expanded Bridge Street Market on April 18 with food and beverages, arts and crafts and apparel and accessories.

Additionally, festival plans in Bradenton Beach — from the bay to the beach — include live music, vendors, kayak demonstrations, a walk-run race, yoga, go-green seminars, Frisbee golf games and a Jet-Ski demonstration.

"There will be great food, great music, a great day," said Arbanas.

In Holmes Beach, the Founders Day celebration will commemorate the city's 60th anniversary and take place mostly at city hall, 5801 Marina Drive, and in the field north of city hall.

Plans for April 16 include a reception at city hall, live music, food and beverage vendors and the finals in the Island Idols contest.

On April 17, the party will include more band performances, an open house at the West Manatee Fire Rescue Station No. 1, an arts-and-crafts fair and skateboard competition.

"It's going to be great," Arbanas said of the festival. "And it's really great that all the cities have come together."

So great that, as she looks ahead to the chamber's 2010 Bayfest, more Friday music festivals and the 2011 wedding festival, she's also looking ahead to the second annual Real Florida Festival next April.

"It's a great cause to come out for and have some fun," Arbanas said.



Real Florida Festival founder David Teitelbaum performs in the Island Idols contest that began April 10 at the Gulf Drive Cafe. He qualified in the preliminary round.



## ANNA MARIA ISLAND REAL FLORIDA FESTIVAL

**1ST ANNUAL**

**MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

**AN ALL ISLAND ♦ ALL WEEKEND EVENT  
TO SAVE THE FREE ISLAND TROLLEY  
AND SUPPORT ISLAND ORGANIZATIONS**

**ANNA MARIA ♦ BRADENTON BEACH ♦ HOLMES BEACH  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY ♦ APRIL 16, 17 & 18**

**FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS**

**FRIDAY, APR. 16, 2010 FREE HOLMES BEACH FOUNDERS' DAY & 60TH ANNIVERSARY**  
HOLMES BEACH CITY HALL & FIELD 9AM - 10PM  
Delicious Island Food Court w/ Many Local Specialties, Soft Drinks/ Beer/ Wine/ Rum Drinks, Huge Arts & Crafts Fair, Live Music - Local Bands, Mayor's Welcome, Music by AMI Concert Chorus & Orchestra, Meet & Greet/ Free Coffee & Pastries  
Community Partner Awards/ Historical Displays, Island Idols Finals.

**SATURDAY, APR. 17, 2010 FREE HOLMES BEACH FOUNDERS' DAY & 60TH ANNIVERSARY**  
HOLMES BEACH CITY HALL & FIELD 9AM-10PM  
More of above, PLUS -Skateboard Competition & Demo, Local Bands & Performers, Special Events & Games, City Hall Historical Exhibition at City Hall, Open House Holmes Beach Fire Station.  
**ANNA MARIA AMI COMMUNITY CENTER PARROTHEAD DANCE & RAFFLE** w/ Amazing Prizes from local establishments - Admission \$10, or \$70 reserved table for 8. Advance Tickets - AMI Chamber of Commerce (941-778-1541) Raffle tickets are \$1, 6 for \$5 or 13 for \$10 Free Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres & Cash Bar. \$2 Cheeseburgers in Paradise.

**SUNDAY, APR. 18, 2010 FREE BRIDGE STREET BEACH-TO-BAY ECO DAY**  
BRIDGE STREET, THE PIER & BEACH 8-30AM -4PM  
Bridge Street Fair, Delicious Island Food, Local Favorites, Soft Drinks, Beer, Wine, Mixed Drinks; Live Music, Unique Arts & Crafts; Beach Yoga; Farmers' Market, Earth Day Seminars, Eco-friendly Products & Services, Kayak Festival; H2X Jet-Ski Shows w/ National Champions, Save-Our-Trolley Beach Walk-Run, Frisbee Golf w/Prizes, All Day Music Performances, Privateers Pirate Ship & More!

**www.RealFloridaFestival.com**

Sponsored by the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, Anna Maria Island Community Center, Bridge Street Merchants, The cities of Anna Maria, Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach.



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**PARROTHEAD DANCE & RAFFLE**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010 6-10pm (21 & older)

**LOCATION: AMI Community Center**  
**ADDRESS: 407 Magnolia Avenue, Anna Maria**  
Turn right off Gulf Drive at Ginny & Jane's

**SPONSORS: AMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & AMI COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**ADMISSION: \$10 per person or \$70 to reserve a table for 8**  
**ADVANCE TICKETS: On a first come, first serve basis**  
Available beginning April 1, 2010  
AMI Chamber of Commerce (941-778-1541)  
Music by Mike Sales & surprise guest entertainers  
Special Guest Performances by Island Idol Winners  
Raffle with awesome prizes from local establishments  
Tickets are \$1.00, 6 for \$5.00 or 13 for \$10.00  
Free Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres & Cash Bar  
\$2 Cheeseburgers in Paradise  
Maximum Capacity: 700 Guests  
Some tickets will be available at the door  
Proceeds to benefit Save the Trolley

**AMAZING GIFT RAFFLE!** Free accommodations on the Island, Fabulous restaurant gift certificates, Golf Lessons, Horse Riding, Beautiful Gift Baskets and much, much more!

**Bring your friends and have a Margaritaville Night!**

**www.RealFloridaFestival.com**

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