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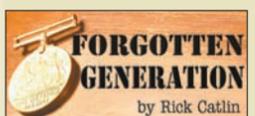
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VOLUME 20, NO. 14

FEB. 8, 2012 **FREE**

The Islander

The Best News on Anna Maria Island Since 1992

www.islander.org

Holmes Beach gives Anna Maria sandy gift

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach is making a sweet February Valentine of piles of white beach-quality sand to the city of Anna Maria.

Dredging of some canals in Holmes Beach began Jan. 31, and the dredged sand is being trucked to Anna Maria to renourish the shore on the north and south sides of the Anna Maria City Pier.

The materials would normally be discarded or sold by the dredge company but, because it's beach-quality, it's a bonus for the Tampa Bay shoreline at the pier.

Anna Maria public works director George McKay said the Florida Department of Environmental Protection inspected the dredged material and judged it to be "beach compatible sand" — good enough to place on the shoreline.

Without the DEP seal of approval, the city could not have used the sand to renourish the beach, McKay said.

The sand is being stored on the north side of the Lake La Vista inlet by the city pier's north parking lot until Anna Maria is ready to begin its bayside renourishment, said McKay.

The project also calls for installation of



A fisher wets a line on the Lake La-Vista inlet from Tampa Bay in Anna Maria, opposite stockpiled sand that was dredged from Holmes Beach canals. Anna Maria will use the sand to renourish the shoreline on the north and south sides of the Anna Maria City Pier. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

offshore pilings to support turbidity screens that will keep sand in place.

Once the project is complete, the pilings and screens will be removed, he said.

McKay estimated the entire project would be completed by Feb. 15, depending on weather conditions.

The sand is expected to extend the shoreline by about 10-15 feet south of the Lake La Vista inlet to the end of the city pier parking lot, "more or less," McKay said. The renourishment area is

about 500 feet long.

The Holmes Beach contractor for the project, Florida Dock & Dredge, has worked in Holmes Beach and Anna Maria in the past.

Funding for the dredging project came from Holmes Beach and a West Coast Inland Navigation District grant.

Store clerk in 'Lotto' trouble

By Kathy Prucnell
Islander Reporter

A former clerk at the Time Saver convenience store, 5353 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, was arrested Feb. 1 by the Holmes Beach Police Department for stealing Florida lottery tickets on her store shifts since December.

A Time Saver representative told police Jeanna Mehrhoff, 29, of 7504 Gulf Drive, stole Lottery tickets valued at \$2,223 by printing tickets and not paying for them.

HBPD charged Mehrhoff with third degree felony grand theft/embezzlement, according to reports. The police report also said additional charges are possible after a Florida Lottery investigation into what she may have received by cashing in the stolen lotto tickets.

Although Shelly Safford, public affairs specialist in the communications office of the Florida Lottery, was unable to confirm the existence of an investigation at press time, she said if the retailer reported them stolen to the state lottery, a hold would be placed on lottery payouts for the reported ticket numbers.

The police report said the store provided police with detailed records supporting the allegations.

After her arrest, Mehrhoff reportedly apologized to the owner for "stealing all the

PLEASE SEE LOTTO, PAGE 3



Mehrhoff

No funding help for beach pier

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Manatee County's beach renourishment account cannot fund construction of a recreational pier at the Manatee Public Beach.

That's the word from Charlie Hunsicker, the county's natural resources department director, although it's not likely to please those people who were expecting the 2014-15 beach renourishment project could provide a new pier.

Even if studies show a new pier would slow beach erosion, the pier would have to be built as an erosion control groin.

And even then, it could only be funded from the county's beach renourishment account, not by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is funding the 2014-15 project.

Hunsicker said he has sought funding sources for a new recreational pier since it was demolished in 2009-10.

The renourishment funding is included in the 5 percent tourist development tax — often called the resort tax or bed tax — charged by Manatee County on all accommodation rentals of six months or less.

Legislation enabling beach renourishment funds limits spending to beach renourishment.

"A recreational pier could not be funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or fully funded from the 1 cent out of every 5 cents of resort tax" collected for beach renourishment, he said.

PLEASE SEE PIER, PAGE 3



Bradenton Beach Republican voters were fewer in number at the Tingley Memorial Library polling location Jan. 31 for the presidential primary election. *Islander Photo: Mark Young*

AM, HB GOP voter turnout up; BB down

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

"Come back in about an hour and a half and you might catch someone voting," was a statement made by a poll worker at Tingley Memorial Library in Bradenton Beach.

While Anna Maria and Holmes Beach saw significant numbers of voters turn out for the Jan. 31 Republican primary election, Bradenton Beach's turnout was down from the 2008 GOP presidential primary.

Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney won all of Florida's 50 delegates and was the clear winner in Manatee County, earning more than 48 percent of the vote. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich collected over 27 percent of the

PLEASE SEE VOTER, PAGE 3

Gulf Drive Market again fails to gain permit

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

A second attempt to gain approval to continue the Gulf Drive Market at the Gulf Drive Cafe & Tiki, 900 Gulf Drive N., failed at the Feb. 2 Bradenton Beach city commission meeting.

For the second straight meeting, those favoring and those opposed to the market's continuance through April 29 expressed opinions to the commissioners, who listened to an hour of public comment on the subject.

During the Jan. 26 commission meeting, the majority of the opinions expressed opposed extending the market's permits based on traffic and safety concerns. Those same issues again were raised by citizens.

Some speakers said they didn't have a problem with the market, but would like to see it in a different location other than on Gulf Drive.

"I'm not against the market and I'm happy it's doing well," said Jake Spooner, owner of the Fish Hole on Bridge Street. "My concern is that this is the slow season and look at what it's doing to traffic. Can you imagine what it will be like in a month when we are in season? It's like putting up a dam on Gulf Drive."



Breuler

Spooner and several other speakers recommended moving the market to Coquina Beach as an alternative.

Former Bradenton Beach Commissioner Janie Robertson offered a different solution.



Vosburgh

"The vendors are not the problem," said Robertson. "The vehicles on Gulf Drive are not the problem. From what I can tell, the problem is the pedestrians. They are not being channeled properly across Gulf Drive."

Robertson suggested more police attention toward pedestrians to ensure they cross Gulf Drive at the appropriate crosswalks.

Robertson said every time traffic stops, "which is about every 20 seconds," pedestrians are causing longer



Bradenton Beach Police direct traffic for the Gulf Drive Market. City commissioners once again denied the restaurant's permit to extend operations of the market during their Feb. 2 city commission meeting. *Islander Photo: Mark Young*

delays by crossing the street between cars. She also said she's heard the trolley drivers are having difficulty maintaining their schedule due to the traffic slowdown.

News that the Gulf Drive Market would be reconsidered at the Feb. 2 meeting resulted in an influx of e-mails to the city. The majority of those e-mails expressed support for the market.

The opinions of those speaking at the meeting, however, appeared to be split down the middle.

Commissioner Gay Breuler, who made the motion to approve the market permit at the previous meeting, again motioned to approve extending the market's special event permit, which expired Jan. 29. The market had been operating on a trial basis.

For the second time, Breuler's motion failed for lack of a second.

City attorney Ricinda Perry then offered commissioners a third option, advising they could once again attempt to approve the event on the conditions that

the Gulf Drive Cafe owner address traffic conditions, as well as to consider the possibility of relocating the market.

"I want to first and foremost thank the vendors for their hard work," said cafe representative Pete Barreda, who submitted the permit application. "I think at this point, I'll just let the issue die."

Commissioners Ric Gatehouse, Jan Vosburgh and Ed Straight said they could not support the market based on the public input that had taken place during recent weeks.

"I think it's a great idea, but bad location," said Vosburgh. "Our job is the safety and welfare of our citizens and I received many complaints as Ward 4 commissioner. I got elected to serve the citizens of Bradenton Beach and, by voting for it, I feel like I'm not doing my job."

Breuler said that's the reason she voted for the market to continue, citing the overwhelming response she had from the public in support of the market.

Citing some 50 e-mails in favor of the market, Breuler said, "Someone mentioned something about listening to the people. That is what the people are telling us, and that is why I made the motion."

The Feb. 2 meeting was the first commission meeting for Gatehouse, who made an opening statement before the meeting commenced.



Gatehouse

Gatehouse thanked his fellow commissioners for giving him the opportunity to serve and thanked John "Scooter" Tillison, who also had submitted an application to serve.

"Emotions have run high over this appointment, and one can only hope that the same enthusiasm will translate at election time," said Gatehouse. "For my part, I will do my best to serve the citizens of this city and of my ward. I bring no personal agenda to this seat."

Gatehouse said he would research every issue brought before the commission and, when necessary, seek the appropriate advice from city staff.

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PIER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“We would be on our own” to find the estimated \$1.6 million to build a recreational pier similar to the 312-foot former pier at the Manatee Public Beach in Holmes Beach.

If a structure such as a flat-top groin were built, it could be funded from the beach renourishment account because it would be for beach renourishment purposes, he said. But a survey required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to authorize a groin would come after the county survey, and could take another two-three years to complete.

A groin, yes, but a recreational fishing pier, no, Hunsicker said. He emphasized that’s not his decision, that’s the law.

He did have a slim ray of hope for some funding for a recreational pier from the renourishment account, if the county didn’t mind waiting for another erosion survey of the beaches.

“We might be able to get a maximum of 20 percent of the renourishment fund for a recreational fishing pier if a new study shows the old pier helped retain some sand, but that’s about the max,” Hunsicker said.

Because the previous beach erosion study done by Coastal Planning and Engineering was inconclusive as to whether the old pier helped keep sand on the beach, the DEP will require a new study before authorizing an erosion control structure.

Rick Spadoni of Coastal Planning said if the county wants a groin at Manatee Public Beach, it should conduct beach erosion studies in late spring or early summer of 2012 after the current Coquina Beach renourishment project is completed.

LOTTO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lottery tickets and cash winnings from the winners.”

She was taken to the Manatee County jail. According to the jail website, she was released on \$1,000 bond Feb. 2.

An arraignment is set for March 2 before Judge Janette Dunnigan in the Manatee County Judicial Center, 1051 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton.

VOTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vote with Rick Santorum garnering 16 percent county-wide.

In polling precincts across the state, Romney won Florida by 18 percentage points over Gingrich, but the percentage was higher within the county, with Romney winning by 21 percent.

In 2008, there were only 97 Anna Maria Republicans who participated in the GOP primary, but of the 473 registered voters, 221 participated in this year’s election, more than a 46 percent voter turnout.

Holmes Beach is the only city on the Island with two precincts and boasts the highest number of registered Republican voters. In 2008, 306 voters participated in the primary election, but this year 740 out of more than 1,300 registered GOP voters cast their ballots for an impressive primary turnout of over 56 percent.

There were 141 votes cast in Bradenton Beach during the 2008 primary election. During this year’s primary, only 124 out of 364 registered voters participated in the election for a 34 percent turnout.

Recent U.S. Census population trends have showed a decline in permanent Island residents. One of the indicators of the decline is a drop in voter registration, but two of the three Island cities had significantly more participation in this election cycle than in 2008.

Upon conclusion of that project, Coastal would then resurvey the same area over a two-year period for comparison to the mid-2012 study, Spadoni said.

However, he added, “Such a pier would not be accessible by the public,” because erosion control would be its primary purpose, similar to the groins at Coquina Beach.

Hunsicker said, however, it would be almost impossible to keep people off a flat-top groin, but the county could not state it’s availability for public use.

Presently, he said, there is no county money available for even a matching grant from the state to build a 312-foot-long recreational pier, the same length as the previous pier.

Manatee County Commissioner Carol Whitmore, however, said she wants a recreational pier and will continue to search for funding.

An Island resident and former Holmes Beach mayor and city commissioner, Whitmore said the Island “was promised a new pier when the old one was torn down. It’s (been) almost three years now.”

In 2009, Hunsicker presented a plan for a 700-foot-long replacement pier with handicap access built on pilings about 18 feet above the water. Such a pier would have cost about \$2.5 million, he estimated at that time.

The county commission approved the 700-foot-pier plan in 2009, but has not included the project in any budget cycle.

Spadoni said the county should hold off on making a quick decision for a recreational pier or erosion control groin.

“Wait until the results of the 2012 (erosion) study are obtained and evaluated,” he said, although he agreed the final decision is up to the county commission.

“If the county wishes to replace the pier at this time for recreational value, (it) has the regulatory approvals and the plans for the 312-foot-long pier and could proceed forward with the construction,” Spadoni said.

Although she favors a recreational pier, Whitmore suggested if the county approves a groin, it might later be remodeled for public use.

Hunsicker said the only state source he knows for recreational pier construction funding is a matching grant program. He said he is unaware of any available federal funds for a recreational pier.



The Manatee Public Beach pier demolition, which was completed in early 2011, followed closure in 2009 due to unsafe conditions. The county commission has approved a new pier, but has not yet funded the project. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

Pier attraction

Would a recreational pier at Manatee Public Beach attract anglers and visitors?

While some county commissioners and members of the public might wonder if a new pier is worth the cost, people — visitors and locals — appear to enjoy the area piers.

Visitors to the area ranked the Anna Maria City Pier as Manatee County’s No. 1 tourist attraction in the December 2010 tourism survey by the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the most recent BACVB survey to rank area attractions.

In the same survey, the Rod & Reel Pier in Anna Maria was ranked as the No. 3 county attraction — following shopping at the Ellenton outlet mall — and the Historic Bridge Street Pier was No. 9.

In the December 2010 survey, which included an overview of fourth quarter tourism, 35 percent of visitors rated the Anna Maria City Pier the best county attraction. Based on the number of visitors to the area during the fourth quarter, an estimated 40,000 people would have visited the pier during the three-month period.

The BACVB has since discontinued the practice of surveying visitors on their favorite attractions.

LOTTO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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**Holmes Beach GOP voters**

Sandy and Danny Moses of Holmes Beach stop outside the poll with poll worker Earl Hunt after voting in the Republican primary election Jan. 31 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive. Islander Photo: Kathy Prucnell

‘Strong’ turnout

Voter turnout in Anna Maria for Florida’s Jan. 31 Republican primary election was “strong” throughout the day, said election deputy Janet Barnhart, shown here opening the door of the Roser Memorial Community Church polling station for voter Tom Chaya. Of Anna Maria’s 604 registered Republicans, 56.6 percent — 342 — cast a ballot, compared with 44 percent countywide, according to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections website. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

**Meetings****Anna Maria City**

- Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m., EEEEC.
- Feb. 9, 6 p.m., city commission work session.
- Feb. 23, 6 p.m., city commission regular meeting.

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

Bradenton Beach

- Feb. 16, 1 p.m., city commission meeting.
- Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 941-778-1005, www.cityofbradentonbeach.org.

Holmes Beach

- Feb. 8, 9 a.m. permitting focus group meeting.
 - Feb. 23, board of adjustment meeting.
 - Feb. 28, 7 p.m., city commission meeting.
- Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 941-708-5800, www.holmesbeachfl.org.

West Manatee Fire Rescue District

- Feb. 16, 6 p.m., commission meeting.
- WMFR administration building, 6417 Third Ave. W., Bradenton, 941-761-1555, www.wmfr.org.

Manatee County

- Feb. 2, 9 a.m., land-use meeting.
 - Feb. 7, 9 a.m., county commission meeting.
- Administration building, 1112 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, 941-748-4501, mymanatee.org.

Of Interest

- Feb. 15, 2 p.m., Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials meeting, Holmes Beach City Hall.
 - Feb. 15, 1 p.m., newsrack meeting, Bradenton Beach City Hall.
 - Feb. 20, President’s Day holiday.
- Send notices to news@islander.org.

HB residents to commission: Take me out to the dog park

By Kathy Prucnell
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach Commission Chair David Zaccagnino told attendees at the Jan. 31 commission work session he's "very adamant" that future dog park use be separate from ball park use at the city's Birdie Tebbetts Field.

Zaccagnino shared his ideas to encourage more ball park use, including Little League, kickball, father-pitch and softball. He proposed a new fence to separate a reduced ball field and an area for dog owners, with the square footage in the areas being roughly equal. The size of the ball park discourages use, he said.

Zaccagnino described the field as "larger than Fenway Park," and said he believes that is "why it doesn't get used."

"It would be a shame to lose the baseball field," he said. "And the dog owners deserve an area, too," he added.

Some 30 to 50 dog owners use the ball park daily to exercise their pets.

At a Jan. 17 work session, several dog owners requested sign changes, and also asked commissioners to consider eliminating the ball field if its use continues to wane. Organized baseball has not been scheduled on the field for about three years.

Zaccagnino said he spoke to Joe Duennes, public works superintendent, and Scott Dell, assistant director of the Anna Maria Island Community Center, who were involved with the original planning of Tebbetts Field. They are willing to work on reconfiguring the field, Zaccagnino said.

"I particularly like the idea," Commissioner John Monetti said. "I didn't know why I couldn't hit a home run."

Dog owners, however, had different views. "In theory it sounds good," said Socko Pearson who uses the field regularly to exercise his dogs. He added, however, such a re-design is unnecessary considering the unlikely interference of casual ball players and dog owners. "Little kids can't hit," he said, and the dog people just move to the outfield if someone wants to share the field for batting practice. He noted that Zaccagnino's plan could result in



Holmes Beach Commission Chair David Zaccagnino explains at a Jan. 31 work session his idea to redesign Birdie Tebbetts Field, including a smaller ball field and a separate area for dogs.

greater safety concerns if ball players hit home runs on the smaller field into the dog park area.

"If it's not broke, let's not fix it," said Renee Ferguson. "Unless a dad comes to throw us off the field, there's no real problem with the shared use."

She said the field is not being used as a ball park, and questioned the money being spent by the city on fertilizers, mowing, grading and raking the field. "I don't know what those numbers are."

Zaccagnino pointed out there are costs to the dog use, including seeding and repairing holes, and the dog bags and waste receptacle.

He also noted the city's discussion of the dog park/ball park issue has attracted recent ball field users. "Because of this issue, our park is being discovered," he said.

More casual players have been noticed at the field, according to Commissioner Sandy Haas-Martens. Mayor Rich Bohnenberger said a charity softball game has requested use of the field Feb. 18.

Dog owners then brought the focus back to their immediate concerns relating to a sign change.

Commissioners arrived at a consensus to remove the sign that reads: "This field for baseball/softball only, all other activities use soccer field" and to leave the sign "No dogs permitted during ball playing activities."

Commissioner Jean Peelen remarked "that's the problem (the dog owners) brought to us and we're leaving them with it."

"A new sign that requires ball park use sign-up is being prepared," the mayor said.

"For those looking to schedule a ball game," Zaccagnino said, "the sign will direct them to city hall."

Resident and dog park proponent Forrest Longworth Jr. agreed with Zaccagnino on separating dogs and ball players, but had more immediate concerns with the signs and casual use of the field by a few ball players ousting large numbers of people exercising their dogs.

He provided commissioners with copies of a news article about a town in Idaho that had faced a similar issue at a ball field "that had been all but abandoned over the years." That city turned its ballpark into a multi-use park, including a dog recreation area.

Longworth also noted what appeared to be a less than coincidental influx of youths to toss a football or take batting practice in the past week.

"I think we have an issue with non-Islanders who want to use the ball field," Longworth said after the meeting. "I have a problem with ball players who don't live here telling us not to use the field."

One day last week a group of parents and ball players arrived at the field saying they were from G.T. Bray (park in the Bradenton), Pearson said.

Anna Maria
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Special thanks to AMI Beach Cafe for hosting and providing champagne.

Feb. 1 visitors check in, others find Island booked up

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Island residents wondering why traffic on Manatee Avenue coming to the Island was backed up from the Gulf Drive-East Bay Drive intersection to 75th Street in Bradenton Feb. 1 had only to look at the calendar for a reason.

Wednesday, Feb. 1, was the start of the “high season,” said Jason Sato of Sato Real Estate, Anna Maria.

Unfortunately, a few visitors came to Anna Maria Island without a reservation, probably thinking it would be easy to find a rental, he observed.

It wasn’t.

“We’ve had all our three-month rentals booked for several months,” he said.

“There are a few open weeks here and there, but I was surprised at the number of walk-ins we had to turn away last week. They wanted three months on the Island and we just didn’t have any more.”

He’s advising people who want to come to Anna Maria Island next year to make their reservation now.

Likewise, Nicole Skaggs of Big Fish Realty, Holmes Beach, was deluged with phone calls and walk-in traffic Feb. 1.

“I couldn’t believe the number of people without a reservation, looking to rent for three months,” she said.

One family of seven told her they didn’t think it would be hard on a small island like Anna Maria to find a rental.

“I was the sixth agent they had visited that day and I

couldn’t help them with anything more than a few weeks at one unit, then moving to another and so on. It’s high season and it looks like it’s going to be one of the best ever.”

At AMI Accommodations, Anna Maria and Holmes Beach, rental agent Rebecca Barnett also said there wasn’t much available for the next three months among the more than 200-plus units the agency manages.

All we can do for a long-term stay, is move people a week at a time from one short vacancy to another, she said.

She and other agents fielded calls all last week from visitors who came to the Island without a reservation.

“I was sorry to disappoint them, but we’ve been

booked full for several months,” Barnett said.

Barnett said she can accommodate a one- or two-week stay, but someone looking for three months would have to move from place to place.

Larry Chatt, vice president of Island Real Estate in Holmes Beach and Anna Maria, said the season looks to be “the best ever.” Although the company manages more than 275 units, quite a few walk-in visitors last week looking for a lengthy stay couldn’t be accommodated.

Chatt said every rental property he manages is reserved March 31, the week before Easter.

He said it’s hard to believe that about five years ago, a visitor could walk into his office on Feb. 1 and get a two-or-three month rental unit with no problem.

The Island is no longer the “land that time forgot,” said AMI Chamber president Mary Ann Brockman.

“Just the other day, there was a story about the Island in the *New York Post*. We’ve been featured in major newspapers and magazines across the country and in Europe,” the past few years, she said.

Chatt said he lives on the Island and believes in his community. He’s pleased that tourism continues on the upswing, and at the same time wants to ensure that future arrivals understand the Island’s reputation, ambiance and local population.

He’s searching for the right balance to “keep the Island special.”

The vast majority of visitors enjoy their Island stay, respect the Island and plan to return, he observed. And residents welcome such visitors.

Chamber clearing house

For anyone coming to Anna Maria Island for a winter vacation — or already here — who doesn’t have accommodations, the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, maintains a registry of available rentals among its membership.

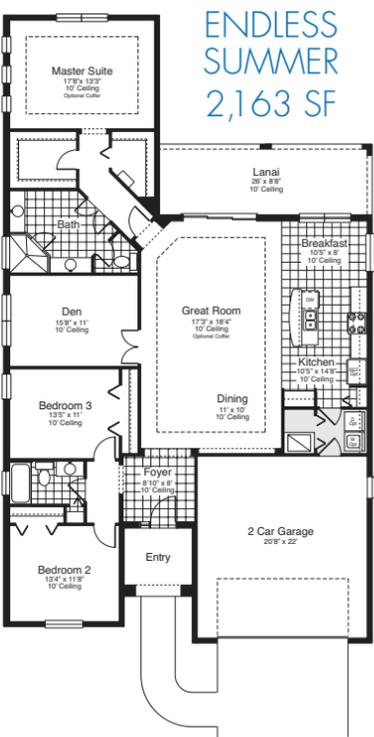
Chamber president Mary Ann Brockman said people in need of a reservation should call or stop by the chamber office to check the list and get the latest information about unit availability.

The chamber can be reached at 941-778-1541.



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Our Opinion

Promises to keep

You've likely heard a few promises in your lifetime.

But you have to witness the Promise Day event on Valentine's Day on the white sandy beach at the Manatee Public Beach and at Anna Maria Island Cafe on the Beach as the sun turns colors of sherbert and heads to the horizon for its finale to see what a promise to "love and cherish" really entails.

The couples who have joined this endearing event for the past few years have come with love in their hearts and a joyous spirit. They join the reception, meet other couples, bring friends (aka witnesses) and they celebrate.

Think "love boat," and you get the idea. Fun. Loving. Carefree spirits.

They come out of love for each other and it spreads across the sands to all the cafe guests.

Thanks to our hosts, there's a reception complete with a champagne toast and entertainment. *The Islander* provides the master of ceremonies, a wedding cake and Promise Day certificates for all participating couples.

The \$10 cost will benefit a local nonprofit supported by *The Islander*, the Ministry of Presence, which provides aid and support to needy children in Haiti.

Join us at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Valentine's Day for the promise of sunset and love in the air.

Come, renew your promise on the beach.

AMI is for lovers....

No room at the inn

Islanders caught driving into or from town — Bradenton — Feb. 1- Feb. 4, saw the results of an influx of visitors arriving to their February vacation homes on Anna Maria Island.

And how. It's hard to remember a month with so many visitors arriving at once. A manager at Publix remarked their sales were up 10-12 percent from the same time last year, and the aisles and lanes were packed as further evidence — it's season.

And while we can hardly imagine anyone arriving without an accommodation, that's what happened.

So it's time to dig in. As longtime Islanders know, when season arrives in force, it's time to walk, ride bicycles, car pool or hop on the trolley to get to destinations. And avoid peak shopping hours at Publix — which means line up at the doors when they open.

You asked for it. It's here.

Hurray for winter friends.

Who doesn't love Anna Maria Island?



Your Opinion

Tip of my hat

As the 40th year of the Privateers celebration has come to an end, I want to personally thank all the residents, businesses, groups, government officials, media, friends of the Privateers and members — past and present — of the Privateers who helped celebrate.

I'll not be naming names because I know I would forget one or two, but you all know who you are and what you have done to support the mission of the Privateers for "kids and community."

When I took on the chairman position this past year, I had a personal goal of raising \$40,000 in honor of our 40 years. I am happy to announce that with all the events, outstanding support of my fellow pirates and the community, we raised just a tad over \$47,000.

A tip of me old pirate hat to each and every one of you.

I'm looking forward to another 40 years on this great Island, Anna Maria. Thank you all.

Tim "Hammer" Thompson, Privateers 40th anniversary chairman

Do officials care about voters?

After vacationing and renting on Anna Maria Island for many years, I bought a home in a quiet, residential area — well, at least it was quiet until recently.

Sixty-sixth Street was a residential street until two six-bedroom homes replaced a small duplex next door to me. We all know the builder of these homes doesn't care about changing a residential street to a commercial rental street. But shouldn't our mayor and commissioners care? Shouldn't they care about the reputation of the Island changing from Old Florida paradise to loud party Island?

For the past few months I have endured building noises and more. Construction crews park in front of my mailbox so mail is not delivered. The final straw was last week when I couldn't even get into my garage — a construction boss was parked in my driveway.

Since the developers and construction crews are without manners and break rules, shouldn't the mayor and commissioners care about the residents who voted them into office?

I used to look forward to spring, when my family and friends would visit. Now I know I will be embarrassed by the loud crowds next door partying until all hours and, 10-12 people in each of two houses playing in and around the pools all day. There goes our residential paradise.

Something needs to change in our building codes.

I call for a moratorium on the monstrous rental homes that are now being built.

Judy Ward, Holmes Beach

Invite to Suhre

I read with interest the article in the Jan. 25 edition of *The Islander*, relative to the beach market at the Gulf Drive Cafe.

Of particular interest were the comments made by Eileen Suhre, who made reference to the "Bridge Street drunks."

I am proud to patronize the Bridge Street merchants. Suhre might well be surprised to learn of some of the gestures put forward by the "drunks."

These include, but are not limited to:

- Raising money for Backpacks for Hungry Tum-mies.

- Holding a spaghetti dinner and fundraiser to send a deserving young student to Australia.

- Donating clothing, personal grooming items, under garments, books and more to veterans.

Come down to Bridge Street Mrs. Suhre, you might enjoy it.

Cathy Mitchell, Cortez

The Islander
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Sunset event 'promises' to top Valentine's Day gift list

What could be more endearing to your loved one than an evening on the white, sandy beach at sunset and a promise to love one another.

How about a glass of champagne? A taste of wedding cake? A reception with music, entertainment, and a toast to your lives together?

The Islander and Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe will host a Valentine's Day celebration — Islander Promise Day — to share vows, make new commitments, start anew, and promise "to love and cherish one another."

Couples are invited to marry, commit or recommit in a mass ceremony set to take place at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe at the Manatee Public Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

A Promise Day certificate and reception are included for a \$10 donation. A licensed marriage certificate, which requires a pre-approved county marriage license, costs \$25.

The reception, following the 5:30 promise cer-

emony on the sand, will include a champagne toast and wedding cake. Registration for the event begins at 5 p.m. on the cafe patio.

Proceeds are donated to a local nonprofit.

Pre-registration and requests for information can be made by e-mail to promises@islander.org, or call The Islander at 941-778-7978.



2011 Promise Day — one of many happy couples.



The Islander 10 years ago

Headline news from the Feb. 8, 2002, issue of *The Islander*

- Anna Maria Mayor Gary Deffenbaugh and supervisor of public works George McKay talked with Manatee County officials about returning management of Bayfront Park to the city, as well as needed improvements. Manatee County parks supervisor Cindi Turner said the county would spend \$38,000 for labor and maintenance on the park during fiscal year 2001-02. McKay also said the county was willing to return the park to the city, but he was concerned about funding.

- A study on the state of the Anna Maria Island Bridge, linking Holmes Beach to Perico Island, was ongoing by transportation officials. Ben Walker of the Florida Department of Transportation said results would come soon, and a new structure would be a last resort.

- Southwest Florida Water Management District officials refused to approve a plan to provide stormwater improvements to 49th and 52nd streets in Holmes Beach until the city's engineering firm provided independent calculations to back them up. Joe Duennes, superintendent of public works, said he believed Swiftmud was hesitant due to a backlash in communities where similar projects had yielded only 4-inch reductions in standing water.

TEMPS AND DROPS ON AMI

Date	Low	High	Rainfall
Jan. 29	56	76	0
Jan. 30	52	77	0
Jan. 31	55	81	0
Feb. 1	58	80	0
Feb. 2	57	79	0
Feb. 3	63	76	0
Feb. 4	63	85	0

Average area Gulf water temperature 70.9°
24-hour rainfall accumulation with reading at approximately 5 p.m. daily.

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HB questions BB attorney claims, 27th Street collateral

By Kathy Prucnell
Islander Reporter

Some Holmes Beach commissioners and the city attorney found fault at their Jan. 31 commission meeting with recent comments made by Bradenton Beach's city attorney.

They questioned the claim that the Sandpiper Resort's mortgage financing includes the 27th Street property between the cities that is the subject of an ongoing border dispute.

And contrary to Bradenton Beach's city attorney Ricinda Perry's statement last month that Sandpiper's bank will not release its collateral without a court order, Holmes Beach attorney Patty Petruff said the bank is now investigating the claims of Holmes Beach.

"I don't think it has a mortgage over 27th Street," said Commission Chair David Zaccagnino of Cadence Bank's financing of Sandpiper's 2008 improvements.

When the quitclaim deed was made in 2008, it was reportedly to clear up encroachments needed to approve financing of planned improvements at Sandpiper.

However, Zaccagnino pointed out, Bradenton Beach's quitclaim of the disputed property to Sandpiper Resort Co-op Inc. occurred six months after the mortgage was recorded.

The property is an unimproved 50-foot-wide, approximately 1,000-foot-long stretch of 27th Street from Gulf Drive to Sarasota Bay with the Sandpiper mobile homes on one side, and Holmes Beach residences on the other.

Zaccagnino said the Bradenton Beach attorney "was blowing smoke at the last meeting."

"I don't know if it is subject to the mortgage," said Petruff. "But assuming it is," she said, "the bank will not take any action" if the Sandpiper deeds back part of the property to settle the dispute, as has been proposed by Holmes Beach.

"When (the Cadence Bank attorney) wrote the letter, it was done without any research on the issue," Petruff said. "I advised (him) of my opinion and the county attorney's opinion."

Petruff said she thought "he might consider a release."



A fence at the Sandpiper Resort mobile home park on the border between Holmes Beach and Bradenton Beach sparked the debate over the 27th Street right of way. *Islander File Photo: Rick Catlin*

The dispute stems from the Holmes Beach claim that Bradenton Beach improperly deeded the street to Sandpiper without properly vacating the right of way three years ago.

In October, Holmes Beach invoked a conflict dispute resolution process — required before one municipality sues another — on learning Sandpiper had erected a fence and locked gates, and posted signs to limit public access to the mobile home park.

Perry's Jan. 19 comments about the bank declining to release its collateral were made at the resolution meeting of the two city commissions. That meeting was continued to Feb. 7 because it lacked a quorum of decision-makers.

"I think there is no purpose served in having (the Feb 7) meeting. The city of Bradenton Beach can't solve the situation," Zaccagnino said.

A consensus of commissioners directed Petruff to seek a 30-day postponement on the meeting.

Sandpiper could resolve the matter by deeding it back, but Bradenton Beach can't force this, according to Petruff.

Bradenton Beach has not had a quorum of voting members on their commission until the recent appointment of Ric Gatehouse. And Perry's position is that Holmes Beach does not have standing to assert its claim.

Petruff, however, says Holmes Beach has standing by virtue of shared utilities on the right of way. And, according to Petruff, "a dedicated public street is held in trust for the public."

Holmes Beach sought to resolve the matter with a Dec. 16 settlement proposal that asked Bradenton Beach to request the Sandpiper quitclaim back 30 feet of the 50-foot-wide right of way; dismantle gates and remove signs to restore public access.

At the previous meeting, Perry advised Bradenton Beach was not in a position to request the quitclaim deed from the Sandpiper and implied that the dispute would widen if that settlement was pursued.

Perry advised commissioners from the two cities at the joint meeting that Cadence Bank would not agree to a "partial quitclaim" because such an action could require notice to the FDIC and the mortgage holder's title insurer.

The letter Perry referenced at the joint meeting — but did not provide to the Holmes Beach Commission — was from William C. Robinson Jr.

In the letter, Robinson states, "At the time the bank made the loan to Sandpiper, the underwriting appraisal and loan review process was based upon ownership of the entire property."

Cadence Bank holds Sandpiper's note and mortgage for \$6 million in improvements, according to the Manatee County records, but whether the collateral includes the 50-foot-wide right of way is unclear.

"For the bank to thoroughly review this request," Robinson's letter said, (it) would require a current appraisal, revised survey and updated title search. He also said his firm would need to "fully research and review the validity of the claims made by the city of Holmes Beach."

As to the Holmes Beach proposed settlement, Robinson said it would involve the title insurance company. "In any respect, the bank is not comfortable releasing its collateral."

Robinson said Sandpiper and the cities could negotiate a settlement that would allow the bank to remain "in priority position" as the "best alternative."

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New Coquina Beach concession opening delayed to April

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

Recent warm winter weather caused an eruption of multi-colored beach umbrellas to suddenly blossom across the white sands of Coquina Beach, a reminder that peak beach season is not far away.

Hopes were high to have the renovated Coquina Beach concession building in Bradenton Beach open by the end of January to greet beachgoers through the tourist season. However, ongoing renovations to the 40-year-old structure and a need to train staff has pushed the grand opening back to early April.

According to Manatee County Parks and Recreation Department director Cindy Turner, the bulk of the renovation has been completed.

Turner said the county has invested \$350,000 in capital improvement funds to modernize the building with an additional \$110,000 being funded by United Parks Service Inc., the agency which is doing the interior work.

“All of the \$110,000-plus in improvements purchased by UPS will become property of the county once a certificate of occupancy has been issued,” said Turner who noted the county is overseeing the construction progress. “UPS tells us that they should be ready for a grand opening celebration by early April.”

Modernizing the 40-year-old building has been a significant effort, according to Turner, who said both the floor and roof were raised 18 inches.

Improvements also include a new state-of-the-art



Beachgoers dot the white sands of Coquina Beach during the recent warm winter weather. The Coquina Beach concession building remains closed, although food and refreshments are being sold from a vendor truck in the interim. Plans are to open in April. *Islander* Photo: Mark Young

metal roof, storm-resistant windows, stainless steel countertops, new air conditioning and new electrical wiring.

Other new features include a wood serving deck, unisex bathroom, and new tables, chairs and umbrellas. The interior was basically gutted, and all new cooking and serving equipment is being installed, said Turner, who noted that minor work and the issuance of the certificate of occupancy is the only delay.

“(UPS) wants at least 30 days after getting the certificate of occupancy and to complete their finish work for an operational shakedown that will allow staff to get used to the new equipment, structure and point-of-sales system,” said Turner.

Turner expects the certificate of occupancy to be issued by March, at which time staff will begin their training in anticipation of peak tourist season, which begins in the weeks before Easter.

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What's next for Bradenton Beach city pier?

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

The Historic Bridge Street Pier is now officially debt free, following final payment in January on a \$2.2 million loan undertaken by the city of Bradenton Beach.

The loan was used to repair the pier following damage incurred during the 2006 hurricane season.

Officials now are looking to the future and further repairs to the pier that were not necessarily storm-related. That direction was discussed during the monthly city pier meeting at Bradenton Beach city hall, 107 Gulf Drive N.

Bradenton Beach Police Chief Sam Speciale chairs the city pier committee, and looked to its members for the next step in pier renovations.

"We have a major issue coming up now that the pier loan is paid off," said Speciale. "We are getting ready to go into our next phase of addressing pier structure. The issue was brought to the (Capital Improvement Projects) committee, and they said this committee should figure out the scope of where to go and bring it to the commission from there."

The city pier committee discussed priorities and possible costs. Speciale said work needs to be done on the pier decking, but the pilings near the restaurant "are in bad shape," he said.

"Our main objective is to find out how broad of a scope are we going to do, and cost will obviously be a factor," he said. "Are we going to do the whole top structure of the pier?"

Speciale said the city received a price quote two years ago that estimated the cost at \$416,000 to replace

the decking with new wood, or \$529,000 for composite materials.

"One of the things we need to figure out is how much funds we have and what we can do with that," said Speciale.

While new decking is a priority, it's more important to address the pilings, Speciale said. He said the city had a choice in choosing wood, concrete or composite, but "We know we definitely need to do the pilings."

Bradenton Beach building official Steve Gilbert raised concerns about work on the top of the pier before the pilings are done.

"That's what we have to decide as a committee," said Speciale. "When the restaurant was done, they went past the area where we put the wood deck, and about five pilings after that, they didn't want to touch them because they were so bad."

An option to possibly sleeve the pilings in epoxy was discussed.

"I don't know if (the pilings) are in good enough shape to do that," said Gilbert.

Speciale said saltwater has penetrated cracks in the pilings and rusted the rebar. He said the priority should be the pilings.

"What's the point of putting a half million dollars worth of decking in, when we need to change the pilings out? So we need to look at prioritizing," said Speciale.

Gilbert said the city should remember that whatever decision is made, the pier is not insurable and the city would incur future repair costs.

"It's over state-owned water, so it's not insurable,"

he said. "One of the things we need to think about is what we can afford to replace if a storm comes through. Maybe this is an opportunity to look at a scaled back version of what we have now."

Gilbert said costs could be lowered considerably by shaving the width of the pier by a couple of feet.

Since any funding for a pier project would have to first be approved by the Community Redevelopment Agency committee, the city pier committee agreed the best step forward was to schedule a joint meeting with the CRA, city commission, and the city pier and CIP committees.

"We can either do it during one of their scheduled meetings or one of ours," said Speciale. "We'll do a one-agenda item meeting and just knock it out so we can get a scope of what we need to do."

Island roadwatch, Feb. 8-15

A Florida Department of Transportation ban on over-size vehicles using the Longboat Pass Bridge/State Road 789 remains in effect this week.

The ban went into effect as part of a DOT bridge maintenance and repair project that required travel lanes to be reduced in width from 12 feet to 10 feet.

Crews will be working day and night operations until Feb. 10.

A DOT press release said any necessary lane closures will occur 10 p.m.-6 a.m., and a flagging operation will direct traffic during closures. No lane closures are planned from 6 a.m. Friday to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Motorists should observe the 35-mph speed limit in effect during construction. The normal speed limit on the bridge is 45 mph.

The draw will continue to open for boaters on demand.

Completion of the project is expected in late April or early May, according to the DOT.

In Holmes Beach, drainage repairs and improvements along the west side of Marina Drive and on adjoining streets from 60th Street to 79th Street west to Gulf Drive will continue for several months.

The DOT plans intermittent westbound lane closures at night on State Road 684/Cortez Road beginning Feb. 6 from 127th Street West to 51st Street West for repair and replacement of drainage inlets and pipes.

All work is scheduled 8:30 p.m.-6 a.m. weekdays, and the project should finish by April 30, the DOT said.

Friends finale

Friends of the Island Branch Library welcomed buyers to their book sale Feb. 4 at the library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. The sale was likely the last such event, with waning volunteers and lacking a storage facility to hold books donated to the group. Organizer Joan Pettigrew said remaining inventory would be donated to other nonprofits. *Islander Photo: Bonner Joy*



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Streetlife

Island police blotter

Anna Maria

• Jan. 27, 9801 Gulf Drive, Three Island Monkeys, information. Two men entered a business seeking donations for a drug rehabilitation program. A deputy informed the leader of the program that solicitors must register with city hall before soliciting.

• Jan. 28, 100 block of South Bay Boulevard, found property. A wallet was found and placed into evidence.

• Jan. 30, 8700 block of Gulf Drive, criminal mischief. A driver reported that when he attempted to pass a jogger on the roadway, the jogger struck his vehicle's side mirror with a hard object causing minor damage.

• Feb. 1, 600 block of Fern Street, theft. A bicycle was reportedly stolen from the property.

• Feb. 5, 200 block of Cypress Avenue, burglary. Antiques and items valued at more than \$10,000 were reported stolen from a residence sometime since December.

Anna Maria is policed by the MCSO.

Bradenton Beach

• Jan. 25, 100 block of Seventh Street, vehicle burglary. A complainant reported a global positioning system valued at \$150 stolen from a vehicle between Jan. 23 and the next morning.

• Jan. 30, 1100 Gulf Drive N., Queens Gate Resort, burglary. A property manager reported someone entered the resort office through a window during the night, broke into the washing machine and stole an unknown amount of money from its box and a bag of keys to resort rooms valued at \$150. The manager told police a suspicious-looking man was in the office earlier that day, sat near the front window, and asked if the resort had a vacancy and left in an old car.

• Feb. 1, 402 Church Ave., Bradenton Beach Marina, theft. A recovery agent for a repossession company reported a stainless steel steering wheel, valued at \$250, was taken from a repossessed boat sometime between Jan. 5 and Feb. 1.

Bradenton Beach is policed by the BBPD.

Cortez

• No reports.

Cortez is policed by the MCSO

Holmes Beach

• Jan. 29, 3700 block of Gulf Drive, theft. A bike was reported stolen, and returned. Police initially responded to a report that two bicycles had been stripped off of a water pipe at a condo building. The complainant said they had been locked to the pipe the day before, and when he returned the next morning, he found one of the two bicycles, a 26" red men's La Jolla beach cruiser valued

State adds new charge against Leonard

A new armed burglary arrest warrant was issued Jan. 25 by the Clerk of Court of Manatee County against Charles H. Leonard, 19, of Bradenton. Leonard was charged in multiple burglaries and stolen vehicle cases after leading three area law enforcement departments on an early morning search through Cortez in December.



Leonard

The new warrant is in addition to 18 counts of unarmed burglaries to unoccupied vehicles following Leonard's Dec. 19 arrest by the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. Bond is set for the new charge at \$10,000.

Also on Jan. 25, 12th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Janette Dunnigan reduced Leonard's bond on the burglary charges from \$90,000 to \$900, according to court records. The public defender's office,

at \$120, missing.

Police report that it appeared the bikes were stripped off the pipe and locks strewn on the ground. The complainant told police he found a note lying next to the lock that may have said: "I'm the guy" and gave a number for a bicycle store. Police reported they called the number, which was listed as a bike store, but no one answered. On Feb. 1, the complainant reported the missing bike had been returned.

• Jan. 29, 500 block of 75th Street, theft. A renter reported the Jan. 21 theft of his gun. He told police he left his luggage on the back porch of the residence when he first arrived, and then went to a store for about two hours. His landlord and another man were outside working on a boat, and he had asked the landlord if he could leave his luggage on the porch. When he returned and looked through luggage, he discovered the missing gun, a Colt-government model .380, a magazine and pistol case, valued at \$925. The renter said he didn't make the police report until a week later because he didn't have his serial number. Police did not take fingerprint evidence because the renter's luggage was out of town.

• Jan. 31, 8100 block of Gulf Drive, burglary. Two televisions, valued at \$1,700, and two wooden folding chairs were taken from a residence, according to its housekeeper. Police report that the television sets and mounts were pulled out of the wall. The housekeeper told police a painter hired by the owner also had been in the house. Police tried to contact the owner, but couldn't reach him.

Holmes Beach is policed by the HBPD.

Streetlife is based on reports from law enforcement.

appointed to represent Leonard, claimed the prosecution failed to formally charge the defendant on the burglaries within 30 days of his arrest, and sought his release.

Regardless of the bond reduction, Leonard is being held in jail without bond on a parole violation. According to prosecutor Pamela Buha, Leonard will not be released until the court modifies the parole violation order.

In addition, still active against the defendant is \$55,000 in bond on grand theft charges stemming from the Dec. 19 charges and prior incidents involving stolen vehicles, according to the Manatee County jail website.

Buha said formal charges have been filed in some of the cases but, in others, the state is still investigating. Asked about the defense motion and bond reduction order, Buha said the defense was "doing their job."

Leonard's arrest involved several units of the sheriff's office, a helicopter and K-9 unit, and Bradenton and Palmetto police departments.

According to sheriff's office reports, a small handgun was found inside the stolen vehicle Leonard had been seen driving through Cortez. After the arrest, he admitted to stealing the car and other vehicles and confessed to numerous burglaries that day and on prior dates, the reports said.

According to court records, Leonard was on probation when he was arrested Dec. 19. The probation stemmed from a previous conviction, which also involved a stolen car and police chase in August 2010. That probation was conditioned on Leonard not violating the law.

On Jan. 5, his bond was revoked due to the Cortez incidents, as well as three other violations in November and December, all involving stolen vehicles, according to affidavits by an officer the Florida Department of Corrections.

Leonard's arraignment date on the new armed burglary warrant is scheduled for 8:55 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at the Manatee County Judicial Center, 1051 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton.

Island watch

To report information on a felony crime, call Manatee County Crime Stoppers at 866-634-TIPS.

To report information on an Island crime, call the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Anna Maria station, 941-708-8899; Bradenton Beach police, 941-778-6311; Holmes Beach police, 941-708-5807.

Regardless of location, in the event of an emergency, call 911.

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Island happenings

Cortez soon to host 20,000-plus at CCFF

By Thomas Aposporos II
Islander Reporter

Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 18-19, Cortez village will explode with people, music, art, seafood and fun for the 30th annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival. This year's theme is Something's Fishy in Cortez.

The event, once held on crowded streets in the village, now is hosted by the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage alongside the Florida Maritime Museum, the grounds of the FISH Preserve and at John Banyas' waterfront marina, including Cortez Bait & Seafood market and the Cortez Kitchen restaurant, all on 119th Street West.

The festival has roots in the heritage of Cortez, a 100-plus year old commercial fishing village, including 97 historic buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

When the festival first began, organizers expected no more than a few hundred people to show up to their one-day event celebrating the spirit of the village with music, dancing and local seafood. Instead, they received more than 1,000 people.

Today, expectations are higher, to say the least.

Recent years have seen 20,000-25,000 people pour onto the village streets for the festival, which now lasts two days and features a large variety of attractions.

This year, there are 19 local food vendors, local musicians covering many genres, a nautical arts and crafts show, as well as boat rides, marine life exhibits, tours of the FISH Preserve — 95 acres of mangrove wetlands just east of Cortez village — and other attractions.

Though the event has grown since its humble start, it has kept an emphasis on heritage, commercial fishing and the beauty of the area and the bay waters that surround and support both the village and its primary industry — fishing.

Not only can visitors expect an education along with entertainment at the festival, but they can also know that proceeds go to support and enhance the FISH Preserve.

For more information, visit www.cortez-fish.org, and to help at the festival, e-mail Debra Ibasfalean at village-lady27@verizon.net.

Next week: Plan to go, shuttle service, entertainment and more info on the Cortez festival.

Sandpiper club walks to raise funds

The Suncoast Sandpipers Club is holding a fundraising walk along the streets and beach of north Anna Maria Island 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11.

Registration will be held until 11 a.m. at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

The cost to walk is \$2 for participants over the age of 12. A map and directions will be provided for the self-guided routes. Routes are paved, and some beach walking is optional. Wheelchairs and strollers are welcome.

For more information, call Doug Reynolds at 941-794-5094.

Harry's wine tasting to benefit Mote

Harry's Continental Kitchens will host a wine-tasting reception 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, to benefit the animal hospitals at Mote Marine Laboratory.

Admission is \$10 and includes an international selection of wines and an hors d'oeuvre buffet.

The event will be held at Harry's, 5600 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key.

For more information, call 941-383-0777.

Mermaids featured in free art demo

Barbara Hines will demonstrate how to paint mermaids with watercolor 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 11, at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

The event is free and open to the public.

Seating is available on a first-come first-serve basis.

For more information, call the gallery at 941-778-6649.



Something's Fishy comes to Cortez Feb. 18-19. T-shirt sales boost revenue for the FISH Preserve.

Preserve hosts wild romance event

The Manatee County Natural Resources Department will host a "wildly romantic evening" event at Robinson Preserve, 1704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton.

Guests are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day 6-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13, a day early, with a naturalist-led tour and dessert prepared by a local chef.

Hikers will enjoy sunset views from Robinson Preserve's observation tower and learn about the courting strategies of the preserve's resident wildlife.

After the hike, guests will share a campfire dessert.

The Valentine hike is suitable for ages 16 and older and reservations are required.

To make reservations or for more information, call 941-748-4501, ext. 4605.

Kiwanis Club hosts sweetheart band, dance

The Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club will host its annual Big Band Sweetheart Dance 8-11 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

Tickets are \$15 and proceeds benefit the Center. Checks should be made payable to the Center.

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

Pastel artist, exhibit come to gallery

Pastel artist Diane Remington is February's featured artist at the Artists' Guild of Anna Maria Island Gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Remington is a Minnesota transplant who spent much of her career involved with arts and art education. Her more recent work uses elements of the Cape Cod School of Impressionism, featuring landscapes and portraits with vibrant, glowing colors.

An artist's reception will be held at the gallery 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10.

For more information, call the gallery at 941-778-6694.

AMICCO performs 'Mikado'

The Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra will perform Gilbert and Sullivan's opera "The Mikado" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at CrossPointe Fellowship, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. The cost is \$20.

Tickets may be purchased at the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, or online at www.amicco.org.

For additional information, call ticket manager Donna Misner at 941-778-8585.

Valentine giving to ACS

Feeling Swell Surf Bar and Family Restaurant, 9903 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, will host a Valentine's Day event to benefit the American Cancer Society 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14.

The event includes a wine tasting, silent auction, steel drum music by John Moher and the \$10 entry fee will go to the North End Merchants Association Relay for Life fundraising team.

The relay event will be held in May at Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach.

For information, call 941-896-7879.

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Island happenings

Craft show to benefit butterfly park

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

If men really are from Mars and women are from Venus, chances are good that shopping for a gift that says "I love you" isn't a skill taught to young Martians.

As the most romantic day of the year approaches, some men's heartbeats quicken, as random gift ideas flow through anxious minds. Fortunately there is help available to find that perfect gift in the form of the fourth annual Anna Maria Island Butterfly Park Valentines Arts and Crafts Show.

The show will take place on the Holmes Beach city field, 5801 Marina Drive, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 11, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12.

According to butterfly park advocate Nancy Ambrose, the festival was born out of a need to raise money for the park and TNT Events' desire to promote Island festivals.

Ambrose said the festival will include, hand-crafted jewelry, plants, pottery, stained-glass crafts, bath products, purses, apparel and more.

"You can never lose with a great piece of jewelry," said Ambrose. "There will be plenty of other great items for your valentine, as well or just bring your valentine out to the show for a great time and great music."

The music duo of Patchouli, a music duo of Bruce and Julie Patchouli, will once again be entertaining the festival crowd.

"(Patchouli) has a following at our shows and people love to come out and hear their music," said Ambrose. "Everyone is welcome to bring a lawn chair to relax and listen to great music."

Ambrose said to bring an appetite, too. The show will have plenty of food.



A monarch butterfly calls the Anna Maria Island Butterfly Garden home. The Feb. 10-11 craft show planned at the Holmes Beach city field, 5801 Marina Drive, will fund continued improvements at the garden.



Installation of a deck with seating at the Holmes Beach butterfly garden is expected to be done no later than March. The new deck and more plants are possible due to fundraisers like the Feb. 10-11 craft show planned at the Holmes Beach city field, 5801 Marina Drive.

Islander Photos: Mark Young

"We have ordered hundreds of dollars in plants, so the garden will soon be in full bloom again," she said. "We greatly appreciate TNT Events and all they do for the Anna Maria Island Butterfly Park."

Ambrose said hopes are high to have a deck installed in the garden in time for an April arts and crafts show.

Planning for the park included a gazebo, but Ambrose said that goal may have been a lofty one. She said the deck is her alternative plan.

"We had hoped to build a gazebo, but the metal roof and tie downs get very expensive," said Ambrose. "It is a public structure on public property on a barrier island, so you just can't build a cute gazebo."

Ambrose said a deck with seating will provide a place for people to relax and enjoy the garden. More importantly, she said, the funding is in place now to install a deck.

"We are just going to go ahead with funds we have and build a nice deck with seating and it will look nice and finish off the garden," she said.

The butterfly park was established in 1999 by Ambrose and Connie Hodgson, with cooperation from the city of Holmes Beach. It has since been a work in progress.

Funding raised through festivals, donations and brick sales have helped pay for plants and the deck, according to Ambrose. Some proceeds, after expenses, she said, benefit the nonprofit North American Butterfly Association-Manasota Chapter.

While she did not provide an amount of money each festival has raised to benefit the park, Ambrose said it varies depending on the success of the festival and TNT's festival costs.

Theives' Market to feature sweetheart bake sale

The Anna Maria Island Privateers will host its monthly Thieves' Market at Coquina Beach at the southern end of Bradenton Beach, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11.

The Privateers Thieves' Market resembles a flea market, with vendors selling housewares, jewelry, antiques, toys and fresh produce.

This month there will be a bake sale, including a variety of tasty treats for Valentine's Day.

The Privateers ship, "Skullywag," will be on site and Privateers will be selling grilled burgers and hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob for a "buc-an-ear" and John "Redbeard" Swagger will be on hand with his Big John's Famous Barbecue.

To apply for a booth or for more information, call Mary Zuchniewicz at 941-722-3212.

Pirates of Coquina

The Anna Maria Island Privateers Big John "Redbeard" Swagger slices his "Famous Barbecue" at the nonprofit's first-of-the-season Thieves Market at Coquina Beach in November. The market features vendors selling collectibles, housewares, apparel and accessories, as well as the Privateers selling burgers, corn-on-the-cob and baked goods, in addition to barbecue. The next market will be Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Islander Photo: Lisa Neff



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Wednesday, Feb 8

10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. — Annual Wisconsin Day party and potluck lunch at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-746-2018. Fee applies.

11a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Einstein Circle discussion on "Television: How Can it be Improved?" at the Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-359-4296.

1:15 p.m. — Gulf Coast Writers meet at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3209.

Thursday, Feb. 9

2 p.m. — Pam Fortenberry will lecture about dolphins at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

3-5 p.m. — Jazz Fest to benefit the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra featuring the Gulf Drive Band at the Sandbar Restaurant, 100 Spring Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-8585. Fee applies.

8-11 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Kiwanis Club Big Band Dance at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908. Fee applies.

Friday, Feb. 10

4-6 p.m. — Reception for artist Anne Abgott at the Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1906.

5:30-7:30 p.m. — Reception for artist Diane Remington at the Artists' Guild Gallery, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6694.

5:30-7:30 p.m. — Reception for artists Mariarosa and Roger Rockefeller at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6648.

Saturday, Feb. 11

8 a.m.-3 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Privateers Thieves' Market and bake sale at Coquina Beach, Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-722-3212.

9 a.m.-2 p.m. — Suncoast Sandpiper Club fundraising walk starts at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908. Fee applies.

9:30 a.m. — AMIgami, the Island origami club, meets at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

10 a.m.-noon — Barbara Hines demonstrates painting mermaids with watercolors at Island Gallery West, 5368 Gulf Drive,

Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6648.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. — Valentine arts and crafts show to benefit the Anna Maria Island Butterfly Garden at Holmes Beach City Field, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 352-344-0657.

Sunday, Feb. 12

10 a.m.-4 p.m. — Valentine arts and crafts show to benefit the Anna Maria Island Butterfly Garden at Holmes Beach City Field, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 352-344-0657.

2 p.m. — Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra performs "The Mikado" opera at CrossPointe Fellowship, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-8585. Fee applies.

7 p.m. — "Forever Irish" starring Andy Cooney at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-4769. Fee applies.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

5-7 p.m. — The Islander Promise Day event at Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe at the Manatee Public Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-7978.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Noon — Anna Maria Garden Club presents "Caring for Orchids" with Olivia Gruen at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-795-2370.

2 p.m. — Brian Hersh of the Asolo Repertory Theatre will speak at the Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.

Ongoing:

- Saturdays through March 18, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra rehearsals at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-7853.

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

- Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., duplicate bridge games at Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3390.

- Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m., coffee and conversations for seniors at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908.

- First Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m., Pier Regulars meet at the Rod & Reel Pier, 875 N. Shore Drive, Anna Maria.

- Second Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., VFW Post No. 8199 meets at the volunteer fire station, 201 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-778-4400.

- Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m., teens meet at the Anna Maria Island

Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-1908.

- Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., Thirsty Thursday hosted by Bridge Street Merchants on Bridge Street, Bradenton Beach.

- Thursdays through March, Bingo at Annie Silver Community Center, 103 23 St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-778-1915.

- Fridays, Senior Adventures Group meets for outings to various locations. Information: 941-962-8835.

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

- Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Bridge Street Market hosted by Bridge Street Merchants, Bradenton Beach. Information: 215-906-0668.

Off-Island

Friday, Feb. 10

8-10 a.m. — Silent stroll through coastal mangroves at Robinson Preserve, 1704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-742-5757.

Saturday, Feb. 11

9-10:30 a.m. — Sneak peek tour of Neal Preserve, 12301 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-748-4501.

9-11 a.m. — Winter wonder garden tour through DeSoto National Memorial Park, 8250 DeSoto Memorial Highway, Bradenton. Information: 941-722-4524.

7 p.m. — Wine tasting to help fight crime with Manatee Crimestoppers at the Bradenton Country Club, 4646 Ninth Ave. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-792-2732. Fee applies.

Sunday, Feb. 12

10 a.m. — Jazz worship service featuring Al Hixon and his band at Longboat Island Chapel, 6200 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 941-383-6491.

Monday, Feb. 13

6-8 p.m. — Finding romance in nature Valentine's Day event at Robinson Preserve, 1704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton. Information: 941-748-4501.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

4:30-6:30 p.m. — Wine tasting to benefit Mote Marine Laboratory at Harry's Continental Kitchens, 525 St. Judes Drive, Longboat Key. Information: 941-383-0777. Fee applies.

7-8 p.m. — Artinsight-Sarasota artists reception at the Player's Theater, 838 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Information: 941-365-2494.

Coming Up:

- Feb. 18, watercolor seascape demo, Island Gallery West.
- Feb. 18-19, Cortez Fishing Festival.

Save the Date:

- Feb. 25, Memories of Elvis with Billy Lindsey, Anna Maria Island Community Center.

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

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Island traffic signals, traffic to benefit in timing project

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Feb. 1 marked the traditional beginning of the high tourist season on Anna Maria Island, and Holmes Beach traffic was backed up on the Palma Sola Causeway mid-afternoon, past the 75th Street-Manatee Avenue intersection in Bradenton, as visitors flocked to the Island for vacation stays.

The same backup getting to the Island occurs on many summer weekends and holidays.

Those major traffic backups could be improved as the Manatee County traffic engineering department's Automated Traffic Management System gradually becomes operational.

Sage Kamiya, Manatee County's traffic engineering manager, said the Florida Department of Transportation recently funded ATMS with an additional \$900,000 to add 90 signals to the system that already controlled 140 traffic lights.

"The money definitely came from the DOT," Kamiya said. The funds were not from Manatee County, he emphasized.

With the added DOT funding, the four traffic lights on Anna Maria Island will be included in Phase 2 of ATMS project, he said.

However, Kamiya added, it won't happen immediately and motorists should still "expect some delays" on the Island during the tourist season.

The ATMS allows engineers in a control room to monitor traffic by video at each intersection in the computer system. When they spot an intersection backing up in one direction, they'll be able to change the light from red to green longer than the established time.

When the traffic light at Manatee Avenue-East Bay Drive is added, engineers can spot a backup on Manatee Avenue coming from the mainland and adjust the signal to let more traffic onto the Island.

But it's not quite as easy as it sounds, Kamiya said.

Because the Island has only one main north-south road, Kamiya said it makes it difficult to try to move traffic coming onto the Island through one light, only to



The traffic signal at the Manatee Avenue-East Bay Drive intersection in Holmes Beach is scheduled to be included in Manatee County's Automated Traffic Management System that allows traffic engineers to monitor county traffic signals and adjust them to improve traffic flow. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

be confronted by a buildup of vehicles at the next light.

Engineers also must consider traffic at the other signaled intersections on the Island, he said, particularly at Gulf Drive and Manatee Avenue, just west of the Manatee Avenue-East Bay Drive intersection.

Kamiya said engineers don't want to let vehicles go through and just add congestion to a road that's already moving slow, or is stopped.

Engineers will gradually tweak the system to learn what lights should be altered and when. The ATMS computers will indicate when traffic is backing up, or when an accident has created congestion.

There's only one road to take vehicles from the south end of Anna Maria Island to the north end, and it can become extremely crowded with vehicles, Kamiya said. ATMS engineers are learning the vehicle flow patterns throughout the county, and now on the Island.

Countywide, Kamiya said, ATMS is designed to "decrease the travel times by increasing the efficiency of the signals. You'll be able to travel from point A to point B more efficiently along major routes."

While most drivers won't notice new timing periods, Kamiya cautioned that drivers "may see different signals than they are accustomed to seeing."

One change drivers may notice is that some left-turn signals may not turn green in the same pattern, he said.

If changing the light to allow a left turn creates a backup of vehicles, engineers can adjust the timing.

Kamiya urged drivers to use "extra caution" in the coming months, especially at major intersections.

He expects the Phase 1 project to finish by the end of March. The second phase, including AMI, is scheduled to begin in 2013.

The project is the third of four major road projects headed by the county traffic engineering department.

Those include "upgrading traffic signals and adding vehicle detection devices in order to increase traffic efficiency and reduce delays on major roads throughout Manatee and Sarasota counties," Kamiya said.

In keeping with the signal timing, the DOT has future plans to install new signal mast arms at the Marina-Gulf drive intersection in Holmes Beach.

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BB: Special master format is cost effective

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

As the city of Anna Maria mulls over whether to transition from a board of adjustments to using a special master, Bradenton Beach's Jan. 17 special master variance case highlighted some of the differences.

According to Bradenton Beach building official Steve Gilbert, both are designed to help resolve special mitigation circumstances for homeowners who either want or are in need to make adjustments to their homes that would put them in conflict with land-development codes.

While the process varies greatly, both do have the same goal of making it difficult to bypass codes and ordinances.

"It's not supposed to be a painless process," said Gilbert. "It's supposed to be for special mitigation circumstances. There's a reason for the eight points of hardship (that must be met to qualify for a variance).

Gilbert said laws and ordinances are designed to be difficult to circumvent, and in the case of proving you meet special exception criteria or not, "I could put two attorneys in here and they could argue that conclusion all day long," he said.

Whether it's a board of adjustments recommendation or a special master ruling, the two processes have one thing in common.

"Most people have a love-hate relationship with both the board of adjustments and a special master," said Gilbert. "In every case, no matter the ruling, someone is not going to be happy."

Gilbert said the process should always come down to fairness, and the proceeding should allow all facts to be brought forward through evidence and testimony.

Bradenton Beach moved away from the board of adjustments process approximately three years ago in favor of the special master option. While the city lost its Jan. 17 case, Gilbert said it was a fair and impartial process, however, he said the city works diligently to avoid it reaching that level.

"Variance requests are fairly typical," he said. "But we've only had to use the special master three or four times in the last three years. We work with property owners to try and figure out if we can get them to where they want to be. That's easier to do on preconstruction rather than existing structures."

The Jan. 17 hearing, presided over by Special Master Harold Youmans, was the first time a variance application was decided in Bradenton Beach through the special master process. Property owner William Wisneski was successful in receiving a variance to extend a second-floor deck two feet beyond the setback limit.

Gilbert disagreed with the final ruling, but said the process of using a special master is a fair one. Using an expert in state laws and city ordinances, he said, alleviates the burden of using a volunteer board, such as the board of adjustment.

"At this point our board of adjustments is down to two people," said Gilbert. "No one will volunteer. With the special master, you get a fair hearing and you don't get the emotion of neighbor versus neighbor."

A board of adjustments is not a quasi-judicial entity, as is a special master. Gilbert said the board of adjustments is strictly, "a recommendation board" he said.

"(A board of adjustment) decision would go to the city commission for a final decision," he said. "Because variance appeals always involve personal property rights, there are always going to be some legal questions raised,

which gets the city attorney or another attorney involved, then the staff has to get legal advice."

Gilbert said while the city incurs costs for using a special master over a voluntary board, it's at that point where using a special master becomes more cost effective.

"It winds up being cheaper to have a special master do it," said Gilbert. "It's a more streamlined, cost-effective way for the city to provide due process, but sometimes you agree and sometimes you don't like it at all."

Following a special master ruling, the city or the applicant reserves the right to take the decision to court. Gilbert said there are times when that is necessary, but didn't feel the Wisneski outcome was worthy of spending taxpayer money. He pointed out that variance rulings do not set precedent. Each case is unique, he said.

Bradenton Beach's decision to use the special master process is a trend that many cities like Anna Maria are considering or have already transitioned.

"It has become very difficult to find people to volunteer for a board of adjustment," said Gilbert. "People don't want to be in that kind of conflict with neighbors, so more and more cities are moving to the special master types of format."

Gilbert said the format gives those making variance requests or filing for variance applications a better sense of "due process and you don't get stuck with one administrator sitting behind a desk stonewalling everything," he said.

Community notices, events

Attention community organization representatives: *The Islander* welcomes notices of your club and organization events, happenings and projects on Anna Maria Island and encourages you to submit photographs.

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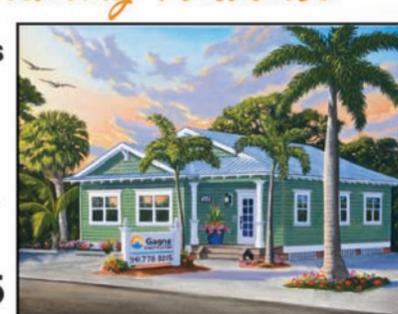
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BB amends open-air dining ordinance

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

Bradenton Beach restaurants will now enjoy less restriction on open-air dining areas, but concerns remain over one key change in the city's ordinance.

At their Feb. 2 meeting, Bradenton Beach commissioners unanimously passed the final reading to amend the city's open-air dining ordinance.

As part of the line-item changes to the ordinance, the use of sound amplifiers was removed from the existing ordinance and that has some local business owners concerned about the future.

No objections were raised in regards to relaxing open-air dining restrictions, but concerns were expressed during public comment that visitors to Anna Maria Island come for the tranquility of the Island and, if they wanted entertainment, they should go elsewhere.

The commissioners called upon Bradenton Beach public building official and chief code enforcement officer Steve Gilbert to discuss their options. Gilbert said the commissioners had two options.

"You can leave it for everyone so it's fair, or strike it entirely," Gilbert said of the amplified music. "It can wind up being a nuisance issue and become a regulatory issue."

Gilbert said city staff is looking at how other cities handle similar noise ordinances, "but I can promise you it will be challenging to work through."

Concerns linger over increased noise, amplified music.

Commissioner Ric Gatehouse said by removing the restriction on amplifiers, it "becomes more than an outdoor dining ordinance," he said. "It becomes an outdoor entertainment issue."

The ordinance amendment proposal surfaced at the request of the Beach Street Bistro, which sought to install a wood-burning pizza oven at its ground-level outdoor dining area. Much of the commission's attention focused on the cooperation of the Bistro, but the ordinance will impact the city, commissioners said.

Gilbert said the commissioners could pass the ordinance with the amplifier restriction in place, or pass it without restriction and add standards that would address the potential for noise at a later date.

"Mr. Gatehouse spoke on the long-term consequences," said Gilbert. "Do you want to have open dining or open entertainment? You have to consider what that looks like in five years, 10 years, 20 years from now. You must have standards. If you don't, all of Bridge Street and Gulf Drive could be entertainment districts, rather than restaurants."

The commissioners voted to pass the amendments with the amplifier restriction removed, but also directed Gilbert and his staff to begin immediate work on developing standards to regulate potential noise issues.

The commissioners also unanimously approved an easement and beach access at the John R. Chappie Gulf-side Park, 1402 Gulf Drive N., which would provide a 4-foot-wide walkway to the beach. The request was made by the Bermuda Bay Condominium Association. The condos are across from the park.

"Their request is common sense," said Gilbert. "That's our easement, so rather than create it in another place, I would like the easement where it is."

The commissioners then divided over the wording of the ordinance that would require removal of Australian pine trees in the area.

Commissioner Gay Breuler said she did not want to give up the trees, saying, "They have been here for a 100 years. They are as native as they are going to get. I have no problem to approve the easement, but I would like to strike the part about removing the trees."

Gilbert said the commissioners could pass the easement request and the issue of the trees could be taken up during the landscaping phase of the project.

Breuler wasn't satisfied, and amended the pre-written motion to read not to unnecessarily remove trees. The motion passed 3-2.



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Tide and Moon also has moved — to Pine Avenue. Stop by and find something for your favorite Valentine and then stop in again Feb. 17 for the book signing with both

author and illustrator. The Adventures of Rusty and Hazel, written by Laura Shely and illustrated by Dee Pastorius.

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Steff's Stuff on Longboat Key has moved to The Centre Shops. She's excited about the new digs and has all

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FWC adds more sharks to protected list

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officially added tiger sharks, smooth scalloped

sharks and great hammerheads in January to its protected list.

The addition means those shark species are protected from recreational and commercial harvest.

In November, the FWC approved the management change to "further protect these top predators."

An FWC press release said the sharks can still be caught and released in state waters, which extend to 9 miles into the Gulf of Mexico. There is no prohibition on harvesting the sharks in federal waters, which extend from 9 miles offshore to 200 miles into the Gulf of Mexico.

The release said the FWC has started an educational campaign to highlight handling and fishing techniques that "increase the survival rate of sharks that are caught

and released, while ensuring the safety of the anglers targeting them."

The techniques include the use of heavy tackle to land a fish quickly and reduce exhaustion; release of the fish while it's still in the water; use of a de-hooking device to safely remove hooks; use of non-stainless steel hooks that dissolve if they remain in the fish; and the use of off-set circle hooks to avoid gut-hooking a fish.

"Florida waters are considered essential habitat for these and other species of sharks, especially juveniles and pregnant females," the release said.

Since 1992, the FWC has had a one-shark-per-person rule and a two-sharks-per-vessel daily bag limit for all recreational and commercial harvesters. The FWC also has a ban on shark finning.

About two dozen sharks are on Florida's protected shark species list and are catch-and-release only in Florida waters.

For more information on sharks and other fish on Florida's protected list, go to MyFWC.com/fishing and check the "saltwater fishing" box.



Rob Satori croons a tune à la Frank Sinatra for Lois Biel and a large audience Jan. 28 at the Anna Maria Island Community Center Las Vegas-style dinner show. *Islander Courtesy Photos*



Park-beach improvements
Work crews are busy this week on Park Avenue in Anna Maria, clearing the street's beach access of exotic vegetation and reforming the street end to create a cul-de-sac. Anna Maria public works director George McKay said the beach access would be closed during the project, which should be completed in two weeks. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*



David White wrestles the estimated 8-foot-long, 300-pound bull shark he caught while fishing May 24 at the Rod & Reel Pier. *Islander File Photo*

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Obituaries

Phyllis Dean Arrison

Phyllis Dean Arrison, 85, of Bradenton Beach, died Feb. 2. She was born in Washington, D.C., and came to Bradenton in 1993 from Lakewood, N.Y.

There will be no services. Brown & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory-26th Street Chapel, Bradenton is in charge of arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to Tide-Well Hospice Inc. 5955 Rand Blvd. Sarasota FL 34238. Online condolences may be made at www.brownsandsons-funeral.com.

Mrs. Arrison is survived by son Douglas William and wife Doi of Washington, D.C.; daughters Dale Grossman of Ithaca, N.Y., Lynn and husband Chip Harrison of Morristown, N.J., Holly G. of Erie, Pa., Elizabeth and husband Roger Hurd of Amherst, N.H.; brothers John Dean and wife Shirley of Bradenton, Ralph Dean and wife Pam of Bradenton Beach; sisters Priscilla Painter of Reston, Va., Lois Courtney of Washington, D.C.; and 10 grandchildren.

Rev. John Clawson Bonser

The Rev. John Clawson Bonser, 73, of Bradenton, died Jan. 29. He was born May 15, 1938.

He attended the University of Tennessee and graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 1959. He received both a Bachelor of Divinity degree and a Master of Sacred Theology degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa. He was ordained by the United Lutheran Church in America in 1962, and served three parishes in Pennsylvania.

After moving to Bradenton in 1977, he became a registered investment advisor with Raymond, James and Associates and was a certified financial planner.

The Rev. Bonser was an avid photographer and a co-op member of Island Gallery West for many years. He was an active member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Holmes Beach, and was involved with All Island Denominations and Inquiring Minds.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Inurnment will be in the Gloria Dei memorial garden. Memorial donations may be made to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217. Condolences may be made online at www.shannon-funeralhomes.com. Arrangements are by Shannon Funeral Home Westview Chapel, Bradenton.

The Rev. Bonser is survived by wife Susan; son Donald; daughter Amy and husband Matt Valenzisi; step-daughter Margretta Goodis; stepson William and wife Alyson Karow; brother Curtis and wife Jane; sister-in-law Catherine Raymond; grandchildren Sarah, Robert, Chase and Graham; and other extended family members and many friends.

Irene Neville Bystrom

Irene Neville Bystrom of Holmes Beach was born July 1, 1918, in Lincoln, Neb., and died at home Feb. 1, 2012.

She was born in the Nebraska governor's mansion while her father, Gov. M. Keith Neville, served the state.

She grew up in North Platte, Neb., and attended public school in North Platte, Pass-a-Grille, Fla., and St. Petersburg, Fla. She earned an associated arts certificate in 1937 from Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., and in 1939, a bachelor of science in education degree from the University of Nebraska, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. After graduation, she was selected to be a countess for the 1940 Aksarben Ball.



Bystrom

Irene taught school in Ashland, Neb., before moving to Los Angeles in 1940 to attend the Sawyer Business School. In California, she met Roy Victor Bystrom, a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps. They were married July 25, 1942, in Las Vegas. After the war, the couple resided in his hometown of Longview, Wash., before returning to North Platte to raise their family.

Mrs. Bystrom was involved in the Parent Teacher Association and served as a Camp Fire leader and Cub Scout den mother. She became active in the North Platte community, participating in the Episcopal Church Women, DAR, CAR, PEO, AAUW and the League of Women Voters. She taught Sunday school and assisted in fundraising efforts to preserve Buffalo Bill's Scouts Rest Ranch and convert it into a state historical park. She also served the campaign to create the America's Twentieth Century Veteran's Memorial in North Platte. She also served Nebraska as an appointed member of the Nebraska Higher Education Facilities Act Commission, the Nebraska Tourism Committee and the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Post-Secondary Education.

An avid sportswoman, Mrs. Bystrom enjoyed hunting and fishing. She won the Nebraska Ladies State Skeet Championship in 1964.

In 1981, Mrs. Bystrom and her sisters – Mary Nel Sieman, Frances Newberry and Virginia Robertson – donated to the community the Fox Theater, North Platte, which had been built by their father. It became the Neville Center for the Performing Arts. The Neville sisters were honored with Cody Scout Awards for their contribution.

A lifelong Democrat, Mrs. Bystrom was active in all levels of the Nebraska Democratic Party. She served as chair of the Lincoln County (Neb.) Democratic Party. She was a political organizer who worked tirelessly in many successful campaigns, including those for Governors Frank B. Morrison, J. James Exon and Bob Kerry. She served as chair of the Nebraska Women for John F. Kennedy in 1960. She was a member of the Nebraska Democratic Central Committee from 1960-68 and served as vice-chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party 1964-68 and co-chair of the

Island real estate sales

610 Foxworth Lane, Holmes Beach, a 2,081 sfla / 2,609 sfur 3bed/2bath/2car canalfront home with pool built in 1970 on a 95x115 lot was sold 01/13/12, Rivellini to Purcell for \$617,500; list \$645,000.

801 Jacaranda Road, Anna Maria, a 1,972 sfla / 1,980 sfur 3bed/2bath/2car home built in 1979 on a 50x121 lot was sold 01/19/12, Gottschalk to Quest Acquisitions Inc. for \$445,900; list \$499,000.

1906 Gulf Drive N., Unit 205, Bradenton Beach, a 1,096 sfla 2bed/2bath Gulffront condo with shared pool built in 1985 was sold 01/13/12, Theohary to Reese for \$390,000; list \$424,900.

213 67th St., Unit 5, Blue Lagoon, Holmes Beach, a 936 sfla 2bed/2bath condo with pool built in 1971 was sold 01/12/12, Haka Ventures LLP to St. Albans Warehouse Company for \$370,000; list \$399,000.

113 Eighth St. S., Bradenton Beach, a 1,008 sfla / 1,725 sfur 2bed/1½bath home built in 1979 on a 50x100 lot was sold 01/12/12, Venaleck to Johnson for \$293,500; list \$329,000.

107 Eighth St. S., Unit 3, Island Getaway, Bradenton Beach, a 420 sfla 1bed/1bath condo built in 1940, sold 01/11/12, Federal Home Loan Mortgage to Mark Anthony Arcidiacono Realty LLC for \$87,000; list \$94,500.

Jesse Brisson, broker/associate at Gulf-Bay Realty of Anna Maria, can be reached at 941-778-7244.

Nebraskans for Robert Kennedy campaign in 1968.

In 1966, Mrs. Bystrom led a delegation to Washington, D.C., for the National Democratic Women's Conference hosted by the White House; and attended the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. In recognition of her political activism, she was honored with a brick in the Plaza of Heroines at Carrie Chapman Catt Hall and the establishment of the Rice-Neville internship program, both at Iowa State University.

In 2006, she published her memoir, "Tagging Along," as a gift to her children.

Memorial donations may be made to the Roy and Irene Bystrom Fund of the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1321, North Platte NE 69103; Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch, 2213 Avenue B, Bradenton Beach FL 34217; the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum, 115 10th Ave., St Petersburg FL 33706; or to the donor's choice.

A sunset celebration of her life was held Monday, Feb. 6, in Holmes Beach and burial will be with her husband at Fort McPherson National Cemetery, Maxwell, Neb.

Mrs. Bystrom is survived by her children, Patricia Trowbridge and husband Daniel of Coronado, Cal., Keith and wife Dianne of Ames, Iowa, and Dr. William and wife Jeannie of Holmes Beach; grandchildren Mollie Stansbury-Lecomte and husband Ludovic of Paris, France; Christopher of Chicago; Elizabeth of Ames, Iowa; Logan, Connor and Trevor of Holmes Beach; and great-grandchild Prudence Irene Lecomte of Paris, France.

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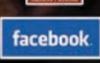


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Chamber nixes residential wedding parties

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce is doing its part to keep wedding parties and receptions out of residential areas.

Chamber administrator Deb Wing and wedding festival committee member Katy Dimick met Jan. 29 with participants in the chamber's fifth annual wedding festival May 4-6 to provide an update on the event's progress.

Wing said brides and grooms at the festival who book an Island wedding will be advised to hold their parties and receptions at commercial locations.

"The chamber is taking a pro-active stance to direct all parties and receptions away from residential areas," Wing said.

"We will politely advise them 'no' to holding a party in a residential area," she said.

The chamber also will distribute a pamphlet of "do's" and "don'ts" for an Anna Maria Island wedding that includes the advisory against holding wedding parties at vacation rental homes.

Wing and the wedding festival committee are encouraging chamber members that book wedding accommodations to direct the reception or bachelor/bachelorette party toward a commercial operation.

Wedding parties in residential areas of Anna Maria and Holmes Beach have raised concerns from residents affected by loud noise and parking problems, as well as overflowing trash bins.

Chamber members at the meeting agreed that parties and receptions should be discouraged in residential neighborhoods, Wing said.

Chamber board member David Teitelbaum said it's only a few of the estimated 1,500 weddings held on Anna Maria Island every year that give the others a bad rap.

Teitelbaum, who owns the Tortuga, Seaside, Tradewinds and Tropic Isle resorts in Bradenton Beach, said his properties host nearly 200 weddings a year.

"We are discouraging wedding parties from intruding into neighborhoods," he said.

Wedding parties can be held at motel-zoned accommodations and a catering service or on-site restaurant can



Deb Wing, left, of the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, and Katy Dimick meet Jan. 29 with chamber members and vendors participating in the fourth annual wedding festival May 4-7. Wing stressed that brides and grooms will be advised to book parties at a commercial location, not at vacation homes. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

be engaged for food and beverages, Teitelbaum said.

Entertainment also can be kept to an acceptable noise level, he added.

Along with the chamber's effort to keep weddings from intruding in residential areas, many of the Island's property rental agents have agreed to a list of "best practices" for the industry, including prohibitions on parties.

Wing said the chamber wants to avoid adding to the recent complaints by residents against the vacation rental industry.

In other festival business, Wing said quite a few people have signed up to attend the festival, along with 23 vendors. Last year's festival attracted more than 300 people and she's confident of at least that many for this year's event.

Wing said she's pushing pre-registration in advertising. Several years ago, almost 200 people showed up to register when the event began.

Last year, the festival had 70 vendors, but Wing said that was too many for the event. This year, just 50 vendors will be invited to lessen the "overload" of informa-

tion to the bride and groom.

The 2012 festival is a three-day, two-night affair designed to get "heads in beds" for the weekend during a traditionally slow month for Island tourism.

Last year's festival was in February and many bridal parties told the chamber they were unable to find accommodations.

This year's event begins with a party at Martini Bistro-Fins Bar in Holmes Beach Friday, May 4. Registration is May 4-5, with Saturday, May 5, open for leisure activities. Sunday, May 6, bridal groups will tour nine locations to collect information from vendors offering accommodations, parties, flowers, entertainment, photography and other wedding-related services.

A map of Anna Maria Island, including the vendor locations and other services offered will be provided to each registrant.

The lead sponsors of the 2012 festival include Acqua Aveda Salon and Spa, Village Cafe at Rosedale, Gulf Drive Cafe, Tortuga Resort, BeachHouse Restaurant and Bridgewalk Resort, among others.

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Island Biz

By Rick Catlin

Sandbar, BeachHouse win wedding awards

The Sandbar Restaurant in Anna Maria and the BeachHouse Restaurant in Bradenton Beach, both part of the Ed Chiles trio of restaurants, have been selected by WeddingWire to receive its Bride's Choice award for 2012 for best ceremony and reception venues in Manatee and Sarasota counties.

WeddingWire offers an online bridal community, planner, checklist and wedding reviews. Selection is based on reviews filed by past wedding clients, a press release from WeddingWire said.

With the awards, the restaurants are recognized among the top 5 percent of ceremony and venue locations in the United States and Canada.

Sandbar marketing director Caryn Hodge was pleased with the awards.

"We would like to thank our past clients for taking the time to review our business on WeddingWire.com," Hodge said.

Because of the positive feedback, the restaurants received the Bride's Choice awards for 2012, she said.

For more information on the restaurants, call 941-779-2222 or 941-778-0444.

Salon seeks help for women

Salon Salon, 3612 E. Bay Drive, Holmes Beach, is hosting a February fundraiser to help the Women's Resource Center of Manatee aid its clients.

Co-owner Annie Pettitt said the Women's Resource Center needs quality, professional items for to help women turn their lives around.

Pettitt, co-owner Nikita Fosmore and the Salon Salon stylists are collecting skirts, slacks, blouses, T-shirts, suits, professional wear, dresses, gowns and formal wear, shorts, belts, handbags, shoes and briefcases to donate to the center.

"We'll have a drop-off box here all February for people to bring items they no longer use," Pettitt said.

Contributors don't have to be Salon Salon clients, she said, anyone with a big heart can donate.

"The Women's Resource Center helps women get back on their feet, get training and education and get restarted in life, and we believe that's something everyone can support," Pettitt said.

Salon Salon has held a number of fundraising efforts for nonprofits since it opened.

In November 2011, the salon raised more than \$800 for the Moffitt Cancer Research Center by offering chances for three baskets of beauty products.

For more information, call 941-778-0400.

Chamber hosts breakfast, reception

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce will host its February sunrise breakfast 7:45-9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Gathering Place, 101 Seventh St. N., Bradenton Beach.

The cost of the breakfast is \$8 and members are

encouraged to bring guests. Reservations are required.

From 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, the chamber will hold its monthly business card exchange at the Harbour Island development sales and reception center on Perico Island.

Harbour Isle is on Manatee Avenue about 200 yards east of the Anna Maria Island Bridge approach.

Cost of the event is \$5 and members are encouraged to bring a guest. Reservations are recommended, but not required.

For more information or to make a reservation for chamber events, call 941-778-1541.

Realty raves

Mike Norman Realty, 3101 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, has named Carla Beddow as its top listing agent for January, while the top sales agent award went to Kathy Caserta.

For more information, call 941-778-3823.

Got a new business opening on Anna Maria Island or Longboat Key, in Cortez, Palma Sola, or west Bradenton? How about a new product, service, anniversary, new hire, new owners, or an award-winning staff member? Call Island Biz at 941-778-7978 or e-mail news@islander.org with your news.

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FORGOTTEN GENERATION

by Rick Catlin

Korean War vet, inventor

Bill Huber of Holmes Beach has never regretted a minute of his service to the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Although his claim to fame is the design of the eight-track tape music system for automobiles that became popular in the late 1960s, Huber believes his real achievement is that he went into the Army in 1952 as a kid, and came out a young man who knew what he wanted to do with his life.

Still in high school at Western Military Academy in Alton, Ill., when the Korean War started in 1950, Huber figured he would eventually be drafted. The letter from the president came in 1952 when he was enrolled at the University of Illinois.

After infantry training, Huber took the test for mechanical automotive training and scored a 100. He had always been interested in mechanics and motors, he said.

With that grade, he was asked if he wanted to be an instructor at the school, rather than going to Korea.

"I jumped at the chance. It wasn't a promotion, but it was good duty. I was classified as cadre (permanent party) for the school. I didn't have to do guard duty, KP, nor any cleanup details. It was pretty great for a young kid."

During his unit's annual general inspection, Huber was giving a lesson on the ignition system for the two-and-a-half-ton truck. Unbeknownst to him, a colonel on the inspection team had walked in the back door and was listening to Huber's instructions.

After the class, the colonel told Huber his was the best instruction on ignition systems he had ever heard,

and promised to write a commendation note in Huber's personnel file.

True to his word, the colonel entered the commendation. Unfortunately, Huber recalled, the colonel also discovered Huber wasn't permanently stationed at the school, but was being listed by the school as "held for further training," as a means to keep him as an instructor.

"That's how the school got around having to send me to Korea, but it meant I wasn't permanently assigned to the school."

The colonel must have blown a head gasket, Huber said, because a few days later, he was told to pack his gear. He was on his way to the war.

Huber left in the fall of 1952 for Korea, crossing the Pacific with 5,000 soldiers on a troop ship built for 500 people.

He arrived at Inchon, which had been liberated by U.S. forces in 1950, in the middle of winter. He was sent to a replacement station, given a pair of rubber boots and told to get some sleep in a tent. The diesel heater didn't work and the temperature outside was about -20 degrees Fahrenheit, he recalled.

"Anybody who was in Korea will tell you those winters were cold as hell, and the Army was always screwing up the winter uniforms you were supposed to have."

He also remembered how the company commander said the men would have hot meals every day.

"We had to go outside to the mess tent, where there was no room to sit. You got your chow and ran back to your tent and your food was frozen by then."

Huber was eventually assigned to the 25th Division, 14th Infantry Regiment motor pool. The unit was about a mile back of the front lines. The men slept in tents with no heaters and worked on vehicles outdoors in the cold.

A few days after his arrival, the motor pool was shelled by some enemy artillery and got orders to pack up and move out. The enemy was attacking.

The company had to drive its vehicles on unpaved, roads that were either frozen or had turned to slush and mud, making driving almost impossible.



Bill Huber of Holmes Beach is a Korean War veteran and the man who invented the eight-track tape music system for cars in the late 1960s. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

"And as soon as spring came, the roads turned to dust. That's when you began to smell the rice paddies," Huber said.

The Koreans used human manure to fertilize their rice paddies. The joke in Korea, Huber recalled, was that the only difference between a rice paddy and an outhouse was that some outhouses had roofs.

Korea was often called the land of the morning calm and some of the most god-awful smells you ever came across in your life, he remembered.

Still, the motor pool was better than the front lines, and Huber was soon promoted to acting sergeant in charge of the motor pool mechanics.

To get a real promotion to sergeant, he had to pass the mechanic's test. After his test was graded, he was told he'd failed. But Huber asked the test officer to show him the test, because, he told the officer, "I used to teach that

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class and I know those are the right answers.”

Sure enough, when his answers were double-checked, he had aced the test.

Being a non-commissioned officer in the motor pool was good duty, but Huber next had to learn how to get supplies. An old-time Army sergeant fixed that when Huber complained he was having difficulty getting parts from the supply depot in Seoul.

Huber recalled the sergeant telling him that the next time he had to go to Seoul for supplies, to make sure he had a spare quart of bourbon for the supply sergeant.

The advice worked and Huber soon had all the parts he needed.

But Huber was too good for the motor pool and was transferred to battalion headquarters to drive for the battalion S-2 major.

“From then on, it was all spit and polish and you had

to watch yourself around all those headquarters types,” Huber remembered.

But Huber got along well with the major and he didn’t spend much time behind the front lines and the fighting.

Until one night when driving alone down a road, a military policeman ordered him to stop.

Just about that time the ChiCom artillery came screaming in, blowing up the road in front of Huber. If the military police hadn’t stopped Huber, there’s no telling what would have happened, he said.

In late June 1953, a truce was declared and a cease fire went into effect. With enough time in Korea and enough points, Huber opted to return to the United States and take his discharge.

He didn’t tell his parents he was coming home.

He remembers walking up to his house, knocking on the door, and watching as his mom get the biggest surprise of her life.

After his discharge, Huber returned to college and studied mechanical engineering, graduating in 1957. He then took a job as a machine designer with Kimberley-Clarke in Wisconsin. He also met his wife at this time.

From there, he got a job with Motorola, designing car radios and, in the late 1960s, created the first audio system for cars that was separate from the radio: the eight-track player.

“That’s my real claim to fame,” Huber said. “The eight-track became very popular in automobiles.”

He also got in on the dawn of the computer age, designing memory system tapes for home computers, then formed a company called Intellitech that designed home computer systems using digital microprocessing.

Huber and his partners sold the company and he then worked for the new owners as the plant manager in Deland, Fla. He retired to Holmes Beach in 1991.

“Korea was the forgotten war. When I came back, some people had to ask me where Korea was. But I have no regrets. It wasn’t glamorous duty, but it helped me when I went back to college.

“And I came back a young man who knew how to get things done, who knew how to work with people, and

I knew what I wanted to do.

“Going to Korea and doing my duty is something I’m proud of and always will be,” Huber concluded. “I wasn’t any hero. Just an average G.I. who grew up a lot in Korea.”

Bill Huber is a proud and not forgotten member of the Forgotten Generation.

“The Greatest Generation” and “Forgotten Generation” columns are for Island, Longboat Key, Perico Island, Palma Sola, Village Green, west Bradenton and Cortez veterans, man or woman, who served in the Armed Forces of any allied country (U.S., Canada, Britain, Holland, Norway, France, Poland, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, etc.) during World War II or the Korean War. We’d like to hear from you. Please call Rick Catlin at 941-778-7978.

Hot spots off the beach

The surfing is free and easy on the Internet at *The Islander*, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Other free hot spots on the Island:

Anna Maria Island Historical Society Museum, 402 Pine Ave.

- Feeling Swell, 9903 Gulf Drive.

- Ginny’s and Jane E’s at the Old IGA, 9807 Gulf Drive.

- Rotten Ralph’s Restaurant at the Historic Bridge Street Pier, Bradenton Beach.

- Slim’s Place, 9701 Gulf Drive.

- Back Alley, 121 Bridge St.

- Tingley Memorial Library, 111 Second St. N.

- Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe, 4000 Gulf Drive (ask at the shop for the password).

- Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, 5313 Gulf Drive.

- Island Branch Library, 5701 Marina Drive.

- Island Flea, 5704 Marina Drive.

- Sand-N-Sudz Coin Laundry, 5400 Marina Drive.

AME MENU

Monday, Feb. 13

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

Lunch: Nachos, Burrito, Refried Beans, Carrots, Applesauce.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Breakfast: Egg and Cheese Bagel, Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Chicken Tenders, Pasta with Meat Sauce, Breadstick, Salad, Sliced Peaches.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Bagel, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Hamburger, Potato Smiles, Veggie Dippers, Sliced Pears, Birthday Cupcake.

Thursday, Feb. 16

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

Lunch: Student Planned Menu.

Friday, Feb. 17

Breakfast: Mini Pancakes, Cinnamon Roll, Cereal, Toast.

Lunch: Pizza, Shrimp Poppers, Sweet Potato Coins, Corn, Fruit Cocktail.

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Feb. 9	Mac McConnell	7-10		Peacekeepers	7-10
Feb. 10	Ted Stevens	7-10	Feb. 12	Ron Sherman	1-4
				Will Scott	5-8

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Football continues, KRC narrows championships

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

Despite closure on Super Sunday, Feb. 5, for the NFL teams, NFL flag football action continues at the Anna Maria Island Community Center.

Mr. Bones is the lone remaining undefeated team among three age divisions, leading the 10-12 NFL East division with a 5-0 record. The NFL West division has Larry Pearson Air Conditioning and Ross Built tied for first with 4-1 records. Jessie's Island Store lead the 13-16 division with a 4-1 record, but Integrity Sound is on their heels with a 3-1 record. Beach Bistro continues to lead the 8-9 division with a 4-1 record, but the hard-charging Southern Greens and Waterfront Restaurant are but a game back in second.

There's still a lot of football to play, so stay tuned.

The 8-9 division game of the week saw Southern Greens Jets defeat Waterfront Restaurant Raiders 34-24 Jan. 30 to move into a tie for second place. Daniel Fritz had a huge game, catching two touchdown passes and running for a pair of touchdowns. Fritz finished with 62 receiving yards and ran for another 77 yards. Quarterback Luke Marvin passed for 84 yards and ran another 42. Dalton Guffrie added 50 rushing yards and a touchdown, while Jackie Schlossberg ran for 31 yards and scored a two-point conversion.

Guffrie led the Jets defensive effort with four flag pulls, while Schlossberg added three and Dylan McKee finished with one in the victory.

Jack Barnes ran for 96 yards and caught a pair of touchdowns to lead the Raiders on offense. Eli Heskin ran for 27 yards and a touchdown, while Jackson Hayes ran for 45 yards and a touchdown while also throwing for two touchdowns in the loss.

Gianna Sparks and Heskin led the defense with three pulls apiece.

Key Royale golf news

The Key Royale Club's men's golf championship is now down to five players. Mark Mixon stayed alive in Flight 1 by defeating Ron Pritchard one-up after 20 holes. Mixon now waits to play the winner of the Dick Mills-Tim Friesen match. The flight one winner takes on the winner of the Lex Halakan-Art McMillan match that will determine the Flight 2 winner.

In the women's championship, Jean Holmes, Laura Purcell, Maxine Mitchell, Penny Williams, Diane Miller and Judy Christensen are still alive, awaiting winners from the Lynn Dailey-Liz Lang and Mary Selby-Kris Landkammer matches.

There are 20 pairs competing in the couple's championship, which consists of four rounds of competition. After round one, the team of Diane and Fred Miller are in first place, followed by Merritt Fineout and Sue Holcomb and Marty and Mary Clark. Couples play continues through February.

The men played a nine-hole better-ball-of-partners match Jan. 30. Danny Hayes and Austin Rice combined on a 7-under-par 25 to take first place by one stroke. Pieter Thomassen and Jim Krumme matched the 6-under-



Ron Vandeman, Bill Anderson, Dick Eichorn and Ken Ricketts finish their round at the Key Royale Club golf course, Holmes Beach, Jan. 31. The foursome took the modified-Stableford team title match with a plus-4. *Islander Photo: Courtesy Ed Havlik*

par carded by Pete Weir and Dick Eichorn.

The men played a better-ball-of-partners game Feb. 1. The team of Joe Dickenson and Andy Barber combined on a 16-under-par 48 to grab a one-stroke victory over Harold McKamish and Tom Lewis. Don LaTorre and Danny Hayes took third place with a 14-under-par 50.

The Jan. 31 modified-Stableford match saw 56 golfers take the field. First place in the individual competition was John Estok, who carded a plus 10. Jim Mixon and Tommy McDonnell tied for second place at plus 4. The team of Ron Vandeman, Bill Anderson, Dick Eichorn and Ken Ricketts took the team title at plus 4.

The Club women played a nine-hole low-net-in-flight match Jan. 31. Judy Crowe fired a 5-under-par 27 to take first place in Flight A by two strokes over Maxine Mitchell and Penny Williams, who finished second in a tie.

Jan Turner's 5-under-par 27 gave her a two-shot victory in Flight B. Kris Landkammer was alone in second with a 29, while Heather Pritchard took third place with a 1-under-par 31.

Roxanne Koche burned up the track with a 9-under-par 23. Seven shots back and alone in second was Joyce Reith, while Maryanne Kaemmerlen took third place with a 31.

Shirley Cessna carded a 5-under-par 27 to take first place in Flight D. Nell Bergstrom was two shots back in second, while Suzanne Liddle, Kathy Porter and Sally York tied for third at 2-under-par 30.

The team game of the day, low putts, was captured by Holmes, Purcell, Zita Gavin and Crowe with 62 putts. Connie Livanos chipped in on the ninth hole, while Landkammer, Purcell and Helen Pollock each had birdies on the day.

Horseshoe news

Three teams emerged from pool play during Feb. 4 horseshoe action at the Anna Maria City Hall horseshoe pits. George McKay as the walker drew the bye and watched as Rod Bussey and Bruce Copeland defeated Gene Bobeldyk and Robert Pyles 23-15 in the semifinal match. Bobeldyk-Pyles then walked over McKay 22-12 in the final.

Only two of 15 teams managed the required three pool-play victories during horseshoe action Feb. 1. Gene Bobeldyk and Bob Mason edged Bob Lee and Rod Bussey 21-19 to earn the day's bragging rights.

Play gets under way at 9 a.m. every Wednesday and Saturday at the Anna Maria City Hall pits. Warmups begin at 8:45 a.m. followed by random team selection.

There is no charge to play and everyone is welcome.

For this week's AMICC scores and schedules, visit sports online at www.islander.org.

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Anna Maria Island Tides

Date	AM	HIGH	PM	HIGH	AM	LOW	PM	LOW	Moon
Feb. 8	12:46p	1.3	—	—	6:19	-0.5	5:47	0.4	
Feb. 9	12:04	2.0	1:05	1.5	6:48	-0.3	6:38	0.4	
Feb. 10	12:53	1.8	1:30	1.6	7:1	-0.1	8:33	-0.1	
Feb. 11	1:47	1.6	1:59	1.8	7:45	0.1	8:33	-0.1	
Feb. 12	2:50	1.3	2:34	1.9	8:11	0.4	9:44	-0.2	
Feb. 13	4:10	1.0	3:15	2.0	8:34	0.6	11:07	-0.2	
Feb. 14	6:26	0.8	4:07	2.0	8:43	0.7	—	—	3rd
Feb. 15	5:14	2.0	4:07	2.0	8:43	0.7	—	—	

AM City Pier tides; Cortez high tides 7 minutes later — lows 1:06 later

Mild winter weather keeps fishers in action

By Capt. Danny Stasny
Islander Reporter

Inshore fishing around Anna Maria Island remains steady throughout the grass flats, bays and nearshore structures. A variety of species are being caught, some typical, some not so common this time of year.

Surprisingly, Spanish mackerel and bonito are still being caught around the Sunshine Skyway Bridge structure and from beaches. Spanish mackerel in February is a real treat to catch. To get in on this action, rig up a spoon or Gotcha plug. If you're in a boat, look for diving birds. If you're not, head to the south pier on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and wet your line.

Sheepshead are gradually growing in numbers around docks, piers and near shore structure. Live shrimp, crabs, sand fleas or tubeworms are all worthy choices to get the nibblers to bite the hook.

Spotted seatrout are making a presence on the deeper grass flats of Sarasota, Palma Sola and Terra Ceia bays. A live shrimp under a popping cork or a soft plastic on a 1/4-ounce jig head will help locate these fish.

Pompano are being caught along the beaches and in the bays on live shrimp or sand fleas. Pompano jigs in all styles and colors are producing the bite, although it's been sporadic at best.

Good luck and enjoy what the warm winter weather has to offer local fishers.

Capt. Warren Girle is fishing nearshore structure when the winds are down. By traveling to the nearshore manmade reefs, Girle's clients are hooking up flounder up to 18 inches on live shrimp and shiners. Also on the reefs, Girle's clients are catching Key West Grunts and keeper-size mangrove snapper up to 16 inches.

Moving inshore, Girle is producing good numbers of pompano, although he believes they are becoming less abundant on the flats. "We were averaging five or six fish per drift," says Girle, "but now we're averaging three or four."

In spite of fewer pompano, Girle's clients are reeling in plenty of Spanish mackerel, bluefish and ladyfish. "They're all mixed together on the flats we're fishing," says Girle. "It's non-stop action."

On the flats of upper Sarasota Bay, Girle is having good results with spotted seatrout. By fishing water depths of 3-5 feet, he's averaging 20 trout per trip. Most of the trout being caught are schoolies, although bigger fish are mixed in. Girle suggests a popping cork with a live shrimp to hook up your catch.

Girle's clients are finishing on slot-size redfish along the edges of Sarasota Bay on low tides. By fishing deeper potholes along the shoreline, Girle's clients are catching



Bill Lowman shows off the hogfish he caught on a live shrimp while fishing with Capt. Danny Stasny of Legend Charters.

two to three reds per hole on Exude darts with a 1/8-ounce jig head.

Capt. Rick Gross of Fishy Business charters is targeting sheepshead on small rock piles out in the Gulf of Mexico. Using live shrimp fished on the bottom, Gross' clients are catching sheeps in the 12- to 15-inch range. Along with sheepshead, Gross is catching Key West grunts, flounder and a few mangrove snapper.

Moving in closer to the beach, his charters are reeling pompano to the boat using either live shrimp or pompano jigs tipped with a small piece of fresh-cut shrimp. Most fish are running small, although Gross is managing to put some keepers in the cooler.

On the grass flats, Gross is targeting spotted seatrout using live shrimp under a paradise popper. "If you haven't tried one of these paradise poppers," says Gross, "you need to. They're deadly on trout." Spotted seatrout in the 15-inch range were the norm, as well as a few bigger fish.

Jeff Medley at the Sunshine Skyway Bridge South Fishing Pier says bonito are dominating the bite. Pier fishers using silver spoons, Gotcha plugs or live greenbacks are catching bonito up to 7 pounds. "We had one guy catch 10 in an hour and a half," says Medley.

Spanish mackerel are being caught around the piers using the same tactics as for the bonito. Most catches

are in the 10- to 15-inch range, although bigger fish are mixed in the bag.

"If you want to catch mackerel," says Medley, "move away from the schools of bonito. The mackerel are schooling on their own away from the bonito."

Pompano are making a showing in the shallower waters near the landside of the pier. Try using live sand fleas or shrimp to get the bite. You can also use Love's lures pompano jigs, although, Medley says, better results are coming from live bait.

Capt. Mark Howard of SumoTime charters says the past week resulted in a mixed bag for his charters. Howard reports gator trout in the shallow waters of the Intracoastal Waterway and the adjacent flats during low morning tides. "A well-placed select shrimp thrown into the potholes and slowly worked on the bottom will result in some exciting winter-time action," Howard says.

Howard has had good results on black drum by tossing select shrimp and crabs under deepwater docks. Howard reports black drum are ranging in size from 15-30 inches in length. "Look for structure that has heavy barnacle growth and some depth under them," Howard suggests.

Redfish also are showing around the docks. "Use the smaller shrimp in your bait bucket for chum bits and spice up the area. This has been a help in getting the fish to chew," Howard says.

Jonny Keyes at Island Discount Tackle is hearing of good beach action occurring at both Coquina Beach and Bean Point. Fishers using live shrimp are catching flounder in the 14-inch range. Whiting are feeding on live shrimp in these same areas. Pompano are being reported, although catches are sporadic. Keyes suggests using pompano jigs rigged with a pink stringer fly to entice these high-activity fish to bite. You can catch pompano on either live sand fleas or live shrimp.

On the grass flats, Keyes is hearing of good numbers of spotted seatrout caught on artificials, such as soft plastics and suspending jerk baits. For soft plastics, flats fishers are using Berkeley Gulp shrimp or Exude darts on a 1/4-ounce red jig head. For suspending jerk bait, flats fishers are finding success on the smallest size MirrOlure mirrodine. And live shrimp under a popping cork is effective to hook up wintertime trout.

Jim Malfese at the Rod & Reel Pier is seeing daily catches of sheepshead. Most fish are in the 12-inch range, although a few bigger fish are being reeled up to the deck. Oyster crabs or fiddlers are the baits of choice among the pier regulars.

Pier fishers opting to use live shrimp are catching an occasional flounder and a few black drum. Black drum in the 20-inch range are the norm, although most of the flounder being caught are less than 12 inches. Remember, the black drum will eat oyster crabs, so don't be surprised to catch a few while targeting sheepshead.

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AMI's traveling jewels

Twelve "jewels" from Anna Maria Island enjoy catching up on Island happenings with *The Islander* newspaper while cruising on "The Jewel of the Sea" to Cozumel. *Islander Photo: Courtesy Ken Byrd*

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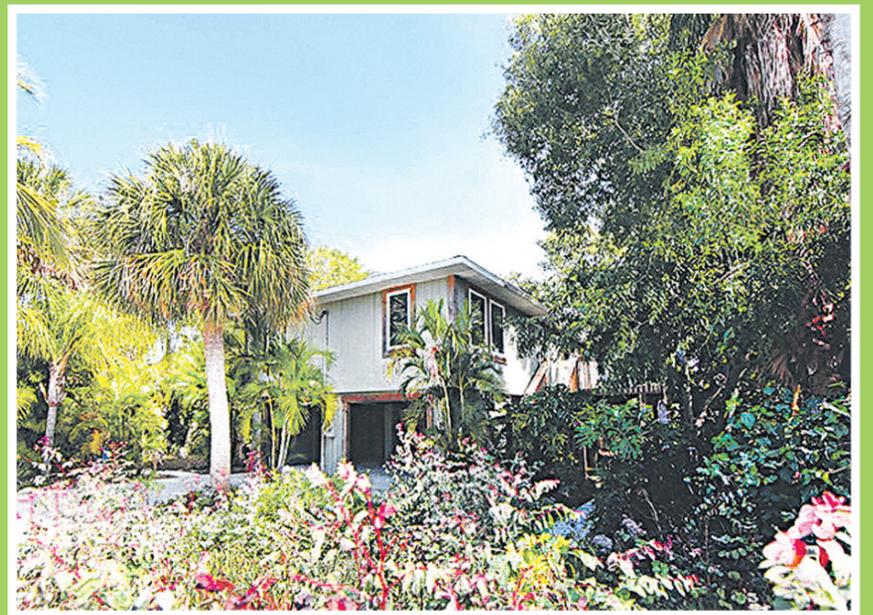
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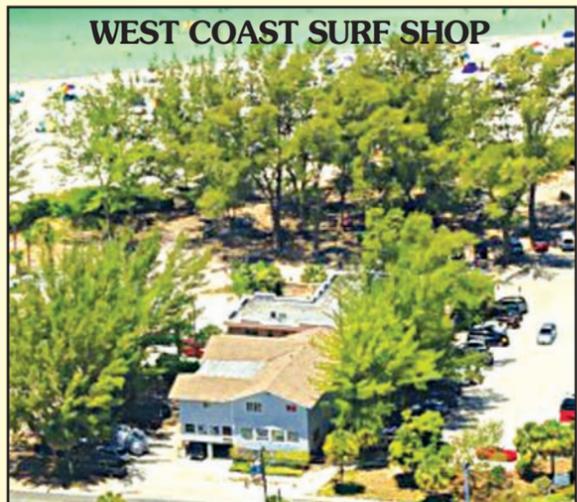
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Here's Jasmine, our special 14-week-old "darlin'" ready for her forever home. She's black & white and speckled, fun, sweet, playful. House trained, spay/neuter, micro-chip, shots. Low adoption cost/donation. Call or find our nonprofit rescue — and view photos on Facebook. **Moonracer No-Kill Rescue, 941-896-6701.**

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

ITEMS FOR SALE Continued

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER: BLONDE, 59-inch wide x 49.5-inch tall, \$25. 941-778-2415.

LUGGAGE: VERDI ROLLON, 21-inch, expandable to 23.5-inch, new, \$15. 941-761-1415.

WORK BENCH WITH vise, excellent, \$100, camera tripod like new, \$100. 941-778-9576.

ROLLER BLADES: MEN'S size 10, helmet, pads, case, used twice, \$50. 941-795-8359.

BLONDE WOOD DRESSERS: Large and small, two for \$90, twin beds (Stearns/Foster), \$40 each. 941-778-5439.

SOLID WOOD WHITE bookcases, large \$40 each, king bed/frame \$90. Very large white bookcase, \$50, white cupboard, \$75. 941-778-5439.

MARY KAY COSMETICS: Full line at discounted prices. Jenifer, 941-224-1760, 941-739-0792.

ANTIQUe COPPER POTS and bowls, collection \$350. Burl-wood rocker, oak office chairs, collectibles. View at The Islander store, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

ORIGINAL, LOCAL ART for sale. View at The Islander store, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

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

FREEBIE ITEMS FOR SALE

Individuals may place one free ad with up to three items, each priced \$100 or less, 15 words or less. FREE, one week, must be submitted online. E-mail classifieds@islander.org, fax toll-free 1-866-362-9821. (limited time offer)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LARGE SEALIFE mural on the outside wall overlooking Fins bar in Holmes Beach was painted by artist John Allinson. Project enquiries to: 941-567-5543 or 941-545-3307.

FREE HOT DOGS and ice cream to the public 55 and older. 11a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12. Hosted by Twin Shores and Barrier Island Realty. See what this fun community has to offer for Bay Front Villas, 3740 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key. For additional information please call Barrier Island Realty at 941-387-8888.

TREAT YOUR SWEETING FEB 14: The Islander Promise Day, Valentine's Day vow renewals, champagne toast, wedding cake on the beach at 5 p.m. Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe, Manatee Public Beach. \$10 includes ceremony and certificate. Pre-register: Promise@islander.org.

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

HAITI \$\$\$ DONATIONS to the Ministry of Presence Inc., 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. Discoverannamaria.com.

MICHAEL NORTHFIELD: BROKER, Anna Maria Island Realty, 941-713-0284. www.annamariaislandrealty.com. E-mail: Michael@annamariaislandrealty.com. Your personal broker.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

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.

GARAGE SALES

ROSER THRIFT SHOP: Open 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays. 511 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. 941-779-2733.

NEW LOCATION: STEFF'S Stuff Antiques has moved to The Centre Shops on Longboat Key. 5380 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Unit 101. 941-383-1901.

TRASH-TO-TREASURE sale: 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 11. Gulf Shore Park, Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key.

TWO FAMILY SALE: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11. Lots of stuff. 5911 Flotilla Drive, Holmes Beach.

YARD SALE: 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 11. Cypress high table and two chairs, vacuum, desk chair, antique oak bureau, oak armoire, lots of miscellaneous household items. No early birds. 783 N. Shore Drive, Anna Maria.

GARAGE SALE: 8 a.m.-? Saturday, Feb. 11, and each Saturday in February, weather permitting. The fun one! Absolutely new treasures every sale! 702 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

NORTHWEST BRADENTON: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 9-10. Bookcases, \$25, small occasional chairs, \$150 per pair. Small heart-shaped display tables, \$30 and much more, will haggle! 2003 81st St. N.W., Bradenton.

GARAGE SALE: 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday Feb. 11. Household goods, books, chair, ottoman, great stuff! 219 Periwinkle Plaza, Anna Maria.

LOST & FOUND

KAYAK PADDLE fished out of canal. You identify, it's yours, free. 941-778-6766.

FOUND: TIMEX WATCH, at tennis courts, Holmes Beach. Claim at The Islander office. 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

LOST: NIKON COOLPIC digital camera, memory cards in case. Anna Maria Island, possibly on trolley, Sunday, Jan. 29. Paul, 804-901-6244.

PETS

FREE COCKATIEL TO good home. Five years old, cage included. 941-567-5020.

BEAUTIFUL CAT FOR adoption! Long-hair, micro-chip, two years, friendly. Nice carry-crate included. 941-778-0330 or 812-219-2184.

ADORABLE RESCUE PUPPIES for adoption! Three pit mixes, gorgeous, sweet! Two male, one female. Fixed, chipped, shots. 941-896-6701.

ANSWERS TO FEB. 8 PUZZLE

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

PETS Continued

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ISLAND DOGS GROOMING Salon: Julie Keyes, certified groomer. Hydro bath, hand dry, (no cage drying). Personal service for you and your loved ones. Call anytime for appointments, 941-778-1202. 5360 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach.

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NAIL TECH NEEDED at new Island spa and boutique on Bridge Street. Turning appointments down daily. Call Amanda, 941-779-6836.

EXPERIENCED SALES ASSOCIATE: Part-time for busy retail store. Some weekends required. Please, call Jo-Ann at 941-896-4848.

SALES ASSOCIATE: MOTIVATED, experienced real estate licensee for busy Island office. Please call Jesse or Robin at 941-778-7244.

KIDS FOR HIRE

LOCAL ISLAND STUDENT babysitter available. CPR and first aid-certified, early childhood development major. Emily, 941-567-9276.

KIDS FOR HIRE ads are FREE for up to three weeks for Island youths under 16 looking for work. Ads must be placed in person at The Islander office, 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

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LPNS NEEDED FOR active quadriplegic using Hoyer lift. Full or part-time. Morning shifts are 4-5 hours starting at 7 a.m. Overnight shifts are 9:30 p.m.-7 a.m. Travel opportunity. 941-383-9637.

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TRANSPORT SERVICE: LET me drive you to the airport or anywhere in Florida. Flat rates. Reasonable. Call Mike, 941-567-6634.

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The Islander

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

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CUSTOM KITCHENS AND baths, additions, windows and door replacement. Call Matt at Pinnacle Group, 941-685-6132. Lic#CGC1506518.

STEVE'S HOME REMODELING and repairs. 941-524-8860.

RENTALS

WEEKLY/MONTHLY/ANNUAL rentals: wide variety, changes daily. SunCoast Real Estate, 941-779-0202, or 1-800-732-6434. www.suncoastinc.com.

HOLMES BEACH BUSINESS Center. Rental units available for office/commercial spaces from 750-2,000 sf. Humidity-controlled mini-storage units and garage units, 11 x 22 feet. 5347 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. 941-778-2924.

BONUS! CLASSIFIEDS ADS are posted early online at www.islander.org.

RENTALS Continued

HOLIDAY/VACATION RENTALS: 3BR/2BA private pool home in northwest Bradenton, 3BR/3BA private pool home in Palma Sola, west Bradenton. No annuals. Call 941-794-1515.

ANNUAL RENTAL: LONGBOAT Key, Twin Shores mobile home, 55-plus, private beach, 2BR/1BA. Call Karen, 813-377-6864.

VACATION RENTALS ONLY: Private pool homes, 3BR/2BA and 3BR/3BA. Condo, 1BR/1BA overlooking golf course. Call 941-794-1515 or www.coastalpropertiesrealty.com.

ANNUAL CANALFRONT, BOAT slip up to 26-feet. 2BR/2BA, washer and dryer hookup, utility room. Holmes Beach. 941-778-7039.

EFFICIENCY, ONE AND two bedroom apartments. Unfurnished, \$550 to \$750 monthly with annual lease and turnkey 1BR/1BA at 3611 117th St. W. Call Pat, 941-920-6637 with Florida Real Estate Team.

WANTED: RETAIL STOREFRONT in Bradenton Beach, 500 sf and up. Bridge street area. 941-447-1506.

ANNA MARIA SEASONAL rental: 2BR/1BA, washer and dryer, close to beach and fishing pier. Call 941-720-2418.

SEASONAL OR WEEKLY cottage-style rentals. 1BR/1BA or 55-plus 2BR/1BA with pool. Walk to beach, shopping, restaurants. 941-778-3426. Web site 2spinnakers.com.

REAL ESTATE

DIRECT GULFFRONT: 146 feet on the beach. 3BR/4.5BA, office recreation room, spa, pool, outdoor kitchen and theater, elevator, turnkey furnished. \$3,750,000. Suncoast Real Estate, 941-779-0202 or 941-720-0288.

FOR SALE BY owner: 1BR/1BA mobile completely remodeled with share, beach and bay access. Call 941-224-1652 for more information.

LOWEST-PRICED 3BR/2BA residence with heated pool on Anna Maria Island. New construction. Not a condo. \$479,000. Call Barry, 941-448-5500. Island Vacation Properties.

OPEN HOUSE: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12. 1BR/1BA on Intracoastal Waterway, beach access, heated pool, clubhouse, 55-plus community. Imperial House condos, 611 Gulf Drive, B-16, Bradenton Beach. Call Suzy Kormek at LaRosa Realty, 321-299-4344 or 941-896-8042.

ANNA MARIA CANAL home. Walk to beach and have your boat in the back. 2BR/2BA renovated home with boat lift and dock. For sale by owner. Call 813-245-0428.

IRONWOOD CONDO: \$62,000. 1BR/1.5BA. Many upgrades. 55-plus community. Overlooks golf course. Clubhouse, exercise room, heated pool. Six miles to Anna Maria Island. 941-524-8969.

WWW.ISLANDER.ORG: Useful tools and links, fun stuff, and important info... News archive. Photos. Commentary and more.



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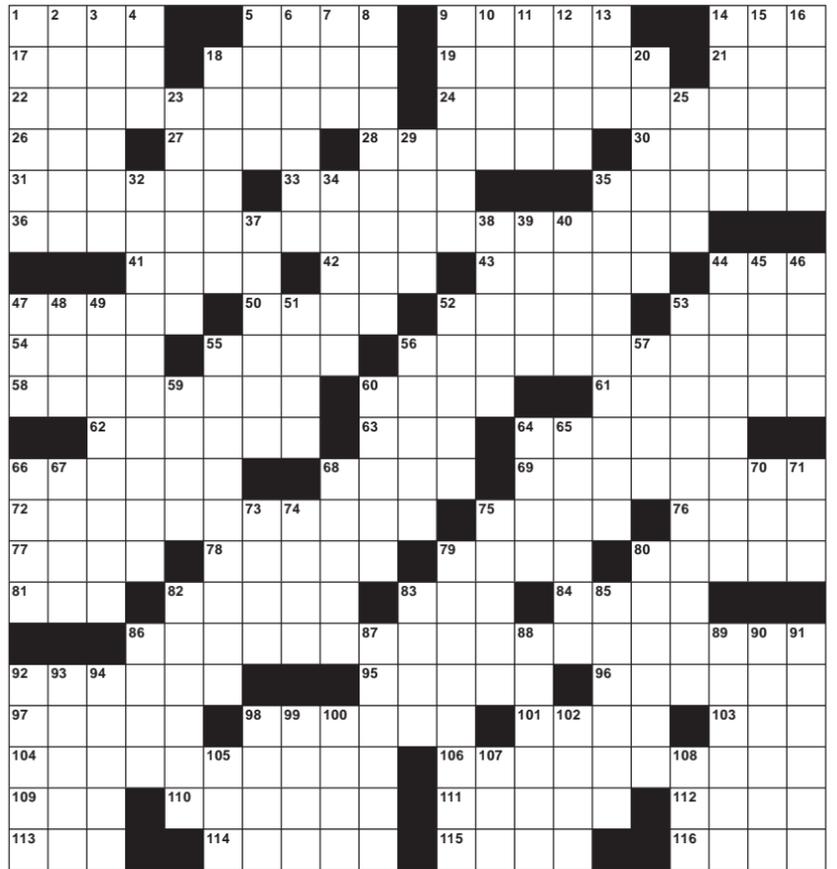
Anna Maria City Pier Restaurant



The Islander

NETWORKING EVENT By Ian Livengood / Edited by Will Shortz

- Across
- 1 Swivel on an axis
 - 5 Cowboys' home, familiarly
 - 9 Laughable
 - 14 Marble, e.g.
 - 17 One in Germany
 - 18 Locale of St. Catherine's Monastery, said to be the world's oldest working monastery
 - 19 Sources of many beads
 - 21 Narrow inlet
 - 22 Fancy footwear at a TV station?
 - 24 Advertising department at a TV station?
 - 26 Rugged transport, for short
 - 27 ___ Levy, four-time Super Bowl coach for Buffalo
 - 28 Visited
 - 30 Western loop
 - 31 Like some fortresses
 - 33 Lose ground?
 - 35 Classic toy company whose name is its founder's middle name
 - 36 Slide show at a TV station?
 - 41 "Puss in Boots" villain
 - 42 "Barbarella" extras, for short
- Answers:
page 29.
- 43 Person making waves?
 - 44 "How ya doin', bro?"
 - 47 Livid
 - 50 River to Korea Bay
 - 52 Insanity
 - 53 Shave
 - 54 Court recitation
 - 55 Midpoints: Abbr.
 - 56 Q&A at a TV station?
 - 58 Lickety-split
 - 60 Green-egg layers
 - 61 Ruthless corporate type
 - 62 Noted calendar makers
 - 63 Underworld leader
 - 64 Overflow
 - 66 Skater Yamaguchi
 - 68 Sort (out)
 - 69 Instrument with a big bell
 - 72 Expert at a TV station?
 - 75 Cookie holders
 - 76 Beginning of some temple names
 - 77 Opéra part
 - 78 Cockamamie
 - 79 Carnal craving
 - 80 European freshwater fish
 - 81 Super ___
 - 82 George nicknamed Mr. Basketball
 - 83 "Tsk! Tsk!"
 - 84 Baseball family surname
 - 86 Enrollment at a TV station?
 - 92 Shocked
 - 95 How some stocks are bought
 - 96 Hold fast
 - 97 Seize
 - 98 Playful response to a good insult
 - 101 You might rub a knife across it
 - 103 Country singer David Allan ____, writer of "Take This Job and Shove It"
 - 104 Recruiters at a TV station?
 - 106 Fish holder at a TV station?
 - 109 It's picked in the Pacific
 - 110 One taking the gold?
 - 111 Meal with wine
 - 112 Missouri relatives
 - 113 It was dropped at Woodstock
 - 114 "___ Got a Brand New Bag" (1965 James Brown hit)
 - 115 Orange or olive
 - 116 Await decision
- Down
- 1 Opening word?
 - 2 Tea merchant Sir Thomas
 - 3 Early computer
 - 4 Shout in a strip
 - 5 Drink served with Brezeln
 - 6 "What chutzpah!"
 - 7 Miss at a hoedown
 - 8 "The Simpsons" character with platform shoes
 - 9 Old block deliverers
 - 10 Gold rush town of 1899
 - 11 Graceful horse
 - 12 ___ a scratch
 - 13 Utah's state animal
 - 14 Mythical figure blinded by Oenopion
 - 15 Do a certain dish duty
 - 16 Zero, in slang
 - 18 Beach umbrella, e.g.
 - 20 Student involved in a prank, maybe
 - 23 Appear on the scene
 - 25 SpongeBob, e.g.
 - 29 Sugary quaffs
 - 32 Canine protector
 - 34 Fishing gear
 - 35 Blanket
 - 37 ___ Place
 - 38 Continental prefix
 - 39 Primo
 - 40 Product from Mars
 - 44 Sahara feature
 - 45 Push
 - 46 One of a group of 12, say
 - 47 World org. based in Lausanne, Switzerland
 - 48 Bowl call
 - 49 Leucippus and Democritus, philosophically
 - 51 Some Dadaist works
 - 52 Go up
 - 53 Oil producer?
 - 55 It brings up many ticket holders
 - 56 "Ta-ta!"
 - 57 Place to live in Germany
 - 59 Prefix with -plasm
 - 60 Give lessons
 - 64 Sheiks' garments
 - 65 Sidecars might go on it
 - 66 "Star Trek II" villain
 - 67 Houston university
 - 68 ___ Islam
 - 70 Meadow call
 - 71 "Ready!" follower
 - 73 Joiner of a team
 - 74 Gravy holder
 - 75 Home of ancient Bethlehem
 - 79 One of a secretive trio
 - 80 Dairy brand
 - 82 Get foggy
 - 83 ___ decay
 - 85 One-point score, of a sort
 - 86 It might be batted at a knockout
 - 87 Clerics' homes
 - 88 Half of a title role for John Barrymore or Spencer Tracy
 - 89 Goddess associated with witchcraft
 - 90 Like some T-shirt designs
 - 91 Didn't wait until Christmas, say
 - 92 Terrible
 - 93 Savvies
 - 94 Entranced
 - 98 Other, in Oviedo
 - 99 Crate
 - 100 Lassie of Arg.
 - 102 S-shaped molding
 - 105 Quick drink
 - 107 Gen ___
 - 108 Outdo



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