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VOLUME 22, NO. 3

Happy Thanksgiving

NOV. 27, 2013 FREE

The Islander

The Best News on Anna Maria Island Since 1992

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No evidence of homicide in death of Sheena Morris

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

The five-year quest to decide whether a 22-year-old Tampa woman took her own life in a Bradenton Beach motel room or whether she was murdered has been put to rest.

On Nov. 21, at around 4 p.m., Bradenton Beach Police Chief Sam Speciale received a phone call from the Florida State Attorney's Office informing him that there was no evidence of homicide in the death of Sheena Morris.

Morris was found dead on New Year's Day 2009 in a Bridgewalk Resort motel room, 100 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. She was discovered in the bathroom, hanging by a blue dog leash from the showerhead.

Assistant State Attorney Art Brown has been reviewing the case file since the conclusion of hundreds of hours of Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation on a case reopened by Speciale, on FDLE's recommendation.

The recommendation to administratively reopen the case came after a three-year public campaign by Morris' mother, Kelly Osborn, who insisted that her daughter was murdered. She challenged the 2009 suicide ruling from 12th District Medical Examiner Dr. Russell Vega.

Vega's conclusion was based on the fact that there was no evidence of foul play, according to Bradenton Beach Police Lt. Lenard Diaz, as well as crime scene investigators from the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

After devoting substantial resources to an investigation, the case has come full circle to

the original findings — no foul play.

"They found no evidence of a homicide and no charges will be filed in this case," said Speciale.

"There were no surprises stemming from the investigation," he said. "Most of the information found by FDLE was initially generated by our investigation when the incident occurred."

Morris has had harsh words for the BBPD



Morris



Bridgewalk resort, the motel on Bridge Street in Bradenton Beach where Sheena Morris died Jan. 1, 2009. Islander Photo: Josey Presswood

investigation, Speciale and Diaz, often using social media to allege the department's inept investigation capabilities.

The conclusion stands up to what Speciale and Diaz have maintained all along, but Speciale said this is not a situation to celebrate the effectiveness of his department's investigative abilities.

"I don't want to use the word 'vindicated,'" said Speciale. "I have been asked that a lot and that's not the right sentiment. This was a terrible tragedy. A young woman took her own life and nothing is going to change that. So, do I feel vindicated? No. I do feel relieved that this will be behind us."

Second investigation

Osborn publicly pushed for three years for her daughter's case to be reopened, insisting Joe Genoese, her daughter's fiance, was directly involved with her death.

Osborn then hired Dr. Michael Berkland, a former medical examiner working in private practice, to review the case file.

Berkland concluded from photos that the crime scene was likely staged. Berkland convinced Vega the cause of death was questionable and he changed it from suicide to undetermined.

Osborn appealed to Speciale to reopen the case, but Speciale insisted the investigation was closed.

The producers from the "Dr. Phil" TV program called Genoese, who agreed to go on the show with Osborn and to take a lie detector test, and the results of the test by the hired

PLEASE SEE MORRIS, PAGE 4

AM mayor halts park work, benefactors miffed

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Creating a park in Anna Maria is no cakewalk. Just ask Gene Aubry, Rex Hagen or Mike Coleman.

Holmes Beach resident Rex Hagen, who donated \$50,000 last June toward creating a park in Anna Maria on the six vacant lots at the east end of Pine Avenue, wonders why Anna Maria Commission Chair Chuck Webb is just now questioning his pledge and \$100,000 donated by Pine Avenue Restoration LLC.

The city commission approved the plan and pledges at its June 27 meeting based on a design drawn by then-Commissioner Gene Aubry. Aubry, and architect, donated his talents to the project.

However, at the Nov. 14 public hearing for the park site plan, Webb said he wanted the commission to review the documents signed by the city in June that accepted Hagen's and PAR's donations for park amenities such as trees, landscaping and restrooms.

Following the June 27 meeting, the city began preparing a site plan for the property, even though it's public land. The city administration, as a separate body from the commis-

sion, must file a site plan for any development, Mayor SueLynn said. The city must follow its code.

The commission voted Nov. 14 to continue the site plan hearing to Dec. 5.

Hagen subsequently told The Islander in a phone interview and in a follow-up email that Webb's action is "the latest stall" on developing the park.

"If Mr. Webb wants to review documents and minutes and the work done on the park, fine. Let him go do it. While he is doing all that, let's proceed with the project as agreed and finish what was started two years ago," Hagen said.

Anna Maria paid about \$2.5 million for the vacant lots in September 2011.

Hagen says the city has "sat without doing a thing for two years. No wonder it cost four times as much to work for governmental agencies versus private enterprise."

Hagen said he and Ed Chiles, a PAR principal, agreed more than two years ago that the city needed seed money to get the park moving. After their donations, the park concept

began to move forward, Hagen said.

"The trees are in and doing great, irrigation water is in and things were happening. This current setback is a tempest in a teapot, if I may pull from Shakespeare, and it will blow over as quickly as it came," Hagen said.

"Pine Avenue needs a public restroom and the park needs parking. How complicated is that? Let's quit nit-picking and get on with it."

Hagen said that if the city halts construction of the park or eliminates the restrooms or parking, he wants his money returned.

Mayor calls halt on park work

SueLynn said she has halted work at the park at the east end of Pine Avenue until the city commission votes on the park site plan submitted — which is expected to take place at the continuation of the public hearing in December.

She said irrigation of the trees planted in the park would continue, but no further planting of trees or landscaping work will take place.

No city funds have been spent on the park, she said, only a portion of Hagen's \$50,000 donation for the park from has been spent on trees, plants and the irrigation system.



Webb



SueLynn



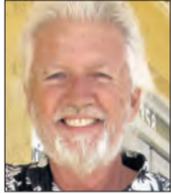
Aubry

Critics: HB mayor propagandizes prior to municipal election

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Propaganda is defined as “ideas, facts, or allegations spread deliberately to further one’s cause or to damage an opposing cause; also, a public action having such an effect” in the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

Several people among the Holmes Beach electorate say a mailing received in their mailboxes Nov. 4 from Mayor Carmel Monti was designed to sway the Nov. 5 election toward candidates of his choice. The critics say city funds were misused on Monti’s mailer.



Monti

Monti’s seven-page mailer highlighted his administration’s accomplishments the past year, including a claim that taxes have not increased since he took office almost a year ago. While the millage rate stayed the same, taxes and spending increased by more than 5 percent in Monti’s first budget year.

He also touted accomplishments in finance, building and public works, administration, police and code enforcement.

The mailer made no specific mention of the Nov. 5 election or any candidate, but made note of a “criminal investigation” regarding “the former building (department) administration and a company doing work for the city.”

Monti said the case is with the state attorney’s office, and the city plans to seek \$92,830.50 in restitution. The city claims payments made included work that was not performed by the contractor.

He also said towing of illegally parked vehicles has increased and “this was not done before.”



Williams

The mayor thanked city commissioners for “making this a successful year.”

Melissa Williams, one of five running for three commission seats in the Nov. 5 municipal election, along with former Mayor Rich Bohnenberger and former Pennsylvania legislator Scott Boyd, said Monti was wrong to use city staff and funds on his “Year End Report for City Hall — Let’s Celebrate Our Success.”

Williams said she was “disgusted to learn that the city’s money was used as a political tool. As a candidate, I’m not surprised. The gross misuse of city hall power continues.”

She added that this type of misuse of public funds needs to cease, and that she hoped to provide a check and balance on city spending, but was unsuccessful as a candidate.

“No matter which way you look at it, of course, it was unethical. This is not Holmes Beach,” Williams said, reflecting on past cooperation among elected officials.

The critics also noted there was false information contained in the mailer, particularly the mayor’s claim that taxes were not increased in his term in office.

City clerk Stacey Johnston confirmed the mailer was sent to a Holmes Beach voter’s list obtained from the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Johnston said staff copied the two-sided three-page letter and a sample property tax notice, folded and placed them in envelopes and labeled them with the voter

address. Only one letter was mailed to each address, she said.

The mailing was handled by AMPM Mailing Service of Bradenton, at a cost of \$775.49, Johnston said.

The process to print and fold copies and stuff the envelopes took city hall staff about two weeks, she said, but it was done by staff in addition to other duties.

In addition, Commissioners Jean Peelen, Judy Titsworth and Marvin Grossman assisted in the process, Johnston said.

Johnston said the process used 8,096 sheets of paper and 2,024 envelopes for mailing. AMPM invoiced for 2,482 pieces mailed. The bulk mail postage was \$573.42 plus 15 foreign pieces at \$1.10 each, or \$16.50.

She said she would have to do some calculations to determine the cost of paper and envelopes, and she referred the staff cost to the mayor.

The city, by ordinance, charges the newspaper 15 cents per page and 20 cents for two-sided copies of records. At that rate, based on 2,482 mailed pieces, the copies amount to \$1,861.50.

Monti said the cost was minimal compared to having voters know what is happening in the city.

Boyd, who moved to Holmes Beach in January and served 10 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature, was outraged to learn city money was used by Monti to “further his political agenda.”

Boyd said he’s never heard of a mayor who can use city money to highlight his or her agenda or accomplishments. Boyd also noted Monti said his letter was a “year-end report” but it arrived in the mail Nov. 4, while Monti was sworn into office Nov. 15, 2012.

“It’s a small point, but it’s not quite a year,” Boyd said. There weren’t a great number of accomplishments in his first few weeks or months in office and the budget had already been set for the year.

“But using public funds is a big point. When any elected representative, from the president to the governor, a state representative, a county commissioner or mayor uses his or her official position and taxpayer resources

PLEASE SEE HB MAYOR, NEXT PAGE

T-day pushes trash back

Waste Pro, which collects garbage and recyclables in Bradenton Beach, will delay its regularly scheduled Thursday pickups for residential addresses to Friday, Nov. 29, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Waste Pro’s collection from commercial customers also will be pushed back — pickups that usually take place on Thursdays will be made on Nov. 29 and Friday pickups will be on Nov. 30.

Normal service will return Dec. 2.

Waste Management, which collects refuse and recycling in Anna Maria and Holmes Beach, will be closed Nov. 28.

In Anna Maria, WM’s Thursday collection at residential addresses will be delayed to Nov. 29.

In Holmes Beach, regular pickup Friday, Nov. 28, is delayed to Saturday, Nov. 30.

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Former HB man sentenced 6 years, \$17.6 M restitution for fraud

Jason Syrek, a 40-year-old former Holmes Beach resident was sentenced Nov. 4 in U.S. District Court in Detroit to six years in a federal prison and ordered to pay \$17.6 million in restitution for health care fraud and false tax returns.

Syrek pleaded guilty to the crimes earlier this year. He admitted taking millions of dollars in funds intended for taxes and payments to Blue Cross Blue

Shield of Michigan.

He will now forfeit property to pay the debt, including that seized in December 2012 by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation: a 32.5-foot Sea Ray Boat, a 2008 Ferrari F430 and 2008 Porsche Boxster from 5311 Sunrise Lane, Holmes Beach, the Sunrise Lane home and a condo at Mainsail Beach Inn, Holmes Beach.

The seizure stemmed from an October 2012 com-

plaint filed against Syrek with the FBI in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.

According to court records, Syrek engaged in health care fraud from May 2008 to December 2010 while operating CAS Resources of Adrian, Mich.

The company provided human resources outsourcing, such as payroll, taxes and employee benefits.

"Syrek's conduct was egregious in that he effectively stole funds that were withheld on behalf of employees," said Erick Martinez, an Internal Revenue Service special agent. "His actions cost the government \$13.4 million in tax loss alone."

According to the Manatee County clerk's office, in August 2011, an IRS notice of \$11,030,158 in federal tax liens was recorded against Syrek.

In March 2012, another IRS tax lien of \$5,831,664 was recorded against AMI Beach Inn LLC as nominee, fraudulent conveyee and/or alter ego of CAS Resources.

The Daily Telegram, Adrian, Mich., contributed to this report.

HB MAYOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

to affect the outcome of an election, there is reason for concern," Boyd said.

"If it's not illegal, it should be and, at the least, it's unethical," he said. "We expect our elected officials to do what's right, not just what is legal."

Boyd suggested Monti should have used his own money — or campaign funds — if he wanted to mail out a list of his achievements to voters.

Bohnenberger, who lost to Monti in 2012, said he gave an annual report presentation and copies to the commission at a public meeting and also furnished it to the news media.

"It's an outrageous waste of taxpayer money for the city to pay for the mailing," Bohnenberger said.

"Additionally, the letter only went to voters, not residents or property owners. That's a selected list done obviously to promote the election," he said.

"Every property owner, every resident, deserves the same information. That's why I gave my report to the media. The mayor's report is for everybody with a vested interest in Holmes Beach," Bohnenberger said.

Monti, however, said he saw nothing wrong with mailing voters an update.

"I sent out an update at six months and now at 12 months," Monti said. "I've gotten so many compliments from voters thanking me for keeping them up-to-date. Many said it's the first time in 20 years they knew what was going on at city hall. I feel it's necessary and it's my duty to inform citizens."

Monti said the timing of the report just happened to be before the election.

Asked why he didn't release his report to the news media, Monti said he wanted to make sure the full content of his report was available to read.

As of last week, no official complaint had been filed with either the Florida Ethics Commission or the Florida Elections Commission.

A lawyer with the FEC said a formal complaint on misuse of public funds would have to be filed and the nine-member commission would consider if it was unethical. Each complaint is handled on an individual basis, the lawyer said.

To her knowledge, there is no statute that prohibits such mailings, as long as there is no request for funds, a campaign endorsement or even a hint of support for a candidate in that governing area in the mailer.

She referred to Section 112.313(6) of the FEC opinions on misuse of public funds.

That section states, in part, that "whether a corrupt misuse of official position has occurred in a given situation depends on how and for what purpose the stationery will be used, rather than upon the fact of its use."

Monti's mail, approximate costs	
AMPM fees, including postage:	\$775.49
Copies (3 two-sided pages, one single page):	\$1,861.50
Envelopes (6 boxes, 500 each):	\$51.00
Staff time (composition, copying, folding, stuffing):	Unknown
Commissioners time:	Priceless



Jason Syrek's sports cars, a 2008 Ferrari F430 and 2008 Porsche Boxster, and a 32.5-foot Sea Ray cruiser were confiscated from his home on Sunrise Lane in Holmes Beach in December 2012. The property, along with a condo at Mainsail Beach Inn, was placed under a government protective order. *Islander File Photo*

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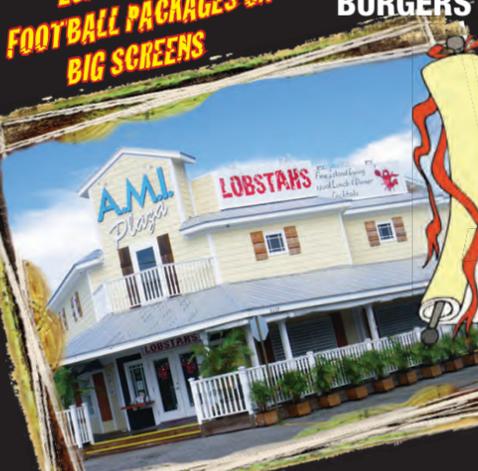


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**MORRIS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

examiner were not conclusive, but the show's polygraph examiner implied Genoese was lying.

However, documents now show that Genoese agreed to a second polygraph sometime during the FDLE investigation and that he "was not deceptive in any answers."

Osborn also repeatedly stated she was in possession of the proverbial smoking gun that could prove Morris was murdered. Police repeatedly requested her evidence, but never received it.

**Genoese**

In 2012, Berkland was discredited after being arrested for illegally storing human organs in household containers inside a Pensacola storage facility.

Information then surfaced that Berkland was twice fired from medical examiner duties for improper filing of autopsy reports.

Morris stood by Berkland and told The Islander that it was no different from a businessman bringing home paperwork.

In September 2012, FDLE conducted a SMART panel to review the BBPD investigation. They found nothing wrong with Diaz's investigation, but recommended further research into the case, and Speciale agreed to follow up on the recommendations with help from FDLE special agents.

The investigation

In a 44-page report filed by FDLE Special Agents Carl Shedlock and Chris Seimers, the case is relived from the early morning hours of Jan. 1, 2009, when Morris was found dead.

**Speciale**

The ensuing criminal investigation performed by BBPD, MCSO and the medical examiner found no physical evidence that Morris had been involved in a physical struggle prior to her death.

Toxicology reports showed Morris had been drinking, but had not taken any illegal drugs. Following her death, police were told by her mother that Morris was bi-polar, had experienced a prior drug overdose and suffered "mental issues due to friends committing suicide in the past."

Morris had attended a funeral of a close friend who died of suicide only a week before her death.

The investigation also revealed that one of Morris' male friends had committed suicide two months prior — by hanging himself with a blue dog leash.

Osborn told police that Morris had previously attempted suicide and that her daughter "needed help."

She later denied making those statements and called Diaz's report an "utter fabrication."

The report also states that Berkland was not the first pathologist hired by Osborn.

In July 2010, Osborn requested New York pathologist Dr. Michael Baden perform a second autopsy. Morris was exhumed and Baden's report showed no new information.

The report states that Genoese said the couple were



Kelly Osborn appeals to the public in September 2012 on Gulf Drive outside Bradenton Beach City Hall for help reopening the investigation of her daughter's death. Islander File Photo



Kelly Osborn talks to reporters following an appeal to Bradenton Beach city commissioners at an August 2012 meeting at city hall to intervene in the investigation of her daughter's death. Islander File Photo

at the Bridgewalk as a getaway because Morris was depressed. Genoese called his children to wish them a happy New Year shortly after midnight, which allegedly started an argument with Morris.

Genoese said he was leaving with or without Morris, who opted to stay and police were able to use cellphone records to track Genoese all the way back to Indian Rocks Beach in Pinellas County, as the couple continued to talk and text as he drove home.

Morris' friends speak out

Rebecca Anaya was interviewed in October 2012, claiming to be friends with Morris and Genoese. Anaya and Morris met while working as exotic dancers.

Anaya told FDLE agents that Morris confided in her that she suffered from depression and would often help her get through those moments that Anaya called Morris' "dark place."

A few weeks before Morris' death, Anaya said her friend began giving her some of her possessions, such as shoes and dresses and hid a \$100 check in Anaya's purse. Morris gave her a key to her apartment, saying it was "just in case anything ever happens."

Anaya told the agents she believes Morris killed herself due to a "deepening spiral of depression." She said she was no longer on speaking terms with Osborn because she partly blames her for Morris' death. Morris told Anaya that her mother often "meddled in her relationship" with Genoese.

Another friend, Lee Ann Blackshear, said the 2008 suicide of Morris' former boyfriend affected her deeply and friend Ashlie Knisley confirmed what Anaya had told authorities about Osborn's mental impact on Morris by "inserting herself" into her daughter's life.

Psychological autopsy

In June 2013, FDLE retained Dr. John Super, a licensed and board certified forensic psychologist to

conduct a psychological autopsy, a procedure to assess the facts of the case and determine Morris' suicide risk.

Super concluded that Morris' risk of suicide was higher than her self-protected state of mind.

He also reviewed the case and determined that reports in other media outlets about there being no sand in the room and that the shower had been wiped clean were inaccurate.

Those statements were initially made by Berkland to convince some that the crime scene was staged, but Super reports that enlarged photos clearly show sand on the shower floor, near Morris' feet and on the threshold leading into the shower.

Conspiracy theorists, both private and working in the media, made false conclusions that the sand had been vacuumed in an attempt to "clean" the crime scene.

Water droplets also were apparent, showing nothing had been wiped down in the shower, as implied.

The report discredits some consultants hired by the Osborn family as "recognized experts."

The report further states that other media outlets made claims that conflicted with the facts of the case.

Some of the erroneous reports in other media outlets included unattributed statements, such as Morris having unexplained bruising, that she was unhappy in her relationship with Genoese and that her pant cuffs were in a position consistent with a person being dragged.

Conclusions

The investigation concluded that Genoese was not in Manatee County at the time of Morris' death and that Morris did not suffer any injuries unrelated to the hanging.

The issues raised by Berkland regarding the staged crime scene suspicion "were shown not to be consistent with the facts shown in the investigation."

In fact, the investigation concludes that there were multiple photos that contradicted any theory that the crime scene was staged.

Speciale said his confidence in the outcome of the investigation never swayed.

"I've always been confident in the abilities of detective Diaz," he said. "I have appreciated all of the support and assistance from MCSO's crime scene technicians and the FDLE agents who spent countless hours assisting us, and for the state attorney's office for taking time to review the evidence and coming to this conclusion."

Osborn was interviewed by broadcast news stations following the public release of information regarding the FDLE and state attorney's office conclusions.

She initially told reporters that she would accept the state's decision and continue to help other families who have gone through similar experiences.

She does not believe Morris committed suicide.

In later interviews, Osborn has claimed that the FDLE investigation is flawed.

Meetings

Anna Maria City

- Dec. 3, 6 p.m., planning and zoning.
- Dec. 5, 6 p.m., city commission.
- Dec. 11, 6 p.m., EEEEC.
- Dec. 12, 6 p.m., special meeting.

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

Bradenton Beach

- Dec. 2, 3 p.m., Scenic Waves.
 - Dec. 5, 1 p.m., pier team.
 - Dec. 5, 1:30 p.m., CRA/CIP.
 - Dec. 5, 7 p.m., city commission.
 - Dec. 11, 3 p.m., planning and zoning.
 - Dec. 19, 1 p.m., city commission. CANCELED
- Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 941-778-1005, www.cityofbradentonbeach.org.

Holmes Beach

- Dec. 4, 5 p.m., parks and beautification.
 - Dec. 10, 7 p.m., city commission.
 - Dec. 12, 7 p.m., city commission.
 - Dec. 17, 11 a.m., city center. CANCELED
- Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 941-708-5800, www.holmesbeachfl.org.

Manatee County

- Dec. 3, 9 a.m., county commission.

- Dec. 10, 9 a.m., commission work session, "How Will We Grow" implementation.

- Dec. 17, 9 a.m., county commission.

Administration building, 1112 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, 941-748-4501, www.myanatee.org.

West Manatee Fire Rescue

- No meetings scheduled.

Administrative office, 6417 Third Ave. W., Bradenton, 941-761-1555, www.wmfr.org.

Of Interest

• Nov. 28, Thanksgiving. Government offices and The Islander will be closed Nov. 28-29.

• Dec. 4, 9 a.m., Manatee County Delegation Legislation hearing, University South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, Selby Auditorium, 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

• Dec. 9, 9 a.m., Manatee County Tourist Development Council, Holmes Beach City Hall.

• Dec. 16, 9:30 a.m., Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, Holiday Inn, 8009 15th St. E., Sarasota.

• Dec. 18, 2 p.m., Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials, TBD.

• Dec. 25, Christmas. Most government offices will be closed Dec. 24-25.

Send notices to calendar@islander.org and news@islander.org.

Island officials seek improved communication

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

Anna Maria Mayor SueLynn, at a Nov. 20 Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials meeting, said island cities could save a lot of money on projects if communication improved.

The officials discussed the problem of “duplication of services” and, SueLynn suggested, the island cities should “take a look at working together. I’m not suggesting we come together and be one big happy family. That may happen eventually years down the road, but a great deal of our individual projects are similar.”

SueLynn cited projects such as dredging could be better coordinated so cities could piggyback on one another and save on mobilization costs.

“It would save hundreds of thousands of dollars,” she said. “I’m not suggesting we be one big island city, but there is an economical reason for us to come together.”

In recent months, officials have taken a closer look at their CBIEO partner, Longboat Key.

An example of cooperation in using one another’s resources is a \$125,000 visioning study done by the town of Longboat Key in determining where the town is today as an entity and where it should be in the future.

Some Longboat Key citizens are questioning the wisdom behind such an expense. However, Holmes Beach, in particular, has expressed interest in doing something similar and adapting the Longboat Key study to its needs.

Longboat Key Commissioner Jack Duncan said the CBIEO is on the right track with better communication and targeting like-minded partnerships, but the key to success, he said, is to take the concept of cooperation to a higher level.

Duncan said Longboat Key has developed a good relationship with Sarasota County in recent months and the result has been progress for his town.

In the case of CBIEO, he said barrier island issues will carry more weight with a unified front. He suggested that the four island mayors begin meeting on a regular basis.

“It’s important they coordinate with one another,” said Duncan, noting Longboat Key has learned its lessons in trying to go it alone.

“Longboat Key was the worst at that,” he said. “Our noses were up in the air and we were going to do it our way. That’s changed now with new people.”

He said understanding the value of partnerships and working together with other government entities has paid off for the town.

Holmes Beach Commissioner Jean Peelen suggested that a citizen committee be formed from residents of all four cities to discuss what projects the cities have in common.

Shearon said he was on a committee like that about four years ago and it was a disaster.

“It had to do with a consolidation referendum and the negative side of it was that it got all out of proportion,” said Shearon. “We tried to pursue it, but my suggestion would be for the four mayors to sit down and get a game plan before involving the public and a bunch of committees.”

Shearon said he feared a repeat of public misconception on what the goals are, “and we would spend a lot of time on something that wouldn’t be effective.”

Monti agreed, saying the CBIEO is already off to a good start with steady dialogue, but the focus could be more term-friendly by saying “shared services” instead of duplicate services.

“What those services are, we don’t know yet,” he said. “But we definitely opened a door here. Now we just need to keep the dialogue going.”

CBIEO has been criticized in the past for doing a lot of talking and following up on very little, according to its own members. While its mandate is discussion-oriented with the intention of each member taking the information back to their commission, it doesn’t result in much action.

Shearon acknowledged that criticism and asked who would take charge of organizing the mayoral meetings.

“To sit and discuss things is one thing,” said Shearon. “I don’t want to see us discuss something for months. I request that someone be appointed to take the lead and pursue it.”

Monti, who had proposed mayoral meetings in the past, said he would he organize the meetings.

Since the discussion would focus on shared services with one another, as well as the county, Manatee County Commissioner John Chappie volunteered to attend the meetings and take the information discussed back to his commission.

County Commissioner Carol Whitmore said she was glad to see the mayors working together. She said a similar approach in the past never went anywhere.

All of the Anna Maria Island officials expressed gratitude at the growing relationship with Longboat Key. Anna Maria Mayor SueLynn said it was key to have Longboat Key’s involvement.

Monti agreed, saying “We are much stronger together as we move forward.”

Bridge jumper backs up traffic

A man who jumped off the Manatee Avenue Bridge the afternoon of Nov. 21 caused serious traffic delays.

A Manatee County Sheriff’s Office report was not available as of Islander press time.

The Holmes Beach Police Department provided assistance and, according to Police Chief Bill Tokajer, the man was not attempting to hurt himself.

Tokajer said law enforcement received calls of a possible suicide attempt, but it turned out the man was attempting to poach crab traps in the area waters.

Due to the nature of the call being a possible suicide attempt, police blocked the bridge from traffic.

The nature of the charges, or if the man was charged with a crime, was not known as of press time.

Correction

A story in the Nov. 20 Islander about flood insurance rates and the effect of the Biggert-Waters Act should have stated the insurance agency owned by Brent Moss is GreatFlorida Insurance Agency, 5702 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.



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Our Opinion

Thankful? I didn't know

It was January 1975, almost 39 years ago, and as I left Springfield, Ill., there was a light snowfall in my headlights in the early morning hours.

The adventure — life on Anna Maria Island — began as I headed to Champaign to pick up a friend for the long ride. There were many good-byes and bright prospects for days of sunshine, palm trees and white sand beaches.

Sound familiar? I'm sure there's many a story to be told of a similar journey. It wasn't long before we crossed the Florida state line and I disposed of my winter coat at a rest stop. Bye-bye God-forsaken prairie. Hello Sunshine State.

My two young kids were soon to follow and, to be frank, I had no idea and no fear for what the future would hold.

I had faith that my hotel management experience would provide a job. I found the little school idyllic. I met people my age of varied backgrounds — mostly new to me, such as fishers and “smug drugglers.” Bar owners, lifeguards, crabbers, firefighters. I came to know my mail carrier, the police chief, Miss Duffy and some folks at the youth center.

I ventured from hotels to newspapers and magazines, to operating an advertising-publishing company.

My kids thrived in spite of my youth and theirs. We surfed, snorkeled, skimboarded, played tennis, baseball and pinball and learned the words to Jimmy Buffett songs. They trekked back-and-forth to Illinois, where they had oodles of relatives, for summers and holidays.

I enjoyed short, indulgent trips to Key West to hang out with lobster fishers, Cuban expatriates and misfits. I learned to drink espresso and dine on an excess of shellfish and hot sauces.

I discovered being thankful when I began publishing The Islander newspaper in 1992 and found myself, as a new entrepreneur, lucky enough to sponsor soccer and baseball teams. To help bring a circus to the Holmes Beach field. To ring the bell at Publix for the Salvation Army, volunteer for the chamber and serve the community and a variety of nonprofits every year with news and announcements, sponsorships and photos.

It seemed all those early years that giving back had eluded me. I was always nose-to-the-grindstone working. Always busy. Days and nights were occupied with everyday responsibilities.

Suddenly, I thought, I could give back.

PLEASE SEE OUR OPINIONS, NEXT PAGE



Your Opinion

Thanks, matey

The Anna Maria Island Privateers wish to express a huge thank you to the community for its love and support during the inaugural Anna Maria Island Pirate Invasion, held Nov. 1-3 at Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach.

According to event co-chair Tim “Hammer” Thompson, “The event was a huge success and we learned many lessons.”

We are planning for next year's invasion and we know next year it will be an even bigger success.

Some noteworthy highlights of this year's invasion were: The Grande Pirate Masquerade Ball at the Seafood Shack in Cortez with more than 230 elegantly attired attendees. Both the live and silent auctions at the ball were a big hit, with the top prize being a framed painting, “Narrow Escape,” donated by renowned pirate artist Don Maitz.

Bright and early the next morning, history was written on Anna Maria Island as the Privateers skirmished with the krewes of DeSoto's Conquistadors down the length of the island from Anna Maria to Coquina Beach to the delight of crowds in search of the ghost ship of Lafitte.

The skirmish was followed by two days of fun, music, crafts, food and drink at Coquina Beach.

Please watch for announcements to be involved and be a part of this event next year.

And once again, to the community we love ... thank you!

The krewes of the Anna Maria Island Privateers

Bravo

It was a proud moment Nov. 9 for the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus & Orchestra to be involved in the inaugural Symphony on the Sand beach concert.

The weather was perfect, the food, beer and wine service truly gourmet, the setting was one of the most beautiful on the Gulf of Mexico and the chorus and orchestra were in fine form.

Many patrons were so enthusiastic, wanting to know when it would be done again, and promising their support for future events. I believe this will go down in the history of Anna Maria Island as one of the most unique and superlative events to grace our shore. Bravo to all the AMICCO musicians, kudos to our extremely generous and supportive sponsors, congratulations to the Tourist Development Council, Manatee County, and Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce for thinking outside the box and producing this amazing event.

A grateful round of applause goes to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly and also to the Symphony on the Sand Committee members, who had the vision and made it happen.

Most of all, our sincere thanks to the wonderful patrons who turned out to Symphony on the Sand.

It was a distinct honor to perform for you.

Jeanie Pickwick, AMICCO executive director

Have your say

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

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

The preferred method is to send letters by email to news@islander.org or mail to 5404 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217. Online readers may comment on top stories on The Islander website at www.islander.org.

The Islander also has an active Facebook community of more than 2,500 users with updates daily. “Like” us online.



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Our Opinion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

I still have a hard time being idle. Sometimes I think I should say “no,” right after I find myself “involved” again.

I have much to be thankful for, and ever more so when I try to put myself in the place of Kelly Osborn — the mother of the young suicide victim reported on this week’s front page.

I’m thankful she has answers, but my heart goes out to her and others like her who lose their children.

I’m thankful, however, that we can tell her story, pursue the truth and finally come to the place where we — as a community — can put it behind us.

This week, we look forward to the holidays, a time filled with special moments. It’s time to take an extra moment to give someone a smile or send a greeting ... pause to give a quiet hug or words of praise. The holidays are special for friends, family and islanders.

In this week’s special section, the Islander Wish Book, we take a moment to present some of the needs in our community that deserve special consideration.

This publication debuted after the first year of publishing *The Islander*, and the idea was born from the Miami Herald. Long before *The Islander*, I read and saved a special section in the Herald that helped agencies in Miami that served the needy. I saved it because I found it touching, with no thought how I could apply the Herald’s dedication to its community in my future.

But here it is. 21 years later. And the feedback from people and organizations has always been heartwarming — sometimes overwhelming — to us at *The Islander*.

These community-based service organizations are dedicated to providing assistance to families and individuals, teaching and mentoring our children, help-



ing the elderly and less fortunate, all with the goal of making Anna Maria Island a better place to live for each and every one of us.

Within the 21st annual Islander Wish Book, many of these organizations offer a special way for you to share the holiday spirit. We’ve included a list of needs — wishes — from each one. Your donation, however small or grand, will be deeply appreciated by many.

Please, take a moment to add to your holiday shopping list.

It’s *The Islander*’s way of saying thanks for the support we’ve received for the past 21 years and a chance for all of us to give something back to the community we love. A small contribution can make a big difference.

Experience the joy of giving.

Be thankful.

— Bonner Joy

The Islander

10 years ago

Headlines from Nov. 26, 2003

- The newly elected Bradenton Beach City Commission fired city attorney Alan Prather, city planner Bill Brisson and removed planning and zoning board members Pete Milazzo and Susan Kehne. Commissioners also placed all department heads on 90-days probation pending performance evaluations. Commissioner Anna O’Brien said the city did not have the team needed to reach its objectives.

- The Anna Maria Elementary School construction team, including parents, teachers, contractors and school board officials, received good news from Manatee County Superintendent of Schools Robert Dearing. Dearing said the previous estimate that the new AME was \$1.6 million over budget had been revised and the cost of the new school would now fall within the \$5.6 million budget.

- Members of the Barrier Island Elected Officials organization called on Manatee County to share a portion of a proposed impact fee with the barrier island cities. Anna Maria Mayor SueLynn said projects such as that proposed for Perico Island would have a serious impact on the island cities. County Commission Chair John Bruce said he would have county officials meet with the BIEO.

TEMPS AND DROPS ON AMI

Date	Low	High	Rainfall
Nov. 17	71	86	0
Nov. 18	69	82	0
Nov. 19	71	84	0
Nov. 20	67	84	0.71
Nov. 21	73	86	0
Nov. 22	69	86	0
Nov. 23	65	85	0

Average area Gulf water temperature 74.1

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

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You’re invited to visit *The Islander*’s new **SIDEBAR GALLERY** and premiere showing of new work, featuring four local women artists, Linda Molto, Ines Norman, Cecy Richardson and Susanna Spann. Come view the gallery collection, including work by Ruby C. Williams, Richard Thomas, Andre Renard and a dozen or more local artists. Don’t miss your chance to own a piece of Anna Maria Island-Cortez lore.



The Islander

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HB mayor ready to take paid parking plan to next level

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

All three newly elected Bradenton Beach officials attended the recent Coalition of Barrier Island Officials meeting at Holmes Beach City Hall in a show of support for islandwide issues.

Bradenton Beach Mayor Bill Shearon and Commissioners Janie Robertson and Jack Clarke attended, as well as Vice Mayor Ed Straight. Commissioner Jan Vosburgh was out of state and unable to attend, but she shared Bradenton Beach's commitment to CBIEO issues.

"What I'm trying to say is that it is the goal of Bradenton Beach as a commission team to have a very key interest and want to be involved with our neighbors," said Shearon.

That support was tested early, when Holmes Beach Mayor Carmel Monti said he was ready to present a paid parking proposal for Manatee Public Beach to his commission for review.

"We've been doing a lot of evaluation and I have had a lot of conversation with the county in talking about the concession stand and potential paid parking," said Monti. "I'm ready to make a proposal to our city commission, but the feedback I'm getting is that the county would like to have a consensus from the other island cities."

Monti said the county does not want to create a paid parking environment in Holmes Beach if it means directing the burden of traffic to free parking at Coquina Beach



Manatee Avenue leading to Gulf Drive and the Manatee Public Beach in Holmes Beach used to be a parking lot in season, but parking is prohibited now on the north side of the state road. *Islander File Photo*

in Bradenton Beach.

The former Bradenton Beach administration under John Shaughnessy opposed the Holmes Beach plan for that very reason. Prior to being ousted in the Nov. 5 election, former Commissioner Ric Gatehouse proposed a seven-point parking plan designed to encourage the use of free parking at Coquina Beach that called for paid or permit-only parking at city parking lots.

Anna Maria is exploring similar options, but Mayor SueLynn's proposals, which have not been taken up by the city commission, include implementing paid or per-

mitted parking throughout much of the city.

While Anna Maria does not have a large beach and parking lot similar to the Coquina or Manatee beaches to accommodate visitors, Bayfront Park is a popular attraction for beachgoers. However, Anna Maria has not expressed opposition to the Holmes Beach paid parking plan.

Monti said studies he has reviewed show no negative impact to tourism if paid parking is implemented and it also would create a revenue stream.

Shearon announced that he asked Gatehouse to continue his work on the Bradenton Beach parking plan, which is in conflict with the Holmes Beach plan.

"Ric Gatehouse has been very active on the parking issue," said Shearon. "I think we need to digest this a little bit and then we'll get back to you. I'll get a consensus from the commissioners to see which way we want to go."

Monti said he will prepare a draft of the proposal he intends to submit to his commission and give copies to Shearon and SueLynn for their review and further discussion.

Paid parking is just one branch of a growing vine when it comes to addressing parking and congestion issues that are being discussed in various committees, primarily in Holmes Beach.

Monti said the city's congestion committee is working other angles to direct overflow parking by negotiating agreements with churches and businesses to use their parking lots for beach overflow parking.

The congestion committee is focusing on that agreement, which would encourage beachgoers to drop off passengers and gear and then park at an off-site lot.

"It's a grand idea," said SueLynn. "I think the challenge is getting the public to use it. We've had signs at CrossPointe Fellowship for a month and, to be honest, I don't know if anyone has used it."

Signs along Gulf Drive fronting the church parking lot at 8605 Gulf Drive invite people to park and ride the free trolley.

The congestion committee has taken that into consideration and also is working on a publicity campaign and signage for the off-site parking areas.

"We don't have any proposals yet, but we are progressing nicely," said Monti.

The congestion committee has set a target date of Feb. 1 to have the off-site parking areas in place for tourist season's impact from beachgoers.

Former island real estate agent arrested

A former Anna Maria Island vacation real estate agent was arrested Nov. 12 for operating without a real estate license.

Michael Carleton, 61, was booked and held on \$1,500 bond, but immediately posted bond and was released.

Carleton was already under investigation by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Real Estate, following complaints early this year that he double-booked island vacation homes.

Complainants allege Carleton could not be contacted from out of state after paying deposits, or at times, he would only agree to partial refunds, which frustrated renters who were hoping to recoup some of their money.

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce said they fielded numerous complaints about Carleton's alleged shady rental practices.

He was under criminal investigation by the Holmes Beach Police Department, at which time Carleton's island office shut down. He posted a forwarding address to Sarasota.

HBPD turned the investigation over to the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Postal Service in May.



Carleton

In the interim, the state suspended Carleton's license in March after he allegedly paid \$10,000 for a property at 106 55th St., Holmes Beach, into the escrow account for his rental agency, Coast Line Accommodations, instead of Coast Line Realtors, his registered employer.

More than 60 complaints were filed with the HBPD prior to the case being turned over to the federal government, which is ongoing.

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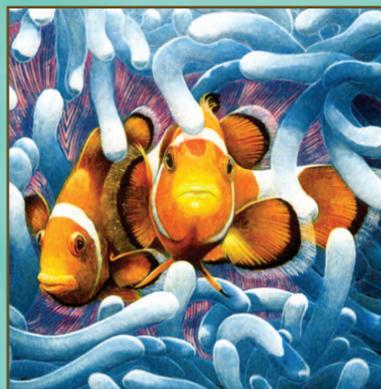
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Tourist development tax skyrockets above annual record

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Collections of the tax on accommodations have rocketed to more than 10 percent over the previous year's record-setting pace in Manatee County.

Manatee County Tourist Development Tax, often called the resort or bed tax, set a record of \$8.993 million for the 2013 fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

That amounted to an 11 percent increase over the previous record of \$8.101 million set in fiscal year 2011-12.

The resort tax is the 5 percent collected on rentals of six months or less in Manatee County.

Collections for September 2013 were \$457,918, a jump of 19.2 percent from the \$384,028 collected in September 2012.

Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce president Mary Ann Brockman said the continuing increase in resort tax collections corresponds to continuing increase in accommodation occupancy and visitor arrivals on Anna Maria Island.

"We seem to be going up in tourism every month, and keeping pace with the resort tax jumps," Brockman said. "September, which is usually very slow, was very busy for a lots of members."

Brockman attributed the increase to aggressive marketing of Anna Maria Island by the BACVB and the value-for-dollar that visitors receive for the ambiance of the island.

The resort tax is used to fund the county's portion of beach renourishment, the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the Bradenton Area Convention Center, the Powel Crosley Estate and Museum and other public venues in the county.

The latest statistics from the BACVB reported third quarter tourism in the Bradenton area up 6.5 percent for the same nine months in 2012.

Visit Florida, the state's official tourism website, reported 22.9 million visitors came to the state from July

to September, a jump of 1.7 percent from the same period in 2012.

For the year-to-date, Visit Florida said tourism is up 3.4 percent from 2012. Visit Florida reported 72.6 million visitors to the state through the first nine months of 2013.

Manatee County resort tax collections for the fiscal year 2010-11 were \$7.1 million. Of the past 13 years, the only drop was 2007-08 when collections were \$5 million, which was \$200,000 less than 2006-07.



Visitors continued to come to Anna Maria Island in September, usually the slowest month of the year for tourism. The number of visitors raised resort tax collections nearly 20 percent in September 2013 compared with the same month in 2012. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

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Island happenings



Saturday, Dec. 7, about 10 a.m., the Anna Maria Island Privateers Christmas Parade takes place, traveling from Bayfront Park in Anna Maria to Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach. Islander File Photo

Ho, ho, ho: Holiday rush begins

Santa Claus is coming to town — more than once in the next month.

A glance at Anna Maria Island's holiday calendar:

- Dec. 6, at about sunset, the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, hosts an open house and lights the island Christmas tree.
 - Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m., Holmes Beach merchants, in partnership with the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, host a holiday open house in the downtown area. The Islander and The Feast host the Privateers and Santa visits, as well as the snow flurries.
 - Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, hosts the Holly Berry Bazaar, featuring holiday goodies and decorations.
 - Dec. 7, about 10 a.m., the Anna Maria Island Privateers Christmas Parade takes place, featuring Santa and traveling from Bayfront Park in Anna Maria to Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach. All floats must be staged by 9:30 a.m. and all entries must be motorized. There is no charge to participate in the parade.
 - Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the Anna Maria Island Privateers host a post-parade Christmas party at Coquina Beach, where Santa Claus will visit with children and hand out presents.
- Also, the Privateers will provide a free lunch for children.
- Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria,

hosts the old-fashioned Lester Family Fun Day, a celebratory benefit that features visits with Santa, lunch, games, crafts and performances.

- Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m., the Sandbar Restaurant, 100 Spring Ave., Anna Maria, hosts Santa and more than 120 select children for the Lawton Chiles Christmas for Kids Party.
- Dec. 13, from 5-8 p.m., Anna Maria businesses host a citywide holiday open house. Participating businesses will stay open extended hours to toast the season and children can visit with Santa Claus.
- Dec. 14-15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Anna Maria Island Art League presents Winterfest at city field, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. The event provides an opportunity for art-enthusiasts to do some holiday shopping and for artists — from near and afar — to show off their work in a juried festival.
- Dec. 14, from 3-7 p.m., the Bridge Street Merchants hosts the annual Christmas on Bridge Street celebration, featuring visits with representatives from the North Pole, raffles, a children's gift bazaar, carols and holiday specials in the stores and restaurants.
- Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m., Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, hosts the Bethlehem Walk, which doesn't feature Santa but does feature a certain newborn.
- Dec. 15, 2 p.m., the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra performs the Island Holidays concert at CrossPointe Fellowship, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

Holmes Beach downtown delivering holiday cheer

Holmes Beach businesses in partnership with the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce will host a holiday open house Friday, Dec. 6.

The annual lighting of the chamber Christmas tree will take place at the start of the open house — around sunset outside the chamber, 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

Chamber president Mary Ann Brockman said the tree probably would go up Dec. 4.

And from about 5-8 p.m., shops, offices and restaurants in the downtown area of Marina and Gulf drives will hold open houses, some of them extending hours to join in the celebration.

Also, several Holmes Beach galleries will host receptions with artists and restaurants will offer specials.

Outside the Feast Restaurant, there will be "snow" for children to dance in, visits with Santa Claus in his sleigh and Anna Maria Island Privateers serving as ushers and hosts.

The event also features a raffle for a gift basket stocked with donations from Holmes Beach businesses. For more, call the chamber at 941-778-1541.

Holly Berry Bazaar returns to Annunciation

The Episcopal Church of the Annunciation will host the annual Holly Berry Bazaar 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

The sale takes place in the church hall, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

An announcement from the organizers promises homemade chicken pot pies, baked goods and other desserts, the jarred sweet pickles that sell out every year, raffles for gift baskets, as well as crafts, gifts, jewelry, Christmas decorations and other items for sale.

For more information, call the church office at 941-778-1638.

Artspace collecting crayons, coloring books

The Artspace gallery and studio is collecting crayons and coloring books for Manatee County homeless children. The items will be distributed through FELT/Feeding Empty Little Tummies.

Donations can be dropped at Artspace, 101 S. Bay Blvd., Anna Maria, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. The deadline for donations is Dec. 10.

For more information, call the gallery at 941-243-3835.

Island happenings



Santa and friends at a past Lawton Chiles Christmas for Kids Party.

Sandbar to host private children's party

The 20th annual Lawton Chiles Christmas for Kids Party will take place at the Sandbar Restaurant at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

The event has grown in the past two decades from 25 children to more than 100. Organizers this year are planning to celebrate the holiday with more than 120 children, as well as teachers and parents at the restaurant, 100 Spring Ave., Anna Maria.

Children who attend the party are selected from the local Head Start program, as well as the Children's Academy and Healthy Families Manatee.

Ed Chiles, owner of the Sandbar and two other Chiles Group restaurants, said in a letter to supporters that his dad, the late Gov. Lawton Chiles, helped establish

Healthy Families Manatee in 1998.

Children who attend the celebration receive from Santa Claus a toy, as well as a pair of shoes and an outfit of clothing, and certificates for a turkey and other groceries for a holiday feast for their family.

They also feast on a lunch served by the Sandbar crew and are entertained by a cast of costumed characters as they play games in the pavilion and on the beach.

Donations for the party can be sent to the Sandbar Restaurant, P.O. Box 1478, Anna Maria, FL 34216.

For more information, including volunteer opportunities before and during the party, contact special events coordinator Patti McKee at 941-778-8709 or pmckee@chilesgroup.com.

Lester Family Fun Day benefits center

The 12th annual old-fashioned Lester Family Fun Day benefiting the Anna Maria Island Community Center will take place 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7.

Chuck and Joey Lester present the holiday party at the center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria.

An advertisement promises:

- Sales of Duffy burgers, hot dogs and drinks.
- Indoor activities for all ages, including a bounce house, games, cookie decorating, face painting and card making.
- Pony rides.
- Performances, including by Tony the Balloon Guy, the Manatee Players' Dickens Christmas Carolers, the Manatee High School Drum Line and the Diane Partington Studio of Classical Ballet.
- Raffles for frozen turkeys and prizes.
- Visits with Santa Claus, who, in Lester Family Fun Day tradition, will arrive on a fire truck at noon.

New this year, a holiday gingerbread house baking and decorating contest for local restaurants and bakeries — with the creations on view at the event.

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

Privateers readying Christmas parade

Anna Maria Island Privateers are polishing sleigh bells and decorating their float for the annual Christmas parade and holiday party.

This year's event will be Saturday, Dec. 7.

The parade begins at about 10 a.m. at Bayfront Park in Anna Maria and travels south, mostly along Gulf Drive, to Coquina Beach in Bradenton Beach.

Entries — which must be motorized and peddled and should be decorated for the holiday season — will assemble at Bayfront Park at 9:30 a.m.

At Coquina at about 11:30 a.m., AMIP will hosts an open house and party, with Santa greeting and handing out presents aboard the Scullywag to children and pirates serving hot dogs and soda pop — free to kids and for a modest donation from adults.

To register for the parade, go to amiprivateers.memberlodge.org.

For more information, call Laura Long at 941-962-9820.

Islanders enlist in Toys for Tots drive

Island Vacation Properties, 3001 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, is leading the campaign on Anna Maria Island to collect donations for the Toys for Tots effort.

Unwrapped, new toys can be dropped off at the real estate-rental office, as well as at the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach; H2U, 6670 Cortez Road W., Bradenton; Duffy's Tavern, 5808 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach; Jamaica Breeze, 420 67th St. W., Bradenton; Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria; and Signature Salon, 6646 Cortez Road W., Bradenton.

For more information about the campaign, call Island Vacation Properties at 941-778-1000.

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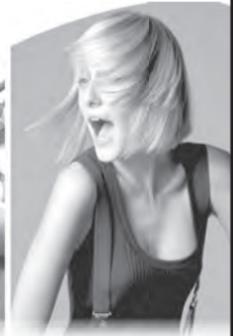
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Wednesday, Nov. 27

5:35 p.m. — Official sunset time.
Hanukkah begins at sundown.

Thursday, Nov. 28

Happy Thanksgiving.

Friday, Nov. 29

Today is Black Friday. Shop local, buy local.
5-8 p.m. — Pine Avenue Porch Party, 315 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, featuring "Deadliest Catch" star and author Travis Lofland. Information: 941-941-778-5694.
5:35 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Saturday, Nov. 30

Today is small business Saturday. Shop local, buy local.
8:30 a.m. — Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island breakfast and meeting, Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe, Manatee Public Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1383.
5-10 p.m. — Bridge Street Merchants Lighting of Bridge Street celebration, 107 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 215-906-0668.
5:35 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Sunday, Dec. 1

5:35 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Monday, Dec. 2

5:35 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Tuesday, Dec. 3

Noon — Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island meets, Bridge Street Bistro, 111 Gulf Drive S., Bradenton Beach Information: 941-794-8044.
5:35 p.m. — Official sunset time.
8 p.m. — Island Players "Over the River and through the Woods," benefit for AMICCO, 10009, Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Fee applies. Information: 941-795-2370.



The Studio at Gulf and Pine is exhibiting the work of Sarasota artist Jill Krasner. Islander Courtesy Photo

Studio hosts 'Letting the Light Come In'

The work of Sarasota artist Jill Krasner is featured in "Letting the Light Come In," an exhibit that opened Nov. 20 at the Studio at Gulf and Pine.

The show continues through Jan. 4 at the gallery, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.

Krasner will be toasted at an artist's reception 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, which is the night of Anna Maria's annual holiday walk.

The title for the exhibit was inspired by a Leonard Cohen poem: "There is a crack in everything./That's how the light gets in."

Krasner, in a news release, said, "Like most other people, I experienced many 'cracks' in my life journey — some big, some small. But, when I came here, to this beautiful west coast, my work changed. It became bright, colorful, light and looser, somehow. I experimented with new materials, new colors, new subject matter."

Krasner is known for her "bigger-than-life, whimsical portraits of women of a certain age," according to the Studio release.

For more information, call the Studio at Gulf and Pine at 941-778-1906.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

1:15 p.m. — Gulf Coast Writers meeting author Judy Allen Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3209.
5:35 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Off-island

Saturday, Nov. 30
1 p.m. — Asolo Repertory Theater "Show Boat" Family Day, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Fee applies. Information: 941-351-8000.

Coming up

- Dec. 5, Island Players opening night for "Over the River and through the Woods," Anna Maria.
- Dec. 6, Downtown Holmes Beach Holiday Open House, Holmes Beach.
- Dec. 7, Episcopal Church of the Annunciation Holly Berry Bazaar, Holmes Beach.
- Dec. 7, Anna Maria Island Community Center/Lester Family Fun Day, Anna Maria.
- Dec. 7, Anna Maria Island Privateers Christmas Parade.
- Dec. 13, Anna Maria Holiday Open House, Anna Maria.
- Dec. 14-15, Anna Maria Island Art League Winterfest, Holmes Beach.
- Dec. 14, Roser Memorial Community Church Bethlehem

Walk, Anna Maria.

- Dec. 14, Christmas on Bridge Street, Bradenton Beach.
- Dec. 15, Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra holiday concert, Holmes Beach.
- Dec. 25 is Christmas Day.

Save the date

- Jan. 1 is New Year's Day.
- Jan. 11, Anna Maria Island Community Center Cornhole Tournament, Anna Maria.
- Jan. 11, Florida Maritime Museum Porch Party, Cortez.
- Jan. 17, Florida Arbor Day, events communitywide.
- Jan. 18-19, Anna Maria Pine Avenue Chalk Festival, Anna Maria.
- Jan. 26, Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra Bach and Vivaldi concert, Holmes Beach.
- Feb. 1, Friends of the Island Library Book Sale, Holmes Beach.
- Feb. 15-16, 32nd annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival, Cortez.

Calendar announcements

Send calendar announcements to calendar@islander.org. Please include the time, date and location of the event, a brief description and a contact via email and phone. The deadline for submissions is the Wednesday a week before publication. High-resolution photographs welcome.

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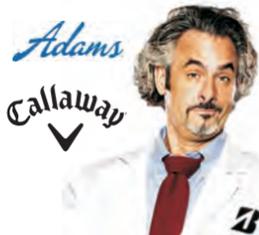
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Island happenings



AGAMI hosts author at dinner
Author Echo Heron will be the guest of honor at the Artists' Guild of Anna Maria Island annual holiday dinner, which is set for 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, at the Key Royale Club, 700 Key Royale Drive, Holmes Beach. The program — the cost to attend is \$26.50 — includes a conversation with the author and dinner. Reservations were required by Wednesday, Nov. 27, after The Islander went to press. For more information, call AGAMI at 941-778-6694.



BINGO!
Ryan Swindle of Muscle Shoals, Ala., right, won a gift basket that was awarded during the artsHOP gallery walk earlier in November. Swindle is pictured with wife Lucy, left, Ashton Hovda of Holmes Beach, who drew the winning card, and gallery walk chair Joan Voyles. Swindle won more than \$250 in art supplies in the game sponsored by Frank Perry and Keeton's Office and Art Supplies of Bradenton. Islander Courtesy Photo

Calendar of ongoing events

- Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m., horseshoes pitched, Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-708-6130.
- Wednesdays, through December, 11 a.m. Lifelong Learning Academy, Einstein Circle Discussion Group, Studio at Gulf and Pine, 10101 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-359-4296.
- First Wednesdays, 1:15 p.m., Gulf Coast Writers meeting, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3209.
- First Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Mana-Tweens book club, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3209.
- Second Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Think+Drink science night, South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131.
- Most third Wednesdays, noon, Anna Maria Garden Club meets, Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-2607.
- Third Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Mana-Tweens club, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3209.
- Fourth Wednesdays, 7 p.m., star talk, South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131.

- Thursdays, 5-10 p.m., Main Street Live, Old Main Street, Bradenton. Information: 941-932-9440.
- First and third Thursdays, 2 p.m., knitting group meeting, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive. Information: 941-778-6341.
- Third Thursdays, 10 a.m., Island Library Book Club, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3209.
- Third Thursdays, 10 a.m., guardian ad litem, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3209.
- Most Fridays, Senior Adventures, low-cost field trips from Annie Silver Community Center, 103 23rd St. N., Bradenton Beach. Fee may apply. Information: 941-962-8835.
- Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Mike Sales' sunset drum circle, Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 778-0784.
- Third Fridays, 5-8 p.m., Pine Avenue Porch Party presented by local merchants, Pine Avenue, Anna Maria. Information: 941-896-3132.
- Saturdays, 8:30 a.m., Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island meeting, Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe, Manatee Public Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-1383.
- Saturdays, through May, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Downtown Bradenton Farmers' Market, Old Main Street. Information: 941-932-9440.
- Saturdays, 4 p.m., family night, South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131.
- Second Saturdays, 10 a.m., origami club, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3209.
- Third Saturdays, 11 a.m., stress management through breathing, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive. Information: 941-778-6341.
- Third Saturdays, through May, 9 a.m., Manatee County Junior Audubon meeting, Felts Audubon Preserve, 4600 24th Ave. E., Palmetto. Information: 941-376-0110.

Announcements

Does your organization rely on you to share its event announcements with The Islander? Don't rely on us to find you on Facebook. Send your event information and photos to news@islander.org. Please, include a name, email address and telephone number for the contact person for publication.

- Sundays, through April 27, Bridge Street Market, 107 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 215-906-0668.
- Mondays, 12:45 p.m., bridge games, Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. Information: 941-778-0414.
- First Mondays, 7 p.m., Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage board meeting, Fishermen's Hall, 4515 123rd St. W., Cortez. Information: 941-254-4972.
- Third Mondays, noon, Anna Maria Island Democrats meeting, Manatees Sports Grill, 7423 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-779-0564.
- Third Mondays, 7 p.m., U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 81 meeting, 5801 33rd Ave. Court Drive W., G.T. Bray Park, Bradenton. Information: 941-779-4476.
- Tuesdays, 10 a.m., children's storytime, Island Library, 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-6341.
- Tuesdays, noon, Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island meeting, Bridge Street Bistro, 111 Gulf Drive S., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-794-8044.
- Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m., Anna Maria Duplicate Bridge, the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information: 941-778-3390.

Send announcements to calendar@islander.org.

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Island Players to stage reception for 'Over the River' ...

The Island Players will stage "Over the River and through the Woods" Dec. 5-15, with performances Tuesday-Sundays on the Anna Maria stage.

The play, by Joe DiPietro, will open at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, and continue through Dec. 15 at the theater, 10009 Gulf Drive. Performances will take place at 8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. The theater is dark on Mondays.

The box office opened Monday, Nov. 25, and will be open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays and an hour before curtain through the run of the play.

The play, in a news release, was described as a "warm-hearted comedy depicting an Italian-American family who cook up scheme after scheme to keep their beloved grandson from leaving home to start a new life in Seattle."

The cast includes Miriam Ring, Cathy Hansel-Edgerton, Richard Austin, Joe Smith, Jim Faltot and Katelyn Studer.

Mike Lusk is directing.

On opening night, the Island Players will host a pre-play reception at The Studio at Gulf and Pine. Tickets to the event, catered by the Sandbar Restaurant, are \$24.

For more information about the play, call the box office at 941-778-5755.

For more information about the party, call Laura Morales at 941-778-3302.



Casting trivia
The cast of "Over the River and Through the Woods" enjoys coffee and a laugh over a trivia game on stage — a New Jersey apartment. From left, Cathy Hansel-Edgerton, Richard Austin, Joe Smith, Miriam Ring, Jim Faltot and Katelyn Studer. Islander Photo: Bonner Joy

Casting call

Auditions for "Delval Divas," directed by Phyllis Elfenbein and Heiko Knipfelberg, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Island Players theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.

Island Players perform AMICCO benefit

The Island Players will present a benefit performance of "Over the River and Through the Woods" to support the Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus and Orchestra.

The performance of the comedy will take place at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Island Players theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.

General admission tickets are \$20.

For more information about tickets or the event, call Nancy Ambrose at 941-799-2181.

Asolo to host 'Show Boat' family day

The Asolo Repertory Theatre will host "Show Boat" Family Day Saturday, Nov. 30, providing a special matinee performance of the musical and presenting a pre-show meet-the-actors discussion.

Actors will be available an hour before the 2 p.m. performance at the theater, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. The pre-show event also will feature period music and costumes and the theater will sell hot dogs, chips and ice cream.

For more information, including ticket details, call the box office at 941-351-8000.

Library sets December activity schedule

The Island Library upcoming programs include:

- 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 3 and Dec. 17 children's storytime.
- 1:15 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 4, Gulf Coast Writers meeting.
- 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 4, Mana-Tweens Book Club meeting.
- 2 p.m., Thursdays, Dec. 5 and Dec. 19, knitting club.
- 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7, Holiday Under the Sea family event.
- 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13, Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group.
- 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, origami club.
- 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18, holiday puppet show.
- 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 21, mindful breathing meditation.
- 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 21, holiday movie and crafts.
- 10 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 19, book club meeting.

The library is at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

For more information, call 941-778-6341.

Stage 'ladies' cook up sale

The Off Stage Ladies of the Island Players will hold a holiday bake sale on the porch at the theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria.

The sale will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, after a matinee performance.

An announcement promised "cakes, pies, brownies, holiday cookies, candy, coffee cakes, muffins and much more."

For more information, call Nancy Ambrose at 941-799-2181 or 941-518-4431.

'Deadliest Catch' party raises funds for veterans' honor flights

Anna Maria Island Accommodations and the Flip-Flop Shop, 315 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, will hold a porch party 5-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, to raise funds for the Honor Flight Network.

Travis Lofland of the television show "Deadliest Catch" will be signing copies of his book "Catch," which contains stories of his adventures in the Bering Sea and some of his favorite crab recipes.

Music and drinks will be complimentary at the party, held as a benefit for the Honor Flight Network. The network flies World War II and Korean War veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials. Several island WWII veterans have made an Honor Flight trip.

For more information, call 941-779-0733.



Travis Lofland of the television show "Deadliest Catch" will be at Anna Maria Island Accommodations and the Flip-Flop Shop and Candy Stop, 315 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, 5-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, for a free party to help raise funds for the Honor Flight Network. Islander Courtesy Photo

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CrossPointe pastor, church honored

Anna Maria Mayor SueLynn, at the Nov. 14 city commission meeting, proclaims the third Thursday of November as Community Thanksgiving Day in Anna Maria in honor of CrossPointe Fellowship's community unity event, bridging Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Receiving the proclamation is the Rev. Ed Moss. The event this year was Nov. 16 at the church, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin



Garage sale benefits wildlife care
Wildlife volunteer Claudia Wiseman, right, assists some shoppers while others peruse goods for sale during a two-day garage sale benefiting Wildlife Inc. Nov. 23. All of the items for sale were donated. The first day's sale brought in \$2,000 according to Wiseman. In addition to sales of donated items, Wildlife Inc. received a \$500 donation from Giving Back, a collectible shop in Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Jennifer Glenfield

Kiwanis meeting Nov. 30

The Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island will meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, at the Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe, Manatee Public Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

The upcoming program will feature a talk by Jennifer Griffith, the new program director for the Anna Maria Island Community Center.

For more information, contact Dave Miner at dwmineresq@aol.com or 941-748-8122.

Churches welcome all to Thanksgiving dinners

Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, and CrossPointe Fellowship, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, will be hosting traditional turkey dinners.

The CrossPointe dinner will be at noon Thursday, Nov. 28.

The Roser dinner will begin at 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 28.

Organizers suggest calling for seating availability, since reservations were due for the Roser event by Nov. 24.

For reservations or to volunteer for the community dinners, call Roser at 941-778-0414 or CrossPointe at 941-778-0719.



Guests enjoy Thanksgiving — prayers of thankfulness and a bountiful buffet dinner — at Roser Church last year. Islander File Photo

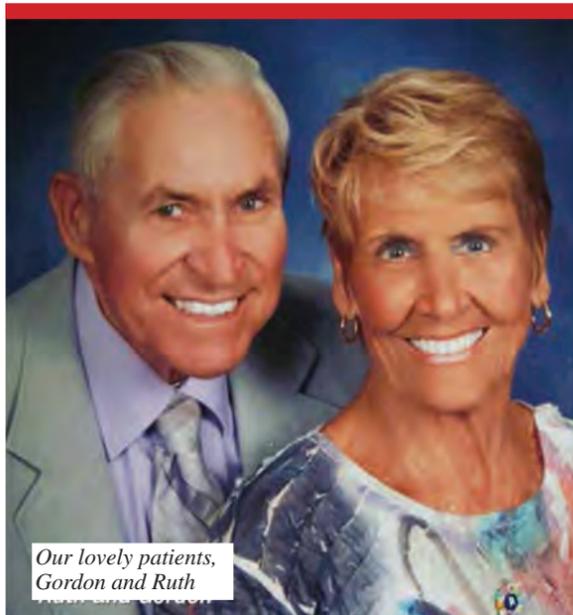
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These are a few of our favorite sweet season treats

Last week, we covered a knock-your-socks-off egg nog recipe and island kitchen-tested Thanksgiving turkey and stuffing recipes. If you missed, jump back in time a week. Look online at www.islander.org.

In this edition of The Islander, we offer recipes discovered over time at the homes and kitchens of friends, at island events, such as the Roser Church Bethlehem Walk, and they're all the best of the best.

Of course, nothing compares to dining out on the cheesecake swirled brownie with raspberry ice cream freshmade by Tyler's Ice Cream in Cortez exclusive to The Waterfront Restaurant menu. Or Praline Alexandra at the Beach Bistro. The key lime pie at Star Fish Restaurant. Cheesecake at The Feast.

Still, your holiday table calls for a sample of sweets from our island friends.

Mmmm, rum cake

Among our favorite sweets is former Holmes Beach Commissioner Billie Martini's simple rum cake, which is popular among Islander staff. Post a warning over the "last" piece of cake, as fingers can be crushed in the taking.

Billie's Best Bacardi Rum Cake

- 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1 18 1/2 ounce yellow cake mix
- 1 3 1/4 instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 eggs



Rum cake dresses up the holiday table.



Susan Nudd's Amish cookie recipe produced decorated holiday treats so delicious for a Roser Church reception, we couldn't help trying out the recipe.

- 1/2 cup cold water
- 1/2 cup Wesson oil
- 1/2 cup Bacardi dark rum (80 proof)

Glaze:

- 1/4 pound butter
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup Bacardi dark rum (80 proof)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees (Fahrenheit). Grease and flour 10-inch tube or 12-cup bundt pan. Sprinkle nuts over bottom of pan. Mix all cake ingredients. Pour batter over nuts. Bake one hour. Cool cake. Invert on serving plate and prick the top.

For glaze, melt butter in saucepan. Stir in water and sugar. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in rum. Drizzle and smooth glaze evenly over top and sides, allowing cake to absorb glaze. Repeat until the glaze is used up.

Yummy without rum

Susan Nudd warmly agreed many years ago to share

her Christmas cookie recipe, passed down by her mother from a recipe that originated from the Amish-Dutch community of Sullivan, Ill.

"I've been making them since high school, then with my mom," Nudd said.

Nudd's cookies were discovered by us some years ago as she served them following the Roser Memorial Community Church Bethlehem Walk, and they had been decorated with special care by her granddaughter, Aaron Grace Tribble, then age 5.

Original Amish sugar cookies

Mix 1 cup sugar, 1 cup powdered sugar, 1 cup Oleo. (Is that called margarine now, or is there still Oleo?)

Add 2 eggs, then 1 cup oil. Add 4 3/4 cup flour, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 2 teaspoons vanilla.

Cool dough about one hour, roll in balls, press with a fork and decorate with sugar, candy sprinkles and the likes — preferably not icing.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

"It makes a really big recipe," Nudd said. "About six dozen cookies."

And these treats are worthy of packaging and sharing with friends and as holiday hostess gifts.

Finally, one of the Island's best

More than 20 years ago, we first featured Bernard Haulsee of Anna Maria and his then 20-year baking tradition — a fruitcake recipe handed down by his mother.

When it comes to holiday baking, this is one of the tastiest, Christmassy flavors you can find. Really. It is not to be categorized with the store-bought brick variety.

Each 50-pound cake (just kidding) is full of cherries, pineapple, coconut, raisins and pecans — and each receives an abundant "baptism" of Jim Beam.

"I love to bake them," said Haulsee in 1993. "It's a hobby. Some people tease me by telling me it's a pretty expensive hobby, but I tell them that it's a lot cheaper than playing golf!"

The week before Christmas was Haulsee's favorite time of the year. With his cakes wrapped carefully in foil, he made his rounds to deliver his delicious gift to his friends and local businesses — those who had helped him during the year.

"They are always glad to see me," he said. "This makes it a nice Christmas for all of us."

As a holiday gift to Anna Maria Island, Haulsee agreed to share his recipe.

"Be sure to tell them not to stir the butter and sugar and eggs too much. If they do, the cake will crumble after

PLEASE SEE RECIPES, PAGE 17

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RECIPES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

it's baked. Don't want it to crumble," he warned.

Many thanks to Mr. Haulsee.

Haulsee died in 2011 at age 102 in Kingsport, Tenn., and, although we hadn't seen him on AMI for quite a few years, we learned of his whereabouts a few years ago on his 100th birthday.

We were visited by a daughter and son Mike, who had noted our queries in the newspaper each time the recipe was shared.

We're pleased to continue a relationship with Mike — who attended our 2010 Veterans Day event, and later proved to be generous in following his dad's footsteps.

Mike bakes fruitcake, too.

Bernard Haulsee's Heavenly Fruitcake

"Barely" cream together:

1 pound butter or margarine

3 cups white sugar

Add 1 egg at a time until 11 are added.

Mix together in order in another bowl:

1 1/2 pounds candied cherries

1 1/2 pounds candied or dehydrated pineapple

3 cups pecan nuts

2 pounds raisins

2 cups grated coconut

1 teaspoon cinnamon

4 ounces grated ginger root

5 cups all-purpose flour sifted on top of dry ingredients

2 teaspoons vanilla

Directions:

Mix dry fruit mixture in with butter, sugar, egg batter. Mix well. Recipe makes two cakes. Grease or spray each loaf cake pan. Bake 2 1/2 hours at 275 degrees. If using Pyrex loaf pans, cut baking time to 2 hours.

Optional: After cakes have cooled for 24 hours, set cake in a small amount of Jim Beam. After liquor is absorbed. Flip cake over and repeat.

To our friends, thanks for sharing. To readers, please, warm your hearth and your heart while sharing our good cooking for the holidays.

— Bonner Joy

Follow the GUMDROP road to family fun

By Morgan Harlan
Special to The Islander

There's a new tradition coming to the Anna Maria Island Community Center Lester Family Fun Day Saturday, Dec. 7.

This one will come by way of the sweet smell of baked ginger and candy. That's right, gingerbread houses.

This is the inaugural year for a business-based gingerbread house-decorating contest.

"When I was in Maine, there was a woman who had an annual fundraising event for her organization where they had a gingerbread house contest. It was a great event that brought in a big crowd," said Dawn Stiles, executive director at the center.

Stiles hit the pavement with her idea, visiting local restaurants and bakeries, asking them to help create for the gingerbread event.

Those committed to the contest, as of Nov. 22, include the Waterfront and Sandbar restaurants and Hometown Desserts, all in Anna Maria.

They will build their creations and display them at the center during Lester Family Fun Day.

And Fun Day attendees will judge the best decorated house and award a first-place trophy. Bragging rights will be maintained until next year's event.

"This is a tradition I have with my kids every year, so I look forward to it," said chef Ian Fairweather of the Sandbar. He and pastry chef Andrea Spring will be building their house together.

"Oh, how fun," Spring said. "I've always wanted to enter" the gingerbread house competition in Asheville, N.C. "Those houses are so amazing. You can build almost anything."

While they were reluctant to announce their theme, they said to expect something beachy for, sure.

Cindy Tutterow of Hometown Desserts also was excited about the contest. She said she and two high school helpers, Chelsea Burgess and Gera Versfeld, will meet after Thanksgiving to discuss what they will build. "I'm sure it will be something feminine and special to Hometown Desserts," Tutterow said.

Along with voting, fun day attendees will be able to enter their names in a drawing to take home a gingerbread house.

And children at fun day will have a chance to decorate gingerbread people.

Businesses interested in entering a gingerbread house can contact the center at 941-778-1908.

All entries must be dropped off at the center Friday, Dec. 6. Lester Family Fun Day is 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7.

Admission is free.



ABOVE: Hometown Desserts owner/baker Cindy Tutterow and Chelsea Burgess and Gera Versfeld are collaborating on their Lester Family Fun Day gingerbread contest entry. Islander Photo: Morgan Harlan
LEFT: A gingerbread-gumdrop house.

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Bradenton Beach officials take oath of office



Bradenton Beach Mayor Bill Shearon, who defeated incumbent John Shaughnessy Nov. 5, recites the oath of office.

FAR LEFT: Manatee County Commissioner Carol Whitmore swears in Ward 1 Commissioner Janie Robertson with the assistance of Robertson's son Steven. LEFT: Acting-Bradenton Beach city clerk Karen Cervetto swears in Ward 3 Commissioner Jack Clarke Nov. 18. Clarke was unopposed in the Nov. 5 election and replaces Gay Breuler, who opted not to run for re-election. Islander Photos: Mark Young

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

It was standing room only at Bradenton Beach City Hall for the Nov. 18 swearing in ceremony of newly elected officials — primarily due to a decision to remove the gallery chairs from the chambers prior to the ceremony.

However, a couple dozen dignitaries, friends and family members crowded around to see Mayor Bill Shearon, Ward 1 Commissioner Janie Robertson and Ward 3 Commissioner Jack Clarke officially take office.

Acting city clerk Karen Cervetto swore Clarke into office, while Manatee County Commissioner Carol Whitmore conducted the swearing-in ceremonies of Robertson and Shearon. The new mayor said Whitmore is a “close and personal friend.”

Shearon said he looks forward to strengthening ties with officials in the county, as well the island cities.

“I look forward to the chance to make Bradenton Beach a better place for our residents and our visitors,” said Shearon, who brought to the dais other city officials and department heads. “This will be a team effort in moving this city forward.”

Robertson was joined on the dais for her swearing-in ceremony by her son Steven, who held a Bible during his mother’s oath. Robertson was the only city official who chose to use a Bible in her ceremony.

She took back the seat on the commission that she held for six years before terming out of office in 2011. She narrowly defeated former Commissioner Ric Gatehouse to regain her seat. Gatehouse attended the ceremony to wish the incoming officials well.

County Commissioners Betsy Benac and John Chappie, a former mayor and city commissioner, were among the attendees, along with Bradenton Beach Commissioner Jan Vosburgh and Vice Mayor Ed Straight.

Whitmore thanked everyone for attending, saying, “This is our democratic process in action.”



Sharon Lee Ruckle — misidentified in the Nov. 20 Islander — performs a patriotic song on Unity Day, held Nov. 16 at CrossPointe Fellowship in Holmes Beach. Ruckle's music, honoring veterans, followed the posting of the colors by the American Legion Kirby Stewart Post 24 honor guard. Islander Photo: Bonner

Top Anna Maria spender wins commission seat

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Sometimes, spending money gets the job done.

Carol Carter was elected to a seat on the Anna Maria City Commission Nov. 5. She also spent the most money on her campaign.

Information available from the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections Office shows Carter had \$1,100 in her campaign treasury and spent \$882.84. She also reported \$126 as “in-kind” work.

Carter received \$100 donations from former Mayor Fran Barford and former Commissioner Christine Tolle. She also received \$100 from her husband Bob,

and \$100 each from Anna Maria residents Sarah York and Chris Collins. Campaign treasurer Sandy Mattick donated \$34 to the campaign.

Also elected to the commission was Doug Copeland, who was appointed to the commission in June. Copeland spent no money and collected nothing for his campaign.

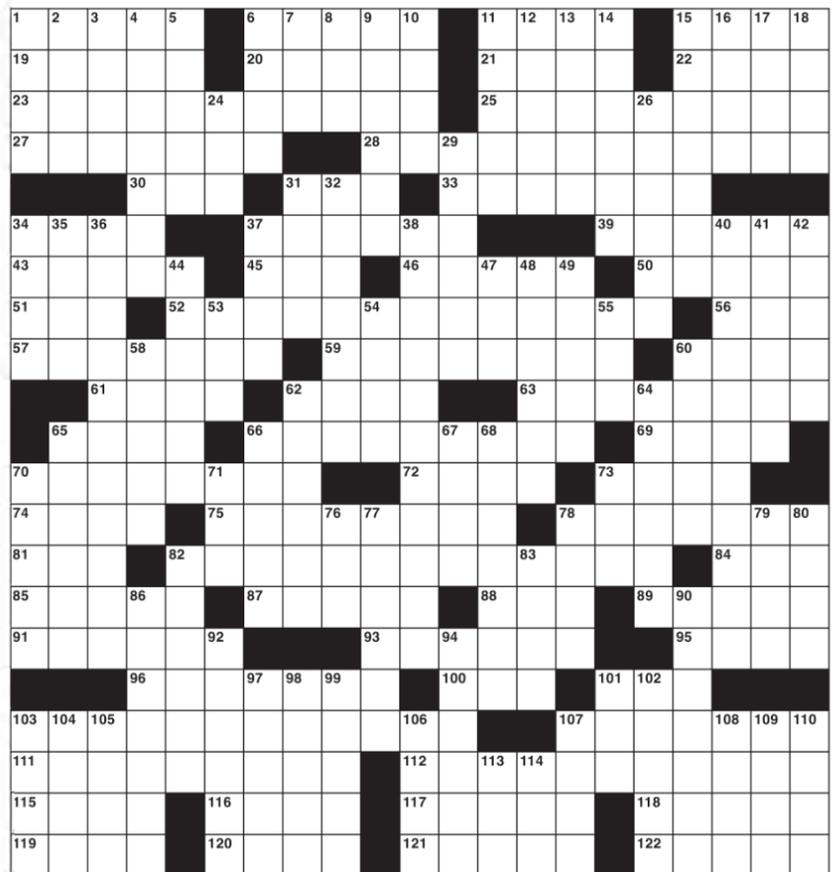
Incumbent Dale Woodland was re-elected for his sixth term. Woodland reported \$900 as “in-kind” donations and spent \$352.

Candidate Michael Jaworski, who was not elected, did not receive any donations and spent no money on his campaign.

VOWEL PLAY By Julian Lim / Edited by Will Shortz

New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Across | 46 Medium for body art | 101 Moo ___ pork | 14 Wee ones |
| 1 Shade of brown | 50 Roman roads | 103 Last words from a coxswain? | 15 Living room? |
| 6 Javert's portrayer in 2012's "Les Misérables" | 51 "So pret-t-y!" | 107 American alternative | 16 Not supportin' |
| 11 Rice, e.g., informally | 52 Aid for a submarine séance? | 111 "Stay cool!" | 17 "Dies ___" |
| 15 Come (from) | 56 Google : Android :: Apple : ___ | 112 Garlicky sauce in central Europe? | 18 Girl in tartan |
| 19 All-time leader in R.B.I.'s | 57 Quarreled | 115 English princess | 24 Does united |
| 20 Vegetables also known as lady's-fingers | 59 When scores are settled? | 116 Food item often seasoned with cilantro | 26 Keys with tunes |
| 21 Common quatrain form | 60 Cake with a kick | 117 Like some patches | 29 Turn out |
| 22 Indian tourist destination | 61 "That's clear" | 118 Sporty car roofs | 31 Muscle ___ |
| 23 Paintings of French estates? | 62 Venus de ___ | 119 High land | 32 Extremely sharp |
| 25 Spin, of a sort | 63 Post production locale? | 120 6'9" or 72% free-throw avg. | 34 Self centers |
| 27 Tanning aid | 65 Kings and queens: Abbr. | 121 Swift composition | 35 Lariat part |
| 28 Carrier for Casanovas? | 66 Achieve nirvana | 122 "Narcissus and Goldmund" author | 36 All the writings of a Persian faith? |
| 30 Time of one's life? | 69 Having little give | Down | 37 Fictional Billy |
| 31 Thanksgiving, e.g.: Abbr. | 70 Skiing maneuver at a bend in the course | 1 One side in a computer rivalry | 38 Hit show with many hits |
| 33 Having failed to ante up, say | 72 Like cutting in line | 2 Home of the Waiānae Range | 40 "Happily ever after" with Han Solo? |
| 34 Italian tourist destination in the Mediterranean | 73 Savoir-faire | 3 Start of some blended juice names | 41 2004 movie set in 2035 |
| 37 "Anything you can do I can do better" and others | 74 Glorify | 4 Gunfire, in slang | 42 Indian state known for its tea |
| 39 Supreme Court justice known for his trenchant dissents | 75 Navigation hazards | 5 Not far from, in poetry | 44 Most reliable |
| 43 Spurs | 78 Dish Network competitor | 6 Putsch | 47 Seasonal beverage |
| 45 Relative of mono- | 81 4x4, e.g. | 7 Studio behind "Suspicion" and "Notorious" | 48 Small difference |
| Answers: page 28 | 82 Hawaiian wine lover? | 8 "... ___ quit!" | 49 Girl's name meaning "loved" |
| | 84 Get behind | 9 Whiskered creature | 53 Word between last names |
| | 85 Vice ___ | 10 International gas brand | 54 Convinced |
| | 87 Big name in batteries | 11 Stan Lee's role in many a Marvel film | 55 Wailing Wall pilgrim |
| | 88 Substantial shoe spec | 12 Skip ___ | 58 Got back to, in a way |
| | 89 Figure with horns | 13 They come from the center | 60 Support |
| | 91 Untrustworthy sorts | | 62 Toon with a polka-dot hair bow |
| | 93 Odin's home | | 64 Goggled |
| | 95 Time off | | 65 New York's ___ Island |
| | 96 "That'll never happen!" | | 66 Charlatan |
| | 100 Scrape (out) | | 67 100 cents |



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 68 "Operators are standing by" and "Call now!," e.g. | 79 What chopsticks come in | 98 Actress Durance who played Lois Lane on "Smallville" | 105 Some stopovers |
| 70 Many Eastern Europeans | 80 Hole in the wall | 99 Fancy neckwear | 106 Recess |
| 71 "WWE Raw" airtel | 82 Kind of exam or kit | 101 "And ___ Was" (1985 Talking Heads single) | 107 Big Apple sch. |
| 73 Up to, informally | 83 "Is this the spot?" | 102 ___ bar | 108 Ski-___ (snowmobiles) |
| 76 "Almighty" item: Abbr. | 86 Hot herbal beverage | 103 Singer Lambert | 109 Challenge for Hannibal |
| 77 Quiet | 90 Learned | 104 Cry made while wiping the hands | 110 Quit lying |
| 78 Was mortified, hyperbolically | 92 Brown weasels | | 113 Sounds by a crib, perhaps |
| | 94 History and biography | | 114 Indian tourist destination |

Holmes Beach commissioners return to dais

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

Three Holmes Beach commissioners climbed back into the proverbial saddle Nov. 18, following a swearing-in ceremony at city hall following a Nov. 5 municipal election that included a recount and nearly saw an incumbent commissioner unseated.

That wasn't the case, however, and Commissioners Jean Peelen, Pat Morton and David Zaccagnino were successful after the votes were counted — twice.

City clerk Stacey Johnston performed the honors for the three commissioners, but first conducted a group

swearing in of the charter review committee.

David Cheshire, Travis Casper, Pam Leckie, James Plath and Bob Johnson will serve for the next 12 months. During that time, they will review and recommend changes to the city charter.

It's a process undertaken every five years, but this is the first time in recent memory a full slate of five candidates stepped up to run for the committee. Since there were five candidates for five seats, each was elected to the job.

Johnston said the election process went well this year before Peelen, Morton and Zaccagnino raised their right hands to swear to the oath of public office.

Following the ceremony, the commissioners resumed their seats on the dais for an organizational meeting where Commissioner Marvin Grossman nominated Commissioner Judy Titsworth to serve as commission chair.

Holmes Beach typically rotates the position yearly and there were no other nominations. Titsworth was unanimously voted to the position.

Her first order of business was to take nominations for vice chair and Grossman nominated Peelen, the

former chair, for the position. She also was unanimously approved.

"I learned a lot from watching Jean this year and I thank her for her service," said Titsworth.

Morton and Grossman called for an end to squabbling among commissioners, much of which was sparked during the election.

Mayor Carmel Monti agreed and congratulated the three winners, offering hopes of moving the city forward in a positive direction.



Holmes Beach Commissioner Pat Morton begins his 11th year as commissioner following a Nov. 18 swearing-in ceremony by city clerk Stacey Johnston at city hall. *Islander Photos: Mark Young*



Holmes Beach Commissioner Jean Peelen officially reclaimed her seat on the dais at a Nov. 18 swearing-in ceremony to begin a second term.



When Holmes Beach Commissioner David Zaccagnino completes his next two-year term, he will have served the city for a decade. Zaccagnino was sworn into office for a fifth term Nov. 18 at city hall.



Holmes Beach city clerk Stacey Johnston swears in the city's charter review committee: David Cheshire, left, Travis Casper, Pam Leckie, James Plath and Bob Johnson.

Legislative delegation to hold hearing

Manatee County's state legislative delegation will hold its annual pre-session hearing Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 9 a.m. at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee.

The program, scheduled to last until noon, will take place in the Selby Auditorium, 8350 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

For more information or to schedule testimony, call state Rep. Jim Boyd's office at 941-708-4968.

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Obituaries

Carol J. Conboy

Carol J. Conboy, 79, of Bradenton, died Nov. 18. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and moved to Bradenton in 1970 from Floral Parks, N.Y.

Mrs. Conboy was a member of Ss Peter & Paul the Apostles Catholic Church, Bradenton, and was a retired school board employee and homemaker. She had a great sense of humor, and was a loving wife and mother and friend to all.

A memorial service was held Nov. 23 at Brown & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory 43rd Street Chapel, 604 43rd St. W., Bradenton. Memorial donations may be made to Providence Community School, 5512 26th St. W., Bradenton FL 34207. Condolences for the family may be made online at www.brownsandsonsfuneral.com.

Mrs. Conboy is survived by sons Tony III and Chris and wife Melissa of Bradenton; daughter, Kellie and husband Chris Galati of Holmes Beach; brother Hugh Bartlett

of Land O' Lakes and Ron Bartlett of Bradenton; sisters Marilyn Provenzano of Bradenton and Judy Stroehlein of Downsville, N.Y.; grandchildren Christopher Galati, Anna Maria Galati, Chloe Conboy, Christopher Conboy and Collin Conboy.

Janette Helen Fleischman

Janette Helen Fleischman, 92, a longtime resident of Sun City Center and formerly of Anna Maria, died Nov. 16. She was born in Mayo, Fla.

She attended Florida Southern College and then spent two years modeling in New York City. She was a straight-forward person with a special fondness for orchids and cats. She also was a skilled golfer, winning multiple championships in Sun City Center and Bradenton.

While living on the north end of Anna Maria Island, she was an avid sports fisher, sharing many years of happiness with husband "Salty" Sol Fleischman, who was known for his televised fishing reports.

No service was held. Memorial donations may be made to CARE Animal Shelter in Ruskin.

Mrs. Fleischman is survived by her sons, Don Corwin Jr., Marty and wife Susan and Sol Jr. and wife Sandra; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; cousins Willard Elsberry and Barbara Church; and special friend Georgia Mace.

Marilda D. Morgan

Marilda D. Morgan, 92, of Bradenton, died Nov. 20. She was born in Pittsfield, Mass. She moved in 1973 to Bradenton from Portland, Maine.

Mrs. Morgan was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church and the Key Royale Club.

There will be no local service. Brown & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory 43rd Street Chapel was in charge of arrangements. Condolences to the family may be made online at www.brownsandsonsfuneral.com.

Mrs. Morgan is survived by son Domenico and wife Jennifer Cecere of Anna Maria; daughter Cheryl Ann and husband George Rogers of Chickamauga, Ga.; brother Edmund Fulker of Fort Myers; sisters Cora Monterosso of Fort Myers and Lillian St. John of California; and nine grandchildren.

Ronald F. Pepka

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Ronald F. Pepka, 79, of Bradenton, died Nov. 19. He was born Nov. 2, 1934. He formerly resided in Anna Maria.

Mr. Pepka graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 1954 and attended William and Mary College. He was a proud 25-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving as a jet pilot and a research and development procurement officer, traveling worldwide.

In retirement he relished in winning at horseshoes at the Anna Maria City Hall weekly horseshoe contests, and he was an usher at his church.

A memorial Service was held at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation Nov. 26. Memorial donations may be made to the church, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach FL 34217, or to Tidewell Hospice, 5957 Rand Blvd., Sarasota FL.

Mr. Pepka is survived by wife Jacqueline (Danzer); son Ronald G. and wife Catherine; grandchildren Ben and Hannah Sharp; sister Barbara; and brother Paul of Massachusetts.

Milestone

HB couple celebrates 60th anniversary

Marvin and Ruth Brice of Holmes Beach celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Nov. 21. They were married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lakeland in 1953 and honeymooned on North Shore Drive in Anna Maria.

They enjoyed the island so much they returned to Anna Maria Island for yearly vacations with their four children.

Marvin Brice played football and baseball for the University of Florida Gators in 1948 and 1949. The couple's romance began with a date at a ball game and they've held season tickets to Gator football games since 1955.

The Brices reside on 78th Street in Holmes Beach, where they have lived since 2000. Marvin Brice is retired from his career with Publix and as division director of social services for Polk County.

The couple plans to celebrate the milestone with their children — Arlene May, Bubba (Marvin Jr.) and David — and their grandchildren at a family reunion in Polk City Dec. 7.



Marvin and Ruth Brice of Holmes Beach celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Nov. 21. The photo is from their 50th anniversary celebration. Islander Courtesy Photo

Obituaries are provided as a free service in The Islander newspaper to residents and family of residents, both past and present, and to those people with ties to Anna Maria Island.

Content is edited for style and length. Photos are welcome. Paid obituaries are available by calling ad director Toni Lyon at 941-778-7978.



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Streetlife

Island police blotter

Anna Maria

• Nov. 19, 216 Pine Ave., Pink and Navy Boutique, petit theft. A 63-year-old Holmes Beach woman was arrested at her residence after allegedly shoplifting in the store. According to the report, the suspect entered the business and began to look around. The store manager



Signed, delivered

Nancy Ambrose, a Holmes Beach advocate for improved cancer treatment, care and research, delivers an oversize "thank you" card to U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Longboat Key. Buchanan is a co-sponsor of the proposed Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act. Ambrose, an advocate for the American Cancer Society and a cancer survivor, said the legislation would address "a major barrier facing the expansion of palliative care by training medical school faculty and by creating new incentives for the training and development of interdisciplinary health professionals. *Islander Courtesy Photo*

noticed the dresses the woman was looking at were no longer hanging in that location. The manager followed the woman out of the store and asked for the dresses back. The suspect allegedly threw the dresses at the manager and left. The manager wrote down the suspect's auto tag number and reported the incident to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. A deputy responded to the woman's residence, where she allegedly admitted to the theft.

• Nov. 18, 501 Pine Ave., Relish Cafe, trespass warning. A sheriff's deputy made contact with a man playing guitar and asking patrons for money outside the business. The manager asked the man to stop bothering customers, but he continued to play. He was issued a trespass warning and advised not to return.

Anna Maria is policed by the MCSO.

Bradenton Beach

• Nov. 17, 1325 Gulf Drive N., Tortuga Inn Resort, vehicle burglary. A complainant reported that an unknown person gained entry into his vehicle by breaking the rear window. Items valued at \$110 were stolen and the damage was estimated at \$200.

Bradenton Beach is policed by the BBPD.

Cortez

• Nov. 15, 12316 Cortez Road W., Buttonwood RV Resort, found property. An MCSO deputy responded to a call from an employee, who had found a container of what appeared to be marijuana at the pool. The deputy confirmed the substance, and the weight of 2.8 grams.

• Nov. 17, 12500 block of Cortez Road West, burglary. An unknown suspect gained entry to a storage shed and stole a pressure washer.

Cortez is policed by the MCSO

Holmes Beach

• Nov. 9, 100 47th Ave., beach access, theft. Police made contact with a man, who appeared to be intoxicated and claiming his bicycle was stolen. The man said his bicycle was valued at \$1,100, however, the officer determined similar models online are valued at about \$270.

• Nov. 11, 3200 block of East Bay Drive, warrant. While conducting a routine license plate check on traffic



Professional honor
Firefighter Jeff Philips of West Manatee Fire Rescue recently completed the educational process to receive the professional designation of "fire officer." The Commission on Professional Credentialing met Oct. 1 to award the designation to Philips, who is one of 168 FO's worldwide and the second at WMFR. Philips joined WMFR in 2004. *Islander Photo: Brett Pollock*

patrol, an officer discovered the driver of the vehicle was wanted on a Manatee County warrant. The officer initiated a traffic stop and took the man into custody.

• Nov. 12, 3600 block of East Bay Drive, criminal mischief. Two men were arguing and one of them began breaking things that belonged to the other. The complainant ran to a neighbor's house and called police. Damages were estimated at \$300.

• Nov. 12, 700 Manatee Ave., obstruction and reckless driving. Two police officers on patrol in separate cars observed a woman driving erratically almost hitting a patrol car. They initiated a traffic stop and the woman presented an international driver's license, but she could not produce insurance or vehicle registration information. The woman made several attempts to exit her vehicle. She was warned one final time to remain in her vehicle, but she refused. As officers began to place her under arrest, she attempted to pull away. The suspect was arrested for obstruction without violence, reckless driving and for not having a valid driver's license.

Holmes Beach is policed by the HBPD.

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HB residents watch granddaughter grow in 'Nutcracker' role

By Jennifer Glenfield
Islander Reporter

A sugar plum fairy, evil mouse king, handsome prince and chosen little girl act out the ballet of "The Nutcracker." The story unfolds with physical mastery of dance to the centuries-old, whimsical ballet synonymous with the holiday season.

Holmes Beach residents David and Rookie Wicklund will be front and center watching granddaughter Mattison Bedinghaus perform for her fifth year in the lead role of Clara.

The performance is produced by the Bradenton Ballet

Repertory of Dance Theatre. This year's performance is the of "The Nutcracker" in Bradenton is the 20th for artistic director Allison Norton.

"It's a neat year. It's Allison's 20th production and Mattie's fifth year performing in it. It's a special thing for us this year," said Treva Bedington, Mattison's mother.

Mattison, 15, began dancing at age 3. She's studied under Norton since age 7. "That's when it got serious," Treva said.

Mattison practices ballet more than 30 hours a week. She attends Florida Virtual School to allow extra time for her dance practice. "She has her own key to the studio. She'll go in early before the teacher. I've never seen somebody so dedicated," said Treva.

Grandparents David and Rookie Wicklund have lived on Anna Maria Island for 20 years. "She spends a lot of time out here. She rides the trolley around, enjoying the island," Rookie said.

In addition to spending her free time on Anna Maria Island, Mattison also has performed at the Anna Maria Island Community Center holiday party.

The Bradenton Ballet Repertory of Dance Theatre's



Mattison Bedinghaus, granddaughter of Holmes Beach residents David and Rookie Wicklund, will again play Clara in her fifth performance of the Nutcracker with the Bradenton Ballet Repertory. *Islander Photo: Courtesy Treva Bedinghaus*

Tea party kicks off 'Nutcracker'

The seventh annual Nutcracker Tea Party fundraiser benefiting the Dance Theatre of Bradenton will be held 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at the Manatee Performing Arts Center, 502 Third Ave. W., Bradenton.

Pier 22 will cater the luncheon and Matt and Dom's Custom Cakes Bakery will provide baked goods inspired by the "Land of Sweets."

The Bradenton Ballet Repertory will perform a shortened edition of the classic ballet and, after the show, those who purchase a "Sugar Plum Package" will visit a salon to be styled as a ballerina or a prince and receive a ballet lesson, tutu and fairy dust.

Children also will meet several costumed cast members in full costume for photos.

The Dance Theatre of Bradenton's Nutcracker Boutique will be open for holiday shopping. The fundraiser also will include a raffle.

Tea party tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for children, or \$45 for the "Sugar Plum Package." Children under age 3 are free.

Tickets can be purchased online at Bradenton-Nutcracker.com.

For more information, call 941-840-0863.

full-length production of "The Nutcracker" will be staged at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Davis Center for Performing Arts at Manatee High School. Tickets are \$15 for children and \$20 for adults and can be purchased at bradentonnutcracker.com.

For more information on the performance, call 941-840-0863.



Mattison Bedinghaus in the lead role of Clara poses with Olive Imerman at a past tea party event. *Islander Photo: Courtesy Dance Theatre of Bradenton*

AME MENU

Wednesday, Nov. 20

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Patty, Toast
Lunch: Tacos, Calzone, Refried Beans, Lettuce and Tomato Cups, Peaches. Feature: Popcorn Chicken Caesar Salad

Thursday, Nov. 21

Breakfast: Biscuit, Chicken Patty
Lunch: Holiday Ham, Turkey Gravy, Garlic Dinner Roll, Extra-Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Mini Romaine Salad, Fruit Crisp.
Feature: Italian Salad

Friday, Nov. 22

Breakfast: Mini Pancakes
Lunch: Pizza, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Corn, Cherry Tomato with Dip, Mandarin Oranges. Feature: Chef Salad

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Fourth-graders perform
 Fourth-grader Colin Pearson dresses as a bear for his part in a Nov. 20 performance at AME. Students performing gathered in the music room before show time to practice. Islander Photo: Jennifer Glenfield



School

By Jennifer Glenfield



Ready, set, serve

Kelly Stewart, who plays varsity volleyball at Manatee High School, has signed to go to State College of Florida on a volleyball scholarship. Pictured with Kelly, who is seated, are MHS assistant coach Jocelyn Geraldson, Coastline Volleyball Club directors and coaches Kristen Batt, Ralph McElhiney, MHS assistant coach Kimlyn Wilson, Coastline coach Nate Pickett and MHS head coach Rachel Batey. Islander Courtesy Photo



Ginaven describes the shape of a turkey vulture's wings during flight. The turkey vulture is one of the birds spotted by third-graders while bird-watching on the AME campus.

Eyes to the sky

John Ginaven, a volunteer from the Manatee County Audubon Society, instructed Anna Maria Elementary third-graders in bird-watching techniques Nov. 21. Students were given binoculars and walked around school grounds looking for birds. Islander Photos: Jennifer Glenfield



AME third-graders started in the front of the school on their bird-watching expedition. John Ginaven pointed out good spots to find birds, including a perch visible from the front of the school.

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Nov. 29	Ted Stevens and The Doo Shots	7-10
Nov. 30	College Football Big Ten Network Messenger	7-10
Dec. 1	NFL Sunday Ticket	
Dec. 2	Koko Ray	5:30-8:30
Dec. 3	Ricci D.	6-9

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Center champions crowned in adult basketball, soccer

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

Champions were crowned in the adult basketball and soccer leagues at the Anna Maria Island Community Center earlier this month. The adult championship games culminated a long season of exciting roundball and fütball, while also giving a boost to sales at local stores of game accessories, including Advil, Icey Hot and Ace bandages.

Beach to Bay Construction justified its No. 1 seeding with a close, 70-66 score in the title game Nov. 19 over second-seed Bowes Imaging Center.

Jordan Demers had a huge game for Beach to Bay, scoring 25 points and grabbing 11 rebounds to lead the champs. Robert Serrano chipped in with 20 points, while Sean Hubbard finished with 14 points, six rebounds and five assists. Jon Moss rounded out the Beach to Bay scoring with 10 points in the victory.

Antwaun Jackson led all players with 32 points and 15 rebounds, while Matt Ray added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Bowes Imaging Center, which also received 7 points from Jason Mickan and 6 points from Teegan Purlil in the loss.

Upsets rule soccer playoffs

The seedings proved true in the first round of playoff action to decide the champion of the center's adult soccer league, but that went out the window in the semifinals. No. 4 seed Agnelli Pool & Spa upset top-seed Sato Real Estate 3-1, while No. 3 Slim's Place upended second-seed Island Gourmet 5-4 in semifinal action on Nov. 20.

The upsets continued when Agnelli Pool & Spa defeated Slim's Place by a 3-1 score in the Nov. 21 championship game. Matt Kretzman had a goal and an assist to lead Agnelli, which also received goals from Sean Sanders and Tyler Krauss. Goalie Frank Agnelli made seven saves. However, the sentimental leader on the Agnelli team has to be 70-year-old Lyn Clarke.

Other members of the championship team are Meredith Argeros, Joey Ciasullo, Damir Glavan and Omar Polar.

PJ Smargisso scored the lone goal for Slim's Place, which also received seven saves from Richard Fosmore in the loss. Other members of Slim's Place are Kelsea Bachman, Scott Eason, Robbie McLaughlin, Josh Petit, Eric Pullen, Nate Coleman and Richie Subbiondo.

Agnelli Pool & Spa advanced to the finals by defeating Sato Real Estate 3-1 in the semifinals. Omar Polar scored two goals and Matt Kretzman had a goal and an assist to lead Agnelli to victory. Stephen Perry notched the lone goal for Sato Real Estate, which also received 11 saves from goalie Josh Sato in the loss.

Slim's Place edged Island Gourmet 5-4 in the other semifinal match. Eric Pullen and PJ Smargisso scored two goals each and Nate Coleman scored to lead Slim's Place. Adam Bujarski scored three goals to lead Island Gourmet, which also received a goal from Tim Tedesco



AMICC Adult Basketball Champs

Beach to Bay Construction team members Jordan Demers, Shaun Hubbard, Jon Moss, Ryan Moss, Don Purvis and Robert Serrano. *Islander Photo: Courtesy AMICC*

in the loss.

Winter sports call for registration

The center is accepting registration for its winter lineup of adult sports, including flag football, volleyball and, for the first time ever, tennis.

There are mandatory tryouts for volleyball and flag football to ensure league parity. Volleyball tryouts will be at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 and teams will be chosen on the field. Matches will be played Tuesday evenings and the cost is \$75 for members and \$110 for non-members.

Flag football tryouts are at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 and teams will be assigned that evening. Games will be played on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The cost to play is \$75 for members and \$110 non-members.

The cost for tennis is \$50 for singles tennis and \$85 for doubles. The games will be played starting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

Players who sign up for two sports get a \$25 discount. The leagues will begin play after the holidays in January.

Registration is online at www.islandcommunitycenter.com.

For more information, contact athletic director Matt Ray at 941-778-1908, ext. 9205, or email matty@myamicc.com

Key Royale golf news

The week that was for golf action at Key Royale Club started Nov. 18 with a morning, nine-hole individual-low-net match among the men. Joe Dickinson carded

a 4-under-par 28 to take first place by one stroke over Andy Barber and Pieter Thomassen.

Later in the day, the men played a nine-hole, modified-Stableford match. Earl Ritchie and Tom Nelson tied for first for the best individual score, while the team of Quentin Talbert, Dennis Schavey, Gary Alvord and Nelson Eagle combined on a plus-4 to win the team competition.

The Key Royale women played a nine-hole individual-low-net golf match in four flights Nov. 19.

Flight A saw Mary Lou Dreier, Sue Hookem and Sue Little tie for first place with matching 2-over-par 34s.

Kris Landkammer fired a 2-under-par 30 to take first place in Flight B. Joyce Brown was one shot back in second place, while Sue Wheeler's 1-over-par 33 was good enough for third place.

Joyce Lathrop shot the low-net round of the day with a 6-under-par 26, which gave her first place in Flight C. Christina Mason took second with an even-par 32, while Rita Allen was one shot back in third place.

Joanna Ozdych's 1-over-par 33 put her first place in Flight D. Penny Auch took second with a 35, while Sally Keyes took third with a 37.

The men played a nine-hole team scramble Nov. 21. The team of Dale Hudson, Jon Holcomb, Chuck Tencate and Barry Anderson combined on a four-under-par 28. The team of Bill Lowman, John Cassese, John Estok and Dieter Burckhardt finished alone in second at minus three.

The week's action ended Nov. 22 with a coed, nine-hole, two-best-net-balls-of-foursome match. The team of Penny Auch, Maryanne Kaemmerlen and Bob Dickinson combined on an 11-under-par 53 to earn a one-shot victory over the team of Earl Huntzinger, Nell Bergstrom, Heather Balone and Luanne Collins.

Horseshoe news

The Anna Maria City Hall horseshoe pit regulars heard the news Nov. 19 prior to play that longtime participant Ron Pepka had died the day before.

Pepka was a fixture at the pits, a good sport and friend to the regular players. He also was active in ensuring the weekly Anna Maria horseshoe scores made it to The Islander.

After sentiments for Pepka, three teams advanced from pool play with 3-0 records. Karl Thomas and Dave Lansaw drew the bye and watched as Bruce Munro and Norm Good annihilated Gene Bobeldyk and Roy England 22-1 to advance to the finals. Munro and Good were too "good," defeating Thomas and Lansaw 21-8 in the championship matchup.

Two teams emerged from pool play during Nov. 22 horseshoe action and were left to battle for the day's bragging rights. Bruce Munro and Dave Lansaw defeated Bob Palmer and Karl Thomas 23-12 in the title game.

Play gets underway 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.

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Good weather means good fishing — most of the time

By Capt. Danny Stasny
Islander Reporter

Mild temperatures for November are a welcome sight for Anna Maria anglers. Calm seas and sunny days are keeping the bite consistent throughout the grass flats and at nearshore structures in our surrounding waters. Water temps have dropped slightly, but are hovering around 70-75 degrees, depending on where you are. These temps are ideal for most of the species we target.

As water temps drop, snook are heading toward warmer water in shallow rivers and creeks, but also canals and basins. On their way, they're fattening up for winter and at times are striking at most anything that crosses their path. Live shiners are a surefire way to get these migrating fish to take a hook. For artificials, soft plastics combined with a jighead or topwater bait are producing.

Redfish are still schooling, also thanks to the mild water temps, and shallow flats adjacent to mangrove shorelines are a good place to start your hunt. Higher tides seem to be producing a bite. Again, live shiners are a great offering. Although, when reds are tough to catch, you can always try baiting with fresh-cut chunks of mullet or ladyfish. Sometimes chunks work better — so try all the options.

On nearshore structure, Spanish mackerel are still fairly abundant. Use a frozen chumbag to attract these ravenous little fish to the boat and then pitch out a live shiner. When you have these fish around, be prepared to also throw out a chunk bait on the chance a random blacktip will turn up in the slick.

Finally, beach fishing is proving prosperous. Look for diving birds to find the bait schools. Once you've done that, you should find the bite. Spanish mackerel, as well as jack crevalle and ladyfish, are foraging on their way south. Take advantage of the bite with white buck tails or silver spoons.

Dave Sork at the Anna Maria City Pier says Spanish mackerel is still the mainstay at the pier, although on recent days the bite is sporadic at best. Pier fishers using spoons and jigs are hooking up their share of macks, along with jacks, ladyfish and skipjacks.

Night fishers at the pier are being rewarded with keeper-size spotted seatrout. These fish gather in a couple of specific areas of the pier, so move around until you locate them. Once you do, try free-lining a freshly dipped ballyhoo through the lighted areas and see what happens.

Capt. Rick Gross of Fishy Business charters is finding a decent snook bite in the backcountry of southern Tampa Bay. Upper-slot fish are being caught as well as plenty of fish in the 20- to 26-inch range. Live shiners



Capt. Mark Howard shows off a 13-pound grouper he reeled up on a fishing captain's holiday Nov. 21 while trolling the Tampa Bay shipping channel. He filleted the fish and said his plans were to take it to the Sandbar Restaurant for lunch, where the kitchen crew cooks up his "catch of the day."

free-lined behind the boat are the ticket to catching these fish.

Redfish are still in abundance according to Gross. Again, live shiners are producing a bite. He's locating reds by following schools of mullet across shallow flats. Average size of the reds is 15-20 inches, although fish exceeding 30 inches are mixed in for those fishers with a little bit of luck.

Finally, anchoring over deep grass flats with scattered potholes is resulting in spotted seatrout. Again, Gross is baiting live shiners. He suggests either free-lining the shiners or using a popping cork to cause a small disturbance on the surface.

You too can find the potholes by first touring the flats at low tide.

Capt. Warren Girle is working nearshore structure with good results, and mangrove snapper are providing rod-bending action for his clients. Limit numbers in the cooler are ranging 15-21 inches. While targeting snapper, Girle is reeling up gag and red grouper, as well as the occasional cobia — the most recent measured 38 inches to the fork. Finally, when the snapper bite is really good, goliath grouper are attracted by the commotion. Goliaths up to 180 pounds are being reeled up and released.

Inshore, Girle is finding schooling reds along man-

grove shorelines and shallow flats. Live shiners and even cut bait, such as pinfish and mullet, are attracting a bite. Mixed in with the redfish are the occasional snook, although keeper-sizes are a bit of a challenge.

Finally, deeper flats are producing spotted seatrout in the 15- to 18-inch range. Free-lined shiners or soft plastics on a jighead are the bait of choice.

Aaron Lowman at Island Discount Tackle says redfish schools can be found if you know what to look for. Lowman is fishing shallow grass flats during high tides to get a bite. Also, he suggests looking for mullet to aid in finding the reds. Typically, large schools of mullet sweeping over shallow grass flats will spook small crabs and shrimp out of their hiding places, which in turn attracts reds in search of an easy meal. For bait, Lowman likes to use live shiners, although, he says cut bait will work, too. Artificials such as gold spoons and soft plastics are a good bet.

Spotted seatrout are next on the menu. Flats fishers drifting over deep grass flats with soft plastics combined with a jighead are catching decent numbers of these yellow-mouthed fish. Evidently there are numerous catches 12-15 inches. Slot fish are a little harder to come by, although limits are attainable.

Gag grouper action in Tampa Bay is in its early stage, and anglers trolling big-lipped plugs or jigs behind a planer are catching keeper-size fish over structure and hard bottom.

Lastly, beach fishers are enjoying action from Spanish mackerel, jack crevalle, ladyfish and the occasional pompano. Silver spoons, buck tail jigs or goofy jigs are producing a bite.

Send fishing reports to fish@islander.org.

Sailing squadron offers boating courses, seminars

The Anna Maria Island Sail and Power Squadron will hold a boating education course and a seminar in December at the squadron building, 1200 71st St. NW, Bradenton

The two-part America's Boating Course will take place at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 14, with attendance required on both dates to receive a boating education certificate.

The course fee is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple.

The course covers boating safety and Florida waterway rules.

At 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, the squadron will host instruction in chart-reading. The seminar admission cost is \$10.

Pre-registration is required for the programs.

For more information, contact Gloria Potter or Walter Haug at 941-795-0482.

Anna Maria Island Tides									
Date	AM	HIGH	PM	HIGH	AM	LOW	PM	LOW	Moon
Nov. 27	7:09	1.4	7:19	2.0	1:12	0.7	12:44	0.7	
Nov. 28	8:33	1.4	7:52	2.1	2:11	0.4	1:28	0.8	
Nov. 29	9:44	1.4	8:26	2.3	3:02	0.1	2:08	0.9	
Nov. 30	10:47	1.5	9:01	2.4	3:49	-0.2	2:45	1.0	
Dec. 1	11:45	1.5	9:38	2.6	4:35	-0.4	3:19	1.1	
Dec. 2	12:40p	1.4	10:18	2.7	5:22	-0.6	3:53	1.2	
Dec. 3	1:33p	1.4	11:02	2.7	6:08	-0.7	4:30	1.2	New
Dec. 4	2:23p	1.4	11:49	2.6	6:56	-0.7	5:15	1.2	

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

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Island Biz



By Rick Catlin

Chamber schedules December events

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly networking luncheon 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, at the Feast Restaurant, 5406 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Cost of the event is \$15. Reservations are required.

On Dec. 11, the chamber will hold its monthly sunrise breakfast 7:45 a.m.-9 a.m. at Harry's Continental Kitchens, 525 St. Judes Drive, Longboat Key.

Cost of the breakfast is \$8 and reservations are required.

Members are encouraged to bring guests or a future member to networking events.

The chamber is collecting Toys For Tots at its office, 5313 Marina Drive. Donations of new, unwrapped children's toys are appreciated.

For information or to make reservations, call 941-778-1541.

RE/MAX Alliance has new island agent



Zambito

Joe Zambito, a former chief auditor for the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, has joined the staff at RE/MAX Alliance Group real estate at its Anna Maria Island office in the Island Shopping Center, 5316 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

For more information, call Zambito at

941-201-5658.

Island real estate transactions

By Jesse Brisson

Special to The Islander

5311 Sunrise Lane, Unit B, Sunrise Lane, Holmes Beach, a 3,282 sfla / 5,337 sfur 4bed/4½bath/4car land condo built in 2010 was sold 11/01/13, AMI Beach Inn LLC to Greene for \$1,400,000; list \$1,400,000.



Brisson

631 Foxworth Lane, Holmes Beach, a 3,370 sfla 3bed/3½bath/2car canal-front pool home built in 1985 on a 155x110 lot was sold 11/04/13, Foxworth LLC to Schimkaitias for \$1,270,000; list \$1,345,000.

520 74th St., Holmes Beach, a 3,232 sfla / 4,285 sfur 3bed/3½bath/2car canalfront pool home built in 1967 on a 100x121 lot was sold 11/01/13, MEK Properties LLC to Marino for \$754,000; list \$789,000.

501 58th St., Holmes Beach, a 1,742 sfla / 2,918 sfur 3bed/2bath canalfront home built in 1999 on a 85x90 lot was sold 11/05/13, Wimpy to Bowers for \$685,000.

206 81st St., Unit A, Gulf Paradise, Holmes Beach, a 1,200 sfla 4bed/2bath land condo with pool built in

2013 was sold 11/01/13, 206 81st St., LLC to SVC Rentals LLC for \$600,000.

206 81st St., Unit B, Gulf Paradise, Holmes Beach, a 1,150 sfla 3bed/2bath land condo with pool built in 2013 was sold 11/01/13, 206 81st St., LLC to SVC Rentals LLC for \$600,000.

2509 Ave. C, Bradenton Beach, a 3,120 sfla / 4,437 sfur 6bed/4bath duplex built in 2009 on a 50x100 lot was sold 11/04/13, Bakhtiarynia to Reuss for \$545,000.

523 Kumquat Drive, Anna Maria, a vacant 75x118 canalfront lot was sold 11/04/13, Eagle Ridge Inc to Dryburgh for \$400,000.

1801 Gulf Drive N., Unit 246, Runaway Bay, Bradenton Beach, a 1,080 sfla / 1,140 sfur 2bed/2bath condo with shared pool built in 1978 was sold 11/04/13, Henry to Dickey for \$330,000.

440 63rd St., Holmes Beach, a 756 sfla / 1,358 sfur 1bed/1bath half duplex built in 1962 on a 17x98 lot was sold 11/05/13, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation to Flickinger for \$179,000.

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

Business news

Does your business have achievements to celebrate? Maybe you've just opened a business or your business has received an award or special recognition. If so, we'd like to hear from you. To be considered, email your "who, what, where, when and why" to news@islander.org. Hi-res photos welcome.

Chamber ambassador



Lyon

Toni Lyon, ad director for The Islander, is the newspaper's ambassador to the Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce. All members and potential members are encouraged to discuss advertising opportunities with Lyon. She can be reached at 941-928-8735.

Correction

David Teitelbaum is owner of Tradewinds, Tortuga, Seaside and Tropic Isle Beach Resorts in Bradenton Beach. A story in the Nov. 20 issue regarding tourism erred. Barbara Rodocker is owner of Silver Surf Resort, Bradenton Beach. We apologize for the error.

Send your club, business, fishing, sports, event news and photos to news@islander.org. Share the fun.



FOR SALE BY OWNER

Historic 1926 Old Florida Gulfview Cottage

3 Bedroom/3 Bath Oversized 75x145, 10,875 sf Lot
Location: 104 Magnolia Ave.; 1 lot from Gulf of Mexico;
1 block to Sandbar Restaurant and Ginny's & Jane E's

❖ This historic beach cottage offers 3 suites, each with private full bath, wrap-around porch with Gulf views, tongue-and-groove wood ceilings, hardwood floors, custom closet systems, recessed lighting and much more.

❖ Custom kitchen features solid-wood cabinets, marble counter tops and stainless steel appliances.

❖ Cottage is fully furnished and decorated, featuring historic Anna Maria art.

❖ Additional ground-floor structure with detached garage and alley access provide plenty of storage and opportunities for expansion.

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

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BEADED HOLIDAY RED placemats, coasters and napkin rings, \$10. 941-761-1415.

SEVEN 65-WATT indoor track bulbs, \$20, adjustable floor canister light, \$5, black lace tunic, \$20. 941-896-7902.

COFFEE TABLE: DROP-leaf, very nice, \$100, 1-year old above-ground pool, accessories, 15-18 foot, \$100. 941-778-3920.

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. Email classifieds@islander.org, fax toll-free 1-866-362-9821. (limited time offer)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HIVE: GIFTS & Arts at Bridge Street, Bradenton Beach. Local hand-made unique jewelry including our very popular Mermaids Range, Tibetan jewelry and goods, plus Pandora-style charms and various gift items from around the world. 941-730-1745.

WANTED: WORKOUT DVDs and retired but working Xbox, Wii units with games for Ministry of Presence for kids and teens in Haiti. Deliver to The Islander, 5604B Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

TERRY HAYES, REALTOR. Premier Sothebys. 941-302-3100. Terry.hayes@sothebysrealty.com. Discoverannamaria.com.

WANTED: YOUR OLD cell phone for recycling. Deliver to The Islander, 5604B Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

ANTIQUES, ART, and collectibles. View at The Islander store, 5604B Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

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

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, 5604B Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

FREE GUN LOCK courtesy of Project Child-safe, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Holmes Beach Police Department. Pick up at The Islander office, 5604B Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Don't be sorry, be safe.

GARAGE SALES Continued

STEFF'S STUFF ANTIQUES: Consignment sale 20-50% off, open daily. The Centre Shops on Longboat Key. 5380 Gulf of Mexico Drive. 941-383-1901.

CLEARANCE SALE: 9 a.m.-? Saturday, Nov. 30. Table linens, pillows, jewelry. Dealers welcome. 16 Seaside Court, Holmes Beach.

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: BLACK WALLET belonging to Eric Hamilton Hicks, please call Bruce to identify. 630-278-9492.

Turn the page for more Islander ads ...

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

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FOUND: SILHOUETTE EYEGLASS. Found at 72nd Street and Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Call 810-875-4459.

LOST: LADY'S PRESCRIPTION Silhouette eyeglasses. Call 941-778-2497.

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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, 5604-B Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

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REAL ESTATE Continued

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- Entries must be mailed/postmarked or hand-delivered to the newspaper office by noon Saturday weekly.
- A winner will be drawn from tying entries. The decision of The Islander football judge is final.
- All entries must be submitted on the published form. Entries must be hand-written original, not copied. Be sure to include name, address and phone number.

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The holidays are the time to take an extra moment to give someone a smile or send a greeting ... pause to give a quiet hug or words of praise.

The holidays are special for friends, family and islanders. In our 21st annual **Islander Wish Book**, we take a moment to present the needs of organizations in our community that deserve your special consideration.

These community service organizations are dedicated to providing assistance to families and individuals, teaching and mentoring our children, helping the elderly and less fortunate, all with the goal of making Anna Maria Island a better place to live for each and every one of us.

With **The Islander Wish Book**, many of these organizations offer a special way for you to share the holiday spirit. We've included a list of needs - wishes - from each one. Your donation, however small or grand, is deeply appreciated by many. Please, take a moment to select a gift from these lists to add to your holiday shopping list.

It's **The Islander's** way of saying thanks for the support we've received for the past 21 years and a chance for all of us to give something back to the community we love. A small contribution can make a big difference.

We offer a special thanks to our generous sponsor advertisers for making this publication possible. And we hope you receive the same return as we have every year ... the joy of giving.

Happy holidays and best wishes for 2014!

Anna Maria

The Islander

May You Be Blessed With Joy, Peace and Love This Holiday Season.



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Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island

The Artists' Guild of Anna Maria Island, 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, supports local artists and promotes arts education. The guild provides scholarships, sponsors tours to local art museums, contributes funding to school arts programs, hosts art demonstrations and operates the Guild Gallery, where local artists to display their work.

AGAMI wishes for:

- A large, colorful doormat for the front entrance.
- A portable projector screen.
- Overhead, gallery light bulbs — 4 feet in length and soon to be unavailable in stores.
- A shed for outside storage.

For more information, contact the Guild Gallery at 941-778-6694. Also, visit www.amiartistguildgallery.com.

AGAMI's wish:
A storage shed.



All Island Denominations

All Island Denominations unites the island churches — CrossPointe Fellowship, the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Harvey Memorial Church, Roser Memorial Community Church and St. Bernard Catholic Church — to help those in need of emergency rent funds or utility assistance, as well as food.

Organized and funded by all the island churches, AID has been serving Anna Maria Island since 1982.

AID wishes for:

- Backpacks and food to ensure food for Anna Maria Elementary students over weekends.
- Assistance for islanders in need of rent, utilities, gas and food. AID has made a direct appeal on behalf of those employed at the Rod & Reel, which was forced to close for repairs after a fire in September.
- Donations of non-perishable food, as well as financial contributions, for the food pantry at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

For more information, call the offices of any of the island churches.



ANNA MARIA ISLAND CONCERT CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

The Anna Maria Island Concert Chorus & Orchestra has entered its 21st year of providing chorus and instrumental music, as well as performance opportunities for professional and volunteer musicians.

AMICCO strives to broaden the public's knowledge, enjoyment and understanding of music and to foster the development of musically talented youth through our annual youth competition.

AMICCO wishes for:

- Vocalists for the chorus, especially bass and tenors.
- Instrumentalists for the orchestra.
- Volunteers to serve as ushers and potential board members.
- Help with organizing and integrating databases and social media.

For more information, contact Jeanie Pickwick at 941-795-2370, email pickwick@tam-pabay.rr.com or go online at www.amicco.org.



Anna Maria Elementary School

Anna Maria Elementary School operates with a professional staff of administrators, teachers and support personnel and a large coalition of parents and community organizers.

AME wishes for:

- Fifth-grade classes: white-board erasers and wipes, reward stickers and small prizes, a globe, pencils, eraser tips and sticky notes.
- Physical education classes: Two sets of six 7-inch dodgeballs, one set of six ultimate indoor/outdoor scooter boards.
- Other classes: School supplies, student prizes.

For more information, call the school at 941-708-5525 or drop off items at the school office, 4700 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.



Anna Maria Island Historical Society

The Anna Maria Island Historic Society operates a museum at 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, where visitors can see old Florida antiques and collections from the early days of Anna Maria.

AMIHS also recognizes preservation achievement and sponsors a series of cultural and historical events.

AMIHS wishes for:

- Island photographs.
- Island artifacts.
- More volunteers to help welcome visitors to the museum.
- Restoration advice and assistance for the boat built by Sam Cobb, the island's second settler.
- Gardeners to help around the museum with entry gardens and a path.
- Bakers to help fill the demand for the original settler's bread.
- For more information, call AMIHS at 941-778-0492, email amihs4315@gmail.com or stop by the museum.

AMIHS's wish: island photographs and artifacts.



The Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #2188

wishes everyone a Happy Holiday and asks that you please remember to donate a TOY for a TOT at the Lodge. 110 Gulf Drive, S. Bradenton Beach



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Bridge Street Merchants

The Bridge Street Merchants, which became a nonprofit in 2009, exists to promote the businesses on Bridge Street, the Bradenton Beach community and local charities.

BSM presents several signature events in Bradenton Beach, including a Sunday open-air market throughout the winter season and Christmas on Bridge Street, featuring Santa Claus and a boat parade.

Bridge Street Merchants wishes for:

- A storage shed for the market lot.
- A generator.

For more information, contact Amanda Escobio at 941-779-6836.



Bridge Street Merchant's wish: a storage shed for the market lot.



Butterfly Park

The Anna Maria Island Butterfly Park, located between Holmes Beach City Hall and the Island Library in the 5800 block of Marina Drive, is tended by the Manasota Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association.

The educational park is being replanted to attract about 24 species of butterflies. The park is home to numerous brick memorials, and campaigns continue to add personalized bricks and erect a gazebo.

The AMIBP wishes for:

- Gardeners.
- Plant donations.

For more information, contact Nancy Ambrose at 941-799-2181 or nancy.ambrose@aol.com.

ANNA MARIA ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, operates with the support of donors and members.

The center hosts a variety of programs for adults and children, from educational programs to sports leagues to therapy.

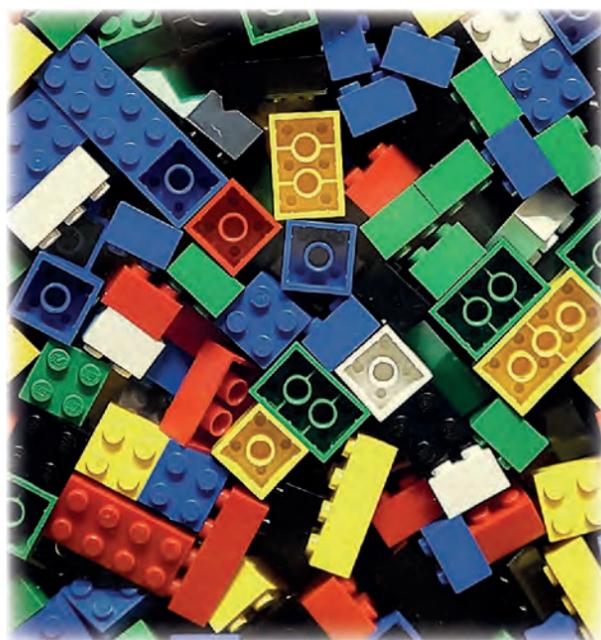
The center also hosts a series of community events throughout the year.

To meet community needs, the center provides low-income families access to childcare, youth programs and family therapy.

The center wishes for:

- Legos, board games, puppets, kitchen play items, toy cars, markers, construction paper, mats and a projector for the children's program.
- Pagers or walkie-talkies for the staff.
- Staples gift cards, battery backups, surge protectors and other supplies for the office.
- Soccer balls sizes 3-5, indoor basketballs and softballs for the sports program.
- A large, simple gender-neutral wooden dollhouse with furniture and dolls for the therapy room, puppets for play therapy and a sheepskin rug for the play therapy room.
- Xbox 360 or Wii games, Xbox controllers, ping-pong balls and paddles, AA batteries, jigsaw puzzles and DVDs for the teen program.
- A surround-sound system with four speakers for the performing arts room.
- Board games and card decks for the family night program.
- A large tool box, screwdrivers, socket set, hand tools and attachments for a John Deere X485 mower for the maintenance crew.

For more information, contact the center at 941-778-1908 or go online at www.islandcommunitycenter.com.



Anna Maria Island Community Center's wish: Legos for creative kids.



ANNA MARIA ISLAND PRIVATEERS

The mission of the Anna Maria Island Privateers is to "develop, promote and support activities for the betterment of youth and community in Manatee County."

The group raises money for scholarships, cleans up roads and hosts a series of events for children and adults, including the Christmas parade and party, which takes place this year Saturday, Dec. 7.

Anna Maria Island Privateers wishes for:

- New decking for the float, or donations to purchase decking.
- A golf cart.
- Sound system for the ship.
- Tires for the ship.
- Ship decorations, including a cannon.

For more information, contact Nicole Skaggs at 941-773-3966 or teamparadise1@verizon.net. Also, visit www.amiprivateers.org.



Anna Maria Island Privateers' wish: ship decorations.

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Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, representing 500-plus members and operating a visitor's center at 5317 Gulf Drive in Holmes Beach, helps newcomers settle, businesses thrive and tourists navigate on the island.

The organization's mission is to "serve the membership and the community through proactive leadership by building a positive business climate while enhancing and perfecting the quality of life for all."

The chamber wishes for:

- Toys for the Toys For Tots holiday drive.
- Clean, well-preserved children's and women's clothing for the Women's Resource Center.
- Non-perishable food items for local food pantries.

For more information, call Deb Wing at 941-778-1541, email at debbie@amichamber.org or go online at www.annamariaislandchamber.org.



Cortez Village Historical Society

The Cortez Village Historical Society drives preservation and restoration in the old fishing community to the east of Anna Maria Island.

CVHS collects artifacts and documentation of old, colorful Cortez for the museum.

The Cortez Village Historical Society wishes for:

- A truck, van or station wagon to haul tents and other items to exhibit at festivals.
- A volunteer to collect and bind The Islander's profiles of Cortez military veterans.

For more information, contact Mary Fulford Green at 941-795-7121 or maryfulfordgreen@hotmail.com. Or write CVHS at P.O. Box 663, Cortez FL 34215.



CVHS's wish: Military uniforms for display in the cultural center/family life museum in Cortez.

FRIENDS OF THE ISLAND LIBRARY

The Friends of the Island Library exists to help the Holmes Beach library achieve its mission of offering a responsible, proactive, innovative program of library service, capable of upgrading the educational, cultural, and recreational quality of life in the community.

The support group provides volunteers to assist librarians, raises money to purchase materials and sponsors numerous programs for adults, teens and children.

The group wishes for:

- Used books — no magazines — for the 2014 book sale, which is scheduled for Feb. 1.

For more information, call friends' president Mary Pat Swamy at 941-778-3312.



The Friends of the Island Library's wish: used books for the book sale.

TINGLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Tingley Memorial Library, 111 Second St. N., Bradenton Beach, exists to provide books and other library services to the island population.

The library's goal is to "serve our patrons all year through friendly and helpful assistance with any reading materials and informational resources they seek."

Tingley wishes for:

- Audio books on CD.
- Educational or entertainment DVDs.
- Florida-themed books.
- Fiction and non-fiction books.

For more information, call Eveann Adams at 941-779-1208 or email eadams@cityofbradenton-beach.com.



Tingley Memorial Library's wish: Florida-themed materials.

Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch and Shorebird Monitoring

The volunteer-driven Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch & Shorebird Monitoring collects data on nesting sea turtles and shorebirds on the island.

In partnership with the island community, through public education and cooperation, the nonprofit's mission is "to assure a suitable habitat for people, sea turtles and shorebirds, the ecosystem of the island and it's surrounding waters."

Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch and Shorebird Monitoring wishes for:

- Boxes of disposable medium and large latex gloves.
- Disposable 2-inch paint brushes.
- Gift cards from Staples for office supplies and printing.
- AA batteries.
- A Manatee County ordinance prohibiting lighted paper lanterns that pollute the Gulf waters and endanger wildlife.
- Eight-inch white zip-ties for nesting signs.

• Three gallons of yellow road paint, specifically from Holmes Beach True Value Hardware.

For more information about AMITW, contact executive director Suzi Fox at 941-778-5638 or suzilfox@gmail.com.

Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage

The Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage in Cortez is "dedicated to the promotion, education and preservation of Cortez and Florida's commercial fishing and other traditional maritime cultures including the environment upon which these communities depend."

FISH serves as caretaker and overseer of the Cortez Fish Preserve, as well as runs multiple programs, including the Turner Maritime Challenge and the FISH Boatworks, and hosts the annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival.

FISH wishes for:

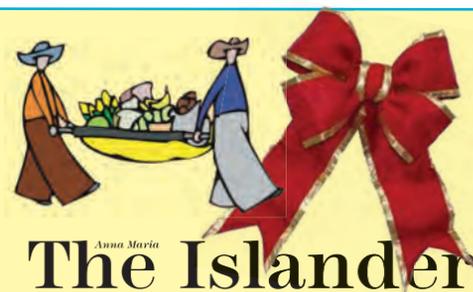
- A heavy-duty riding mower for the preserve and the boatworks.
- A push-mower for smaller properties, such as Fishermen's Hall.
- A weed-whacker.
- A leaf blower.
- Volunteers for the Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival held in February.
- More memberships, which cost \$10.

For more information, call 941-254-4972 or email fishfestart@gmail.com.

YOU'RE INVITED

JOIN US DEC. 6 STARTING AT 5 PM FOR THE DOWNTOWN HOLMES BEACH HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!

Come celebrate open house in the entire Holmes Beach downtown area 5-8 p.m., with Santa visits for kids, Privateers and a snow storm hosted by The Feast and co-sponsored by *The Islander*. Celebrate! Refreshments, entertainment throughout the downtown area! Prize drawings! Don't miss this big event.





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Florida Maritime Museum

The Florida Maritime Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the region's maritime history. The museum is housed in the renovated 1912-built schoolhouse at 4415 119th St. W., Cortez.

The goal in the next year is to expand education programming, boat-building opportunities and exhibits.

The museum wishes for:

- A labelmaker.
- An engraving pen.
- Shell for pathways.
- Easy-up tents or canopies.

For more information, contact the museum at 941-708-6121.

Maritime museum's wish: label-maker.



Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to the fight against cancer through research, education, advocacy and patient services.

Relay For Life of Anna Maria Island — set for Coquina Beach May 17-18 in 2014 — is the ACS's signature island event. At the relay, participants celebrate cancer survivors, remember those who have battled the disease and commit to fighting back against cancer.

Organizers of the relay wish for:

- An Anna Maria Island restaurant to provide a complimentary dinner to cancer survivors and their caregivers at the event.
- Small gifts, items or discount coupons for survivor gift bags.
- Local bands, entertainment or musical talent to perform at the event.
- Gift certificates and door prizes to use in chance drawings.
- Cancer survivors, caregivers, families, friends and businesses to form teams.
- Businesses to serve as corporate sponsors.

For more information, contact Aly Kerwin at 941-328-3775 or alyson.kerwin@cancer.org. Also, visit www.relayforlife.org/amifl.



Happy Holidays
The Island Cabana

403C Pine Ave. Anna Maria • 941.896.4946

Off Stage Ladies

The Sunday before an opening night at the Island Players playhouse in Anna Maria is known as "Long Sunday." This is when the actors and technical crew gather for a lengthy day of rehearsal to perfect the production and when the Off Stage Ladies take center stage at the playhouse.

The group exists to support Island Players, raising money with events, serving as ushers, helping behind the scenes and on stage at the theater. And, on Long Sunday, when a hearty meal might help the lead recall his or her lines or the lighting expert hit a mark, OSL prepares and serves dinner to the starving artists.

The group also meets on the second Wednesday of each month, October-May.

Off Stage Ladies wishes for:

- Restaurants or other businesses to provide Long Sunday meals and paper goods on Dec. 1, Jan. 19, March 16 and May 11.

For more information about the Off Stage Ladies, call president Nancy Ambrose at 941-799-2181 or email nancy.ambrose@aol.com.

Off Stage Ladies' wish: paper plates and utensils for rehearsal dinners.



Picture Them Adopted wishes for photographers to volunteer for the campaign to help rescue animals.

Picture Them Adopted

Picture Them Adopted is a group of volunteer photographers and animal handlers who donate time, talent and effort to take pictures of the dogs and cats at the local animal shelters in hopes of increasing the animals' chances of adoption.

Teams of photographers and handlers visit the shelter once a month for about three hours.

PTA currently has about 17 teams but hopes to double the number in 2014.

Picture Them Adopted wishes for: Animal handlers and photographers.

For more information, contact Ruth Uecker at 941-201-6158 or Caryn Hodge at 941-713-3105.

MoonRacer No Kill Animal Rescue

MoonRacer No Kill Animal Rescue Inc. is a nonprofit dedicated to the rescue, care and rehabilitation of homeless pets in order to find them good and safe homes.

MoonRacer believes "that all animals deserve love, dignity, proper care and a home. We believe that no animals should be killed because they are homeless and will provide comfortable and safe shelter and work for them until homes can be found. We believe that education and information is the way to promote kindness to all animals and will work with and help people concerning pet retention. We love all animals and do whatever is possible within our means to help them."

MoonRacer's wishes for:

- Dog and cat food.
- Collars and leashes.
- Cat litter.
- Pet shampoo.
- A farm, or remote property for kennels.

For more information, contact Lisa Williams at 941-896-6701, lisa@moonraceranimal-rescue.com or go online at moonraceranimal-rescue.com.

Moonracer's wish: collars and leashes.



Lisa Williams surrounded by her first group of homeless pets rescued from "death row" at the Manatee County Animal Services shelter — 10 at once. Many more have found medical care and forever homes from MoonRacer.



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Island Players

The Island Players is in its 65th season in the cozy little theater at the corner of Gulf Drive and Pine Avenue in Anna Maria.

The group's mission is "to continue to bring high quality and professional entertainment to the community for the cultural enrichment of all and to provide a stage for young people to learn and enhance their experiences in the performing arts."

The Island Players' 2013-14 season goal is "to introduce new theatergoers to our historic playhouse."

The Island Players wishes for:

- Sound speakers for outside the theater.
- Sound speakers for inside the theater.
- Three comfortable barstools with backs, for the box office and prop volunteers.
- Marquee frames for the porch.
- Small white lights for the porch.
- Four Black & Decker, 18-volt cordless drills with batteries and chargers.
- One Black & Decker 4-inch, 18-volt circular saw with batteries and a charger.

For more information, contact Island Players president Herb Stump at 941-704-2152 or hbstump@aol.com. Information also is online at www.theislandplayers.org.



Island Players' wish: Comfortable barstools with backs for the workers at the box office window.



Roser Food Pantry

The Roser Food Pantry, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, is stocked largely with donations from island residents and island churches.

Operators of the pantry provide groceries on weekdays to islanders in need.

The Roser Food Pantry wishes for:

- Unexpired canned fruit, vegetables, meat or meals.
- Unopened crackers, cookies, drinks, cereal, snacks.
- Financial contributions to purchase food items when the stock runs low.

For more information, contact 941-778-0410 or 941-779-9588.



Roser Food Pantry's wish: non-perishable groceries.

Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island

The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island, which meets Tuesdays at the Bridge Street Bistro in Bradenton Beach, is a network of business, professional and community leaders, both active and retired.

Members network, build friendships, develop leadership skills and satisfy community and global service needs.

Money raised through fundraising efforts support about three dozen projects, many of them at Anna Maria Elementary School in Holmes Beach.

The Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island wishes for:

- Nutritious food donations for distribution to FELT/Feeding Empty Little Tummies and also the Roser Food Pantry.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island, contact Michael Northfield at callmikefirst3@aol.com or 941-713-0284. Also, visit www.annamariarotary.org.



Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island's wish: donations for Feeding Empty Little Tummies.

Royal Pet Rescue

Royal Pet Rescue was founded in 2009 to rescue as many dogs and cats as possible from local shelters and often has as many as 50-80 animals in its care, most in temporary foster homes until permanent adoptions take place.

RPR has rescued more than 2,000 animals — all of them received vet care, were spayed or neutered, micro-chipped, wormed and treated with flea medications before being placed in homes.

The nonprofit is all-volunteer, with no facilities and no paid staff.

Royal Pet Rescue wishes for:

- Cat and dog food donations.
- Gift cards for pet stores.
- Flea medications.
- Pet toys, treats.
- Blankets.
- Gasoline cards.
- Help to help pay veterinarian bills.

For more information, contact Julie Royal at 941-720-1411, emailroyalrescue@comcast.net or go online at www.royalpetrescue.com.

Royal Pet Rescue's wish: cat and dog food donations.



Anna Maria Garden Club

The Anna Maria Garden Club is an all-volunteer group that meets on the third Wednesday of the month to socialize and to promote gardening on the island.

The group meets at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

In addition to monthly gathering, the group supports local charitable efforts, as well as grows opportunities at Anna Maria Elementary School.

The club wishes for: More members to attend monthly programs.

For more information, call publicist Mary Manion at 941-778-2607.

The Wish Book is made possible thanks to our generous advertising **sponsors** and the extra effort of *Islander* team members Toni Lyon, Joe Bird, Lisa Neff and Lisa Williams.

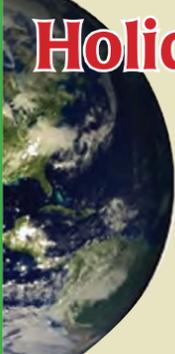
Please, join me in thanking them all ... Publisher Bonner Joy





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ANNIE SILVER COMMUNITY CENTER

Activity is on the upswing in the winter at Annie Silver Community Center at 23rd Street and Avenue C in Bradenton Beach.

The nonprofit center was founded by island entrepreneur Annie Silver in the 1950s to promote friendship and entertainment for neighbors and friends in Bradenton Beach and on the island.

During the winter season, there are celebrations of song and music, shuffleboard, bingo and potluck dinners.

The center wishes for:

- Six-foot step ladder, aluminum or fiberglass.
- White paint.
- Six-foot plastic folding table.
- Watering hoses and other garden supplies.

For more information, contact Linda Yarger at 941-778-3580 or email lyargerl@aol.com.

Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center

Wildlife Inc.'s mission is to rescue and rehabilitate animals and return them to their habitat, as well as promote education on environmental issues. Gail and Ed Straight, with a corps of wildlife-loving volunteers, run the operation from their home in Bradenton Beach.

Wildlife Inc. wishes for:

- Paper towels.
- Heating pads to keep the young rescued wildlife warm on cold nights.
- Bleach.
- Bird seed.
- A raft with a small engine.
- A generator.
- Large fish nets.
- Stainless-steel exam tables.



- Large dog crates
- Extra-large aquariums.
- First-class postage stamps.
- Gift certificates to Come See Come Say, Tractor Supply Company, Publix, Walmart, Home Depot and Lowes.
- Digital video camera.
- Laptop computer.
- Centrally-located property in Manatee County for a new rehabilitation center and conservation activities.

For more information, contact Wildlife Inc. at 941-778-6324, email caracara@juno.com or go online at www.wildlifeinc.org.



Wildlife Inc.'s wish: bird seed.




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*Let it snow! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all from your friends at The Islander.*

