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As The World Terns study the details. Page 6



Beach renourishment startup set for Dec. 17. Page 4

Meetings

The government calendar. Page 4

Op-Ed

The Islander editorial, reader letters. Page 6

The Islander 10 years ago

Looking back: December 2003. Page 7

Holmes Beach tightens Mainsail agreement. Page 8

Happenings

Community events, announcements. Pages 10-11



Save a date, make a date. Pages 12-13

Bradenton Beach takes reading on noise limits. Page 19

Holmes Beach previews 5-year capital improvement plan. Page 20

Streetlife

Island police blotter. Page 21



Student scientists take-over AME. Page 23

Warm temps, hot fishing. Page 25

Island Biz

Page 26

New offerings, new office.



Merry AMI Christmas countdown to Dec. 25.

VOLUME 22, NO. 7

DEC. 18, 2013 FREE

The Islander

The Best News on Anna Maria Island Since 1992

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Anna Maria parking debate results in refunds

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Mayor SueLynn reported to the commission Dec. 12 that both Pine Avenue Restoration LLC and Rex Hagen want to be refunded their donations for improvements to the vacant lots at the east end of Pine Avenue.

Hagen donated \$55,000, and PAR pledged up to \$100,000.

The refund requests came after the commission voted 3-2 Dec. 5 to remove 15-parking spaces from plans to develop the park drawn by then-Commissioner Gene Aubry and approved 3-1 by the commission in June.

Webb was absent from the June meeting.

Both PAR and Hagen had said the donations were contingent on the city following the Aubry plan.

The mayor said the city thus far has spent \$42,945 from the donations.

Commissioners unanimously voted to return Hagen's and PAR's donations, taking the expended amount from the city reserve fund.

Webb noted that the commission has not denied the park site plan, but rather sought to know what Hagen and PAR would do with their donations based on the parking being eliminated.



Mike Coleman of PAR told commissioners at a Dec. 5 meeting that he would expect a refund and SueLynn indicated he confirmed that to her and provided his expenses to date.

Hagen had delivered a letter to city hall moments before the topic came up. It was handed to SueLynn and she read his response, which stated that he wanted a refund if the Aubry plan was altered to eliminate parking.

Now the commission knows, said Commissioner Carol Carter.

"I talked to a lot of people who just don't want parking there," she said.

SueLynn said further work at the park is

at a stand-still until the city can fund the work. She added the commission must approve some form of site plan before any further work takes place at the park.

"Right now, all we're doing is irrigation," the mayor said.

Webb then directed SueLynn to seek other donations to fund the park — as long as "no strings are attached."

SueLynn said she thought donations would be out of the question if donors don't know how their money is to be spent, essentially saying "no" to Webb's directive.

PLEASE SEE **PARKING**, PAGE 2

Vehicle parking in the north lot of the Anna Maria City Pier is posted for restaurant patrons. Leaseholder Mario Schoenfelder is seeking assistance from the city to implement paid parking. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

The mullet are running, grab your cast net

By Jennifer Glenfield
Islander Reporter

It's harvest time. And like farmers heading into the fields for a day's work, well before sunrise, mullet fishers are loading their cast nets and gear aboard boats and heading onto the water.

In the fall, mullet group together and begin a migration pattern, intrinsic to their reproduction cycle, and a frenzy for fishers and fish fattened with roe begins.

But commercial fisher Tony Keehbauch doesn't relate fishing to work.

"It's like a two-month-long hunting trip. It's fun, and you can make some good money," said Keehbauch.

He hit the water by 4:45 a.m. Dec. 12. After a long day of throwing his cast nets, he took his haul to A.P. Bell Fish Co. to sort and weigh his catch. He squeezed the bottom side of each mullet with the skill of someone who has done it many times. Females, left bin; males, right bin. He repeated this action for each mullet in his 1,500-pound haul.

Keehbauch lives in Bradenton and has worked the mullet run for 15 seasons. He also fishes for mackerel and ladyfish.

"This year started slow, but the last two days have been pretty good. I got 1,200 pounds yesterday, 1,500 pounds today. We'll probably kill 'em tomorrow," said Keehbauch.

The slow start is a response to weather conditions, not calendar dates. Cold weather produced by a front signals mullets' instinct to migrate from the bays into the Gulf of Mexico in large schools, making it easier to net large numbers of fish in one cast.

"It's been a mild December, which helps fish get backed up," said Keehbauch.

When the fish "get backed up" closer to the warmer shoreline waters, the migrating schools are larger and full of precious roe. Once the fish reach the Gulf, mature fish mate in deeper waters and release fertilized eggs, sustaining the population and continuing the migration pattern.

To extract the roe for consumption, the



ABOVE: Tony Keehbauch tosses one of his fresh-caught mullet into a stainless-steel bin Dec. 12 at A.P. Bell Fish Co., 4539 124th St., Cortez. Keehbauch sorts the fish based on gender. RIGHT: Keehbauch's mullet in the bin. Islander Photos: Jennifer Glenfield

fish must be caught before they mate.

While male and female fish are caught, sold and consumed, the red roe in the female mullet is the real catch. This year's price has started at \$2.20 per pound for female fish and 10 cents per pound for male fish.

"The price is good. Last year it was \$1.50 a pound for females. There's big price difference," said Keehbauch.

Keehbauch gauged the prize for his female fish as he tossed them into the bin. "That's a \$5 fish. This one here, maybe \$4.50."

Aside from the temperature, the mullet run also is affected by the conditions on the water. Mullet fishing requires hand-throwing a cast net, which can be difficult, if not impossible, on rough waters.

"Today was borderline. I was on the north end of Anna Maria Island and near the exposed shoreline. It was pretty rough," said Keehbauch.

As the season comes to a close and the mullet travel into water too deep to catch, Keehbauch is happy.

"You put in some long hours, but it's super fun and you get paid," said Keehbauch.



Landmark family's home demolished

Demolition of the house at 211 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, was completed last week. The house and adjacent vacant lots behind Ginny's & Jane E's at the Old IGA on Gulf Drive were sold earlier this winter. The property was held the family home of the late Ernie Cagnina, longtime resident, owner of the IGA and mayor. In recent years, the home was rented. Building official Bob Welch said no building permit applications have been submitted. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin



PARKING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

More parking woes

Commissioners also discussed at the Dec. 12 meeting a request from city pier leaseholder Mario Schoenfelder to allow gated or paid parking at the pier.

Schoenfelder has said that if the six vacant lots opposite the pier were not planned to include some public parking, he would seek to close his parking lot at the pier to all but paid parking, while allowing customers at the restaurant to have their parking fees rebated. He maintains the popularity of the boardwalk and the beach have added to his restaurant's parking problems. The city allowed parking on at least three of the six of the vacant lots for a number of years until the winter tourism season ended in May 2012.

According to Schoenfelder's lease, he can charge for parking on his leased property if the city commission agrees, Commission Chair Chuck Webb said.

But Schoenfelder's lease incorporates some parking on both the north and south sides of the pier, and the amount of parking diminished as a result of the Florida Department of Transportation-funded boardwalk project,

which also reconfigured the entry to the pier and the trolley stop.

Mayor SueLynn, commissioners and public works supervisor George McKay discussed giving parking control of the north lot at the pier to Schoenfelder, which will eventually require amending the lease.

The request raises the issue of the city doing business with a private entity, Webb said.

"This is a slippery slope," he said. "We are getting more and more into doing business with him and we don't want to get involved in his business."

Webb said, Schoenfelder, as the tenant, has control of the city pier and its parking, but the commission needs to see a plan from Schoenfelder and agree with it before it can go forward.

Commissioner Doug Copeland said there should be "some remedy in the plan for people not paying to park."

Webb suggested the commission wait for Schoenfelder to make a proposal. He asked SueLynn to contact Schoenfelder and tell him the commission is agreeable

to some form of paid parking, but needs him to present a plan.

Copeland also said the city shouldn't spend any of its money having Dye or staff work on a paid parking plan at the pier. He suggested Schoenfelder contact the DOT to determine if the terms of the grant for the boardwalk project at the pier, would impact paid parking.

"Let him spend his own money," he said.

Sandbar site-plan hearing canceled

A public hearing Dec. 12 for commissioners to consider a site plan for the Sandbar Restaurant, 100 Spring Ave., was canceled.

Since 2007, Barbara Nally and her late husband have written numerous letters of complaint to the city of Anna Maria about activities at the Sandbar Restaurant, and that includes one regarding the new, pending site plan.

Nally, who owns a vacation rental at 102 Spring Ave. adjacent to the Sandbar, has filed four legal actions in the past against the city related to the Sandbar or Pine Avenue Restoration, only one of which was partially upheld. That concerned the sand mixture used for sidewalks at PAR properties on Pine Avenue.

Ed Chiles, owner of the Sandbar also is a principal in PAR.

But at the commission's Dec. 12 meeting, Nally scored a minor win when city attorney Jim Dye said the Dec. 3 planning and zoning board public hearing on a Sandbar site plan was not properly noticed.

The error may not change the ultimate findings of the P&Z, but it does prompt a redo.

Dye said the error was brought to his attention in a letter from the Law Offices of troll & Hanson, P.A., of Sarasota, which represents Nally.

"My conclusion is the planning and zoning hearing was not properly noticed," he said.

Dye recommended the site plan be returned to the P&Z board to be reheard and re-advertised by the city to include a posted notice at the beach end of Pine Avenue. (See related P&Z-Sandbar story next page.)

Commissioners agreed and voted unanimously to follow Dye's recommendation.

At this point, some six or seven attendees, including Nally and a court reporter, left the meeting.

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Sandbar P&Z review now must be heard again

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Parking at the Sandbar Restaurant, 100 Spring Ave., Anna Maria, seems to have been an issue for a number of years, particularly on holidays and at the peak of tourist season.

At the city's planning and zoning board meeting Dec. 3, P&Z members voted 5-2 to recommend the commission approve an amendment to the Sandbar's site plan for drainage, beach access and pedestrian walkways. The plan also includes adding restaurant parking on a vacant lot on the southeast corner at Gulf Drive and Spring Avenue.

The hearing on the recommendation, however, was halted due to an improper public notice and the commission agreed to the return the matter to the P&Z to be reheard — following proper notice.

At the Dec. 3 meeting, city planner Alan Garrett said parking is an allowed use for the property, which is zoned retail-office-residential.

The plan allows entry to the parking lot from Gulf Drive, but vehicles will be required to exit east onto Spring Avenue. A landscape buffer is planned between the proposed lot and the adjacent residence at 203 Spring Ave., said engineer Lynn Townsend Burnett, representing the Sandbar.

Included in the site plan is a beach pathway that includes a drainage system where there now is a swale, running north and south between the Sandbar and an adjacent home. Drainage pipes would be placed in the swale and covered by a compacted mix of sand and shell.

Newly appointed P&Z member Gene Aubry, an architect and former city commissioner, said Burnett's design would do much to improve drainage in the area.

"I like it," Aubry said.

Member Jonathan Crane, also newly appointed to the board, proposed amending the site plan to remove city liability for the walkway. The Sandbar will maintain the walkway, beach access and drainage system.

Crane, a retired attorney, had concerns that the city would be liable for an accident on the walkway, which is partly on Sandbar property.

P&Z members Lou Ellen Wilson and Margaret Jenkins voted against the plan. Both had concerns about the parking lot on Gulf Drive.

Attorney Leah Ellington of the Sarasota law firm of Lobeck and Hanson, P.A., representing Barbara Nally, owner of the Spring Avenue house adjacent to the main restaurant parking lot, challenged P&Z member Mike Coleman's vote, claiming Coleman's and Sandbar owner Ed Chiles' joint business ventures should preclude his ability to vote on the Sandbar matter.

Ellington also claimed the Dec. 3 P&Z meeting was not properly noticed, but the city attorney was not in attendance to address her claim.

Coleman dismissed the conflict with the Sandbar, saying he has no interest in Chiles' restaurants.

Coleman said the many Nally challenges to Sandbar and PAR plans have "cost the city time and money defending these complaints."

Coleman said he has no financial interest in the Sandbar and would not gain or lose anything of monetary value by the decision.

"In fact, I believe I have to vote if I don't recuse myself because of a conflict of interest," he said.

Garrett said the city attorney would be at the commission hearing on the site plan and could give his opinion then on the public notice and Coleman's vote.

Tourist kiosk planned for Manatee Public Beach

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The Manatee County Tourist Development Council at its Dec. 9 meeting approved spending \$45,000 for restroom improvements and a free-standing tourist kiosk at the Manatee Public Beach at 4000 Gulf Drive in Holmes Beach.

Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau marketing director Deb Meihls said the kiosk is subject to a lease with the operator of the concession stand at the beach. The concession, including the Anna Maria Island Beach Cafe, gift shop and beach rentals, is operated by United Park Services under a contract with Manatee County.

The county is responsible for maintenance, the concession and marine rescue at the public beach.

"We're not there yet, but we've started negotiating," Meihls said.

The Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce, 5313 Gulf Drive, operates a tourist information center with help from volunteers in conjunction with the BACVB and receives funding for its operations, including mail-outs, from the TDC.

Chamber president Mary Ann Brockman said the chamber would "certainly work with a new kiosk to

help the entire island."

Brockman said the proposed kiosk should be an agenda item at the chamber board of directors meeting at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, at the chamber office at 5313 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.



The Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau is proposing a kiosk providing tourist information to visitors at the Manatee Public Beach, 4000 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

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Beach renourishment startup delayed to Dec. 17

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

A Dec. 11 start date for an Anna Maria Island beach renourishment project stretching south from Holmes Beach to Longboat Key Pass was pushed back to Dec. 17, according to Charlie Hunsicker, director of the Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department.

After making presentations in Anna Maria and Bradenton Beach earlier this month on the project, Hunsicker told Holmes Beach commissioners at a Dec. 10 city commission meeting that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractor was delayed at another project.

The company has been renourishing the beach on Gasparilla Island, Hunsicker said, and dredging there resulted in more crushed shell than anticipated, which slowed the pumping process.

He said underwater pipes have already been laid in the dredging area about 2 miles off the north end of Anna Maria Island in preparation for the upcoming project and that some equipment is already in place.

"I asked them if they could still finish by Feb. 1 and they said it shouldn't be a problem," said Hunsicker. "It won't be a problem with the quality of sand we have. They will be able to do about 200-300 yards of beach a day."

Hunsicker said once the project begins, about 55,000 cubic feet of sand a day will be dredged from the floor of the Gulf of Mexico and pumped onshore. Bulldozers will redistribute the sand to rebuild a beach that was due for renourishment even before Tropical Storm Debby scoured sand from the southern end of the island and deposited it toward the north end in June 2012.

Hunsicker said once the project starts it will continue 24 hours a day.

"They can't stop once they start pushing the sand through 7 miles of pipes," he said. "It has to keep moving all the time."

Other than the five-day delay, Hunsicker said the timeline for the project remains the same.

From there, the project goes from a 75 percent federally funded renourishment to a state- and county-funded renourishment at Coquina Beach. That project is expected to take an additional four weeks, putting the final completion date in late March or early April 2014 — in time for the May 1 start of sea turtle nesting season.

Neither project will affect the timeline for the replacement of the three erosion-control groins that have been

AM pier beach newly enhanced with sand

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

The beach at the Anna Maria City Pier just got a little more popular with beachgoers.

That's because the beach at the pier has been widened about 70 feet into Tampa Bay from the shore.

Work crews from C&M Dredging of Leesburg pumped sand dredged from the nearby Lake LaVista inlet on Tampa Bay to the beach. The permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection limits the beach to a maximum of 70 feet from the shore.

C&M owner Christian Miller said a new technique was used that binds the dredged sand with seawater before spreading it on the beach. Miller said this will keep the sand in place on the beach longer than the 2011 beach project at the pier.

Funding for the project came from a matching Southwest Florida Water Management District grant of \$145,000.

Public works supervisor George McKay said he was pleased that the beach widening came in time for the holiday season, when many visitors to Anna Maria Island find the city pier.

The Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau has found in previous surveys the Anna Maria City Pier is Manatee County's No. 1 tourist attraction.

Socializing

The Islander has an active Facebook community of more than 2,200 users, so we're sharing some of the conversations we've been having with our fans. If you would like to join the conversation, become a fan of "The Islander" on Facebook. We provide a direct link to our fan page from www.islander.org.

The Islander also allows comments on stories online.



Charlie Hunsicker, director of the Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department, explains the beach renourishment work schedule at a Dec. 10 Holmes Beach city commission meeting. *Islander Photo: Mark Young*

in disrepair at Cortez Beach in Bradenton Beach since 1984.

The groin project is expected to cost \$2.8 million. While it doesn't have a start date, it is expected to begin sometime in early 2014, according to Hunsicker, who said it would take nine months to demolish and rebuild the groins.

Hunsicker said the state considered fully removing the groins, but the county was able to convince state officials that Gulf Drive in Bradenton Beach would be in danger of being washed out in a storm without the groins.

Technology now allows the structures to be rebuilt as adjustable groins and officials can control the underwater flow of sand on the new groins, which also are designed to be used as fishing piers.

Commissioner Jean Peelen asked why the project was scheduled at the beginning of tourist season and answered her own question by saying, "Sea turtles."

Hunsicker confirmed that was the reason.

"In 2002, we didn't have that restriction, but our nest density is getting higher and reaching the point where it's important not to have construction on the beach during nesting season."

Hunsicker explained that a good portion of the beaches will be usable outside of the renourishment area and the contractor has agreed to the county's request to provide more than 200 walkovers along the pipeline on the beach from Holmes Beach to Bradenton Beach.

The majority of the \$16 million beach renourishment

is being paid for through a federal emergency spending bill initially started after Tropical Storm Debby and solidified after Super Storm Sandy hit the northeast United States in October 2012.

Hunsicker said 12.5 percent of the project is being funded by Manatee County tourist development tax dollars and the remaining 12.5 percent is being paid by state grants. He said the 75 percent federal money was the key to getting the project started.

"Long ago we entered into this partnership with the federal government," said Hunsicker. "Other cities opted out of it, like Longboat Key, and they are out of it. They don't get federal funding and it would be nearly impossible for those cities to get back in now. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is so far behind on projects already authorized, if you set out today to get into the federal partnership with beaches, it would be decades before you saw any action by Congress."

Hunsicker said the island has about 12 million yards of sand sitting in its offshore "reserve account" for renourishment projects, and that the dredging site is the same as it was for the 2005 renourishment.

"It will have no effect on the north end of the island," he said. "We already know that to be true from the last time."

Anna Maria was excluded from the upcoming renourishment project because it was the only island city to benefit from Tropical Storm Debby. The storm took away from other island cities and deposited sand at the north end of the island.

Meetings

Anna Maria City

- Jan. 7, 6 p.m., planning and zoning.
 - Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m., EEEEC.
 - Jan. 9, 6 p.m., city commission.
 - Jan. 23, 6 p.m., city commission.
- Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, 941-708-6130, www.cityofannamaria.com.

Bradenton Beach

- Dec. 19, 1 p.m., city commission. CANCELED
 - Jan. 2, 1 p.m., pier team.
 - Jan. 2, 1:30 p.m., CRA/CIP.
 - Jan. 2, 7 p.m., city commission.
 - Jan. 6, 3 p.m., Scenic Waves.
 - Jan. 16, 12 p.m., pier team.
 - Jan. 16, 1 p.m., city commission.
 - Jan. 21, 9 a.m., department heads.
- Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., 941-778-1005, www.cityofbradentonbeach.org.

Holmes Beach

- Jan. 14, 7 p.m., city commission.
 - Jan. 16, 7 p.m., city commission.
 - Jan. 21, 11 a.m., city center.
 - Jan. 23, 11:30 a.m., police retirement.
 - Jan. 28, 7 p.m., city commission.
 - Jan. 30, 7 p.m., city commission.
- Holmes Beach City Hall, 5801 Marina Drive, 941-708-5800, www.holmesbeachfl.org.

Manatee County

- Jan. 7, 9 a.m., county commission.

- Jan. 9, 9 a.m., county commission land use.
 - Jan. 23, 9 a.m., county commission land use, Long Bar Pointe.
 - Jan. 28, 9 a.m., county commission.
- Administration building, 1112 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, 941-748-4501, www.mymanatee.org.

West Manatee Fire Rescue

- Jan. 16, 6 p.m., commission.
- Administrative office, 6417 Third Ave. W., Bradenton, 941-761-1555, www.wmfr.org.

Of Interest

- Dec. 18, 3 p.m., Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials, Longboat Key Town Hall.
- Dec. 25, Christmas. Most government offices will be closed Dec. 24-25.
- Jan. 1, New Year's Day. Most government offices will be closed.
- Jan. 7, 4 p.m., Manatee Council of Governments, Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd., Palmetto.
- Jan. 15, 3 p.m., Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials, TBD.
- Jan. 22, 2 p.m., Island Transportation Planning Organization, Bradenton Beach City Hall.
- Jan. 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Most government offices will be closed.

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

Anna Maria setback hearing takes on prosecutorial airs

By Rick Catlin
Islander Reporter

Lay people can easily get hung up on words and intent in discussions of judicial matters.

That appeared to be the case at the Anna Maria City Commission Dec. 12 meeting when property owner Joe Acebal applied for a 9-foot variance to the front-yard setback requirement for a newly constructed home at 414 Pine Ave.

Attorney Scott Rudacille, representing Acebal, asked for the variance from the required 29 feet to 20 feet, saying the contractor and designer had erred, the city building official had inadvertently issued a building permit for the plans, and the house was built and inspected before the error was discovered.

The setback requirement for a single-family home in the retail-office-residential zone was changed to 29 feet in 2006, Rudacille said.

However, the city's setback requirement for a house in the residential zone is only 20 feet, he said.

Prior to making changes in 2006, the code allowed a non-conforming lot in the ROR to adopt the residential setback.

Rudacille claimed the discussion in 2006 didn't include the non-conforming lots and the unintended consequence of the omission resulted in the present situation.

Building official Bob Welch admitted he made an error when issuing the permit. He said that city planner Alan Garrett was on vacation when he reviewed the application.

"In my 15 years as a building official, this is the first time I've ever made such an error," Welch said. Welch said normally more eyes review a plan than were able to do so in this case.

But Commission Chair Chuck Webb, an attorney, seemed determined to force Rudacille to accept the blame for the applicant, not the building department.

"Our code clearly says 29 feet for a setback" in the ROR, Webb said. Additionally, he said it's up to the applicant to ensure the contractor follows city code, not the building official.



A hearing on a setback variance for the newly constructed single-family residence at 414 Pine Ave., Anna Maria, was the subject of contentious debate at the Dec. 12 city commission meeting. *Islander Photo: Rick Catlin*

Rudacille argued that the code is not clear.

"The owner is responsible," Webb said. He repeated questions to Rudacille focusing on the owner's responsibility and the contractor being the agent for the owner.

Webb also repeated questions to Rudacille, asking if he was seeking equitable estoppel in the variance. Rudacille repeatedly replied the applicant was not yet at that point, but Webb persisted.

Webb then turned his inquiry to city attorney Jim Dye, who said equitable estoppel is a court action, not something for the commission to consider.

"We're only seeking to rectify a problem," Rudacille said.

He added that the code does "not clearly state" that the 29-foot setback was in effect. He said there are three setback requirements in the retail-office-residential zone, one of which previously was a 20-foot setback on a non-conforming platted lot of record.

Rudacille noted three houses built in line with 414

Pine Ave. also have a 20-foot setback. Two of the houses were built before the rules changed in 2006, and one house was built after 2006, without anyone noticing it did not meet the setback.

Rudacille said if the commission enforced the code to the letter, Acebal would have to tear down the house or remove the front 9 feet of the home. Either action would be excessive and expensive and might result in an action against the city, he suggested.

But Webb insisted the house could be modified, even asking Welch about the construction method. Welch replied the home had bored, poured concrete pilings.

Webb said he thought the city was "creating a catch-me-if-can situation with contractors."

And Mayor SueLynn said she felt any action to require the owner to tear down the home was "unconscionable."

SueLynn asked the commissioners to check their packets on the subject and address the criteria for the variance, as required by the city code.

Webb then began a rundown on the nine-point check list that qualifies a variance, referring to his notes frequently on a laptop computer.

He also wanted Rudacille to come back to the commission with case law supporting his claim, but Commissioner Dale Woodland interjected.

"I have a different approach. The homes already there are clearly at the 20-foot setback. A 29-foot setback would be out of place. It's a no-brainer. I don't know whose fault it is and I don't care. We could win this war, but it's ridiculous," he said.

The commissioner said that when he arrived for the hearing, he thought the matter would take just a few minutes. He said he would have voted to approve the variance had it come before the commission before the house was built.

Woodland then made a motion to approve the variance request, which passed 4-1. There was no comment from the public and Webb voted alone against the variance.

Commissioner Nancy Yetter said she wasn't "in favor" of the variance, but she voted "yes."



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Our Opinion

The devil in the details

Sometimes, looking at government from the outside makes the process seem both complicated and simple.

The process of legislating — enacting good laws and making choices for the people — is complicated.

And yet, there are simple things overlooked, forgotten, ignored or laid dormant — swept under the rug.

Some officials just want to make a fuss over things on the way to doing what they think is the “right thing” for us all.

Such is the case on Anna Maria Island when discussion turns to parking. Take, for instance, the matter of parking for a yet-to-be-created park at the corner of Pine Avenue and South Bay Boulevard.

Who could imagine a city creating a park without parking for the residents and their friends and visitors who go there? That would be Anna Maria. Restrooms? Check. Benches and walkways among the landscaping and mature oak trees? Check. Beautiful views of Tampa Bay, the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and the city pier? Check. Parking? No.

Even when reminded the city once obliged the owner of the vacant land — also the developer of the shopping plaza and post office across Pine Avenue — to maintain parking there, knowing full well the plaza lacked sufficient parking spaces, the present commissioners opted to eliminate parking for the park.

The commission and the mayor may have forgotten that their discussion about the pier tenant’s plans for paid parking stemmed from the elimination of parking on the same vacant lots some 18 months ago.

The lots had long been used for pier parking, especially when city created the trolley stop in the north parking lot in 2003 and eliminated some parking spaces. Amid vows of no parking — the city bought the lots and continued to allow piergoers to park cars there.

And park they did. The lots were seldom empty during peak hours for the pier restaurant and fishing.

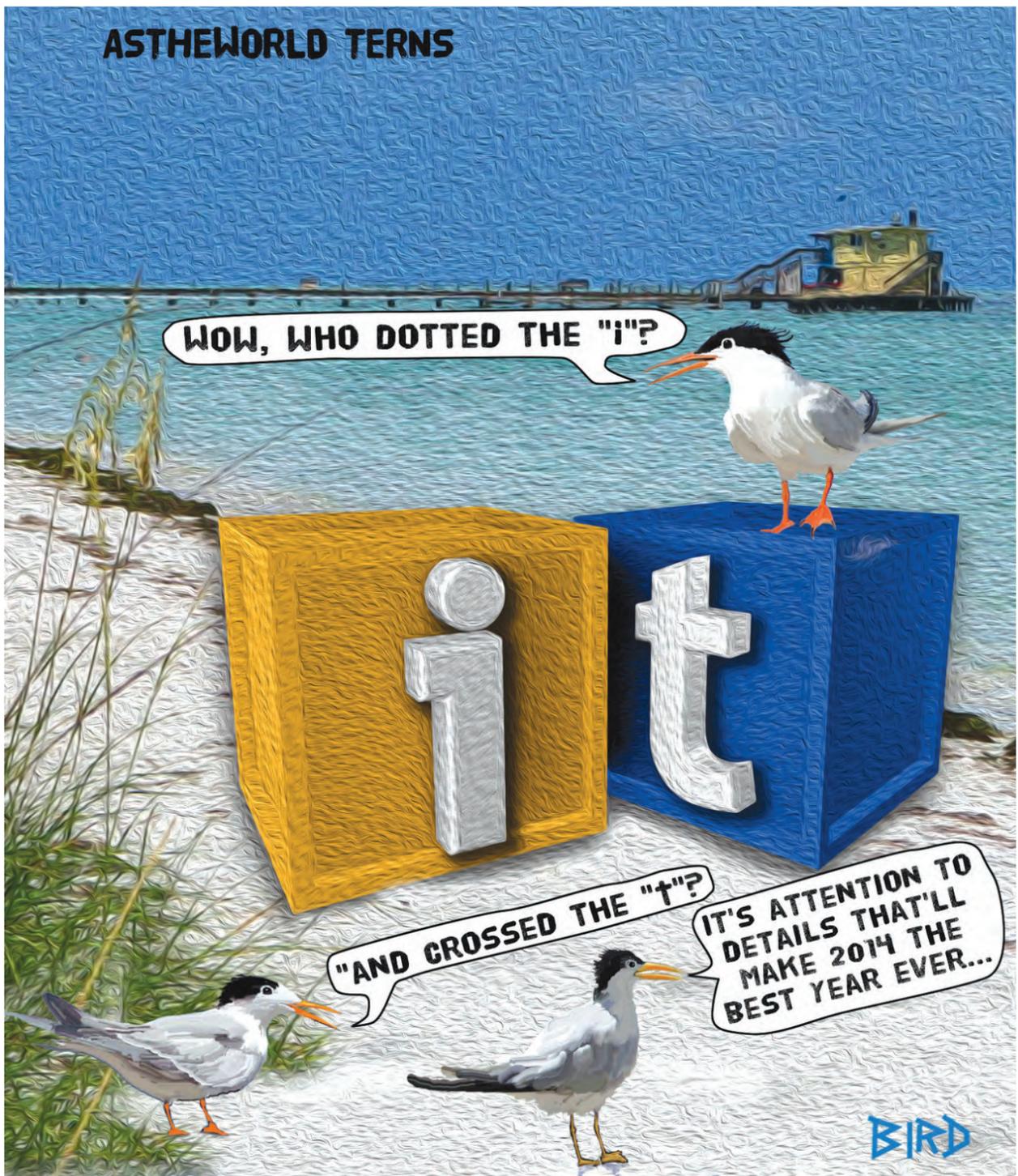
They overlook the pier’s growing popularity. The trolley brings more and more people. And a new beach created with city-state funds adds to the impact.

One official complains that the Pine Avenue shops should provide parking, but that’s the same old devil, trying to put the responsibility for providing services on private enterprise.

Roser Church bears more of the parking burden for the pier than the city.

And for a meager 15 parking spaces, we have three city commissioners voting to give back donations of more than \$150,000 to finally makeover six long-vacant lots into a park. They also swept aside the fact that creating the parking spaces there bore no cost.

Shame on those devils.



Your Opinion

Thanks for goodwill

I am a long-time employee of the Rod and Reel Pier and this is a thank you message from myself and my co-workers to the residents of Anna Maria Island for showing up in a huge way after the fire at the pier in September caused us to be temporarily laid off.

To the residents who raised money, the churches who included us in prayer, for the special offerings and businesses that did benefits, and how could we forget the T-shirts that were sold to raise funds for our aid.

To the members of All Island Denominations, who listened to our needs and used donated funds to help pay bills, keeping many of us out of collections.

Many of the pier employees have been working there for many years and have watched your kids grow up, which makes us feel like family. We have greeted our many annual visitors and welcomed newcomers to Anna Maria Island.

From all of us, we wish you and yours a very merry Christmas, and we also look forward to seeing you when we reopen.

Christine Olson, Bradenton

And the problems are ...

Carol Soustek’s letter in the Dec. 11 Islander in support of Mayor Carmel Monti’s November “annual report” caper demands a reply to her question, “What is the problem?”

1. The “report” was labeled an end-of-year report, and yet it was sent almost two months before the year’s end ... and timed, it would appear, to influence the vote as it was delivered to voter mailboxes just before the November election.

2. The “report” was not sent to all Holmes Beach residents or even city landowners as it should have been, but just to voters, further cementing the impression that it was a thinly disguised political advertisement.

3. Considering points 1 and 2, it is ethically questionable that the mayor chose to use town funds for the postage on his self-promoting mailer.

Florida Statute 104.31.1 states: “No officer or employee of the state or of any county or municipality thereof, except as hereinafter exempted from the provisions hereof, shall: (a) Use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or a nomination of office or coercing or influencing another person’s vote or affecting the vote thereof.”

The important question is, did the mayor use his official authority and influence for the purpose of influencing the election. Some — including myself — suggest he did.

I’m tired of Monti and his sidekicks touting how many hours the mayor works. The issue is not whether he puts in enough time. The trouble is that too much of that time results in impractical ideas (such as charging daytrippers) and missteps (such as private note-passing at a public meeting in violation of Sunshine Laws) that cost Holmes Beach in tourist revenue and reputation.

Monti may be “experienced,” but it doesn’t seem to be in the governing process. We should expect more from our elected representatives than just skirting by on the legalities while violating the spirit of the law.

Elected officials should not even get close to using their position or taxpayer funds to influence elections. Legal or not, it’s wrong.

So, Ms. Soustek, since you called for more residents to weigh in on the mayor’s mailing, I do so as one uninvolved but interested Holmes Beach voter.

As a former candidate whose campaign sign stood firmly in the mayor’s front yard in the runup to the election, your complaint against The Islander is the one that sounds contrived.

Marlane Wurzbach, Holmes Beach

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Behind the scenes at Duffy's Tavern



Ready, set, action in the courtyard: Duffy's Tavern, 5808 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach, serves as a movie set Dec. 10 — the restaurant was quiet during its usual Tuesday closing — for Sarasota filmmakers hoping to enter their short film into the Sarasota Film Festival in April 2014. Joe O'Neil is the film's director of photography, Cindy de la Cruz is an actor, and Kris Wood is the writer and director, as well as an actor. *Islander Photos: Courtesy Rick Lewis*

The film "Bird-Dog" is 12-15 minutes and follows Ian Bird, played by Kris Wood, who is "that guy" at your local bar. He feels the universe is leaving him signs that he should find his destiny, and he inconveniences everyone to find what he's missing in life. The filmmaker found Duffy's to be the perfect spot for an ale, and to spin his tale.



The Islander

10 years ago

Headlines from Dec. 17, 2003

- Bradenton Beach building official Bob Welch submitted his resignation, saying Commissioner Lisa Marie Phillips and Vice Mayor Anna O'Brien questioned his integrity. Welch said the actions of Phillips and O'Brien that were "intended to discredit me render my continued employment with the city impossible."

- Anna Maria commissioners declared an "informal" building moratorium while city attorney Jim Dye was preparing a formal ordinance to be adopted at the commission's Dec. 29 meeting. Dye told the commission it could adopt the moratorium informally until the ordinance passes. Commissioners agreed the moratorium should only last six months.

- Cortez resident Mary Fulford Green was given the Conservation Medal by National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution for her "outstanding achievement of environmental awareness in Cortez," the award said. A native of Cortez, Green was instrumental in forming the Florida Institute of Saltwater Heritage in Cortez, in addition to other environmental projects. Green said two of her relatives served in the American Revolution.

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Date	Low	High	Rainfall
Dec. 8	64	86	0
Dec. 9	64	83	0
Dec. 10	59	81	0.01
Dec. 11	65	84	0
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Dec. 13	51	78	0
Dec. 14	63	83	0

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Holmes Beach tightens terms for Mainsail agreement

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach commissioners, at a Dec. 11 work session, made some minor tweaks to a settlement agreement between the city and the Mainsail Lodge development team.

It was the second round of review for commissioners. The agreement stems from two rounds of mediation initiated by Mainsail attorney Robert Lincoln to avoid suing the city over a March revocation of its site plan to develop the vacant commercial land near the intersection of Gulf and Marina drives.

The city received several concessions during the mediation, reduced setbacks, the elimination of some lodging buildings, a reduction in size for the two remaining buildings, reduction in restaurant seating and more.

Parking also was a primary point in the ongoing dis-

cussions with Mainsail and, while parking appears to be adequate for the proposed lodge, Commissioner Marvin Grossman alleged that Mainsail is already violating the parking ordinance at the marina where it leases boat slips to charter captains.

"I think the whole commission believes there should be no special interest," said Grossman. "The marina has been operating for 12 years. There are hardly any parking spaces for the boat slips."

Grossman said according to his count of boats using the slips and Mainsail's business tax receipt, the developer is required to have 36 spaces.

"I was told they submitted a plan to correct all of this, but was then told it was our fault for not directing our mayor and building department to examine the information they submitted."

Grossman said he wants that rectified.

Building official Tom O'Brien replied that the plan is "on the pending shelf."

He said once the matter entered mediation, the review of the marina parking plan was put on hold, "and has been ever since."

O'Brien said a code enforcement action was initiated prior to the mediation and that Mainsail's parking plan was its response to the code enforcement action. However, he reiterated, everything was put on hold until the mediation is completed.

Grossman said anyone running a business in the city is required to do certain things.

"This one is being ignored and I don't think that's right," said Grossman.

Mayor Carmel Monti said he would look into it and give it a high priority after city attorney Patricia Petrucci said she agreed with Grossman.

Commissioners commenced with some minor adjustments to the settlement agreement, including defining some setback limits agreed to in mediation and ensuring the maximum capacity seating at the proposed restaurant would not exceed 80 seats.

Most of the adjustments were to ensure what was agreed to was associated with the appropriate language in the agreement.

The bigger issue for Commission Chair Judy Titsworth is that Mainsail has not yet reached a settlement with residents on Sunrise Lane. Mainsail wants to use the road for emergency vehicle access, but only partly owns the road along with the Sunrise Lane residents.

During mediation, it was made clear that any deal with the city would be contingent on Mainsail reaching a deal with the two Sunrise Lane residents who oppose Mainsail's use of the road. Titsworth also lives on Sunrise Lane, but is not engaged in the dispute over use of the road.

However, with the elimination of some lodging facilities, Titsworth noted that Mainsail might not need to use Sunrise Lane. It was an idea that Mainsail did not oppose, if the opportunity ever surfaced.

A consensus was given to pass that option onto Mainsail before finalizing the agreement.

Titsworth also wanted the language clarified for Mainsail to clean up the site, since actual construction is likely to be four or more years away — and that is contingent on final site plan approval.

Titsworth wanted time limits imposed for cleanup and, while commissioners agreed, time limits were not defined during the work session.



Irene Pearman serves desserts at the AMI Historical Society party on Pine Avenue for guests awaiting a Roser Church musical performance.



Guests at the Pine Avenue Christmas party flocked to share in the 40-foot long Italian sandwich served by Vinny Esposito at Vinny & Cheryl's Italian Kitchen.



Lily Kawahata, 6, and Isabella Klements, 5, were among the Roser Church performers at the museum.

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New task begins in Holmes Beach: Charter review

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

Some people call a charter the bible for government entities.

The five members elected to the city charter review committee took their seats on the Holmes Beach dais for the first time Dec. 11 to begin a review of what city attorney Patricia Petruff called the "city's constitution."

Her comment summed up the important, possibly yearlong task ahead for committee members Bob Johnson, David Cheshire, Pam Leckie, Travis Casper and James Plath.

Mayor Carmel Monti opened the meeting, but only long enough for the committee to elect a chair and vice chair, and he then stepped down.

Johnson was nominated and unanimously voted as chair, and he immediately took over the meeting to ask for a nomination for vice chair. Cheshire was nominated and voted to the position.

Johnson's next order of business was to place importance on having community involvement in the process. As an elected board, public comment is required, but Johnson took the charge a step further. He said the committee should make every effort to not only welcome public comment, but solicit it when possible.

Committee members agreed and also said it will be important to have as much input as possible from city officials and staff.

Cheshire said the committee's responsibility must be far reaching.

"We need to discuss how well the charter fits today's environment, but we also need to look ahead because the charter won't be reviewed again for another five years," he said. "We need to determine how the city is changing and even how technology is changing so what we do this year will still be relevant in five years."

Petruff said the committee's intention to involve the public was good, but as an elected board, members are subject to the Sunshine Law and caution is needed when communicating the committee's goals.

"Even if this was an appointed committee, it would



Holmes Beach Charter Review Committee chair Bob Johnson, left, member James Plath, vice chair David Cheshire and members Pam Leckie and Travis Casper get an education on the Sunshine Law at their first meeting Dec. 11 at city hall. Islander Photo: Mark Young

be subject to the Sunshine Law, so you should be doing all committee business in a public forum," said Petruff. "There will be citizens who have opinions about this process and it's not unlikely that people will approach you."

Petruff said committee members should not attempt to engage in charter review conversations outside of their public meetings but, if they do, they must disclose those discussions in written form at the next public meeting.

"You can only act as a committee," she said. "The best way to handle that is to ask (people) to come to a public meeting or send you an email that can be placed on an agenda for discussion for the entire committee."

Members were instructed on the perils of violating the Sunshine Law that can lead to costly litigation for the city, as well as criminal prosecution for the violator.

There was a lengthy discussion about how committee members can communicate with city officials and department heads, a process members said is vital to the review.

City commissioners previously gave a consensus to hold a joint work session with the review committee once it began meeting. Johnson said that was the best approach.

"The most simple and best way to communicate with each other and others is at our meetings," he said. "We should start this process with each other doing our own homework in studying the charter and come to the next meeting with general discussion of how we understand it."

When the review process concludes, committee members will make their recommendations for changes, additions or deletions to the city commission. The commission will then have the option to disregard the changes or pass the recommended changes on to voters on the ballot at the next municipal election in November 2014.

Johnson set the next meeting for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. He said the public is encouraged to be involved and attend the meetings.

The committee meets in the city hall chambers, 5801 Marina Drive.

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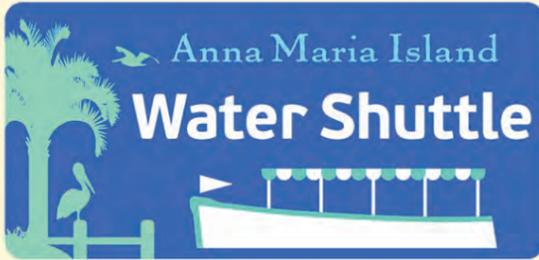
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Center lessons begin anew in January

The Anna Maria Island Community Center is inviting islanders to swing into January and waltz through February.

The center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, will host a ballroom dancing course for students to learn swing, foxtrot, cha-cha, waltz, tango, samba and more.

The first class will take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7. January dances will be swing and foxtrot.

Enrollment is \$6 per class for center members, \$12 per class for non-members.

The instructor is Robin Rhodes.

Other courses on the schedule:

- **Surf Set**, an all-ages fitness course that mimics surfing. Classes start Monday, Jan. 6, and take place Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The fee is \$20 per class for members, \$25 for non-members. The instructors are Caleb Roberts and Eileen Heffernan.

- **Bridge**, with lessons in the basics of the game and a focus on improving skills. Classes will take place Fridays in January and February. The instructor is Larry Auerbach. Fees are \$15 per class for members or \$110 per eight-week session. Non-members pay \$25 per class or \$180 per session.

- **Watercolor painting** with instructor Sue Lynn Cotton. Classes will take place Wednesdays from January-April. The fee is \$20 per class for members, \$29 for non-members.

- **Youth tennis**, with lessons in eight-week cycles and taking place Mondays and Wednesdays. The fee is \$40 per week for members and \$50 for non-members.

- **Multi-media collage** on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. The fee is \$20 for members and \$29 for non-members per class. The instructor is Bettina Sego.

Pre-registration is required for many of the courses.

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



Surf Set, an all-ages fitness course that mimics surfing, will begin in January at the Anna Maria Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Islander Courtesy Photo: AMICC

Center to host game nights

Visitors to the Anna Maria Island Community Center on a Friday night in January might hear “Sorry,” “King me” and “Go directly to jail” as they walk into the gym.

The center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria, will host family game nights starting Jan. 13. The play will take place 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The first night will feature a barbershop quartet, an ice cream social and a presentation on the results of an ongoing community survey circulated by the center.

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



A painting in progress at the recent Sarasota Chalk Festival. In January, Anna Maria will be the site of a chalk festival and AGAMI will host Denise Kowal, founder of the Sarasota event, for a meeting. Islander Photo: Courtesy AGAMI

Pine Avenue to host chalk fest

Pine Avenue Restoration and local cultural groups and artists are lining up volunteers, artists and business sponsors for the Jan. 18-19 chalk festival in Anna Maria.

Pine Avenue will serve as the canvas for street painters working with the theme of “Historic Anna Maria, from Pirates to Present.” Organizers expect street painters from around the country to participate, but also are welcoming local artists and student artists — who will be able to attend workshops before the two-day event.

Businesses or other patrons of the arts are needed to sponsor a block of Pine Avenue, a local or regional artist, a student artist or a national or international artist. Sponsorship amounts range from \$100 to \$5,000.

Volunteers also are needed to help with the festival.

For more, call Micheal Coleman at 941-592-6642.

AGAMI to host chalk fest founder

The first Artists’ Guild of Anna Maria Island meeting in the new year will feature a talk by Denise Kowal, founder of the Sarasota Chalk Festival.

AGAMI will host Kowal’s talk at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, at the Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

The first annual Anna Maria Chalk Festival will take place Jan. 18-19 on Pine Avenue.

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

Announcements

Does your organization rely on you to share its event announcements? Email your news to news@islander.org. Include name, and telephone number for the contact.

Island happenings



Island churches celebrate Christmas

There are six churches on Anna Maria Island that will be observing Christmas and the holiday season.

- CrossPointe Fellowship, 8605 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

A Christmas Eve candlelight service is planned for Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. There will be carols sung and the Christmas story will be told.

For more information, call 941-778-0719.

- Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 4408 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

The schedule includes a 5 p.m. family service on Christmas Eve, carols at 10:30 p.m. and an 11 p.m. Eucharist festival with music.

On Christmas Day, there will be a festival Eucharist at 10 a.m.

For information, call 941-778-1638.

- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 6608 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

Christmas Eve Festival Worship programs will be at 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. and the Christmas Day Nativity of Our Lord worship will be at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

For more information, call 941-778-1813.

- Harvey Memorial Community Church, 300 Church Ave., Bradenton Beach.

Details for Harvey were not available at Islander

Privateers holding thieves markets

The Anna Maria Island Privateers will hold its first Thieves Market of the winter season Saturday, Jan. 11.

The event will take place at Holmes Beach city field, 5801 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m., according to the organization's website.

The privateers traditionally host vendors selling flea market items, arts and crafts, antiques and household goods.

Shoppers also may find produce, as well as lunch and breakfast items, including hamburgers, hot dogs and barbecue near the Privateers' ship.

Other market dates are Saturdays on Feb. 8 at the east end of Pine Avenue and March 8 and April 12 at Coquina Beach.

For more information, including vendor details, contact Dan Hill at 941-812-8318 or danuhillbilly@yahoo.com.

Art league seeks volunteers, hosts camera class

The Anna Maria Island Art League is recruiting volunteers to help at the studio, in the office and also at festivals.

The league also will host a digital camera course on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in January. Students will learn camera anatomy and essentials and take field trips for shooting practice. The course fee is \$100.

For more information, contact AMIAL at 941-778-2099 or email artleagueami@gmail.com.

The league is at 5312 Holmes Blvd., Holmes Beach.

press time.

For information, call 941-779-1912.

- Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria.

Roser will hold a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 24 that features a nativity pageant and a telling of the Christmas story, as well as performances by the choir.

At 9 p.m. Christmas Eve, the church will hold a traditional candlelight service, with music by the chancel choir.

Roser will hold a Communion service at 10 a.m. Dec. 25 in the chapel, as well as Communion at the church 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday, Jan. 1.

For information, call 941-778-0414.

- St. Bernard Catholic Church, 248 S. Harbor Drive, Holmes Beach.

The church will hold a children's Mass on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and a traditional service at 10 p.m.

On Christmas Day, the church will hold a Mass at 8:30 a.m. and another at 10:30 a.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 31, St. Bernard will hold a vigil Mass at 4 p.m. and Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on New Year's Day.

For information, call 941-778-4769.

De Soto memorial hosts Winter Luminary Walk

To celebrate the holiday season, the De Soto National Memorial will light its trail with thousands of luminaries on Saturday, Dec. 21.

The fifth annual Winter Luminary Walk will take place 6-8 p.m. at the national park, 8300 De Soto Memorial Highway, Bradenton.

The event features Native American musician Juan R. Leon playing the flute on the Manatee River shore, solo violinist Amberly Waterman of Anna Maria Island playing traditional European melodies on violin and also a performance by G Man's Caribbean Steel Drums.

The entire De Soto National Memorial trail will be lined with luminaries and "re-enactors" will tell stories of how the Spanish and Native Americans celebrated winters on Florida's Gulf Coast.

The Chop Shop of Bradenton will be selling barbecue and the De Soto National Memorial Youth Advisory Council will sell beverages.

For more information, call the park at 941-792-0458 or visit www.nps.gov/deso.

Library to host turtle talk

The Island Library will welcome Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch and Shorebird Monitoring's education directors for a talk at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Claudia and Glenn Wiseman will talk about AMITW and the conservation program's years on the island.

Seating will be on a first-come, first-seated basis.

The library is at 5701 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach.

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

The chapel at Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Roser will hold a communion service at 10 a.m. Dec. 25 in the chapel. Islander File Photo

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ISLANDER CALENDAR

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Noon — The Anna Maria Garden Club Christmas program and luncheon, Roser Memorial Community Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-778-2607.

5:38 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Thursday, Dec. 19

5:39 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Friday, Dec. 20

5:40 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Winter begins.

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.

10:30 a.m. — Island Gallery West mixed-media demonstration, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach. Information; 941-778-6648.

5:40 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Sunday, Dec. 22

5:40 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Monday, Dec. 23

5:41 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Today is Christmas Eve.

Noon — Rotary Club of Anna Maria Island meets, Bridge Street Bistro, 111 Gulf Drive S., Bradenton Beach Information: 941-794-8044.

5:42 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Today is Christmas.

5:42 p.m. — Official sunset time.

Off-island

Wednesday, Dec. 18

5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. — South Florida Museum Star of Bethlehem talk, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton. Information: 941-746-4131.

Saturday, Dec. 21

6-8 p.m. — De Soto National Memorial Winter Luminary Walk, 8300 De Soto Memorial Highway, Bradenton. Information: 941-792-0458.

Coming up

- Dec. 31 is New Year's Eve.
- Jan. 1 is New Year's Day.
- Jan. 11, Anna Maria Island Community Center Cornhole Tournament, Anna Maria.



Fishing for volunteers

Planning is underway for the 32nd annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival, which takes place Feb. 15-16 in the historic commercial fishing village. To volunteer for the festival, call FISH at 941-254-4972. *Islander File Photo*

- Jan. 11, Florida Maritime Museum Porch Party, Cortez.
- Feb. 15-16, 32nd annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival, Cortez.

Save the date

- Jan. 17, Florida Arbor Day, events communitywide.
- Jan. 18-19, Anna Maria 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.

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.



BINGO on horizon

The Annie Silver Community Center, 103 23rd St., Bradenton Beach, will begin its winter bingo season in January with Dale Redeker again calling numbers. The center also will host a series of Friday night suppers. *Islander File Photo*

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Calendar of ongoing events

- Through Dec. 22, "Peter Pan," Manatee Players, Manatee Performing Arts Center, 502 Third Ave. W., Bradenton. Fee applies. Information: 941-748-5875.
- Through Dec. 22, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," Manatee Players, Manatee Performing Arts Center, 502 Third Ave. W., Bradenton. Fee applies. Information: 941-748-5875.
- Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m., horseshoes pitched, Anna Maria City Hall, 10005 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. Information: 941-708-6130.
- Wednesdays, through March, Anna Maria Island Historical Society sells Settlers' Bread, 402 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. Information: 941-779-7688.
- 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-Tween 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.
- Thursdays, 7 p.m., Jan. 16-March 27, bingo, Annie Silver Community Center, 103 23rd St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 941-778-3580.
- 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. Info: 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.

- Sundays, through April 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Bridge Street Market, 107 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach. Information: 215-906-0668.
 - Mondays, 12:45 p.m., bridge games, Roser Church, 512 Pine Ave., Anna Maria. 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, Mannatees 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 of ongoing activities, as well as updates to schedules, to calendar@islander.org.

Announcements

Send event information and photos to news@islander.org. Please, include a name, email address and telephone number for the contact person for publication.

IGW hosts mixed-media demo

Cecy Richardson will lead a demonstration in mixed-media at the Island Gallery West Saturday, Dec. 21.

The program, with no reservations required, will be 10:30 a.m.-noon at IGW, 5368 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach.

A news release said Richardson "finds her inspiration everywhere from the sky and seagrape leaves, to birds, fish, cats, crabs and other critters. Her incredible acrylic and handmade print artwork draws viewers into the wonderful world where she lives and works. She has exhibited and won awards in juried shows and has had her designs chosen for posters and T-shirts in California and Florida."

For more information, call IGW at 941-778-6648.



Local artist Cecy Richardson. Islander File Photo

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Santa scoots to Sandbar Christmas party!



Privateer Roger "Hoodat" Murphree hands out pirate beads to children at the Sandbar Restaurant Dec. 10 Christmas party.



Christmas party for families in need
Santa greets children on the beach after his beachside entrance on a scooter. He posed for plenty of photos and gave loads to hugs children.



ABOVE: Volunteer Morgan Burns paints the face of Ruby, 3, at the Sandbar Christmas.



Tremaine Patton, 2, visits with Santa and receives a gift. Every child meeting Santa received a new pair of shoes, an outfit and a toy.

Islander Photos: Jennifer Glenfield
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Dec. 24, 5 pm Family Service and
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10:30 Carol Sing, 11 pm Festival
Eucharist with Music

Dec. 25, 10 am Festival Eucharist

Dec. 29, 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I, 10:30
Holy Eucharist Rite II

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512 Pine Avenue, Anna Maria

Island resident holds fond memories of Mandela

By Jennifer Glenfield
Islander Reporter

There's an apparent infectious quality about the goodwill expounded by Nelson Mandela — the mention of his name, a quote, a photo, a story. It's a message of hope, triumph, struggle, and a universal understanding of humanity, past the barriers of language, religion, politics, skin color and national origin.

"It was really, for me, the greatest personality I've ever met. To meet him, gave me goose bumps," said Markus Siegler owner of Beach Fashion Boutique and Anna Maria Island Real Estate and Guest Services in Anna Maria.

Siegler, in November 2012, came to Anna Maria Island from Switzerland, where he was the director of communications for the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the international governing body of soccer. His position in FIFA sent him around the globe, and he met and shook the hands of world leaders.

"That's how I met him, as a FIFA executive. I think it was three times we met," Siegler said.

One of the meetings between Mandela and Siegler was a lunch in Zurich in 2003.

"I knew Mandela would be there. I had read his (auto) biography, 'Long Walk to Freedom,' while on



Mandela hoists a trophy in May 2004 in Zurich, moments after South Africa was awarded the hosting of soccer's 2010 World Cup. Islander Photo: Courtesy Kurt Schorrer

holiday in South Africa. So I knew him, not personally, but what he had accomplished," Siegler said. "I have met multimillion dollar football players, heads of state, kings and queens, and I have never asked anyone for an autograph."

Mandela wrote in the book, "To Markus, Best wishes, Nelson Mandela" in blue ink. The signed biography is one item Siegler brought with him to the United States from Switzerland.

Mandela was born in 1918 in a small village in South Africa. He became the face and the catalyst for the movement against the apartheid regime in his country. For his role as an activist, Mandela was jailed for 27 years. His confinement, meant to discourage Mandela and his cohorts, only strengthened their resolve for equality and democracy in South Africa.

Siegler is convinced Mandela's "biggest achievement and the one we have to admire most came after his time in prison when he applied the policy of reconciliation in South Africa."

"I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination," said Mandela at his 1964 trial, as stated in "Nelson Mandela By Himself: The

Authorised Book of Quotations." "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Mandela carried the words he expressed in 1964 through his life in actions, until death on Dec. 5.

"What was so striking was his aura. There was no bitterness. He spent 27 years in prison. (At the lunch) he was open, he was joking. He was funny, he liked to laugh and be spontaneous," Siegler said.

Mandela was released from prison in 1990. Four years later, at age 76, he became the first black, democratically elected president of South Africa.

After Mandela's death this month, his coffin was placed in almost the same place he took his oath of office.

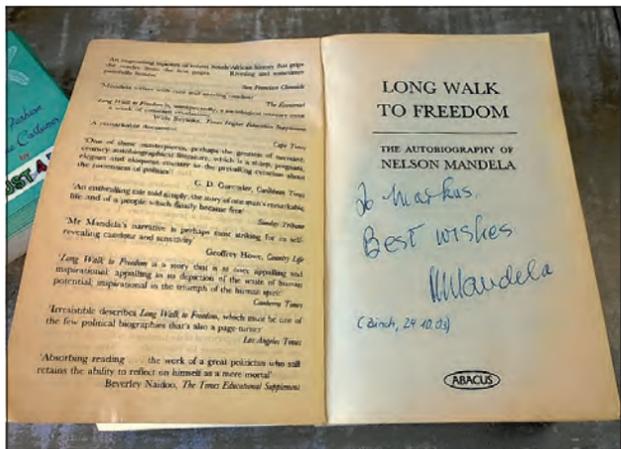
CNN said the mourning of his death looked similar to Mandela's election — people of every color and background gathered at the capitol, singing and carrying signs and banners and wearing shirts displaying Mandela's portrait.

"I was deeply, deeply impressed. I was lucky to have met him. For me, he is one of the greatest in history and I'm not alone in that," said Siegler, who followed the news from AMI.

Mandela served one five-year term as president and voluntarily stepped down. He forged a democracy and he took to the grave many firsts for South Africa, as well as a Nobel Peace Prize earned with F.W. de Klerk, South Africa's last apartheid-era president, for negotiating the end of the apartheid in South Africa.

President Barack Obama spoke at Mandela's memorial in Johannesburg Dec. 10: "It is hard to eulogize any man — to capture in words not just the facts and the dates that make a life, but the essential truth of a person ... How much harder to do so for a giant of history.

He also said, "It took a man like Madiba to free not just the prisoner, but the jailor as well; to show that you must trust others so that they may trust you; to teach that reconciliation is not a matter of ignoring a cruel past, but a means of confronting it with inclusion, generosity and truth. He changed laws, but he also changed hearts."



Markus Siegler treasures his signed copy of Nelson Mandela's autobiography. The two met at a lunch in Zurich in 2003. Siegler and wife Marianne own and operates Beach Fashion Boutique, 9908 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria. He also operates Anna Maria Island Real Estate and Guest Services, 5702 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Islander Photo: Jennifer Glenfield



High 5s
Mickey and Minnie Mouse greet the youngsters at the Chiles Christmas party with high-fives. Dora the Explorer, Woody and Sponge Bob also made appearances.



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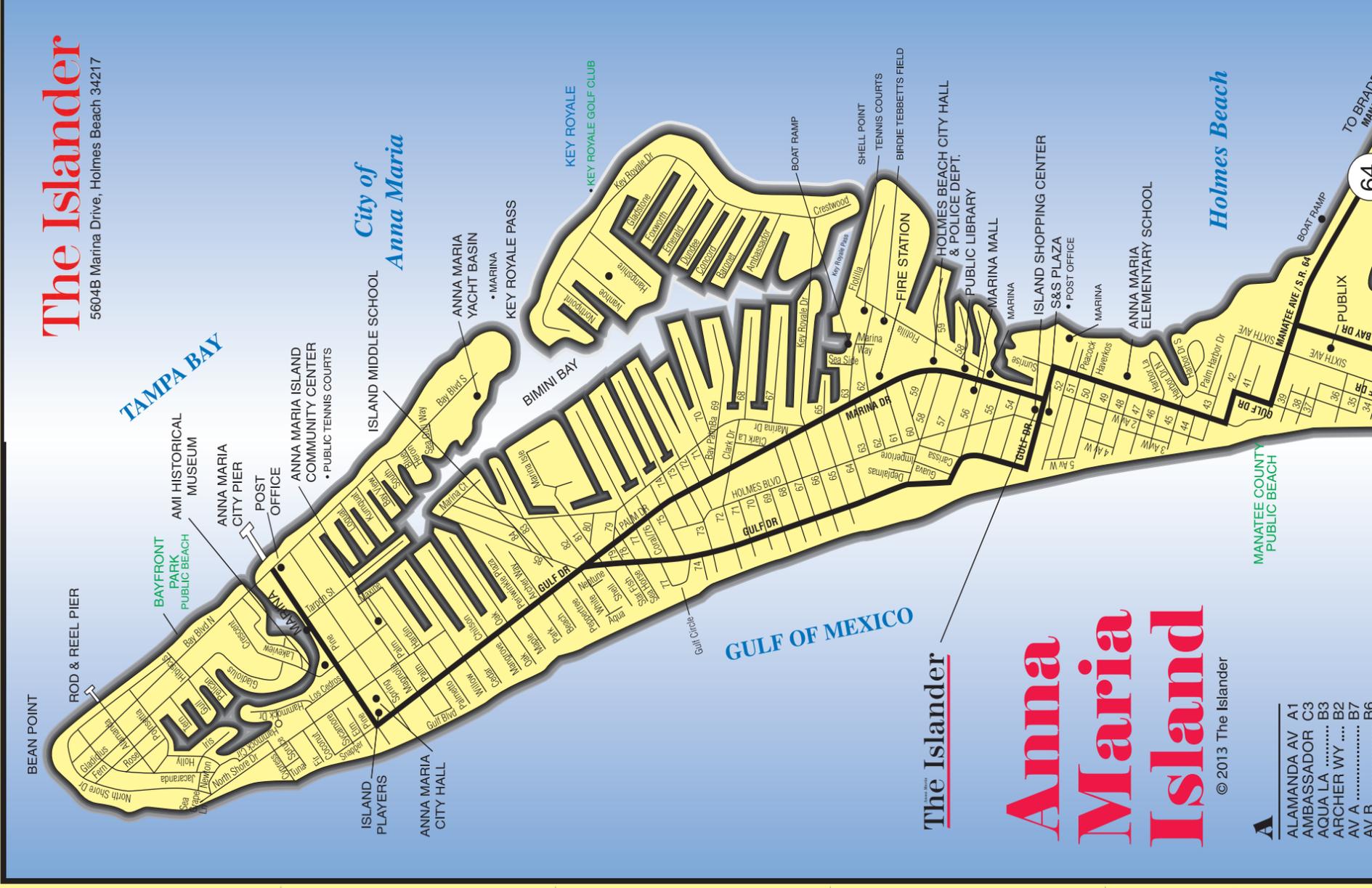
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Map of Anna Maria Island

Streets shown: BRADENTON BEACH, CORTAZ, INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, COQUINA BEACH, BRADENTON BEACH PIER, POLICE DEPT, MARINA, COQUINA BOAT RAMP, LEFFIS KEY NATURE PARK, BRIDGE TO LONGBOAT KEY, COQUINA PUBLIC BEACH, GULF DRIVES, ANNAMARIA CENTRE SHOPS, BOYVIEW, AV A, AV B, AV C, AV D, AV E, AV F, GULF DR, 26N, 25N, 24N, 23N, 22N, 21N, 20N, 19N, 18N, 17N, 16N, 15N, 14N, 13N, 12N, 11N, 10N, 9N, 8N, 7N, 6N, 5N, 4N, 3N, 2N, 1N, 12N, 11N, 10N, 9N, 8N, 7N, 6N, 5N, 4N, 3N, 2N, 1N, 12S, 11S, 10S, 9S, 8S, 7S, 6S, 5S, 4S, 3S, 2S, 1S, SANDY POINT, SEA GRAPE LA, SEA HORSE LA, SEASIDE CT, SEA GULL WAY, SHELL DR, SNAPPER, SOUTH DR, SPRING AV, SPRUCE AV, STARFISH RD, SUNBOW BAY, SUNRISE LA, SYCAMORE AV, TARPON ST, TERN DR, TUNA ST, WHITE AV, WILLOW AV.

Key Locations: POLICE DEPT, MARINA, BRADENTON BEACH PIER, COQUINA BOAT RAMP, LEFFIS KEY NATURE PARK, COQUINA PUBLIC BEACH, BRIDGE TO LONGBOAT KEY, POST OFFICE, BRADENTON BEACH CITY HALL, TINGLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY, FIRE STATION.

Street Grid:
K KEY ROYALE B, C, 3
L LAKEVIEW DR., A, B1
M MAGNOLIA AV., A2
N NEPTUNE LA., B4
O OAK AV., A, B, 2
P PALM AV., A, B, 2
R ROSE ST., A1
S SANDY POINT, C5
T TARPON ST., B2
W WHITE AV., B3
B BARONET LA., C3
C CANASTA DR., B7
D DEPALMAS., B4
E ELM AV., A2
F FERN ST., A1
G GLADIOLUS ST., A1
H HAMMOCK CIR., A1
I IMPERIORE., B4
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV C, C3
B BAY BLVD., A, B, 1, 2
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA DR., C4
G GUAVA ST., B4
H HAMPSHIRE LNC3
I IRIS ST., A1
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV D, B6
B BAY DR E., C9
C CHILSON AV., B2
D CLARK ST., B3
E COCONUT AV., A2
F FOXWORTH DR, C3
G GULF DR., A, B, 2/10
H HARBOR LN., B5
I HOLMES BLVD, B3,4
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV E, B6
B BAY DR N., B, C, 8
C CHURCH AV., B8
D CONCORD LA., C3
E COQUINA LN., B3
F FERN ST., A1
G GLADIOLUS ST., A1
H HAMMOCK CIR., A1
I IMPERIORE., B4
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV F, B6
B BAY BREEZE LN, B3
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA DR., C4
G GUAVA ST., B4
H HAMPSHIRE LNC3
I IRIS ST., A1
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV C, C3
B BAY PALMS DR, B3
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA DR., C4
G GUAVA ST., B4
H HAMPSHIRE LNC3
I IRIS ST., A1
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV D, B6
B BAYVIEW PL., B2
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA DR., C4
G GUAVA ST., B4
H HAMPSHIRE LNC3
I IRIS ST., A1
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV E, B6
B BEACH AV., B2, 3
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA DR., C4
G GUAVA ST., B4
H HAMPSHIRE LNC3
I IRIS ST., A1
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV F, B6
B BRIDGE ST., B8
C CANASTA DR., B7
D DEPALMAS., B4
E ELM AV., A2
F FERN ST., A1
G GLADIOLUS ST., A1
H HAMMOCK CIR., A1
I IMPERIORE., B4
J JACARANDA AV., A1
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B BAY DR N., B, C, 8
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A AV F, B6
B BRIDGE ST., B8
C CANASTA DR., B7
D DEPALMAS., B4
E ELM AV., A2
F FERN ST., A1
G GLADIOLUS ST., A1
H HAMMOCK CIR., A1
I IMPERIORE., B4
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV C, C3
B BAY DR N., B, C, 8
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA DR., C4
G GUAVA ST., B4
H HAMPSHIRE LNC3
I IRIS ST., A1
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV D, B6
B BAYVIEW DR, B, C, 6
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA DR., C4
G GUAVA ST., B4
H HAMPSHIRE LNC3
I IRIS ST., A1
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV E, B6
B BEACH AV., B2, 3
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA DR., C4
G GUAVA ST., B4
H HAMPSHIRE LNC3
I IRIS ST., A1
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV F, B6
B BRIDGE ST., B8
C CANASTA DR., B7
D DEPALMAS., B4
E ELM AV., A2
F FERN ST., A1
G GLADIOLUS ST., A1
H HAMMOCK CIR., A1
I IMPERIORE., B4
J JACARANDA AV., A1
A AV C, C3
B BAY DR N., B, C, 8
C CEDAR AV., A2
D DUNDEE LA., C3
E EMERALD LA., C3
F FLOTILLA

Citizen mistrust drives protest over BB zoning change

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

A simple whisper of “Gulf Drive Cafe” is a virtual guarantee that the chambers at Bradenton Beach City Hall will be filled to capacity.

The majority of citizens who spoke at a Dec. 11 planning and zoning board meeting regarding a proposed rezone by Gulf Drive Cafe owners Wendy and George Kokolis gave the impression — whether real, imagined or misunderstood — that the restaurant is a bad neighbor.

The cafe owners did not attend the Dec. 11 meeting and were unavailable for comment by Islander press time, but they have previously touted their rights to enhance their business opportunities.

They ran into an issue with citizens in 2012 when they gained permission to run a weekly market at the restaurant on the beachfront and in the chickee hut at 900 Gulf Drive N. Many predicted it would create a traffic-pedestrian nightmare and most agree that came to fruition.

The temporary permit for the market was not renewed. The couple also met opposition to expand the cafe earlier

this year but an independent business renting kayaks and paddleboards on the beachfront was approved.

Ironically, the Dec. 11 meeting had nothing to do with the cafe, but a piece of commercial property owned by the couple across Gulf Drive from the cafe on the south side of Ninth Street North.

It is a small piece of property, triangular in shape and the application is to have the property rezoned from commercial to high-density residential.

The purpose for the zone change was not discussed, but building official Steve Gilbert said plans to build a two-story single-family home on the property have been on file for five years.

To build a residence requires extending setbacks due to the small parcel size. Under the city’s R-3 zoning, they can pursue those variances.

Architect Laura Gee represented the owners and said the property is unsuitable for a commercial endeavor.

But at least some of the citizens who came to speak at the meeting said they were suspicious of the motives behind the request.

John Arcadi, who owns property on Ninth Street

North, represented several other residents on the street.

“They initially wanted to do something commercial with the property, but got shot down,” he said. “We are adamantly opposed to this rezone because we don’t know what’s to follow.”

Arcadi said the cafe owners’ treatment of residential neighbors “is like bullying.”

Other speakers complained of bullying, alleging George Kokolis intimidates people using the beach who are not his customers in an attempt to drive them away.

Barbara Wilson, a resident of 27th Street North, said “He has embarrassed and questioned us.”

In her rebuttal, Gee addressed the public comments, saying she didn’t understand what any of that had to do with what the P&Z was convened to consider.

Gee suggested that if the citizens expressing opposition have a personal issue with her clients, “perhaps there are other avenues they can pursue other than trying to stop this from being rezoned.”

While Gee was being questioned by board members about the application, Jorge Franco asked to speak. Franco said he’s an employee of the Gulf Drive Cafe and that he was instructed to ask the board for a continuance.

But Gee said it was her responsibility to represent the Kokolises.

The board took a 10-minute recess and Gee returned to say that Wendy Kokolis did not want a continuance.

Burns said perhaps a continuance was a good idea.

“The LDC sets forth allowable uses, and many of them are similar when it comes to the property’s current zoning and requested zoning,” said Burns. “Most of what I’ve heard from public comment has to do with congestion, noise and whether they are good or bad neighbors.”

Burns said those are issues for code enforcement or the police department, not the P&Z.

Burns suggested a continuance of the public hearing to further study the issue and perhaps allow the couple to have their say.

Gilbert said that due to the size of the parcel, any development would require variances, meaning a special master hearing also would be required.

Gilbert said it rarely happens, “but this might be the only property in Bradenton Beach that a special master would find unique enough to grant the variances.”

The motion to continue the public hearing to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at city hall, 107 Gulf Drive N., passed unanimously.

Merry, bark, woof, arf, yap, howl, yip

A pack of Norwich terriers belonging to Holmes Beach residents Lee Little and Steve Weinberger pose Nov. 30 for their holiday card while gathering some Christmas cheer and poinsettias at Orban’s Nursery, 9601 Ninth Ave. NW, Bradenton. From left are Razzi, Billie, Little, Panzer, Pinzi and Keri.



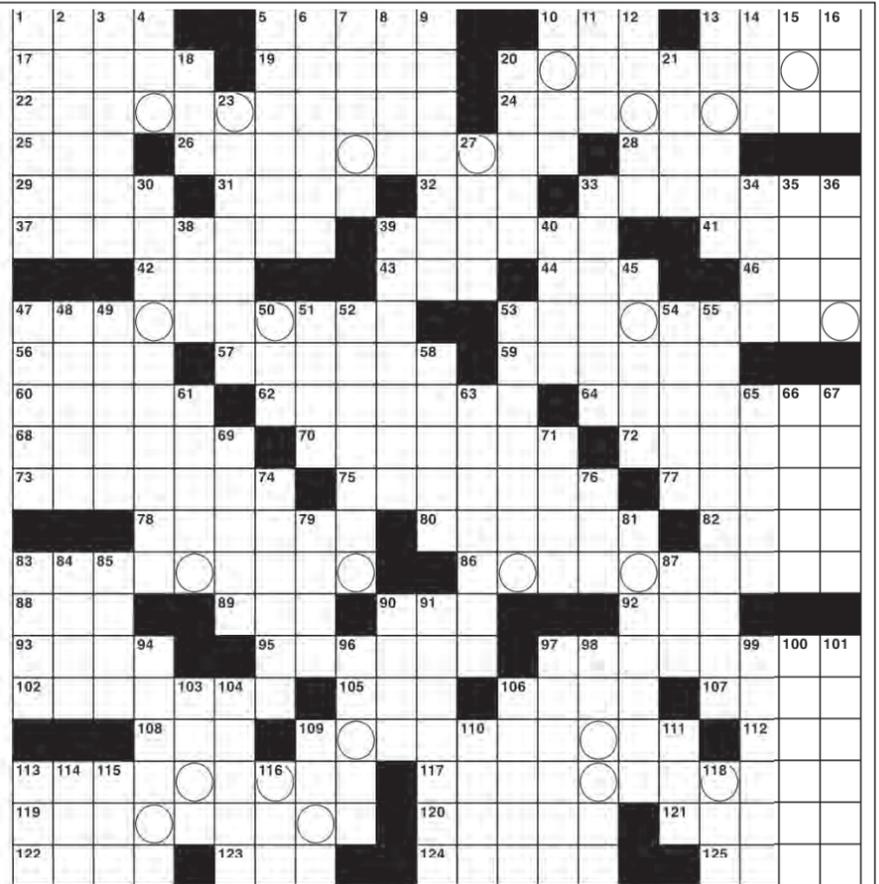
Look for more holiday events in the Dec. 25 Christmas edition of The Islander and online: www.islander.org.

New York Times Sunday Magazine Crossword

TWO OUTS BY PATRICK BERRY / Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS**
- 1 Palindromic band name
 - 5 Tosca’s feeling for Cavaradossi
 - 10 Spring for a vacation
 - 13 Hawaiian tourist purchases
 - 17 “_____ yourself”
 - 19 Cow catcher
 - 20 Red-wine drinker’s paradise?
 - 22 Employee at the Ron Paul Archive?
 - 24 Pitch that fixes everything?
 - 25 “Strange Magic” band, briefly
 - 26 Dollar bill featuring a portrait of Duran Duran’s lead singer?
 - 28 IRS Form 5498 subject
 - 29 Street caution
 - 31 Ball with a yellow stripe
 - 32 Shiner?
 - 33 Willow
 - 37 Like a robot’s voice
 - 39 Still
 - 41 Architect Saarinen
 - 42 Blue expanse
 - 43 Follow closely
 - 44 Hair-raising shout
 - 46 “_____ te absolvo” (priest’s phrase)
 - 47 The one puppy that can read?
 - 53 Creator of perfect whirlpools?
 - 56 Baath Party member
 - 57 Uncommunicative
 - 59 Political title of the 1930s-’40s
 - 60 Counter formations
 - 62 Mix in a tank
 - 64 Overextend oneself?
 - 68 Classical guitarist Segovia
 - 70 Adds to the batter, say
 - 72 In a kooky manner
 - 73 Buttonholed
 - 75 Given a home
 - 77 Triumphant song
 - 78 “This isn’t making sense”
 - 80 Whom John Bull symbolizes
 - 82 Have an objection
 - 83 Minor-league championship flag?
 - 86 Alienate a New Jersey city?
 - 88 Biblical priest of Shiloh
 - 89 Blue expanse
 - 90 “Man of Steel” actress Adams
 - 92 Sully
 - 93 Go on strike
 - 95 Film crowd
 - 97 CBS spinoff that ran for 10 seasons
 - 102 How sports cars are contoured
 - 105 “Cover Face” (P.D. James’s first novel)
 - 106 Distress
 - 107 Actor Jack of oaters
 - 108 Cousin of a crumble
 - 109 Begat a soft place to sleep?
 - 112 Burlesque garment
 - 113 “Charge!,” to Duracells?
 - 117 Satisfying finale coming to pass?
 - 119 Labeled idiotic?
 - 120 First name in photography
 - 121 Nickname for Palmer
 - 122 “Don’t be a spoilsport!”
 - 123 Savory condiment
 - 124 Variety-show fodder
 - 125 Trader _____
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Most qualified
 - 2 Relative of S.O.S
 - 3 Galoot
 - 4 One-hit wonder?
 - 5 Friend of d’Artagnan
 - 6 Thick bunch?
 - 7 Venture a thought
 - 8 Unfeigned
 - 9 Miranda of the Miranda warning
 - 10 Avoid
 - 11 Course listing
 - 12 Percussion instrument in “Maxwell’s Silver Hammer”
 - 13 Sophisticated
 - 14 Automaker that started as a bicycle company
 - 15 Bent pipe
 - 16 “She’s a good old worker and a good old pal,” in song
 - 18 Med. workplaces
 - 20 Tea go-with
 - 21 “Days of Heaven” co-star
 - 23 Would-be singers’ liabilities
 - 27 Little town
 - 30 Site of a 1963 J.F.K. speech
 - 33 Chargers and coursers
 - 34 Forest game
 - 35 “By that logic ...”
 - 36 Boarder’s domain
 - 38 Director Daniels of “The Butler”
 - 39 Of the lymph glands
 - 40 Signet-ring feature
 - 45 Dropper?
 - 47 Steven Bochco series
 - 48 Youngest of Chekhov’s “Three Sisters”
 - 49 Eldest Best Actress winner
 - 50 Acronymic aircraft name
 - 51 Wistful remark
 - 52 With a will
 - 53 It’s “well regulated” in the Constitution
 - 54 Quarrel
 - 55 “Lovegirl” singer
 - 58 Pulsation
 - 61 Morally degraded
 - 63 Fish hawks
 - 65 Cross-promotion
 - 66 Streetcar sound
 - 67 Chrissie in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
 - 69 Start of a George Eliot title
 - 71 N.B.A. team originally called the Americans
 - 74 Elephant’s opposite, symbolically
 - 76 URL component
 - 79 Zeus swore oaths upon it
 - 81 Excited Oscars attendee
 - 83 Nave furniture
 - 84 Airline that doesn’t fly on religious holidays
 - 85 Khartoum’s river
 - 87 Run headlong into
 - 90 Datum in a house listing
 - 91 _____ Vineyard
 - 94 Confined
 - 96 “I thought _____ never leave!”
 - 97 Pile on the floor
 - 98 Soothsayers of old
 - 99 Person prone to sunburn
 - 100 Last Hitchcock film with Tippi Hedren
 - 101 Some Google search results
 - 103 Hot pot locale
 - 104 English film-festival city
 - 106 It “hits the spot,” per old radio ads
 - 109 Begin to show wear
 - 110 Yarn quantity
 - 111 Hair strands?
 - 113 “EastEnders” network
 - 114 Shot spot
 - 115 Metaphysical concept
 - 116 Fortune cover subj.
 - 118 Longtime Sixers nickname

Answers:
page 28



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Bradenton Beach seeks input on noise-limiting ordinance

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

In an unusual move, Bradenton Beach officials referred a non-related land development code matter to the planning and zoning board Dec. 11.

City planner Alan Garrett acknowledged that the P&Z would not normally review noise ordinance revisions, but he said the city is taking extra steps to ensure the proposed updates will be satisfactory to as many as possible.

"We are hoping that today we get into discussion on some of the issues," said Garrett. "More importantly, this is an opportunity to hear from the residents for the first time in what we hope will be at least two public hearings."

Garrett said the noise ordinance being presented for review is modeled after one adopted for Key West, because that ordinance has withstood legal challenges. He said it is a "performance-based" ordinance that will rely on decibel-level readings to determine violations.

What the decibel levels will be is the question to try and answer, he said.

"It's very critical to have that understanding because it's decibel-based," he said. "So we need to make sure what we have in the ordinance is appropriate."

Based on the Key West ordinance, Garrett and building official Steve Gilbert set decibel levels at 95 for commercial zones and 70 for residential zones between the hours of 7 a.m.-7 p.m. The levels would drop by five from 7-10 p.m., another five from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. and an additional five levels in commercial zones from 2-7 a.m.

The ordinance would allow either the police department or code enforcement to review and enforce violations. Code enforcement officer Gail Garneau was tasked to take some sample readings.

She measured three separate areas, including halfway down Bridge Street, where she measured 50 decibels. She next went to the Gulf of Mexico side of Gulf Drive at Bridge Street and measured about 70 decibels.

She next went to Ninth Street North and measured around 50 decibels.

Garneau was asked how long she took the readings by P&Z member John Burns and she said about a minute.

Burns noted that the decibel reading must be for 5 minutes and exceed the maximum for 30 consecutive seconds to amount to a violation.

Garrett said the experiment was just to provide an example, but residents opposed her findings during public comment. Virtually all the comments from the public were regarding noise problems at night, when ambient noise such as traffic dies down and the music and night-life of Bradenton Beach wafts through the air.

Several residents spoke up and complained that they



The popularity of outdoor entertainment was evident in March at the Blue Marlin Grill on Bridge Street in the back "Trap Yard," where a CD release party and a performance by Trevor Bystrom and Morgan Greig was held. The restaurant is one of a growing number of island establishments to attract customers with outdoor seating and live music performances.

Jo Anne Meilner of Bradenton Beach was so pleased at the performance at the Island Time Bar at Bridge Street and Gulf Drive that she bought the performer's CD.



Islander File Photos

cannot open their windows at night without their homes being flooded by music from bands playing at various locations.

Barbara Hug said the bass from live music vibrates her home and that her "quality of life has changed. I can't open my windows. It's just terrible."

Ernie Casali, administrator of Moose Lodge No. 2188, 110 Gulf Drive, said he has sat in his office at night and asked his employees to have the music in the lodge turned down only to be told that it was coming from Bridge Street.

"Our quaint little town is turning into a three-ring circus, especially Bridge Street," said Casali. "Past city commissions have let everyone do what they want to do."

Tjet Martin, co-owner of the Linger Longer Resort, said the problems started two years ago when a prior commission lifted the ban on amplified music performed outdoors.

"Now I can't even sit on my deck at night and listen to the waves," she said. "All I hear is boom, boom, boom, boom. If I want to hear music that loud, I'll put on my headphones and blast it. What I don't want to hear is music blasting two or three blocks away."

P&Z chair Dan DeBaun said it would make sense for the city to do some additional testing at the times when the most complaints are registered.

Gilbert said the city basically has two options. He said the city could continue to pursue the decibel-level option or return to the outdoor amplified music ban. His suggestion drew some applause from the packed gallery.

P&Z member and former city commissioner Ric

Gatehouse, who took office shortly after the city lifted the outdoor amplified-music ban, said he warned the commission, it "was opening a can of worms," by lifting the ban.

However, he said his only duty at this point is to make sure the P&Z offers a recommendation that would give the city an ordinance that would withstand legal challenge. He said a performance-based ordinance with verifiable decibel-level readings would accomplish that goal.

Garrett said the city would eventually have to take a closer look at how it fines violators. He said in some other places, businesses pay the daily fines for violating noise ordinances as a "matter of doing business."

Garrett said without considering serious punitive actions, any ordinance the city writes "will have no teeth."

P&Z member Barbara Curtis said she had researched areas like Sarasota and St. Petersburg. She noted those decibel limits were much lower than what the city was proposing in its initial draft.

Garrett said city staff takes no ownership in what was being presented. He said it was being presented intentionally to be scrutinized for changes.

There were several other minor issues the board took issue with, but better testing of decibel levels before reviewing the ordinance further topped the board's list.

The tests will be performed during nighttime activities around Bradenton Beach and presented to the P&Z for further discussion and recommendation at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Bradenton Beach City Hall, 107 Gulf Drive N.

Community notices, events

The Islander welcomes notices of your events and projects on Anna Maria Island and encourages you to submit both news and photographs.

Send press releases and photos with detailed captions to news@islander.org. Remember to include complete contact information for more information and for publication.

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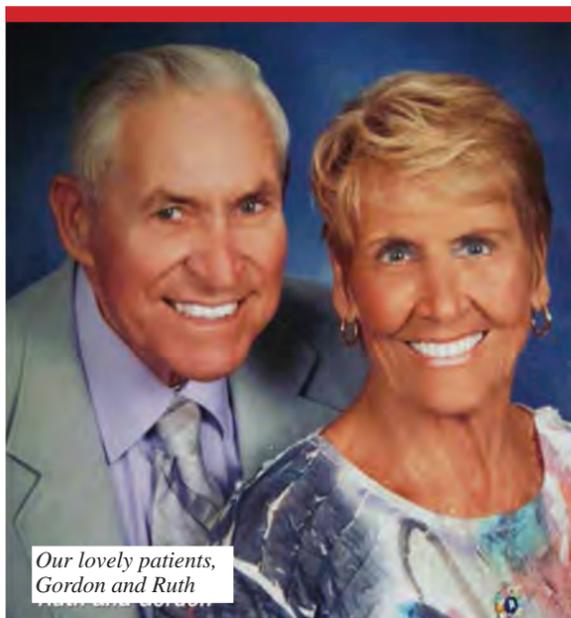
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Holmes Beach releases 5-year capital improvement plan

By Mark Young
Islander Reporter

Holmes Beach building official Tom O'Brien offered the city commission a tentative five-year capital improvement project plan at its Dec. 12 meeting, encompassing street resurfacing and drainage projects.

The plan is so tentative, O'Brien said he completed the first draft just hours before the meeting.

He began with projects completed in the 2012-13 fiscal year and those that started this year. It goes on to estimate projects and associated costs through the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The prioritized plan for drainage improvement projects includes \$400,000 for Basin 2 in the current fiscal year, which encompasses Sixth Avenue, an area that generates the majority of citizen complaints.

Tentatively planned for the 2014-15 fiscal year are Basins 5 and 8, which include Harbor Drive and Flotilla Drive respectively.

O'Brien said it is a state requirement to update the CIP plan because funding comes from state gas taxes and stormwater grants from the Southwest Florida Water Management Agency, as well as a city stormwater fee that appears on property tax bills.

City attorney Patricia Petruff pointed out the plan did not include a fifth year for drainage projects and that it needed some basic cleanup before commissioners consider a resolution adopting it.

In the meantime, O'Brien said design work is moving

forward for the Basin 2 project and that community meetings with residents of the area also are being planned in advance of work beginning.

In other matters, Mayor Carmel Monti said Manatee County has tentatively agreed to help the city fund a volleyball court at the field next to city hall.

The mayor also announced that the Rex Hagen Trust has agreed to give the city \$8,000 to construct a shelter at the small dog park.

In other city business, city treasurer Lori Hill introduced a resolution in opposition to the 2011 state legislation that creates a uniform mechanism to promote accountability and transparency in the use of public funds for state, local and educational entities.

While there were good intentions behind the legislation, Hill said cities are discovering the law forces cities to convert to the state's methods, based on population.

Hill said the Florida Government Financial Officers Association opposes the bill and is asking for every municipality to draft a resolution of opposition.

"It's impossible to fairly analyze city to city just based on population," said Hill, and the costs to implement the state's system are excessive.

Commissioner David Zaccagnino said the city is blessed with good department heads.

"If our treasurer says it's not a good deal for us, then it's not a good deal," and he moved to approve the resolution, which passed unanimously.

Commissioners also passed a first reading of an ordi-

nance adding a new section to the city code that defines the circumstances that motor vehicles are subject to being towed or wheel-locked.

Vehicles left unattended on a sidewalk, in front of a private driveway or within 6 feet of a fire hydrant will be towed. Any vehicle violating a no-parking, tow-away zone also will be towed.

Any vehicle obstructing traffic or left unattended in posted no-parking areas and left parked illegally can be towed upon a the second reading and passage of the ordinance.

Costs of the tow, impound and associated fees will be charged to the vehicle's owner. Included in the ordinance is the option to have a wheel-locking device placed on vehicles.

The final reading will occur at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at city hall, 5801 Marina Drive.

Police Chief Bill Tokajer noted that a number of complaints were made to the city about his recent seatbelt violation campaign. Tokajer said the campaign was announced in the island newspapers and suggested that if people want to stay informed with what's going on in the city, they should read the papers.

"DUI and seatbelt enforcement will continue through the holidays," said Tokajer. "I know people are complaining about getting tickets, but there is an easy fix. Wear your seatbelt. It's been a primary reason to conduct a traffic stop in Florida for a long time. We are doing our job and people need to follow the law."

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Streetlife

Island Police Blotter

Anna Maria

• Dec. 3, 100 S. Bay Blvd., Anna Maria City Pier, lost property. A complainant reported he set his wallet down and went for coffee. When he returned, his wallet was missing. He said he was not sure if someone stole it or if he had misplaced it.

• Nov. 28, 500 block of Blue Heron Drive, vehicle burglary. Unknown persons gained entry to a boat and stole the steering wheel and lower motor. A cooler also was taken. Missing items were valued at \$4,200.

• Dec. 2, 307 Pine Ave., General Store, attempted shoplifting. A suspect walked to the beer case and concealed a 12-pack of beer in his backpack. He then walked to the counter where he purchased a pack of cigarettes. The clerk questioned the man about the beer in his backpack, at which time the suspect allegedly said, "You got me." He returned the beer to the case and exited the store. He was not located by law enforcement.

Anna Maria is policed by the MCSO.

Bradenton Beach

• No new reports.

Bradenton Beach is policed by the BBPD.

Cortez

• No new reports.

Cortez is policed by the MCSO

Holmes Beach

• Dec. 8, 200 block of Harbor Drive, vehicle burglary. An unknown person gained entry into an unlocked vehicle and removed a canvas bag. The bag, emptied of its contents, was found on a neighbor's property.

• Dec. 11, 100 block of 68th Street, criminal mis-

Island watch

To report information on island crime, call the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Anna Maria substation, 941-708-8899; Bradenton Beach police, 941-778-6311; or Holmes Beach police, 941-708-5804.

In emergencies, call 911.

Obituaries

Margery A. Rothfuss

Margery A. Rothfuss, 72, of Bradenton, died Dec. 8. She was born July 30, 1941, in Minneapolis.

Mrs. Rothfuss moved to Anna Maria Island in 1961 and, prior to her retirement, she was a 22-year employee of Manatee County.

Visitation and a celebration of life service were held Dec. 14 at Griffith-Cline Funeral Home, Bradenton. Memorial donations may be made to Tidewell Hospice & Palliative Care, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota FL 34238. Condolences may be made at www.griffithcline.com.

Mrs. Rothfuss is survived by husband David F.; daughter Debbie Little Holman and husband Randy of Riverview; son John R. Little of Bradenton; step-son David Mathes and wife Sarah of Chicago; grandchildren Krystal, Emily and Nicholas Holman; siblings Thomas Karkhoff of Naperville, Ill.; James Karkhoff of Owatonna, Minn.; Susan Lindberg of Brooklyn Park, Minn.; and Judy Karkhoff of Bradenton.

Kevin T. Shean

Kevin T. Shean, of Bradenton and formerly of Holmes Beach, died Nov. 26 after a long battle with cancer. He

was born March 7, 1949, in Boston.

Mr. Shean moved to Bradenton in 2004 and joined Bruce's Taxi after driving a cab in Boston for 30 years. He was a member of the Moose Lodge 2188 in Bradenton Beach. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. The family would like to thank Tidewell Hospice of Bradenton and especially nurse Kara Schiavare for their care and compassion.

Mr. Shean is survived by his longtime companion, Kathy Call, and his BFF's (pets), Killer, Monster and Daisy; two sisters; a brother; and several children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

chief. Someone damaged a large light globe by throwing an object at it. Damages were estimated to be \$200.

• Nov. 30, 5346 Gulf Drive, Hurricane Hank's, hit and run. Several witnesses observed a woman back her vehicle into a bike rack and then accelerate onto Holmes Boulevard. Witnesses were able to get a description of the vehicle and a license plate number, which was provided to police. An officer stopped the vehicle the following day on Holmes Boulevard and the woman was questioned about the incident. She said she remembered hitting something, but did not think it was a vehicle. Police issued her two traffic citations and she gave \$100 to Hurricane Hank's for the damage to the bike rack.

• Dec. 2, 300 block of 56th Street, disturbance. Police were called in reference to someone shouting profanities,

but were unable to locate the suspect upon arrival.

• Dec. 2, 2800 block of Avenue C, theft. A complainant reported that he returned from vacation to find his unsecured bicycle stolen from his yard. The bike was valued at \$150.

• Dec. 5, 2800 block of Avenue C, burglary. A man reported that someone cut the screen to his patio and stole two 18-packs of beer from an outside refrigerator. He told police it wasn't the first time it has happened, which is why he put locks on the patio door. The stolen items and damages to the screen were estimated at \$90.

Holmes Beach is policed by the HBPD.

Streetlife is based on incident reports and narratives from the Bradenton Beach and Holmes Beach police departments and Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

At your service

Obituaries are provided as a community 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 941-778-7978.

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STEM success

Third-grader Elaina Bayard assists Dr. Frost, a mad scientist played by Chris Hough from Tampa's Museum of Science and Industry, during a show on fire and ice at Anna Maria Elementary School Dec. 10. Hough is part of a group of scientists and performers from MOSI known as the STEAM — science, technology, engineering art and math — punks.

Islander Photo: Karen Riley-Love



School By Jennifer Glenfield

AME MENU

Monday, Dec. 16

Breakfast: French Toast Sticks

Lunch: Maxx Sticks with Marinara, McManatee Rib Patty, Steamed Green Beans, Baked Fries, Mixed Fruit.

Feature: Chef Salad.

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Breakfast: Burrito.

Lunch: Popcorn Chicken, Turkey Gravy, Garlic Dinner Roll, Mashed Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Strawberry Cup.

Feature: Veggie Garden Salad.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Breakfast: Burrito.

Lunch: Tacos, Calzone, Refried Beans, Lettuce and Tomato Cups, Peaches. Feature: Popcorn Chicken Caesar Salad.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Breakfast: Biscuit, Chicken Patty.

Lunch: Chicken Tenders, Breadstick, Meatball Subs, Broccoli and Cheese, Cucumber Coins with Dip, Pears.

Feature: Italian Salad.

Friday, Dec. 20

Breakfast: Mini Pancakes.

Lunch: Pizza, Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Corn, Sweet Potato Fries, Mandarin Oranges. Feature: Chef Salad.

Juice and milk are served with every meal.

AME calendar

- 8:45-11:10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, holiday movie.
- 8:45-11:10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20, holiday movie.
- Dec. 23-Jan. 5, winter break. (Monday, Jan. 6, is a district in-service day, no school for students.)

Happy holidays!

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

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Stone Crab Steve @ 7

FRI. DEC. 20
Larry Stokes @ 7

SAT. DEC. 21
Larry Rich @ 3,
Doug Bidwell @ 7

MON. DEC. 23
Dan Crawford @ 7

TUES. DEC. 24
CLOSING @ 5
Merry Christmas Eve!
Merry HO HO!



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Dr. Frost demonstrates a fire tornado with the assistance of fourth-grader Cole Pearson. Islander Photo: Jennifer Glenfield

A volunteer from the Manatee County Mosquito Control reaches into a box of live mosquitoes. The display by MCMC included a bin of mosquito larvae and a display of native insects. Students collected larvae with droppers and placed it into test tubes. The Southwest Florida Museum, Florida Public Archeology and Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department also had information kiosks with activities for AME students. Islander Photo: Jennifer Glenfield



Children attending AME's first science, technology, engineering and math night learned about fiddler crabs. The small crabs were placed in a large bin to demonstrate how they dig and run. They also were placed in small, transparent containers for up-close views. Islander Photo: Jennifer Glenfield

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Young 'Magic' soccer teams conjure competitive league play

By Kevin Cassidy
Islander Reporter

Manatee Area Youth Soccer Organization's competitive soccer program, the Manatee Magic, is just past the midway point in its season in the United Soccer League.

Magic boasts six teams, four of them in Division II, the exceptions being the U12 Magic girls in Division III and the U10 boys, for which there is no division or standings. All of the five competitive teams are having respectable seasons and sit in the middle of their standings or higher.

The U11 Magic boys, including islander Sam Bowers and Luke Marvin, who boasts island connections, are currently in fourth place with three wins, four losses and a tie.

The U12 Magic boys, coached by myself and former islander Ken Richards, is represented by former islanders Conal Cassidy and James Richards. The team is currently tied for third place with four wins, four losses and a pair of ties.

The U12 Magic girls, currently 5-2 and in third place in their division, is the only team without island ties.

The U13 boys are coached by former Island Football Club player Neil Fellowes and represented by some familiar island names, including Lane Bowers, Brennan Bowers, Nicholas Ananicz and Aiden Grumley. They are in fourth place with three wins, three losses and a tie.

The top team for the Magic both in standing and the most Islanders is the U14 Magic girls. They are in second place with four wins and three ties and only have surrendered six goals in seven matches thanks to a defense spearheaded by islanders Emma Moneuse, Grace Bowers, Morgan Burns and Danielle Capparelli. Other islanders on the squad are Brooke Capparelli, Lily Meaker, Jenna Rodgers and Olivia Glavan, while Brooke McIntosh and coach Brett McIntosh also have island ties.

Most, if not all of the players either from the island or with island connections got their start in soccer at the Anna Maria Island Community Center.

MAYSO encourages all players who want to compete at a higher level than the center's recreational league to give the Manatee Magic a try.

The teams will be back in action after a two-week break for the holidays.

Key Royale golf news

It was another busy week on the Key Royale Club links with many risking a sunburn in the unseasonably warm December afternoons.

The action got started Dec. 7 with an 18-hole, individ-



Morgan Burns controls the ball during a U14 Magic game played earlier in the season. *Islander Photo: Courtesy Tina Burns*



James Richards carries the ball forward during a recent U12 Manatee Magic game at G.T. Bray Park in Bradenton. *Islander Photo: Jen Cassidy*

ual-low-net golf match. Jim Thorton grabbed clubhouse bragging rights with a 4-under-par 60 to earn a four-shot victory over Jim Mixon, who was alone in second with an even-par 64.

Dec. 9 saw the men get out for both morning and afternoon rounds of golf. They played a nine-hole, two-best-balls-of-foursome match to start the day.

The team of Fred Meyer, Charlie Knopp, Al Gunn and Jim Auch, along with the team of Bill Schuman, Dennis Schavey, Ron Robinson and Ron Pritchard and last, but not least, the team of Pieter Thomassen, Gerry Taylor and Jim Vicar, all carded matching 52s to finish in a three-way tie for first place.

The afternoon saw the men play a nine-hole, modified Stableford-system match. Dan Richardson road an eagle on the first hole to a plus-8, which gave him individual honors with Quentin Talbert alone in second at plus-5.

The team of Fred Miller, Bob Lang, Gary Razze and Tom Lewis combined on a plus-7 to take the team title for the day.

The club women took to the course Dec. 10 for a nine-hole, individual-low-net golf match. Sue Little fired a 5-under-par 27 to earn a one-shot victory in Flight A over Joy Kaiser and Helen Pollock, who tied for second place at 3-under-par 28.

Flight B saw Meredith Slavin, Kris Landkammer and Barb Estok all card 3-under-par 29s to finish in a three-way tie for first.

Judy Ward's 2-under-par 30 was good enough for a two-shot victory in Flight C. Rita Allan was alone in second place at even-par 32, while Markie Ksiazek was another shot back in third place.

Sally York had the round of the day, an 8-under-par 24 that gave her first place in Flight D. Nell Bergstrom's 3-under-par 29 gave her second place, while Marcia O'Brien was alone in third with a 1-under-par 31.

The men were back on the course Dec. 11 for an 18-hole, two-best-balls-of-foursome match. The team of



Conal Cassidy cuts back between two defenders during a recent U12 Manatee Magic game at G.T. Bray. *Islander Photo: Jen Cassidy*

Wade LaDue, Jim Helgeson, Carl Voyles and Jim Thorton combined on a 32-under-par 96 to earn first place. Second place went to the team of Ron Pritchard, Tom Lewis and Vince Mercadante, who carded a 26-under-par 102.

The men played a nine-hole scramble Dec. 12, playing only par-3 holes. The team of Fred Miller, Randy Clark, Rich Papini and Tony Butzek matched the 3-under-par 24 carded by the team of Ken Rickett, Jerry Elson, Dick Mills and Tom Bode to finish in a tie for first place.

Friday the 13th was lucky for the team of Mary Lou Drier, Sue Little, Bob Reid and Jim Thorton, who combined on a 15-under-par 49 to win the coed, two-best-balls-of-foursome match. The team of Marylyn Thorton, Heather Blaine, Mary Lou Kaemmerlen and Barry Martin finished in second place with an 11-under-par 51.

Horseshoe news

High quality horseshoe play stood out Dec. 11 in the action at the Anna Maria City Hall pits. Four teams emerged from pool play and battled it out in semifinal games that both ended in dramatic fashion — double ringers. Paul Sheatler and Rod Bussey defeated Herb Puryear and Sam Samuels 26-18 in the first match, while John Crawford and Tim Sofran defeated Bob Mason and Dom Livedoti 24-14 in the second semifinal match.

The finals were close until Sofran ended with a six-pack, double-ringer to give he and Crawford a 25-20 win.

Dec. 14 action had two teams qualify for the knockout stage. The team of Gene Bobeldyk and Sam Samuels earned a 23-20, come-from-behind victory over the team of John Crawford and Rod Bussey to earn the day's bragging rights.

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.

Plunge into 2014 for a cause

The sixth annual Shamrock Shiver Charity Plunge will take place at noon Wednesday, Jan. 1, at Cortez Beach in Bradenton Beach.

The event, sponsored by Clancy's Irish Pub of Bradenton, will benefit Caring for Children Charities. Swimmers — and their fans — will meet on the beach near 12th Street South.

After the plunge, Clancy's, 6218 Cortez Road, Bradenton, will host a party with door prizes, beverages, food and music provided by the Jack Tamburin Band.

Over the years, Clancy's has raised more than \$100,000 with the plunge.

For more information, call Jan Crudele of Caring For Children Charities/Florida Winefest at 941-952-1109.

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Temps remain warm, fishing for migratory species stays hot

By Capt. Danny Stasny
Islander Reporter

With temperatures remaining mostly warm in December, fishing is following suit. Water temps are back into the low 70s, which is a welcome sight. Migratory fish such as ladyfish, Spanish mackerel, jack crevalle and bluefish are lingering in the bays and passes since the water isn't cold enough to push them south. Other migratory fish, such as pompano, are making a showing along the beaches as well as in the local bays.

On the flats, trout are responding to live shrimp under a cork or soft plastics combined with a jighead. Either method is effective, although drifting and jigging allows you to cover a vast expanse of grass flats, whereas fishing with shrimp is more spot-specific. Basically, if you know where a concentration of fish are, you can use shrimp. If you don't, you can try drifting and jigging.

Finally, fishing nearshore structure is a good bet if you're looking for groceries. Snapper, Key West grunts, sheepshead and flounder are responding to live shrimp fished on the bottom. The snapper and grunts are fairly abundant, but the flounder and sheepshead bite is sporadic. Ultimately, this method of fishing will contribute fillets to the deep fryer — and good tasting ones, too.

Capt. Warren Girle is fishing the flats of Sarasota Bay resulting in a variety of species. By using fresh-cut pieces of ladyfish, Girle's clients are hooking into slot-size redfish. To find the reds, Girle instructs his clients to cast ladyfish chunks into sandy potholes in water depths of 2-3 feet. Some redfish respond greatly to scent. Girle is managing to put limits of fish in the box for his clients.

Next, Girle is moving to slightly deeper water and is switching over to drifting and casting shrimp-tipped pompano jigs. By using this method of fishing, Girle's clients are reeling up Spanish mackerel, ladyfish, jack crevalle and pompano. This bite is fairly consistent, which provides good action on light tackle.

Finally, on calm days, Girle is venturing into the Gulf of Mexico. By using fresh-cut live shiners for bait, Girle's clients are hooking up snapper 15-20-inches. Along with snapper, juvenile grouper and keeper-size flounder are responding to cut bait fished on the bottom.

Dave Sork at the Anna Maria City Pier says pier fishers using live shrimp for bait are finding a variety of species. Flounder, black drum and juvenile grouper are readily taking baits fished under the pier. Keeper-size drum and flounder can be expected, although the grouper being caught are barely 12 inches in length.

Migratory fish, such as Spanish mackerel, jacks and



Jim Dalton and wife Jan of Holmes Beach had family come calling a few weeks ago, and they came to do some fishing. Grandson Dalton Watson, 15, of Lakewood Ranch, shows off his hogfish, caught Nov. 29 about a mile out in the Gulf of Mexico on a trip with Capt. Wayne Genthner of Wolfmouth Charters.



Max Dalton, 11, of Grand Rapids, Mich., shows off a red grouper caught fishing with Wolfmouth Charters.

ladyfish, are finding the pier. Timing is everything when targeting these fish. Typically, these fish are caught as they pass the pier on their way in or out of Tampa Bay. Silver spoons, Gotcha plugs or small white crappie jigs are a good choice when targeting these fish. Combine these with a fast retrieve and you may see results.

At Island Discount Tackle, the guys are busy preparing for the Christmas rush, but they're still managing to fit in a little fishing.

On the beaches, pompano are responding to pompano jigs tipped with a pink teaser fly. By jigging through the trough that runs parallel to the shoreline, beach fishers are managing to pull pompano out during early morning

hours. Although the pompano bite is sporadic, Spanish mackerel, bluefish, ladyfish and jack crevalle are filling the void.

On the flats of Anna Maria Sound, drifting and jigging with soft plastics is proving prosperous for spotted seatrout. The Key Royale flats, as well as the flats around the bulkhead and the mouth of Manatee River, are holding decent numbers of fish. Persistence is key because most trout being caught are undersized.

Finally, nearshore structure is still producing a snapper bite. Fresh-cut shiners and threadfin herring are a good bet to tie into these tasty fish. Live shrimp are a good bet to use for bait, too. Expect to find snapper anywhere in the range of 8-18 inches. By-catch on nearshore structure is resulting in flounder, Key West grunts and even a few sheepshead.

Send fishing reports to fish@islander.org.



Keep it clean

Flotsam is floating wreckage from a ship or its cargo. Jetsam is part of a ship, its equipment, or its cargo that is purposefully cast overboard to lighten the load in time of distress and that sinks or is washed ashore. So what do you call a fresh coconut and various debris that washes up in Anna Maria Sound? It's a shame. These items were collected from the bay on the morning of Dec. 8. *Islander Photo: Bonner Joy*

Sailing squadron offers boating seminar

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

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

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Anna Maria Island Tides

Date	AM	HIGH	PM	HIGH	AM	LOW	PM	LOW	Moon
Dec. 18	1:54p	1.3	11:23	2.2	6:34	-0.5	5:06	1.1	
Dec. 19	2:15p	1.3	—	—	7:05	-0.5	5:51	1.0	
Dec. 20	12:01	2.1	2:37	1.3	7:37	-0.4	6:40	0.9	
Dec. 21	12:43	2.0	3:03	1.4	8:10	-0.3	7:37	0.9	
Dec. 22	1:30	1.8	3:33	1.5	8:45	-0.1	8:41	0.8	
Dec. 23	2:23	1.6	4:08	1.5	9:22	0.0	9:53	0.7	
Dec. 24	3:27	1.4	4:46	1.6	10:01	0.2	11:11	0.5	
Dec. 25	4:48	1.2	5:27	1.8	10:43	0.4	—	—	3rd

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



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Island Biz

By Rick Catlin



DeNegris unretires, again

Joe DeNegris retired to Anna Maria Island in 2007, figuring it was time for him to enjoy the amenities offered after a lifetime of owning, operating and cooking at Italian restaurants in New Jersey and New York.

That retirement lasted about a month, DeNegris said. "I got bored with nothing to do."

That led him to open the Island Gourmet on Marina Drive in Holmes Beach in 2008. After several successful years, he sold the restaurant and again contemplated retirement.

"I'm just too active to do nothing," he said.

He's now opened a new Italian eatery, Matteo's Ice Cream, Gelato and Pastries, 7232 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton.

"We're specializing in Italian pastries and ice cream, but we've also got salads, sandwiches, soups, panini and crepes on the menu," DeNegris said.

"I love cooking and preparing Italian food too much to retire," he added.

Matteo's, named for DeNegris' son Matthew, is open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call 941-798-3222.

Longboat Key chamber moving to new office

The Longboat Key Chamber of Commerce announced in an email blast to members it will move to a new office in the Centre Shops on Longboat Key, 5390 Gulf of Mexico Drive, No. 102, by the end of December.



The grand opening of island resident Joe DeNegris' newest Italian restaurant, Matteo's, 7232 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, was Dec. 11. Cutting the ribbon are, from left, Lisa Tedder of Matteo's, Javier Chero and Tina West of the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, DeNegris, Manatee County Commissioner Carol Whitmore and Matteo's manager Joani Mitchell. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

The chamber said Jay Anderson of Edgewater Contractors Inc. is donating labor and materials to get the new office ready, while Jack Dean of G. Fried Flooring is providing the carpeting at no charge. The eblast also thanked Centre Shops owner Don Roberts for providing an appropriate lease for the chamber, and Andrew Vac of RE/MAX for assisting in preparation of the lease.

"This new space will provide you, our residents and visitors a true visitor's center and will be conducive to having special events," the chamber release said.

The chamber had a small office at the Centre Shops in 1993.

For more information, call 941-383-2466.

Village offers tech lounge

Freedom Village, an assisted living facility at 6410 21st Ave. W., Bradenton, has added an Internet lounge for its residents.

A Freedom Village press release said the lounge is part of the facility's Connected Living Program for residents and families.

"This new addition to the community provides an opportunity for residents to stay connected to their friends



Customers line up for Italian ice cream and other items at Joe DeNegris' newest Italian eatery, Matteo's, 7232 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton. Islander Photo: Rick Catlin

and family using technology," the release said.

A staff member will be available in the Internet lounge to assist residents with computers and use of email, social tools and websites.

The release said Freedom Village is enhancing its programming in new ways through technology.

For more information on Freedom Village, call 866-330-7341.

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FOR SALE: TEN crystal holiday coffee mugs with etched winter scene. Very pretty. \$15. Call 941-737-9173.

Real estate transactions

Jesse Brisson's column is online this week at www.islander.org.

ITEMS FOR SALE

SHARP FLAT SCREEN TV, 16-inch, \$50, Metal Mulisha jacket, medium, \$35, Quiksilver mens belt, \$20. 941-778-7003.

CHRISTMAS TREE: ARTIFICIAL pine, 7.5 feet, 3,265 tips, \$10 cash. 941-792-0008, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

COMPUTER: DUAL 1.8GHz HT DELL, refurbished \$60. 941-756-6728.

NEW SPYDER PAINTBALL value pack, \$75. 941-778-7003.

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

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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)

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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.

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.

Turn the page for more classifieds ...

Freedom Village associates Marilyn Evans, Veronica Rogers and Sandra McClintock join with resident council president Jim Willis and residents Nancy Willis and Ed and Elizabeth Roberts for the official ribbon cutting of the Internet lounge.



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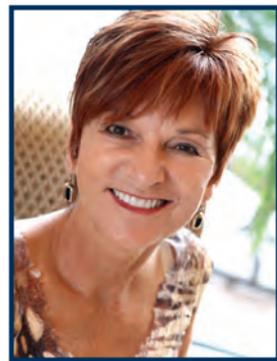
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ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

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

ROSER THRIFT SHOP: Open 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. 9-11 a.m. donations, Wednesdays. 511 Pine Ave. Anna Maria. 941-779-2733.

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.

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WELL-MANNERED RESCUED dogs (and kittens!) are looking for great new homes or fosters. Please, call for information, 941-896-6701.

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SINGERS WANTED: BASS and tenor section leaders. Paid positions, Roser Church. Call 941-778-0414, leave message for Jim Johnston.

LIMOUSINE DRIVER NEEDED as soon as possible. Professional appearance. Previous experience a plus. Contact 941-870-7010.

LPNS NEEDED FOR active quadriplegic using Hoyer lift. Morning shifts, 4-5 hours starting at 7 a.m. Overnight shifts, 9:30 p.m.-7 a.m. Travel opportunity. 941-685-5213.

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

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KIDS FOR HIRE Continued

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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TOASTED COMPUTER SERVICES. Your home and business specialist. On-site service, virus/spyware, cleanup, system setup, upgrades, diagnosis and repair, internet/wireless networking, custom system design. 941-224-1069.

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ISLANDER CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS

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

VACATION RENTALS: GREAT location near boat ramp and everything on Anna Maria Island. Free WiFi, cable. 941-779-6638.

VACATION RENTALS: BRADENTON houses or condos. Weekly or monthly. Call 941-962-0971 or 941-794-1515. www.coastalpropertiesrealty.com. Suzanne Wilson, broker.

ANNUAL HOME WANTED January 2014: Long-time Island couple seeks single-family home with pool in quiet Holmes Beach or Anna Maria. No pets, no smoking. Minimum 2BR/2BA. Will consider waterfront condo. Tom, 941-993-4909.

1BR AND 2BR units off Cortez Road, two miles from the beach. 3611 117th St. W., one block from the bay. \$650-\$800/month. 941-518-8478.

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RENTALS Continued

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY AVAILABILITY: 1 and 2BR at Westbay Cove condo. Walk to beach, shopping, restaurants, on free trolley line. Tennis, two heated pools. Old Florida Realty Co., 941-713-9096.

SEASONAL RENTAL AVAILABLE January through April. Second floor 2BR/2BA newly remodeled unit with screened lanai and pool. One block from public beach and town. Email ssmithyoga@gmail.com for serious inquiries. 813-842-2366.

FLORIDA KEYS VACATION rental house. 2BR/2BA with dock, oceanside. Available Dec. 21-Jan. 8. 941-778-3106.

HOLMES BEACH ANNUAL: 2BR/1BA, garage, Florida room, Gulfside, \$1,150/month plus utilities, security. 336-509-9636. www.RTBeach.com/beach.

2BR/1BA ANNUAL ELEVATED duplex. One block to beach and shopping. \$1,000/month. 941-778-2227 or 991-778-7980.

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HOLMES BEACH ANNUAL rental. 3BR/2BA, newly remodeled, granite kitchen and baths, washer and dryer, storage on site, convenient location, pet friendly, no smoking, available Jan. 1. \$1,600/month. Call 603-969-6840.

RENTALS Continued

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REAL ESTATE

PLEASE CALL ME if you are interested in selling. I am looking to purchase a home close to the beach or on the beach. 941-779-6158. No Realtors.

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LAKEFRONT CONDO: 2BR/2BA. \$230,500. Over-55 community, no pets, renovated home, quiet area, double carport, ground floor, boat docks, kayak/canoe facilities, heated pool, exercise room, tennis, shuffleboard, and waterfront park on beautiful Sarasota Bay. Only two miles to Bradenton Beach. For sale by owner. Call Fred 941-794-5011.

GREAT LITTLE HOUSE, great big view: Open water view of AMI Bridge, 1950s cottage, block construction, pine accents. New appliances, etc. An island treasure. \$849,500. FSBO. 941-730-2606 (leave message).

FOR SALE BY owner: Palm Court off of El Conquistador Parkway. 4816 61st. Ave. Drive W., Bradenton. Move-in ready, 941-524-6977.

SUNBOW BAY TOWNHOUSE: 4BR/3.5BA water view, handicap accessible, garage, pool. By owner, easy show, \$359,000. 941-795-3778.

OPEN HOUSE: Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 22. Best buy, home on a canal per square foot. 3BR/3BA, pool, \$649,900. 618 Foxworth Lane, Holmes Beach. Key Royale. Sharon Hightower, Edgewater Real Estate. 941-330-5054.

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The Islander

PICK THE GAME WINNERS • COLLECT BIG BUCKS • A WINNER EVERY WEEK • \$50 WEEKLY PRIZE

GET IN THE GAME

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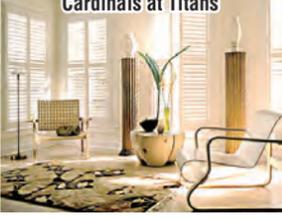
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\$50 PICK THE WINNERS CONTEST

- The Islander pays \$50 to the person with the most correct game-winning predictions. Collect prize in person or by mail.
- 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.

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

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9	_____	_____
10	_____	_____
11	_____	_____
12	_____	_____
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Your correct score prediction for this week's Buccaneer game could win you \$50. Drawing in the event of a tie. Rollover if there's no winner! (no game/no prize) BUCS _____ vs _____
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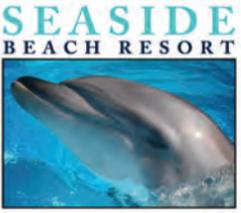
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