A community remembers Janie Melsek

By Kevin Duffy
Staff Writer

Sanibel resident attacked by an alligator on Wednesday has died, and city officials say they will scrutinize existing regulations to better safeguard people.

Janie Melsek, 54, a landscaper who was dragged into a pond while tree-trimming behind a house at 3061 Poinciana Circle, died of complications due to extensive injuries, officials with Lee Memorial Health System said.

"She sustained devastating soft tissue injuries," Dr. Drew Mikulaschek, director of Trauma Services at Lee Memorial, said during an afternoon press conference at the hospital. "By far and away, the more significant and serious injuries were sustained to her trunk itself."

Mikulaschek wouldn't say how long Melsek spent on the operating table, citing privacy regulations. He did say that loss of blood was not the overbearing factor in her death.

"Her wounds, in and of themselves, although devastating, were not fatal," he said.

Melsek, Mikulaschek said, died of Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome — essentially the body working overtime to try to cope with a traumatic event.

"The wounds were deep in her tissues, and were compounded by being in pond water for at least 10 minutes," he said.

Pond water is typically contaminated with micro-bacteria and other organisms, Mikulaschek said, which triggered her body's reaction to the event.

"She required extensive surgery to control the onset of infection," he said.

Melsek died on the operating table, Mikulaschek said, although devastating, were not fatal," he added. "There are just some things that we can't fix."

Morse said that selective removal or relocation of eggs is in order to keep alligator populations in check, is not currently state policy. Some eggs are removed in order to stock commercial alligator farms, where the animals are raised for their hides and meat.

Small Mayor Marty Harrity said that council will look at existing policies with regard to alligators during its Aug. 3 public hearing and see what can be done to make them safer.

"It's unfortunate, a sad course of events," he said.

Councilman Steve Brown said that the policy's regarding nuisance alligators may need to be tightened to more closely mirror statewide policies.

"They have to show aggression," he said. "If it's in someone's pool or garage, our policy is if they are not aggressive — if it tries to get away or is timid — we will relocate it."

Brown said that policy is to kill the animal if it exceeds four feet in length. Sanibel law is to relocate the animal if it is up to eight feet in length.

"There will definitely be a re-evaluation," Brown said.

"Ultimately we do have to follow state law," Sanibel Chief of Police William Brown said.

Morse said that selective removal or destruction of eggs is in order to keep alligator populations in check, is not currently state policy. Some eggs are removed in order to stock commercial alligator farms, where the animals are raised for their hides and meat.

"It is very difficult to successfully nest alligators, or in this case eggs, and that's just a natural part of the species," he said.

Morse said that even a seemingly harmless activity, such as feeding ducks, can present problems as well because ducks are part of an alligator's staple diet.

"An alligator does not differentiate between the chef and the water, and the feeder, whether served or the meal," he said. "It recognizes patterns of behavior, and if there are ducks nearby, and you are feeding them, you are now part of the scenario. Therefore, you are now food.

Morse said it is essential to never feed any animal along the water's edge, or to walk the family pet alongside freshwater bodies.

"It's not just the harmlessness, it's a bad idea. They are going to come for you. They are going to attack you. They are going to eat you."
MELSEK
From page 1

"I can't add much to that," said Michael, "I worked for her for not quite a year. She was extremely generous to me. As a boss, she treated me with respect and with love. It's kind of stuck with me. I never saw her in a foul or bad mood, she was nice woman. It's hard to know what her life would have been like if she had recovered, the consequences and all, but knowing her, she probably would have persevered." Jordan paused. "I saw her just a week ago. You never know when it's the last time you're going to see someone."

Ms. Melsek's friends established an account at Bank of the Islands for contributions to help defray her medical expenses. Less than 48 hours after Ms. Melsek was attacked, the Bank had recorded more than $1000 in donations, according to a bank official.

According to Mike Hanan, "Janie was very much a part of Sanibel, and her friends and the island, a friend in another form, will miss her."

"We still have to live in concert with wildlife, we are a sanctuary island," he said. "We have to find ways that we can live with."

"A very large alligator isn't afraid of anybody, whether it's been fed or not," he said. Melsek, who was listed in critical condition, had her right arm amputated below the elbow. She pleaded with rescuers to cut it off during her struggle with the alligator.

Ybanez, the lead trauma surgeon who attempted to save Melsek, said her probability of survival would have been greatly reduced had she not been brought to a facility with a trauma center.

"She'd have died anyway, but her chances would have been much much less," he said. Brown said the tragedy would not force Sanibel city officials to rethink the island's mission statement of man and wildlife living in harmony with one another.

"We still have to live in concert with wildlife," said Gary Morse, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, of Chief Tomlinson. "This is Sanibel's mission statement of man and wildlife living in harmony with one another."

The mood at the Sanibel Police Department was somber. Chief Bill Stokke, 70, a seasonal Sanibel resident, escaped with a broken thumb and deep wounds in April when an alligator pulled her into a shallow pond while she worked on a seawall in her backyard.

Robert Steele, 81, lost his life on September 11, 2001, the victim of an alligator who attacked him as he walked his dog along a marshy area near his home on Rabbitt Road, a short distance from J.N. Ding! Darling Wildlife Refuge.

Brown said that the latest attacks on Sanibel involved large gators, and that he would like to see any changes to policy involve how to deal with the larger animals.
Irrigation a major waste of city water to Island Water Assoc.

By Kevin Duffy  
Staff Writer

The city’s drinking water supply is greatly impacted by the various landscapers who do not adhere to watering restrictions for their properties because even though Sanibel is hooked-up to the reusable water system, the Sanibel Planning Commission was told Tuesday.

Engineering Manager Richard Calabrese of The Island Water Association, a non-profit entity that oversees Sanibel and Captiva, told the commission that 350 households on Sanibel are using over 30,000 gallons of potable water per month, above the average usage of 15,000 gallons per household. Much of this usage is tied into watering their lawns, he said.

“The major problem is irrigation,” Calabrese told the commission as part of its ongoing recommendations to the Evaluation and Appraisal Report of the Sanibel Plan.

The commission also heard reports from staff regarding wastewater treatment, storm drainage, and disposal of solid waste.

Commissioner John Veenschooten said residents can be required to hook-up to the city’s reusable water system for irrigation, but Calabrese said that cost would not be affordable.

“No everybody can hook up,” he said. “If you had water you would have to re-pipe the whole island.”

Calabrese added that much of the problem is caused by landscapers who want to make sure that the lawns they are left to maintain are green when absentee owners return from the normal tourist season. In other cases, the problem is caused by homeowners with multifamily units who can afford to pay high water bills.

“Seventy percent of the homes I visit, people were watering sand and sea grapes,” he said.

Commissioner Marie Gargano said she has gradually replaced some of her lawn with native vegetation that requires significantly less water. “The move has worked out fine for her.

“Being able to afford it isn’t an excuse,” she said of excessive water users. “We all will pay and be penalized for added infrastructure,” she said for compliance — such as discounts on irrigation and penalties for overuse.

“Once a household gets beyond the average there is an exorbitant price,” she said.

The hours during which people are allowed to water their yards, set forth by the South Florida Water Management District, are also being abused, Calabrese said. Irrigation is permitted between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The association has close to 5,000 member households on the two islands, Calabrese said.

Public Works Director Gates Castle told the commission that the city’s contract with Florida Recycling ends on the last day of September this year as that was the Sanibel County Board’s decision to date. Sept. 30, 2005 — and said that the county would contract could possibly be expanded to include Sanibel.

The county’s Solid Waste division periodically sets-up hazardous material pick-up, such as paint cans, herbicides and pesticides, and recycled oil, in places like Cape Coral and Page Field in Fort Myers. Those municipalities are charged $15,000 per day for the service, Castle said.

“If we became part of the county program solid waste become cheaper. We can do it on Sanibel and negate the $15,000,” Gargano said.

Gargano said, she who lobbied for greater emphasis on recycling in the Evaluation and Appraisal Report said that the inquiry levied on condominium residents also needs to be addressed. Condo-residents are requested to pay only to customers and are charged for the service.

“We are penalizing them to comply,” she said.

Compounding the problem is the current weight restriction on large commercial vehicles travelling over the Sanibel Causeway. Castle said he hopes that by the time the five-year contract terminates in 2010, weight restrictions on the bridge will have been removed.

CROW gets support from Publix Super Markets

Publix Super Markets Charities supports local community efforts to finance construction of the new Sanibel Recreation Center. This action will not only help CROW, but will also ensure that the new facility can accommodate the increasing recreational demands of the growing population of Sanibel.

The Island Water Association, which is responsible for all water treatment costs, both potable and non-potable, and 100 percent of the cost of the new Sanibel Recreation Center, is also supported by the Publix Super Market Charities.

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CROW relies exclusively on private donations to operate. Birgit Vertesch, Director of Development for CROW explains that the number of patients received by CROW continues to increase, and financial contributions are very important. Gifts can be mailed to CROW, P.O. Box 150; Sanibel, FL 33957. For more information about CROW, contact Ms. Vertesch at 395-5357 or 472-3644.

Fort Myers, historically a vacation destination for winter months, is facing another tourist season demands in March and April, and has been hit by sabotage, Calabrese said.

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**Last week's weather**

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Source: Island Water Association

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**Some Q & A about alligators**

**By Kevin Duffy**  
Staff Writer

Here are some commonly asked questions about alligators, and safety tips for co-existing with them, from Gary Morse, spokesperson for the Florida Fish and Wildlife office in Lakeland.

Q: When are nesting and mating season?  
A: April to September. And yes, they should.

Morse prefers to call this time of year "period of high activity" when the weather and water warm up, causing the metabolic rate of alligators, and consequently their food need for food, to increase. Their blood flow increases and their metabolic rate goes up, he said. "These are periods of high activity when there is nesting, mating, and new territories are being set." Morse said that people should be careful when near freshwater bodies throughout the year, but especially between April and September and during nighttime and at dusk, when alligators like to feed.

Q: Does feeding alligators alter their behavior patterns, and make them more aggressive in turn?  
A: Yes.

Alligators are naturally afraid of people, Morse said. "The problem comes when people start to interact inappropriately with alligators," he added. "Anything to do with food and a breakdown starts to occur." Alligators react out of hunger and not reason, Morse said. A seemingly harmless activity like feeding ducks is just as bad as feeding alligators because the aquatic fowl are part of an alligator's diet and a human, in an alligator, becomes part of the meal in such situations.

"An alligator has the brain size of a walnut and can't differentiate between feeding him and feeding the ducks," Morse said. "Never feed any wildlife at or near the water's edge."

Q: Will alligators chase after people on land?  
A: No.

"No chasing people up on land would be contrary to what we know about alligators," Morse said. "Alligators are very particular about feeding operations."

Morse may set-up an "ambush point" on land, but it is not going to chase anything, Morse said. "There are a few basic principles that every wild animal, and alligators, adhere to. One, energy conservation. He said, "It's hard to get a meal out there, and engaging in a food war gets to be harder."

Q: What should one do if an alligator moves threateningly toward them?  
A: Run in a straight line directly away from the animal, and the water. Never feed any wildlife at or near the water, he said.

Q: What is the average lifespan of an alligator?  
A: 30 and 40 years in the wild. The largest animal will grow to be about 15 feet in length, Morse said. The alligator that fatally attacked Jimmie Meth last week was 11 feet nine inches and weighed 475 pounds.

Q: What is the largest alligator on record?  
A: 14 feet five inches.

Q: What is Florida's alligator population?  
A: There are anywhere from 1 million to 1.5 million adult alligators statewide, Morse said. Between 300-400 live on Sanibel.

Q: What is Florida Fish and Wildlife conservation number for the alligator population?  
A: Yes.

"We do have counts that we do in certain parks and areas," Morse said. "Ongoing research and study projects give us a ballpark estimate."

Study sites are maintained throughout the state, and "spottings" counts are done every five to 10 years from airstrips or other vessels, Morse said. "It's not done annually," he said.

Q: Are there percentages of alligators removed from nests, or destroyed, to keep alligator populations from over-flooding?  
A: No.

"Eggs are periodically removed from nests to stock alligator farms, Morse said. The animals are valued for their hides and meat. Finding the nests is no easy task, he added. "You could find them but they're pretty well hidden," Morse said. "Our biologists do check nests periodically, but they are pretty careful."

**Alligators: myths vs. facts**

There are rumors that alligators can run as much as 35 or 40 mph in a straight line. This is not really true. Alligators can crawl, walk, swim. They can also lunge rapid-  
ly and repeatedly which is how they get some of their food. To get some distance from an alligator just run away in a straight line. Allen Register, manager of Gatorama in LaBelle, described alligators as "opportunist" eaters. When food is handy they will eat. But there are some considerations to keep in mind. They are cold-blooded and when the ambient temperature drops below 70 degrees they are unable to digest food and have no appetite. Above that temperature they will eat, they are more fit for food.

When asked how long an alligator can go without food, Register said, "at least 12 months." He said that while they might start to look sickly, they are still very much alive after a year with no food.

Young alligators have an instinctive fear of shadows moving overhead, since they are preyed upon by many birds. When they reach about 18 inches they are no longer appealing to birds, and completely lose that fear. Similarly, older alligators lose their instinctive wariness of larger creatures, like humans, when they get to be bigger, on the order of ten feet or more.
Planning Commission gives unanimous approval to Old Schoolhouse move

By Kevin Duffy
Staff Writer

A request to move one of Sanibel’s most recognizable structures — the Old Periwinkle Way to the Historical Village and Museum gathered steam on Tuesday, as the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to City Council.

The Old Schoolhouse Theater — formerly known as the Old Schoolhouse for White Children — will be moved from 1905 Periwinkle Way to the Historical Village Site at 950 Dunlop Road if council grants approval during its 9 a.m. public hearing Tuesday at BIG ARTS’ Schein Hall. The city decided to move the meeting in light of controversy generated after a former member of the Historical Preservation Committee was killed following an alligator attack.

The schoolhouse, which is listed on the Local Register of Historic Sites and Structures, is owned by the Young Family. The Sanibel Theatre Foundation is working to purchase the structure and restoration earlier this month. Moving costs have yet to be determined.

The grant does not hinge upon the building being restored to its original state, said Tamara Pigotti, beach and shoreline project manager for the TDC. However, City Manager Judie Zimomra said it was the desire of the Historical Preservation Committee to restore the building to its appearance when it was a schoolhouse.

The foundation has agreed to purchase the Periwinkle Playhouse, 2200 Periwinkle Way, to continue musical theater productions on the island.

If approved by council, the schoolhouse would become the ninth historic building to be moved to the historical village.

“There’s only one building missing — the Old Schoolhouse,” said Floyd Hunphrey, a Realtor with VIP Realty and a former member of the Historical Preservation Committee. “Let’s get on with it and complete the village.”

The resolution to declare the building structurally sound to withstand the move, and stipulates that only one room of the building — the schoolhouse itself — be moved. Later portions added over the years will be removed.

Sanibel resident Edgar Burton, an architect and past member of the Old Schoolhouse Foundation, told the commission that he is in favor of the relocation, providing it is done in compliance with the Sanibel Code, and the Sanibel Plan.

Consider whether a real estate closing date is an appropriate reason to maybe not follow the Sanibel Code and Sanibel Plan,” he urged the commission.

City Attorney Ken Cuyler said Burton’s claim that the application was incomplete due to the lack of a site plan was false. Since the building is being moved to a city-maintained location and not from a private location to another private location, the city is exempt from site plan requirements, he said.

By Kevin Duffy
Staff Writer

The Planning Commission on Tuesday approved a development permit to allow for extensive rehabilitation of Sanibel’s most recognizable structures, according to the Sanibel Theatre Foundation.

The Beach House, built by the Sawyers family in 1912 and listed on the Local Register of Historic Sites and Structures, will require a significant amount of work prior to the purchase of the structure and restoration.

The Haas family purchased the home at 502 West Periwinkle in 1998. The building sits on the land that the schoolhouse sits on, provided commitments are in place prior to the Aug. 16 closing date.

The Tourist Development Council agreed to provide the city a maximum of $150,000 toward the purchase of the property.

Burton also questioned whether the application was approved by the Historical Preservation Committee.

“If approved by council, the Sanibel Theatre Foundation plans to relocate to another theater on the Island and sell the Periwinkle Playhouse,” said Commission Chairman Sam Bailey, who attended elementary school in the building, spoke emotionally and eloquently of the historical significance of the structure. “Nature and history should be able to co-exist.”

The building, built in 1894, is currently available for relocation to the Historical Village and Museum as a result of current Old Schoolhouse Theatre Foundation plans to relocate to another theater on the Island and sell the former structure.

The Sanibel Historical Village and Theatre Foundation plans to relocate to another theater on the Island and sell the former Old Schoolhouse Theatre structure.

“The Sanibel Theatre Foundation plans to relocate to another theater on the Island and sell the former Old Schoolhouse Theatre structure,” said Bailey.

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By Kevin Duffy
Staff Writer

The Sanibel Board of Trustees of the Municipal Police Officers’ Retirement Trust Fund is soliciting applicants to fill a position on the Board.

The term begins October 1, 2004 and expires September 30, 2006. If you are interested, please submit a resume, outlining your previous experience, to the office of the City Manager, 800 Dunlop Road, Sanibel, Florida 33957, no later than August 9th, 2004.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please call the office of the City Manager at 472-3700.
The Hon. Marty Harrity
Mayor, City of Sanibel, Florida

Dear Mr. Mayor:

As a former 20-year resident of Sanibel, I am saddened to read of the tragedy that befell Janie Melsek. I am also shocked to learn that this is the second such tragedy in the last three years with a near miss last April! And who knows how many "close calls" we have gone unreported.

All the more troubling is that these were savage people well-experienced in the inherent dangers, and pleasures, of living in the unique protected environment that is Sanibel. These were not light-headed tourists prancing through the swamp.

Anyone reasonable wants to foster and protect wildlife, even alligators, keeping them in areas that do not directly upset either habitat, human or beast. However, permitting 12-foot, 500 pound reptiles to roam at will the streets, driveways and yards of the community tells me that the City's compass needle has gone astray. The primary and sole responsibilities that municipal, state and federal government have are to protect citizens and maintain an acceptable quality of life. It is totally capricious to champion the idea that a tiny human is somehow more susceptible to the natural fear of humans.

To the editor:

Is this an island entire of itself? My family and I moved here to enjoy all this island has to offer, but I did not fully appreciate the recklessness and arrogance of such a few people who must have too much time on their hands. Working against the interests of the many of us, they have achieved everything James Madison feared; become what John Donnel could never overcome.

Even yet (in the face of $6 tolls) they do not yield. At every chance to take advantage of uncertainty (even if the face of Marty Harrity's<hr/>

9 To the editor:

Sanibel bobcats compete with alligators for feeding habitats

If Sanibel was ever the island entire of itself? My family and I moved here to enjoy all this island has to offer, but I did not fully appreciate the recklessness and arrogance of such a few people who must have too much time on their hands. Working against the interests of the many of us, they have achieved everything James Madison feared; become what John Donnel could never overcome.

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**Dateline • Week of Jul.29-Aug.4**

Looking ahead . . . Upcoming events

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**On Exhibit**
- ARTS FOR ACT PREVIEW at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Edison College. Meet the artists who choose from. Poster "Cathedral," by featured artist Judy Smith will go on exhibit through August 19.
- RED, WHITE OR BLUE at the Arts for ACT Gallery, 2265 First St., downtown. Original art, fine crafts. Show runs through August 4.
- SAN-CAP ART LEAGUE at BIG Arts, Summer Show, open Thursday through Sunday. More than 150 members present their latest work.

**Sanibel Library San-Cap Art League members show.**
- SUMMER MEMBERS' SHOW at the Fort Myers Art Assoc. corner of Donora and Shell Mound Blvd., FMB Mall, call 4422.

**Tickets on Sale for Arts For San-Cap Art League at BIG Arts,**
- RED, WHITE OR BLUE at the Arts for ACT Gallery, 2265 First St., downtown. Original art, fine crafts. Show runs through August 4.
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- SANIBEL LIBRARY San-Cap Art League members show.

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**On Stage**
- GREASE at the Broadway Palm June 10 - Aug. 2. 4100 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers. 278-4422.
- ALWAYS PATSY CLINE at the Broadway Palm Aug. 19 - Oct. 2. 278-4422.
- Fools, part of a summer of Neil Simon at the Florida Rep., in the historic Arcade Theatre downtown Fort Myers. Directed by Bob Catcillo July 29 - Aug. 3.
- BROADWAY PALM CHILDREN'S THEATRE presents Pinocchio, July 16 - Aug. 7. Lunch and show 11:45 a.m., 2:30 p.m.
- KIDS CONSPIRACY presents Don Quixote and la Mancha, at the First Unitarian Methodist Church, 2466 First St. Fort Myers, Aug. 6, 3-5 p.m., $5, includes refreshments. 332-1152.

**Through the month**
- SUMMER HOURS AT THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM Open half days, Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 950 Dunlop Rd. 472-4648.
- THE CARPENTERS SHOP at the Sanibel Community Church. Bibles, books, music, gifts. Mon-Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sunday 9 - noon.
- SUNSET GROUP FOR EARLY STAGE ALZHEIMERS, forming for September meetings. Participants interested to first session. 437-3007.
- TARPON BAY EXPLORERS is offering naturalist led tours on the Tarpoin Bay portion of the "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge for birders, naturalists, and curious people who enjoying being on the water and learning from an experienced naturalist. Call for reservations for all activities. 472-8900.

**On the Water**
- BOAT RENTAL: Sanibel Island is open to public, beginners welcome. Brian Healy, 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Phone: 472-8900.
- Shell Mound trail 9 a.m. every other day. 472-1100.
- KAYAK WITH THE SCCF around Buck Key, in Pine Island Sound. No kayaking experience necessary, leaves at 9:30 a.m. $35/person, guided tour. July 30. Reservations 472-2329.

**Comes Soon**
- KAYAKING WITH THE SCCF through the Buck Bay estuary, around Buck Key. No experience necessary.

**Yoga at the Fitness Center**
- August 6 and 20, departing McCarthy's Marina at 9:30 a.m. $35/person RSVP 472-2329.

**Saturday 31**

**Saturday 30**

**Every Week**
- GOURMET SINGLES SUPPER CLUB meets every Friday in the finest restaurants in the area. For more info, call 332-8191.
- BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER at St. Michaels and All Angels. Fridays 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.
- TERRIFIC TWOS stories, activities for two year olds, Sanibel Library. 10 a.m.
- KWLF stories, activities, games for ages thru third grade at the Sanibel Library, 3 p.m.

**Coming Soon**
- KAYAKING WITH THE SCCF around Buck Key, in Pine Island Sound. No kayaking experience necessary, leaves at 9:30 a.m. $35/person, guided tour. July 30. Reservations 472-2329.

**Check-In**
- KAYAKING WITH THE SCCF around Buck Key, in Pine Island Sound. No kayaking experience necessary, leaves at 9:30 a.m. $35/person, guided tour. July 30. Reservations 472-2329.

**Sanibel Island**
- TRAVEL ORGANIZATION: Sanibel Island Travel and Cruises Inc. 4100 McGregor Blvd. (239) 334-4488.

**Sanibel Island**
- Sanibel Island Council will convene a special meeting (Client/Attorney Session) on Wednesday, August 04, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.
- Sanibel Island Council, 800 Dunlop Road Public is welcome.

Complete agendas are available at the City Web site: www.mysanibel.com. A copy of the agenda is also posted on the bulletin board outside City Hall. Agendas subject to amendment.

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL A DECISION MADE BY THE COUNCIL ON ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING/HEARING, SUCH PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, TO INCLUDE THE TESTIMONIAL EVIDENCE UPON WHICH ANY SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT JIM ISOM, MANAGER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES NO LATER THAN ONE DAY PRIOR TO THE PROCEEDINGS. CALL 472-3700 FOR ASSISTANCE IF HEARING IMPAIRED, TELEPHONE THE FLORIDA RELAY SERVICE AT 711.
Sanibel easier prey. Hundreds of domestic cats over the last 20 years have lost their lives to these carnivores. I read on and was surprised to find that bobcats not only have a diverse diet, but feed on primarily the same creatures the large alligators feed on to survive.

Despite the city’s claims, bobcats are not indigeneous to Sanibel, even though they are indigenous to Florida. Years earlier, when I was the manager of the Islander Newspaper, we did a story on the bobcats of the island. The reporter interviewed several island residents whose families had been the early pioneers of Sanibel, people who had at one time hunted almost to the last square inch of the island. Not once had any of these people ever seen or heard of bobcats inhabiting Sanibel, nor were there tales of sightings of these big cats from their fathers or grandfathers.

I was very upset as a Sanibel resident when I read that bobcats were to be released on island. As a cat owner, I immediately realized the possible dangers. I can still remember vividly the photograph in the News Press showing several bobcats in cages being released into Sanibel’s wilderness.

Bobcats, as I have said, are not indigeneous to Sanibel, but once released into the island’s wilderness, they began to breed at a prolific rate, and my worse fears became a reality. One by one, my friends and neighbors on island began to report their family cats were missing. On arriving home one day, I found my screened porch door torn to shreds. Luckily, my mother and her five kittens all managed to make it to the safety of the narrow rafters in the porch ceiling. I didn’t see the bobcat, but the big left one of his claws embedded in my door.

Since then we have continued to kill the domesticated cats on island, but, as their numbers grew, it was obvious to me that the bobcat population which may be breeding at an uncontrolled rate since the early 1980s was now competing with the larger alligators on Sanibel for food. Of course, encroaching development, pollution and loss of habitat were also factors for the dwindling food supply.

It has taken 20 years for the ‘damage done’ by these invading bobcats to come full circle. I don’t even want to think what the presence of these bobcats has done to the island’s bird population. But as we all know, when man interferes with the natural way, introducing species to an area where they can have a serious impact on the natural order of things, the consequences can be disastrous.

The immediate problem on Sanibel Island is there are too many large alligators in the 10 to 12 foot range, potential killers of humans, roaming the island freely between ponds, lakes, the river and bays looking for food. A declining food supply and a large number of bobcats competing for the same food sources have exacerbated the situation. Until the city of Sanibel is ready to admit responsibility for inadequately managing the numbers of the city’s alligators and bobcats, and is able to control this very dangerous situation, residents and visitors on Sanibel Island remain at high risk.

To the editor:—

Our sentiments are predatory killers. People don’t make them killers. A hungry alligator is exactly that.

All Sanibel alligators should be culled and sold to alligator farms. Otherwise eventually they will no more tragedy. Also, people will take vigilante action.

Act decisively now in common sense with no wafting.

—Albert Drake Sanibel

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Sanibel City Council will convene the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 03, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at B.I.G. ARTS (SCHEIN HALL) 900 Dunlop Road Way Public is welcome.

Complete agendas are available at the City Web site: www.mysanibel.com. A copy of the agenda is also posted on the bulletin board outside City Hall. Agendas subject to amendment.

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL A DECISION MADE BY THE COUNCIL, ON ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING/HEARING, SUCH PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, TO INCLUDE THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH ANY SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

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County threatens suit unless City of Sanibel drops theirs

By Kevin Duffy
Staff Writer

Threats from Lee County to sue the City of Sanibel if they don’t drop their landmark blocking construction of a new causeway drawbridge will not work, the city’s legal counsel said Wednesday.

City Attorney Ken Coyler said that allegations from the county’s legal staff that the city’s suit resulted in escalating construction costs for the work are erroneous.

“It’s a fairly transparent effort on their part to force a settlement with the City Council,” he said.

The city filed its suit in January, the same time that a citizens group called Save Our Bay, Inc., filed their litigation. The county’s legal department contends that a food issue agreed upon at that time to cover the work was lost as a result of the filings that coupled with the rising costs of concrete and steel, resulted in a jump in construction costs from $54 million to $100 million.

Coyler said the city’s suit seeks to force the county to repair the drawbridge, rather than replace it. The suit, he said, was not intended to block financing to cover the work.

Deputy County Attorney Bob Gray said that, since the courts ruled that the county’s interlocal agreement with Sanibel did not constitute a contract and was not enforceable, the county may seek to recover $12 million in damages to the city in toll revenues.

“We’re going to make the argument that, in addition to damages, we gave them too much,” he said. “Had we been allowed to proceed, we wouldn’t be looking at a full increase.

The suit, he said, is focused on placing tolls on the bridge in order to help pay for construction. A public hearing, specifically on the toll issue, will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10 at the Old Lee County Courthouse, 2120 Main St. in Fort Myers.

To the editor:

My wife and I are owners of a residence on Sanibel. We urge the City Council and Mayor to change the rules governing alligators on Sanibel to further protect residents and visitors.

Measures we recommend be adopted include:

1. Restricting alligators to habitats that are fenced in and provide protection to the population against further attacks.
2. More proactive warning to residents and guests about what to do if they see alligators including not feeding them.
3. Movement to the Everglades or destruction of alligators that potentially could be dangerous to humans.

It is not acceptable to have two alligator deaths in the last few years on Sanibel. The fear, loss of property and attacks.

See LETTERS page 14

LEE MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION THANKS

AN ISLAND OF CARING

SANIBEL CAPTIVA TRUST COMPANY MASTER SPONSORS ISLAND FUNDRAISER

The most recent Sanibel Cares Island Celebration event held at the Community House on Sanibel, raised a record $275,000 in support of the Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company, Master sponsor for the event, stepped up to the plate to make this uniquely Island occasion a reality. Their sponsorship, and the ongoing support for kids, has resulted in our ability to purchase highly specialized equipment and develop new programs that provide care to our most fragile patients.

This year’s event proceeds went to support the Neonatal Intensive Care and Pediatric Observation units at the Children’s Hospital. Over 50 artists, including featured artist Jim Sparkle, donated works for silent and live auction.

Sanibel Cares formed in 2000 when a group of concerned residents and guests about what to do if they see alligators including not feeding them.

3. Movement to the Everglades or destruction of alligators that potentially could be dangerous to humans.

It is not acceptable to have two alligator deaths in the last few years on Sanibel. The fear, loss of property and attacks.

See LETTERS page 14
Dear Kathlene: You have two choices: You can leave a hand of bananas on the host plant, and the upper fruits begin to turn yellow, or you can cut the hand of bananas from the tree when the fingers are still green — so haven’t ripened yet. I did that with a hand of bananas on one of my plants. I placed the hand in a shaded area on a patio table and turned it every couple of days. About three to four weeks later, the bananas began turning yellow; all were ripe within the next week.

After ripening, the bananas quickly start to ripen: 75% ripe — so you have some good recipes ready, or plan on giving away tons of bananas to your friends and neighbors.

For others of you who are experimenting with bananas for the first time, here’s a guide: It takes a plant about 12 to 18 months to bear fruit, and once that happens, the plant’s life has ended. You’ll first notice a solid purplish mass emerging from the center of the plant. This upper fruit will begin to peel away, revealing tiny banana fingers. At first, the fingers will point downward, but as they develop, they will begin curving upward. After a full hand of bananas is produced, flowers will emerge from the purple tracts.

At this point, the fruit production has stopped, and it is best to cut just below the hand so nutrition will be more efficiently directed toward the fruit.

After the fruit is picked, you should cut back the plant close to the ground. Ordinarily, two to four new plants will have emerged around the host plant.

It is best to leave only one or two plants at the spot; you can dig up the others and plant them elsewhere. For best results, plant the bananas in locations where they will receive full sun or shifting shade.

They like lots of water and monthly feedings — including occasional applications of extra potash — during the warm months.

White growth on branches could be fungus or mealybugs

Dear Ron: I came across your column during a visit to Lee County last week, and I have a question about my three yellow Cassias. I think they are butterfly bushes.

I have recently noticed that one of them looks bolder than the other two. On closer inspection, the branches and brown pods have a white fungus on them.

I have checked everything else in the garden and I don’t see it on any other plants. What can I do to save my plant?

— Amanda Reid, Naples

Dear Amanda: It could be fungus, or it could be insects; it is impossible to tell without seeing the affected plant. If it’s a fungus, such as powdery mildew, find an appropriate fungicide at your favorite garden center, and spray it on the bush according to directions on the label.

A common garden insect, the mealy- bug, may also be responsible for the white growth. In heavy infestations, mealybugs form a white, cottony, sticky mass that can envelop leaves, flowers and branches.

If that’s the case, the best treatment is to spray the bush with Organocide, which is an emulsion of fish and sesame seed oils. Do it before 10 a.m., and repeat applications every 10 days, three times.

The butterfly bush (Cassia bicapsulata) is native to tropical America. It is adaptable to Florida hardiness zones 9-11 and is not salt-tolerant.

**Use Organocide to rid your hedge of scales**

Dear Ron: I have a variegated dwarf schefflera hedge that has always looked good until recently. It now has small white scales all over the leaves. They look like tiny white beads.

Can you tell me how to get rid of them?

— Joan Isaacs, Fort Myers Beach

Dear Joan: To get rid of the scales, spray your plants with Organocide, per the above column item.

The variegated dwarf schefflera (Schefflera arboricola variegata) is native to Australia and adaptable to Florida hardiness zones 9-11. It is slightly salt-tolerant.

**Landscape consultant Ron Symson publishes “Florida Garden magazine” ($34.95 annually; $11.95, single issue) and “250 Most-Asked Florida Gardening Questions” ($11.95). To ask a question or have me contact you online at www.TheFloridaGarden.com; send an e-mail to ronsymson@earthlink.net; or write to Ron Symson, 11691 Dawn Cowrie Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908.**

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**DATELINE**

**From page 7**

**Sunday 1**

**Every Week**

- KOREAN STATE HISTORIC SITE guided tours. 10 a.m. Sat. and Sun. $3.25 per vehicle.

**Coming Soon**

- SPECIAL: EQUESTRIANS LUNCHON AND LIVE AUCTION at Carrabba’s Italian Grill, 12990 S. Cleveland Ave. August 8, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. $25. (239) 731-1212

- KAYAKERS FOR MATT SMITH for Community Commissioner. Meet at the causeway island near restrooms. 9:30 a.m.

**Monday 2**

**Every Week**

- BRIDGE FOR FUN Senior Center 2401 Library Way. $2 members, $4 non-members. No partner needed all levels welcome. 472-3743.

- SHELLCRACKERS 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Monday at the Community House on Periwinkle.

- BOOKWORMS stories and crafts for children aged 3-5, Sanibel Library 10 a.m. Mon/Wed. 472-2483

- SMALL WONDERs stories for children birth to age 2. Sanibel Library 2 p.m. Mon/Tue. 472-2483

- YOUTH PROGRAM for 4th - 8th grades at the Sanibel Library, 3 p.m. 472-2483

- STORY TIME for all ages at the Sanibel Library, 6:30 p.m.

- SCA DUPLICATE BRIDGE has resumed at the Sanibel Community Association on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. The game is open to all regardless of ability. Partners will be provided if necessary. Fees $4 for SCA members, $5 for non-members.

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**Wednesday 4**

**Every Week**

- LUNCIONE SEMINARS at the Sanibel Community Association, 2173 Periwinkle Way. Self-help seminars led by Vicki Ashton, Wednesdays from July 21- September 8, 11:30 - 1 p.m. Island Cow to cater. Per seminar: $16/members, $17/non-members, or pre-register all eight weeks $120/members, $138/non-members. 472-2173

- YOGA WITH DR SUSAN PATAKY, Sanibel Fitness Center on Rabbit Road. All levels, noon - 1 p.m. $12 466-1558

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**Monday 2**

**Every Week**

- YOGAPILATES FOR FUN AND HEALTH beginning August 10 at the SanCap Medical Center, 4301 SanCap Rd. $10, space is limited. 472-0116

- SMALL WONDERs at the Sanibel Library, for children birth to 2 years. 2:15 p.m. Wed. 472-2483

- YOGA AT SPRING BEACH RESORT by Brian Rees will begin teaching two new ongoing yoga classes at a Sanibel Ybel Resort on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. to closing. SanCap Rd. at mile marker 3, 472-9979.

- YOGA CLASSES AT CASA YBEL RESORT by Vicki Ashton. Wednesdays from July 21- September 8, 11:30 - 1 p.m. Island Cow to cater. Per seminar: $16/members, $17/non-members, or pre-register all eight weeks $120/members, $138/non-members. 472-2173

**Coming Soon**

- FEMALE FRIENDS LUNCHEON August 10, 12 noon. Call Charlene or Kathy, 5187 X 222

- BOOKWORMS at the Sanibel Library, for children ages 3 - 5 years. 10 a.m. 472-2483

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**Thursday 3**

**Every Week**

- **Friends of the Sanibel Island Library** friends@thesanibelislandlibrary.org, 246-4328.

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**Wednesday 4**

**Every Week**

- **BOOKWORMS at the Sanibel Library, for children ages 3 - 5 years. 10 a.m. 472-2483**

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**Coming Soon**

- WOMENS’ WINE DINNER at the Thistle Lodge, Casa Ybel Resort, 2255 West Gulf Dr. Guest speaker Mary Ann Collier, owner of Sable Ridge Vineyards in Sonoma, August 11, 6:15 p.m. $50 if RSVP by August 8, $60 afterward. 246-4328.

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**Thursday 3**

**Every Week**

- **WINE-DINNER AT THE AMERICAN LEGION Every Tuesday evening 7:30 p.m. to closing. SanCap Rd. at mile marker 3, 472-9979.**

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**Sunday 1**

**Every Week**

- **LUNCHEON SEMINARS at the Sanibel Community Association, 2173 Periwinkle Way. Self-help seminars led by Vicki Ashton, Wednesdays from July 21- September 8, 11:30 - 1 p.m. Island Cow to cater. Per seminar: $16/members, $17/non-members, or pre-register all eight weeks $120/members, $138/non-members. 472-2173**

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**Saturday 5**

**Every Week**

- **WOMENS’ WINE DINNER at the Thistle Lodge, Casa Ybel Resort, 2255 West Gulf Dr. Guest speaker Mary Ann Collier, owner of Sable Ridge Vineyards in Sonoma, August 11, 6:15 p.m. $50 if RSVP by August 8, $60 afterward. 246-4328.**
**Sanibel Permits Issued**

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<td>1313 Eagle Run Drive</td>
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**Condo Amenities:**
- Heated pool, spa, 2 tile and 1,800 square feet under air.
- 2 tennis courts, clubhouse with fitness center. 1 mile to public beach.

**Septic Abandonments**

- Rohaley & Sons Plumbing
  - Wollain Vincent M
  - 4519 West Gulf Drive

- Gavin Oscar L Plumbing
  - Postine James A & Patrick A
  - 495 Surf Sound Court

**Lights out for turtles**

- Call Marguerite at 472-5185 to reserve your advertising space or to have a home featured in our Dreams Homes section.
RE/MAX of the Islands’ top people for June

Marsha Clifford
Top Marketing Agent

Marsha Clifford was honored as top marketing agent in June for RE/MAX of the Islands. Clifford has been a top island real estate agent since 1978. She was formerly with another island firm and moved her business to RE/MAX in October, 1999.

Broker/owner of RE/MAX of the Islands, Art Corrige, said, “Marsha is one of those special people who can sense peoples’ needs and then fulfill them. Her clients appreciate her personality and ability.”

Marsha Clifford is also a talented artist. She and her husband, Bruce McNamara, own the Tin Can Alley gallery on Library Way.

Sanibel Property Sales

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<tr>
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Bruce Cochrane
Top Producer

RE/MAX of the Islands is proud to announce that Jim Cochrane was the most productive sales agent in the office in June. He has been a consistent top RE/MAX agent for the past several years.

Broker and Owner of RE/MAX of the Islands, Art Cochrone, said, “Bruce is having an outstanding year. He has been an island resident since 1976 and has a wealth of knowledge about our market. I believe Bruce’s clients realize how much he does to make their real estate transaction a pleasant experience. His skill and attention to detail are key to his success. The plain fact is, he’s a great guy and people like him.”

Bruce Cochrane and his wife, Lisa, make their home at Robinwood Circle. They enjoy the Sanibel lifestyle and occasional travel. Cochrane also has extensive experience in the construction business.
Summer games pave way for soccer season

The free Wednesday night informal soccer games have proven to be a hit with island kids. As Andrew Congress, 9, describes it: "These games rock!" This is, after all, after he scored a dozen or so goals in a loose, sweaty scrimmage that included kids from 8 to 14 years of age.

"It's a fun thing to do because there isn't much else for kids to do in the summer," says Micaela Neal, 10, who also scored multiple goals.

"Besides, you get to see your friends," she says.

"We just get out and play," adds 9-year-old Drew Carlton, whose dad coaches soccer in Sanibel Youth Soccer's league.

"I was most impressed with Hannah Mitchell," she says. "She spent half an hour trying to set up Dana Congress to score, not caring if she scored herself. It's so nice to see the older kids helping out the younger ones," says Julie Neal, a parent helping out with the games.

With school starting, the Wednesday scrimmages will stop, but soccer season is just around the corner. Registration forms have been sent to island families that have not yet signed up their children to play soccer. The deadline is Aug. 13th; teams will be picked over that next weekend. Registration is open to all children who live on Sanibel or Captiva, or whose parents work on the islands, and are between 4 and 14 years of age (as of Sept. 1, 2004). Practices start the week of Aug. 30, and games start Friday, Sept. 10. The season runs through Saturday, Nov. 13.

For more information or a registration form call the league's president, Mike Neal (395-5638) or see the group's web site, sanibelsoccer.org.

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The Island Reporter...#1

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Ahhh Tropical Paradise!
### FRIDAY PRIME TIME

**JULY 30, 2004**

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**JULY 31, 2004**

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### Turtle Totals 2004 Season

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<td>Captiva</td>
<td>63 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>248 449</td>
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</table>

### Totals this time last year:

| East End, Sanibel | 71 83 |
| West End          | 133 206 |
| Captiva           | 91 91 |
| Totals            | 307 382 |

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There are many reputable online vendors who offer thousands of plans designed by professional architects, in sizes ranging from 500 to 10,000 square feet. Before you start website surfing, try to decide what style home best suits the setting of your property. Do you want to save time and money by selecting a “Viking” “Family Home” like so many others? Most internet sites allow you to search by style, square footage, and numbers of bedrooms and bathrooms. If you can't find a plan online, you can contact local architects and designers who may offer stock plans that would fit your lifestyle requirements. Architectural plan books may also inspire you with ideas for your dream home design. Be sure to check that the plans you like are compatible with your local building code requirements and the climatic conditions in the area.

With the right blueprint, you are very close to your goal of building your dream home.

Margie specializes in Sanibel, Captiva and Ft Myers real estate. She was named Realtor of the Year by Sanibel and Captiva Assn. of Realtors in 2000 and 2002. Her new book, "How to Make Your Realtor Get You the Best Deal—South Florida Edition" is most readable if you're thinking of buying or selling. Call Margie at 839-8235 or e-mail her at MargieDavison@comcast.net.
loss of visitors to the island are costs that far exceed any costs of restricting the locations of alligators so they don't harm business.

My wife and I have dedicated our careers and lives to protecting the environment. The above measures are urgently needed.

-- Howard and Mary Ellen Ellis
Monticello, FL and Sunbelt

To the editor:

What marriage will mean a year from now is anybody's guess and Senators Graham and Nelson are partly to blame for the uncertainty. Our senatorial representatives had the chance this month, when voting on the Federal Marriage Amendment, to stand up for traditional marriage. They opted instead to open the door to cultural chaos. The defeat of the FMA means that the individual states are now free to define marriage in one state, unions of six men and three women in another. Now that the basic definition has been tampered with, anything goes. Is that what we hoped Senators Nelson and Graham would do for our state and our country when we elected them? Of course not. We should remember their actions the next time they beg our support at the ballot box.

Oddly enough, of the 105 senators given the opportunity to stand for or against traditional marriage, only two dissembled: Senators John Kerry and John Edwards. These two men, present in Congress for more influence in this nation, refused to use the influence they already have. Whether out of political cowardice, or moral ambiguity, the challenging presidential candidate and his recently-named running mate plow a middle road, leaving citizens worried about their ability to lead. Our senators have acted; it is now our turn to hold them accountable.

-- Morgan Hendrix
Sanibel

So. Florida Water Management District to hold special meeting August 4

Representatives of the South Florida Water Management District traveled to Southwest Florida on Thursday to give a meeting with us regarding the proposed changes to the Lake Okeechobee release schedule and our request for a statutory reservation of water for the Caloosahatchee Estuary. The meeting will run from 9:00 a.m. to Noon next Wednesday (August 4th) in the 4th Floor meeting room of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council in North Fort Myers.

Over the past two and a half years, the Watershed Council has repeatedly asked the District to issue a statutory reservation of water to meet the needs of the Caloosahatchee Estuary during the dry months of the year. We have been joined in these requests by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Thus far, our requests have been rejected (for lack of a better term), by the Executive Director Chip Merriam and other senior staff members of the District have agreed to talk with us about the issue, as well as concerns that we all have about recently proposed changes to the management regime of Lake Okeechobee.

A number of Watershed Council members, many of whom represent local governments, agencies and organizations, are planning to attend the meeting.

Twilight Golf Rates Available

SUNDAY PRIME TIME

SATURDAY PRIME TIME

SUNDAY MORNING

SUNDAY AFTERNOON
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The Blotter contains public information obtained from the Sanibel Police Department. All persons arrested are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

POLICE BEAT

JULY 18 — JULY 26, 2004
Compiled by Jenny Burnham
Sanibel Captiva Times

07/19/04 Report for Insurance Purposes

Jerry Mundt of Sanibel brought copies of emails he had received that promoted an internet scam. The scam requested personal identification information in order to claim lottery winnings. SRO Kurt Schulte advised Mr. Mundt that the Secret Service handles such reports, and faxed the emails to the local office.

07/19/04 Verbal Dispute

In 1994, SRO Schulte was dispatched to a report of a verbal dispute at Cottages on Castles on Periwinkle Way. Ms. Michie, the owner, had an argument over paperwork with a man. The officer told the with her daughter, Sharon, had had in a verbal argument with a white male who left the scene in a black pickup truck. Sharon Michie got into her vehicle and followed the truck easterly on Periwinkle. Both vehicles were pulled over on Periwinkle Way. Ms. Michie stated that she had an argument over paperwork with a man who was seen urinating into the box at 2304 hours. Ms. Michie told the officer her daughter, Sharon, had had the man was trespassing, and she left. She followed him.

Steve Gibson of Mooresto, IN, reported observing Ms. Michie yelling at a family who were cutting through her property. Ms. Michie stated that the problem is worse when the sidewalk floods. Detective Slater advised the officer her daughter, Sharon, had had an argument over paperwork with a man who was seen urinating into the box at 2304 hours. Ms. Michie told the officer her daughter, Sharon, had had the man was trespassing, and she left. She followed him.

07/20/04 Found Property

Mitchel Gonzales of Sanibel reported finding a 55 gallon metal drum washed up on Bowman’s Beach one-half mile west of the footbridge. The Sanibel Department of Public Works and Detective Slater responded. A crew removed the drum, which was full of diesel fuel, from the beach and transported it to the DPW for disposal.

07/20/04 Report for Insurance Purposes

Jeffrey Graviss of Fort Myers reported that her 2004 Kawasaki motorcycle was knocked over in the parking lot of the Sanibel Island Chamber of Commerce and was unsecured and unattended. The officer noted that she had no marks or bruises on either party. Ms. Michie stated that she had an argument over paperwork with a man who was seen urinating into the box at 2304 hours. Ms. Michie told the officer her daughter, Sharon, had had the man was trespassing, and she left. She followed him.

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07/20/04 Assist Person

Officer Brenda Hurst responded to a report of a man walking through her commercial property on Periwinkle Way. Ms. Michie stated that she had an argument over paperwork with a man who was seen urinating into the box at 2304 hours. Ms. Michie told the officer her daughter, Sharon, had had the man was trespassing, and she left. She followed him.

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07/20/04 Assist Person

Officer Crandon responded to a complaint from Steve Gibson of MooresviUe, IN, reported observing Ms. Michie yelling at a family who were cutting through her property. Ms. Michie stated that the problem is worse when the sidewalk floods. Detective Slater advised the officer her daughter, Sharon, had had an argument over paperwork with a man who was seen urinating into the box at 2304 hours. Ms. Michie told the officer her daughter, Sharon, had had the man was trespassing, and she left. She followed him.

07/20/04 Criminal Mischief

An employee at a bank on Periwinkle Way discovered that an unknown perpetrator had urinated into the night deposit box. The incident was recorded on bank security cameras. Security tapes showed a white juvenile wearing shorts and a tee shirt urinating into the box at 2304 hours on July 14.

07/20/04 Missing Property

Lynd Kaufman, of Glen Allen, VA, reported to Sgt. Willie Williams of the Sanibel Police Department that her 2004 Toyota Sienna, a gray van containing bracelets and an ornamental shell outside Pandora’s Box on Periwinkle Way.

07/20/04 Assault

Officer Mark Steele gave Orellana Guarra a Notice to Appear for littering after he observed the defendant depositing a commerically generated waste into a city dumpster on city property that is used for picnicking. The officer also issued a warning to the defendant’s employer, Michael Rembrandt.

07/20/04 Suspicious Incident

Officer Smith responded to a report from Lorin Backlund of Tahitian Gardens that a newspaper stand and potted plants had been overturned at the center during the night. The mesquite started at the Sanibel Cafe and ended at 07:30 hours. The stands and plants were returned to the upright position.

07/20/04 Suspicious Incident

The Sanibel Police Department received two phone calls regarding suspicious activity on Periwinkle Way. At 20:35 Periwinkle Way, newspaper stands and potted plants were found overturned and placed at the front door of a local business. At 21:15 Periwinkle Way, newspaper stands and trash cans were overturned. No other damage was reported, and cleanup was easily completed. Officer Kakinishi recommended that anyone who witnessed the suspicious activity call the police and save any evidence, including video tape from the store’s security cameras, which showed two juveniles kicking over plants at 2301 hours.

07/20/04 Assist Person

At 2053 hours, Officer Sutton met with Sharon Michie of Cottages on Castles regarding an ongoing property dis-
**Yamaha Banchee ATV 350**


**Boat**

**ALUMINUM JON BOAT.**

**Johnson 20 HP., electric start, long shaft with remote Yamaha motor Impeller, carb rebuilt. $900. (239) 463-1339**

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**OVER THE BRIDGE**

**Fishing pier, swimming pool - Tennis - Boat Dock.**

**MID-ISLAND**

**SUNSET-CAPTIVA**

**3 Bedroom/2 Bath Home**

**Private Beachfront Community. Fully furnished.**

**BEACH VILLAS:**

**Destin, Florida.**

**Vacation Home.**

**BEACHFRONT FOR RENT:**

**GULF-FRONT**

**ANNUAL RENTALS**

**TODAY IS THE DAY**

**SOUTH SEAS RESORT**

**SOUTH-SEAS-RESORT**

**FOR RENT**

**WEEKLY RENTALS**

**SOUTH-SEAS-RESORT**

**FORT MYERS**

**HISTORIC FORT MYERS.**

**CAPTIVA ISLAND**

**ISLAND REPORTER**

18 • Week of July 29 - August 4, 2004 • ISLAND REPORTER
FORECAST FOR JULY 31 & AUGUST 1

FT. SATURDAY ? P.M.
Showers to lower temps slightly.

SUNDAY A.M. P.M.
More warm weather with a chance of rain in the afternoon to evening.

WEEKDAY TIDES
Cape Coral 8:45 AM 3:12 AM 9:18 AM 3:39 AM
Port Charles 9-31 PM 4:19 PM 11:21 PM 5:41 PM
Cape Coral 9:00 AM 3:34 AM 9:19 AM 3:50 AM
Fort Myers 10:24 PM 5:01 PM 11:27 AM 6:23 AM
Matlacha Pass 11:13 AM 2:39 AM 11:46 AM 3:10 PM
Captiva at Redfish Pass 12:55 PM 6:23 AM 11:21 AM 6:23 AM
Fort Myers 1:03 PM 7:08 AM 12:19 AM 7:21 AM
Point Ybel 1:40 PM 7:21 AM 12:29 AM 7:33 AM
Punta Rassa 2:35 AM 7:21 PM 12:37 AM 7:39 AM
St. James City 3:03 PM 7:59 AM 12:45 AM 8:07 AM
Punta Rassa 8:29 AM 1:26 PM 8:56 AM 2:09 PM
Punta Rassa 9:05 AM 1:59 PM 9:29 AM 2:32 PM
St. James City 9:45 AM 1:33 PM 10:13 AM 2:55 PM

PORT CHARLOTTE
88/73 Sat
CHARLOTTE
COUNTY
PUNTA GORDA
88/74 Sat
89/76 Sun

BOCA GRANDE
86/79 Sat
86/78 Sun

LEE COUNTY
PINELAND
91/72 Sat
86/79 Sun

BOATING FORECAST
Wind: West at 8 mph
Seas: 2-3 Feet
Bay & inland: Moderate Chop

GET YOUR FORECAST FIRST ON FOX.
WACH FOX 4 NEWS AT 10:00
Brushing up on no-brush painting

"Start your sprayers." When it comes to equipment that competes, do-it-yourselfers are neck and neck with professionals. A big reason for this is that airless paint sprayers are no longer just a tool for the pros. More and more homeowners, property managers and entry-level contractors have learned that using an airless paint sprayer for painting jobs can save time and money. Compared to brushes and rollers, airless sprayers are more efficient and deliver a more professional finish.

Consider this: Hiring a team of professionals to paint a house can cost thousands of dollars. In today's economy, sometimes that isn't practical. A common misconception is that you compromise on quality when you do it yourself. With today's technology in airless spray equipment, that is not the case. Do-it-yourselfers can purchase a downsized model of an airless sprayer, with the same technology as contractor-level units at their local home improvement store.

Choosing the right sprayer depends on the type of painting you are using and how much you are going to paint. Here are some tips from the experts on choosing the right sprayer for you:

- If you are purchasing a sprayer to be used around your house, most likely you are going to be spraying latex or oil-based materials and using the unit two to three times a year. Look for something that is portable, easy to store and easy to clean, so you can get the job done fast and clean up with no hassle. Wagner's Twin Stroke 9140 is an example of an airless sprayer that would be fitting for the homeowner. It is a competition in portability and performance in this class of sprayer and has the technology, capacity and durability of professional-grade equipment to deliver a high-quality finish.

- Property managers who are going to be spraying more than the occasional wall or fence will want something with slightly faster flow and higher capacity for larger areas. Wagner's Twin Stroke 9150 sits on a rugged cart for big-job mobility and features a removable handle for convenient transport and storage. This would be a good choice for a property manager. With proper cleaning and care, the 9150 will spray up to 200 gallons of paint annually.

- For entry-level contractor work, you'll need something with slightly higher performance than the property manager's equipment. For this work, you'll need one that provides the performance required for a wide variety of applications, such as Wagner's Twin Stroke 970. It has a 300-gallon-per-year capacity and features a rugged cart for mobility and a removable handle for easy transport and storage as you work from job to job. The Wagner piston pumps are the airless sprayers used most by homeowners. To learn more, visit www.wagnerpspraytech.com.

Go Figure —

A new calculator aimed at DIY fans

Whether it calls for wallpaper, paint or nails, the key question for any home improvement project is often, "how much do I need?" Now, there's a device that's said to help Do-It-Yourself fans calculate that answer—and it can fit in the palm of their hand.

The device calculates answers based on feet and inches and fractions, as well as yards and meters. It even works in and converts to precise fractions, such as 64ths.

Called the ProjectCalc Plus, it features built-in automatic solution keys for finding the exact amount of material needed for just about any home improvement project, including rolls of wallpaper, gallons of paint and number of tiles. Plus, it can also calculate how much paneling, drywall, carpeting, flooring, decking, fencing, roofing, bricks, blocks, bags of concrete, mulch, gravel is needed, and more.

Unlike the online project calculators often seen on DIY Web sites, this palm-sized device can help consumers save time and money anywhere or anywhere at home, in the shop or at your local home center—and you don't need a computer to run it.

The device can also help to eliminate the costly errors that can occur when conversion calculations are performed by hand or a regular calculator. It also helps users figure areas, volumes and quantities required for many commonly used building materials.

The device, which is made by Calculated Industries, sells for under $20 and can be found in the measuring tools department of major home centers and hardware stores.

To learn more about this and other products available from Calculated Industries, call 1-800-854-8075 or visit www.projectcalc.com.