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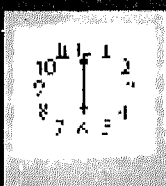
Since 1961

Vol. 42, No. 7

Week of April 4 -10, 2003

2 Sections • A - 16 Pages

Spring forward



Set clocks *ahead*
Saturday night

Relay for Life —
David Lowden tells a
compelling story of
his dedication to this
important cause.

— See page 14 A

Lions' Club
Arts & Crafts Fair
Pictures and details
— See page 2 B

Seahorse Music
Festival —
Coming to BIG ARTS
April 11
— See page 6 B

SCCF Tennis Tourney

Stop by to see great tennis and to put in your last bid on SCCF's Tennis Tournament silent auction items at the Dunes this weekend. Clipper Small Ship Adventures has donated a trip for two to Costa Rica and the Panama Canal worth over \$7,000. The winner will be announced Sunday afternoon, April 6.



Photo by Michael Pistella

Clockwise from top left: Marianne Ravenna, Myra Roberts, and Elaine Adler; in center: Teresa Kostruballa. These are the artists who created the geckos shown as part of the Sanibel Cares Charity Auction to be held on Saturday, April 5, at the Sanibel Community House to raise funds for children's health. See page 9 for more details.

Spring Fling —
CPOA starts its second annual
fund-raiser auction with
intriguing items up for bid
— See page 8 A

Optimist Club —
Selects two of Sanibel's finest
for top honors .
— See page 7 A

Sanibel Beautification keeps on movin'

By Faye Granberry

Under threatening dark clouds, 18 Sanibel Beautification, Inc. volunteers met Saturday, March 22, at 8 a.m., shovels in hand, at the four corners of the

Lindgren area to continue the landscaping of the Boulevard — under the watchful eye of Bill Blauvelt of Southern Traditional's Landscaping.

The volunteers come from many backgrounds and for different reasons. One of

the newest is Fran Poder of Stamford, Conn., who has been visiting the Island for 18 years and expects to be a full time resident in four more, came to plant for the first time on Saturday. She had been impressed with the beauty what Sanibel Beautification had done previously and was eager to be a part of the program.

Jim Gould, a seasoned landscape expert, horticulturist for 27 years, and owner of Green Earth Landscape for the past two years, has been an active volunteer. He believes SBI is a marvelous way to continue to beautify an already beautiful Island. And, Gould says, this project gives enthusiastic volunteers the opportunity to help create something beautiful and permanent on Sanibel. "Volunteers play an important part because the City of Sanibel has other major demanding projects that leave little time or dollars to spend on the major landscaping project that the SBI as has designed."

Gould plans to spend the rest of his life on the Island with his spouse after his two children, ages 12 and 14, are raised. "The Island is safe, comfortable and truly a paradise," he said. As to the future, he sees homeowners soon moving to smaller lawns since grass requires watering for 45 minutes three times a week while native plants require fewer than 20 minutes three times a week to become established — then grow on their own rather successfully. His favorite plant? the dwarf firebird. Tree? the Gumbo Limbo, known for its unusual bark and growth process.

Mary Kay Burhe, originally from Chicago suburbs, now of Henderson, N.C., is a cousin of Marge Keller who has lived on the Island for eleven years. Mary Kay arrived on Friday and on Saturday was hard at work planting.

Keller is a Master Gardener from Wisconsin. On the island for four months each year, she volunteers for SBI as a trail guide and on native plant projects. She says the first time she visited the Island she fell in love with its beauty and spiritually found a sense of her child within. Her passion is to be here on a permanent basis and contribute her labor and expertise to



L-R: On the job, a few members of the Sanibel Beautification Committee: Carolyn Dix, Fran Poder, Paul Reynolds, and Faye Granberry.

maintain and to develop the beauty of the Island.

Victor and Carolyn Dix love to be a part of beautifying the world and caring for nature. Victor admits that spouse Carolyn talked him into his first volunteer day. Now they participate every planting day. They arrived on Sanibel on a permanent basis from Ohio in 1997 and have never looked back. They started visiting in 1973 when their four children were small. A special achievement award presented to them for their Landscaped for Wildlife yard is treasured. Carolyn, who has a constant, beautiful smile, worked with cell phone in hand — they were expecting a call, any minute, about the birth of their grandchild (see page 4).

Paul Reynolds, now working for Century 21/J.B. Novelli Internationale, a recent full time resident and devoted planting day volunteer, has become quite an expert at digging the holes. He comments often, "I love Sanibel, too, and I am never leaving." His good sense of humor keeps the planting group laughing.

Volunteers include Bill Blauvelt, Nancy McNeill, Paul Reynolds, Jim Gould, Connie Taylor, Marge Keller, Mary Kay Burhe, Bob Maupin, Carolyn and Victor Dix, Fran Poder, Karen Fichthorn, Robin Krivanek, Alan Winslow, Mona Backes, Michael Armstrong, Patricia Kern and Faye Granberry.

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Dave Horton



Lee Horton



UP PERISCOPE

Ah, Periwinkle...
whither thy Playhouse?

These islands form a community that offers more volunteer work with greater enthusiasm and competence than any other I have seen. It is especially noteworthy and heartwarming to see the breadth of participation.

Yes, a lot of people show up in several different venues. There are ample opportunities to serve the environment, the arts and the community at large. Many islanders manage to serve in several different capacities in a variety of organizations, a remarkable notion in itself.

Perhaps then, it should have been no surprise that a bunch of people from disparate backgrounds recently emerged

RENNY SEVERANCE
Editor

from every nook and cranny to help the Sanibel Community Association inaugurate the Periwinkle Playhouse with its premiere production of *Final Arrangements* by a local writer.

[Why is it that nooks are all over the place, but you never find a cranny without a nook? What is a cranny anyway? But I digress...]

It was nonetheless heartwarming to see the community rise to the occasion to make the thing a success — even to elevate it from a dramatic reading to a full production. It was especially delightful in that the cast and crew were also volunteers, many on stage and backstage for the first time in their lives. Fortunately, there was one definite non-amateur in the production and J.T. Smith's depth of professional-

ism was able to elevate this show beyond mere civic duty to the level of true entertainment.

But as much as the show was a celebration of a new beginning, it was also an important fund-raiser to ensure the continuation of these islands' rich theatrical tradition. Once again, the community responded admirably as reported by Sanibel Community Association and recently discovered thespian, Ann Arnoff.

While the exact future of the Periwinkle Playhouse is unclear at this writing, it is clear that there is wide community support for the idea in some fashion. I suspect it is in very good hands at this point and I look forward to learning more about the direction it will take.

Stay tuned — break a leg!

COLUMNISTS

The Metastatic Life
Lisa Pierot
— page 5 AArtist Profile
Nancy Santeusano
— page 8 BMusic Review
Harold Lieberman
— page 4 BCenter Stage
Marsha Wagner
— page 10 B

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HAPPENINGS

1st Annual Poker Pedal

Mark your calendar for Sunday, April 27. The Sanibel-Captiva Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will be sponsoring its 1st annual "Poker Pedal." Hop on your bicycle or rent one of ours. Bring your friends and family. Pick up a map at the registration area at Bank of the Islands (across from Jerry's). Visit seven of the 15 business locations designated on the map and collect a playing card at each stop. The best poker hands win. Time is not a factor, but each participant must complete their route between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Grand prizes include a new bicycle, resort get-a-ways, and beautiful jewelry.

Pre-registration is \$20. Registration the day of the event is \$25. Entry forms are available at Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank, the Bank of the Islands, Billy's Rentals, Tom Louwer's Tax and Accounting, Three Crafty Ladies, and Island Graphics. Each participant will receive a fabulous T-shirt provided by The Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank, and have an opportunity to attend a great party at the Community Center from 2 - 4 p.m. during which the prizes will be awarded. The festivities will also include a Chinese auction and a 50-50 raffle.

All proceeds will benefit the ABWA scholarship fund. The association provides scholarships to local women in need of college financial assistance. Currently eight college students and four high school

students are being assisted in the Take Stock in Children program. The Take Stock program awards ninth grade students four-year tuition scholarships upon graduation if they earn good grades and remain crime and drug-free. Please help make a difference in young women's lives by investing in their education.

Kayak Clinic announced

Lee County Parks & Rec Kayak Clinic at Manatee Park — Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. 'til 11 a.m. This chance to learn the basics of kayaking includes a guided paddle on the Orange River. \$27.50 per person includes all equipment. To reserve a spot, call Connie at 694-5513.

Leukemia & Lymphoma survivorship program

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Bons Secour Parish Nurses Program are sponsoring a free educational program for all cancer patients, family members and caregivers on April 10 at the Port Charlotte United Methodist Church. Cancer — *Keys to Survivorship and Coping Spiritually* will begin at 9:30 a.m. with registration. The program commences at 10 a.m. and should be over at 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Attendees will learn information and skills necessary to advocate for themselves in the areas of strategies for self-improve-

ment, communicating with health care providers, fatigue, and coping spiritually.

For further information call Nancy Fessenden at (239) 992-5781 for reservations. Remember to keep Thursday, April 10, for all Leukemia/Lymphoma survivors.

Final Seniors bazaar

Don't miss out on the Island Seniors Bazaar Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be November before you have this opportunity again! The Bazaar will once again have unique offerings in their Trash 'n' Treasures area, a large variety of baked goods, plus delicious food you can purchase and new friends you can make while you shop. The Seniors Bazaars are always fun. The Senior Center is located at the corner of Palm Ridge and Library Way.

Vendors may rent tables for \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Please call Pat at 472-8078 to rent a table and Yolande at 395-3372 if you need more information.

AARP open forum

All you ever wanted to know about Sanibel... and more

A very special meeting of San-Cap AARP will present an open forum with a number of long-time Sanibel residents discussing their memories of life on the island in the '60s and '70s. Featured will be two residents who went to school on Sanibel many years ago, and two who recall life here in the days prior to mushrooming condos. Anyone can ask questions.

The meeting is Friday, April 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Island Senior Center — a pleasant way to meet fellow islanders, enjoy a program, refreshments and fellowship.

Christian Women's Club meets

The Sanibel-Captiva Christian Women's Club March meeting is on Thursday, April 10, at Sundial from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The luncheon will feature "Let's Paint Lithuanian Easter Eggs" and "Shirts." Carolyn Pruette will speak on "It's a Plain Vanilla Story with a Few Lit Firecrackers." Music will be provided by Ted and Ruth Rodgers.

Cost of the luncheon is \$15 inclusive and reservations are required. Call Katie

Reynolds at 395-0858 or Jean Wilson at 472-2017. Reservations made but not honored must be paid for.

New baby in town

Isabella Ray was born to Sanibel resi-



Isabella Ray Dix

dents Monica and Daniel Dix on March 23, 2003, weighing in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces.


Isabella's grandparents are Carolyn and Victor Dix, also of Sanibel, and Sally and Richard Leeke of Pittsburgh.

The new parents own The Bean of Sanibel... A Beanie Baby, perhaps?

Fire on the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve

Presented by Charlotte Harbor Aquatic and State Buffer Preserves and the Friends of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves

If you've ever wondered why government agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Division of Forestry, the Florida State Parks, and other branches of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection including the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve field office conduct prescribed burns on public lands, plan on making a visit to the Sanibel Public Library at 770 Dunlop Road or the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), 3333 Sanibel - Captiva Road. A traveling exhibit entitled Fire on the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve is being presented by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Charlotte Harbor Aquatic and State Buffer



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THE METASTATIC LIFE

"If fishing is a religion, fly fishing is high church."

— Tom Brokaw

Fathers and daughters — I have set myself a hard task here. My dad is going in to have a second hip replacement this month and I am thinking so much about what he means to me; what fathers mean to their daughters.

My father is a giant man with a giant wit and humor to match. He is an artist and a bread-maker. He is a computer geek. He loves conversation. After his prostate cancer he went on hormone therapy so he has very little testosterone. I started calling him the "Kinder Gentler Dad." We never know when something might move him to tears and when it happens his tears combine with great belly-laughs as though he understands the sweet joy that comes from being able to cry openly around people, a joy that few men ever experience or understand.

When I was a small child I thought my father was the greatest man in the entire world. He was my hero and could do no wrong. As I got older I learned that he wasn't perfect, but I still wanted more than anything to please him, to get his attention.

He fished at a trout club that was about a two hour drive from home. My two sisters and I each got a turn to go with him. I remember the day I went I was probably 10. He woke me up while it was still dark and we got the fly rods into the car. We arrived by 7 a.m. and there was an early morning fog over everything.

We went down a long driveway and I saw a big old lodge with trout streams running through the surrounding fields. I fol-

lowed my dad as he walked along the streams and watched him cast his line in the air back and forth. It made great lassos against the backdrop of the sky, and then, when the time was just right, he would release the line and it would land perfectly atop the water.



Lisa Pierot

He walked the banks fishing with me in tow. When he caught a fish we would stop and he would let me look at it and then he would remove the hook from its mouth and put the fish in this special vest that he wore. I was in awe of the entire day, the way the fog slowly lifted revealing sunlit trees and dew on the grass and the smell of the smoke coming from the lodge's chimney.

We took a break at lunch and ate inside. My dad talked to the other anglers and I thought how he must be the most interesting man in the world. I felt so proud to be with him, just me, for a day.

He tried to show me how to cast; I caught a fish and he made a big deal about it. The guy in the ice house cleaned our trout and we packed them in a cooler and headed for home. I fell asleep on the way and it was dark when he pulled in our driveway and carried me into the house.

All these years later, I can still picture my dad fishing that day. Even now on days when he can hardly walk at all, I remember in my mind's eye this tall, fluid man walking the banks with his arm casting that great line, out over the stream and back in again behind him and then again. It is, for me, a memory that I keep as one special day with my father. And I realize now that I am 45, to me, he is still the greatest man in the whole world. — Until next week...

Happenings, continued

Preserves field office and the Friends of the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserves.

The display was funded through a grant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. The display will be on exhibit in the library through April 11, 2003.

From the library, Fire on the Charlotte Harbor State Buffer Preserve will travel to SCCF, where it will remain through April 28th.

Visit the Sanibel Public Library and the Sanibel - Captiva Conservation Foundation to learn more about fire ecology, fire as a recurring force of nature that shaped Florida's ecosystems, and the benefits of prescribed fire.

The display may be of particular interest to Sanibel residents who live in the "wildland urban interface", those areas where homes meet combustible vegetation and are subject to risk from fire. Information concerning the steps and precautions that individuals may take to ensure that their homes and landscaping are defensible from fire or "firewise" is also available.

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Wed., 11:15 am

Spring Breakers survive Survivor!

The three tribes of middle schoolers are back from the Jungles of Cayo Costa! On Wednesday, March 19, three teen tribes set sail for the island of Cayo Costa for a two-day camping excursion called Quest for the Shield of Zuni. They have now safely returned to civilization after an exciting forty-eight hours of adventure and action over Spring Break.

All the tribes were competing in Survivor-like games for the coveted Shield of Zuni, which was excavated from an archeological site on a remote part of the island. Competition ranged from scavenger hunts to water relays and trivia exercises. The big points were awarded at night during the complete-with-war-paint-and-costumes tribal dances and chants.

Competition was fierce as tribe Tyteemyondi edged out the Ooga Boogas and the Oopadoopadoos for first place. The Tyteemyondi also earned bragging rights to the ancient shield for the remainder of the 2003 school year. Engraved into the back of the old wooden shield will be the names of each year's winning warriors. The history of the elder tribes will thus be

passed on to future Zuni generations who attempt to brave the quest.

The group feasted on a variety of burgers, dogs, peanut butter and, of course, chips du jour. Marshmallow roasting was also a mainstay of night-time activity.

Four tents were pitched gulfside at the north end of the island (not one whiff of red tide the entire trip). Great breezes kept the camp bug free, as well, and a full moon lit the way for a night-time cemetery walk — excellent camping conditions for this time of year. Campsites were secured by Florida State Parks Reserve America and Captiva Cruises provided transportation to the island.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of a veteran staff and a great bunch of kids, this was a very successful first time over-nighter for the Sanibel Recreation Teen Program.

Next Saturday evening, April 14, from 7 to 9 p.m., the Rec Center is sponsoring a Teen Open Gym Nite free of charge to all 6th, 7th and 8th Graders. Guitars, CDs and off-island friends are all welcome!

For more information, call Dave or Nick at 472-0345.

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OBITUARIES

Eleanor Boyd Johnson

Former Brooklandville, Md. and Sanibel snowbird, Ellie Johnson, died of breast cancer on Feb. 8, 2002 in Baltimore. She was 80 at the time of her death and had moved with her husband of many years, Jerry, from the Currier & Ives setting of their home, Silk Purse, in Brooklandville (just north of Baltimore) to Roland Park Place in town in 2001.

Born Eleanor Boyd in Philadelphia and raised in Chestnut Hills, Johnson was the daughter of Joseph Fulton Boyd, an official of the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Eddystone, Pa., and the granddaughter of Union General Joseph Boyd who led a successful escape from Richmond's notorious Libby Prison during the Civil War. She was a graduate of the Springside School, served as secretary to the headmaster of the William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia and worked in San Francisco during World War II.

In 1946 she married orthopedic surgeon, J.T.H. Johnson, now a retired, who survives her. "Eleanor was an ardent conservationist and was instrumental in obtaining historic and conservation easements on her own and other Green Spring Valley properties," he said. She was an avid gardener, former president of the St. George Garden Club, and planted about 20,000 daffodils bulbs, plus many other varieties of shrubs and trees, on the grounds of her home, which was often included on Maryland house and garden tours.

She had served on the boards of Children's Hospital and the Center for Reconstructive Surgery in Baltimore and the Pickersgill and Broadmead retirement communities.

Johnson was a docent at the Baltimore Museum of Art for 17 years until "retiring" in 1999, conducting general as well as specialized tours of the museum's various holdings. Her interests included the museum's 1,400-year-old Antioch mosaics and Maryland-crafted furniture. She also donated two Rembrandt Peale portraits to the museum, in addition to a 19th Century American mariner pattern quilt and a print by American painter and sculptor Leonard Baskin.

"Ellie was wonderful," said Ellen F. Gottfried, an administrative assistant in the BMA's Education Department, in a Feb. 14th story in the Baltimore Sun. "She made you feel as though the works of art were her friends and she was introducing you to them... She was always prepared and did all of her own research. With Ellie, you never had to worry because you knew she just knew it."

She enjoyed birdwatching on her own and with her husband, Jerry, a former president of the San-Cap Audubon Society, and conducting birding tours for children at the Clyburn Arboretum. On Sanibel, she was an active member of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and, like her husband, served on the board of San-Cap Audubon.

"She and Jerry lived their commitment to conservation," Kristie Anders, SCCF director of education said.

Ellie was one of those rare people who saw and thought about only you when she was talking to you, regardless of the commotion that might surround her. I was introduced to her just before a Thursday night Audubon meeting — 150-200 people milling around. And I had actually been to Brooklandville — a very dear friend of mine had lived just down the lane from Ellie and Jerry. "No one's ever heard of Brooklandville," she laughed that night, "much less been there."

Where they lived (probably all or most of Brooklandville) fronted on an old post road complete with stagecoach stop and milestone marker (a retired millstone). The wood-frame, two-story houses — perched atop fieldstone-walled basements — had once been the quarters on a large estate, of which the most significant remaining part was an enormous yellow, four-square barn — plus these several houses and the land itself, which included what was once, probably, a spring-fed pond, concrete sided now for "modern"-day swimming (read that: 30 years ago).

My friend had been killed in a freak accident in downtown Baltimore; meeting the Johnsons was like being in touch with June once again.

Johnson was a long-time member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Ruxton, Md., where a memorial service was held on Feb. 22.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son, Dr. William Fell Johnson of Santa Fe, N.M.; two daughters — Polly Bayrd of Minnetonka, Minn., and Anne T. Johnson of St. Paul; and seven grandchildren.

—AWB

Howard John Seyffer

Former Sanibel resident Howard Seyffer, 85, of Charlottesville, died unexpectedly Monday, March 24, 2003 at the University of Virginia Hospital. Born January 9, 1918 in Brooklyn, New York, Seyffer spent his high school years in Shaker Heights, Ohio and graduated from Colgate University, where he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, in Hamilton, N.Y. in 1940. He served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II.

Seyffer began his career with Ford Motor Company in Jacksonville, Fla. and opened his own Ford dealership in Pittsfield, Mass. in 1946. Seyffer Ford was a popular and successful dealership and a great source of pride to him and his family. He was a man of faith and served as a deacon of the First Church of Christ Congregational in Pittsfield, where he was also a member of the choir. He was president of the Pittsfield Country Club in 1961.

In 1978 Seyffer retired, moved to the island and became active in the Nutmeg Village Condo Association, serving as treasurer for several terms. Twenty years later, he and his wife, Ada, moved to Westminster-Canterbury in Charlottesville to be near their children.

He assumed the role of chairman of the Christmas Fund and served for three years and worshipped at Charlottesville's Westminster Presbyterian Church.

In the four and a half years he lived at Westminster-Canterbury, Seyffer found the community to be caring and supportive to both his wife and himself. He treasured the friendships he made with neighbors and staff alike. His family would express deep gratitude to the entire community at WCBR.

Seyffer was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Ada Marshall Seyffer, and his parents, Charles John Seyffer and Louise Hummel Seyffer.

He is survived by five children: four daughters — Barbie Renton, and Peggy Rice, and her husband, Peter of Madison, Ada Patterson, and Marty Van Santwood and her husband, Buzz, of Orange; and a son — Charlie Seyffer, and Bonnie Bailey, of Rochelle; 11 grandchildren — Suzi and Chris Martin, Mollie and Will Seyffer, Peter Rice, Darcy Baker, Maggie Rice, Tobey, Emily and Hart Van Santwood, Martha Patterson; and eight great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by one brother, Kenneth W. Seyffer, and his wife, Lolita, of Holyoke, Mass. and a cousin, Viola Hofgren of Cutchogue, N.Y.

Seyffer was a devoted husband and father and was well loved in the community. He had a smile for and an interest in everyone he met. He loved the game of golf, was an avid walker with a purposeful stride, enjoyed music and loved to sing harmony. He met each day with a cheerful attitude. Most of all, he enjoyed his family and cherished the time he spent with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held this Sunday at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville. A reception for friends and family at Westminster-Canterbury will follow the service. Contributions in Seyffer's memory may be made to the Westminster-Canterbury Christmas Fund, 250 Pantops Mountain Road, Charlottesville, VA 22911. This fund is set up to reward the staff for all they contribute to make Westminster-Canterbury the special and caring place that it is.

Katherine W. Comella

Born Nov. 17, 1910 in Lyons, N.Y., long-time Sanibel resident Katherine Comella passed away on March 22, 2003. She had lived on the island since 1979.

Preceded in death by the late Phillip A. Comella, Katherine is survived by three sons — Thomas Comella, who lives on Sanibel; Charles Comella, a resident of Lyons; and Gene Comella of Boston; a sister — Rose VanValkenburg, also of Lyons; six grandchildren — Stephen and Christopher, Erin, Gregory, Matthew and John Paul Comella; a daughter-in-law — Erin Christine Comella; and one great-grandchild — Abigail Katherine Comella.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Katherine's honor may be made directly to Hope Hospice of Fort Myers. A memorial mass will be held at a later date.

Changing the taste of Captiva

Smoked Salmon, Herb Goat Cheese and Arugula Pizza
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Capresse Tropical with Bocconcini, Avocado, Maui Onions and Heirloom Tomato
Bamboo Steamed and Crispy fried Black Grouper with Spicy Asian Noodles
Sautéed Chilean Sea Bass with Anise Butter, Chanterelle Mushroom and Sea Beans
Seared Muscovy Duck Breast with Tamarind Garlic Sauce and Paw Paw Rice
Grilled Medallions of Tenderloin on a Bed of Crayfish Etoufee

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SERVICE CLUBS

It ain't about cows anymore

By Bob Wimbush

My 4H Club wasn't about cows and agriculture, but we were an exception. True, we were formed in a one-teacher, one-room K-8th grade school in the country where the bell didn't ring until 10 to 9 (when, appropriately, one of the students pulled on the rope that ran up through the ceiling) because we were farm kids and had chores in the morning. But our annual projects were on birds, or forestry or archery or aviation, not cows.



Susan Hedge and Joel Soobitsky

My club today would be the rule however, according to Susan Hedge, whose card proclaims her County Extension Director, Lee County Extension Service, Institute of Food & Agriculture Services, University of Florida. Let's face it, most rural schools have been supplanted by consolidated behemoth systems (Mine took that huge step backward while I was there) and, as it always has, 4H changed with the times. And adaptable it is. According to Kiwanian Joel Soobitsky who, prior to moving to Sanibel was the highest-ranking, non-elected 4H executive in the world, 4H still has over 6 million members, 18,000 staff, and over 40 million alumni.

And, although Florida ranks high among agricultural states (agriculture is Florida's second largest industry) when Susan talks about 4H, it ain't about cows. But, say 4H and "most people still think about farm kids."

4H clubs and projects are a federal program and an outgrowth of the university extension systems, themselves an outgrowth of the Land Grant Colleges, and they were designed to educate parents — through their kids! Farmers had neither the time nor resources to go to school, but families used

to have dinner together, and a lot of good stuff rubbed off.

Most of today's 4H-ers are urban, but 4H still teaches basic skills. There are camps and classes for babysitting (techniques and nurturing skills, toward which, according to Susan, "Boys seemed to gravitate the most"), Fun With Food (one session is in a restaurant kitchen), Sewing, Animal Safaris, Aeronautics Camps (includes a helicopter ride and is taught by a county pilot), Computer Camps, Horticulture Camps (several, actually, taught by master gardeners)... that just scratches the surface.

The program's overall emphasis includes teaching specific skills, of course, but also focuses on leadership and citizenship. Although we met during school hours and our teacher was also the leader, today's clubs are geared for non-school hours.

I learned parliamentary rules and how to run meetings in the 6th grade as president of a 4H Club, and the presentation skills, knowledge and interests kids acquire as part of their projects serve them well into the rest of their lives. Mine have.

Most, but not all, 4H programs are basically free to participants, and many have waiting lists. Susan, in fact, is about to hire another 4H agent just to keep up with demand in Lee County. What a wonderful thing to tie into to broaden and enrich a kid's current school experience.

4H already has and will provide the programs and the materials and, in many cases, the volunteer expertise to teach them. No need to reinvent the wheel here. All it takes is a leader and about 6 kids to start a club. Call 461-7500 and ask for Rhonda.

Kiwanis enjoys sumptuous breakfasts at the Island House on Wednesday, but I understand a Friday morning group (it too, claims to be a service club, a faint — or is it feint — imitation of Kiwanis) rates bagels and we apparently don't. If you can't live without bagels, visit another club. Or start a 4H Club here — enhance, rather than blemish your reputation, protect your gastrointestinal track, and learn to make your own.

Observation: Every week my word processor rates the intellectual level of this column. This week the Flesh-Kincaid Grade Level Rating (F-KGLR) is grade 11.1. Usually it's closer to 8 or 9. Could using "ain't" have anything to do with it?

Optimist Club honors Policemen of the Year



Optimist member Marie Gargano with Officer T.C. Tyus.



Kurt Schulte receives his award from club president John Basher.

On March 11, the Optimist Club of Sanibel Captiva presented its annual Policemen of the Year Award to two policemen who were nominated by club members for having performed activities that benefited either the community as a whole or its youth.

Officer T.C. Tyus was presented his award by club member Marie Gargano for his work with the Litter Committee during 2001 helping communicate to island contractors the need to keep their construction sites clean. He visited each site explaining the committee's focus on keeping debris from littering the island and was instrumental in helping the commit-

tee achieve one of its objectives of keeping the island litter free.

Kurt Schulte received his award from club president John Basher. Schulte, Sanibel School officer, was nominated by a number of club members as well as The Sanibel School administration. In addition to his drug awareness duties, he welcomes students daily, often singing and playing his guitar to entertain the younger students. Schulte also worked with the audio-visual students in preparation of The Silence Hurts, a two-part video which last year received national recognition. He and the students are currently working on a third one.

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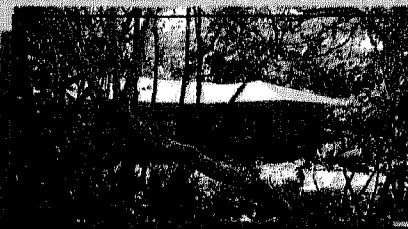
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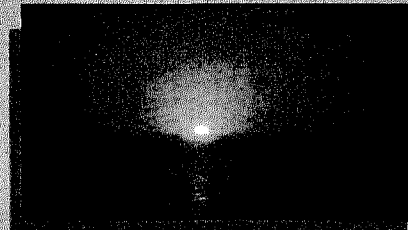
EAST ROCKS
686 Emeril Ct
3 BD / 2 BA & pool with lake view. \$699,900.00



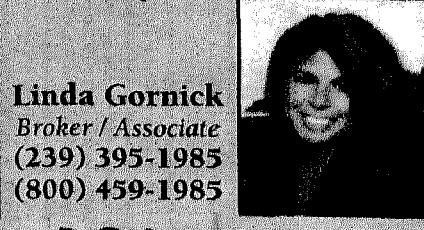
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CHADWICK'S SQUARE

Spring Fling offers vacation values

You can travel the world in style or simply enjoy the paradise right here in your own back yard with one of the many exciting vacation packages and amenities to be offered to the public at the upcoming Captiva Spring Fling on Friday, April 25.

Presented by the Captiva Island Property Owners Association, Inc. (CPOA), the Spring Fling will feature food, festivities and fun in the central setting of Chadwick's Plaza at the south end of South Seas Resort.

Restaurants from around the island will be serving up their finest, as music by the Troublestarters fills the air. There will be a full range of refreshments as well, and special events for the children are planned.

But the Fling's main event will be the live auction of a host of unique travel packages. Here are just some of the items to be offered:

- A three-night package to Costa Rica, including airfare, meals and tours.
- Five nights at Steamboat Grand Resort, including two four-day lift tickets.
- A four-day accommodation package with the Bridgestreet properties in London.
- A weekend golf package at Doral Eaglewood in Illinois.
- Accommodation packages for resorts in New Orleans, Harvard Square, Louisville, Scottsdale, Key West and Anchorage.
- A seven-night stay at "Tween Waters Inn.
- A one-week stay at Jensen's Twin Palm Resort & Marina.
- One-week stays at a number of island homes, including "The Pool House," "Island Girl," and a number of Sunset Captiva and South Seas sites.
- A variety of accommodation packages for premier Sanibel resorts.

There will also be a silent auction of island items and packages throughout the evening, as well as an online auction to be held in the weeks leading up to the Spring

Fling. (More details on the e-auction soon to come.)

The event is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. April 25, with the live auction set to start sometime after 7 p.m. Music and food will be offered throughout the event.

Proceeds from the Spring Fling will benefit the community planning effort now under way on Captiva, as well as support administrative activities of the CPOA. The CPOA is the local sponsor of the Captiva Community Panel, a nine-member land-use and planning advisory panel formed in conjunction with Lee County in January 2002. The first-ever Captiva Community Plan, initiated by the CPOA, was adopted in January 2003, and the Community Panel is currently formulating new policies for the Captiva Plan as well as crafting implementing language for those existing policies.

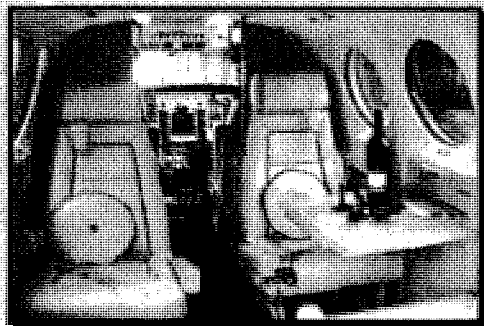
The CPOA is dedicated to preserving and enhancing Captiva Island through cooperative efforts with Lee County and the State of Florida. Supporters include year-round residents, part-time residents, off-island property owners, business owners and community leaders. The group's aim is to be as inclusive as possible, thus allowing everyone who loves Captiva a voice in the island's future.

The goals of CPOA:

- Foster frank and open discussion on issues affecting our island.
- Offer all Captivans an opportunity to debate the future of the island.
- Research and present alternatives to incorporation that will address current concerns without adding an additional layer of government on Captiva.
- Build consensus on solutions to island issues.
- Restore and enhance a constructive and interactive relationship with Lee County.

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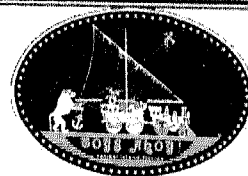
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Sanibel Cares Art Auction — Saturday, April 5

The geckos shown on the cover this week were painted by the artists shown to serve as decorations outside the Sanibel Community Center on Saturday, April 5 for the Third Annual Sanibel Cares Art Auction which starts at 6:30 p.m..

The wooden geckos were cut and donated by Mike Gill, shop teacher at Bishop Verot High School. Molnar Electric of Sanibel has donated spot lights and an electrician to illuminate them.

Sanibel Cares is a group of mothers formed in 2000 to help improve children's health care in the area. The proceeds this year will go to the Chrissy Brown Pediatric Inpatient Oncology Unit at the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. This unit was started by Steve and Lena Brown in memory of their daughter.

Sanibel Cares has raised in excess of \$350,000 at their past two events. This year, more than 60 works of art will be featured in both the live and silent auctions. In addition,

there will be several non-art items such as a private sunset cruise/cocktail party for 50 people aboard the Lady Chadwick. Music for the cruise will be provided by Danny Morgan.

The auctioneer will be Warren Schwab who will be assisted by celebrity guest Kelly Burns of NBC-2.

A preview is open to the public from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 5 at the Community House and bids will be accepted at the preview.

Letter to the editor

Members of the Sanibel Wildlife Committee and countless other islanders were shocked at Art Stevens' apparently uninformed and naive article in the March 14 issue of the *Islander*.

Sanibel's ordinance 00-23 section 10-9 prohibits the hand feeding of our birds. While Mr. Stevens' column might have been intended as satire, it was by no means clear.

He wrote that he threw food to them and predictable results followed. These gulls have been conditioned by other violators of the not-feeding-the-birds law and were further conditioned to harass by the described harmful and illegal actions.

In his own awkward and potentially misleading way, Mr. Stevens article does bring home to the public just why these laws exist. Feeding them makes them lose their fear of people which results in a loss of their natural feeding habitats, exposes them to injury in going after handouts, and may cause injury to those involved in this practice.

This issue is important enough that there should be no room for misunderstanding and, even in jest, it is dangerous to suggest that anyone might feed the wild birds at our beaches. Please, Mr. Stevens, when you go to the beach to watch the sunset, limit your involvement to watching the birds feed naturally at the water's edge, or catching their food from the sea.

**Vern Frankwich, Chairman
Sanibel Wildlife Committee**

Amish quilt won by Chicago visitor

The hand-applied Amish quilt offered as a raffle prize this season at Sanibel's Historical Village and Museum has been won by a visitor from Chicago.

Joyce Pilditch learned of her good fortune via a message left on her telephone recorder. The message was left by Mardi Ponader who chaired the quilt show as one of her varied volunteer jobs at the historical complex. Describing the return call, Mardi laughed, "She pretty much let her enthusiasm rip!"

Pilditch was excited and astounded at her good luck. "I couldn't believe what the message said: I won the quilt!"

She had vacationed at Best Western on West Gulf Drive and reported that she loved Sanibel, loved the beach and will find next year's visit hard-pressed to match this one.

The quilt originated in Amish country in Indiana where it was purchased last summer to be the raffle prize. It travelled to southwest Florida for the winter and is now back in the midwest at the home of Joyce Pilditch in the section of Chicago called Beverly Shores.

Ponader reports the raffle was a financial success for the historical village and assures all ticket buyers the proceeds are used exclusively to maintain, refurbish and buy appropriate artifacts to furnish the assorted buildings representing Sanibel's pioneering past. She thanks all those who contributed.

The drawing took place last week during the annual luncheon at the Island House Restaurant feting the volunteers who work throughout the year keeping the historical village open and operating.

The village is open each week Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.



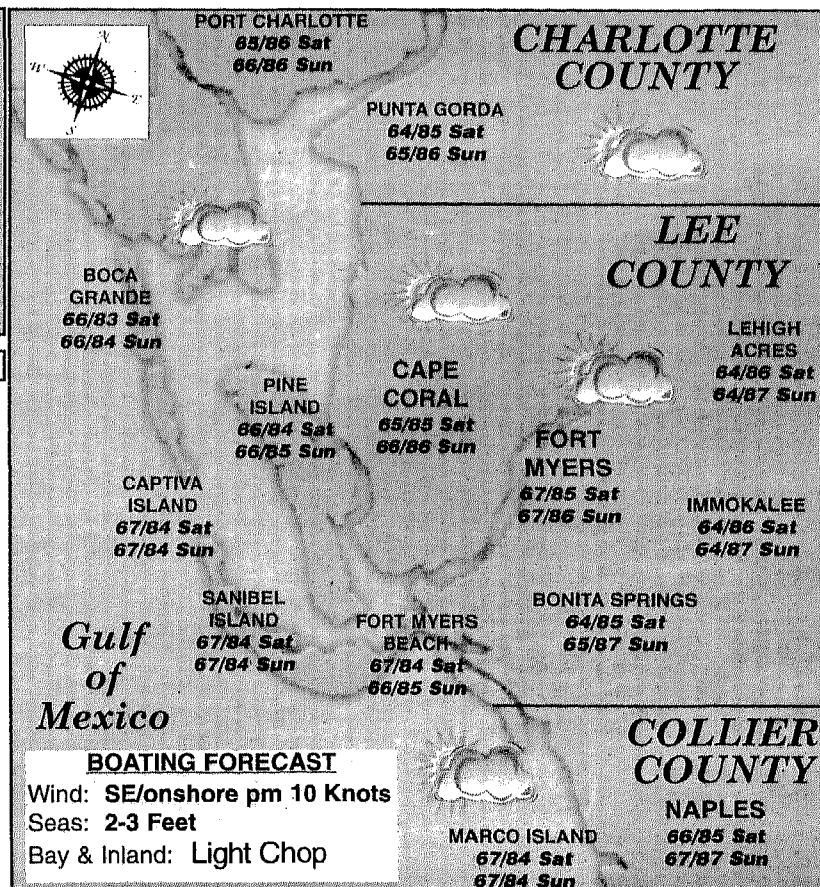
Joyce Pilditch of Chicago won this Amish quilt which was raffled by Sanibel's Historical Village as part of the annual Quilt Show.

WEEKEND FORECAST FOR APRIL 5 & 6

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Lots of sunshine and warm temps to start the weekend. And a p.m. seabreeze will cool off the coast.		More sunshine and a few afternoon clouds, temps will be above normal, in the mid and upper 80's. (Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead)	

WEEKEND TIDES

City	Sat. High	Sat. Low	Sun. High	Sun. Low
Cape Coral	5:44 a.m.	12:03 a.m.	7:43 a.m.	12:48 a.m.
Bridge	4:18 p.m.	11:03 a.m.	5:46 p.m.	12:17 p.m.
Captiva at Redfish Pass	3:34 a.m.	7:47 a.m.	5:33 a.m.	9:01 a.m.
Fort Myers	2:08 p.m.	9:32 p.m.	3:36 p.m.	11:24 p.m.
	5:11 p.m.	11:45 a.m.	6:39 p.m.	12:59 p.m.
Mallacha Pass	5:12 a.m.	10:29 a.m.	7:11 a.m.	12:14 a.m.
	3:46 p.m.	-	5:14 p.m.	11:43 p.m.
Pineland	4:10 a.m.	9:27 a.m.	6:09 a.m.	10:41 a.m.
	2:44 p.m.	11:12 p.m.	4:12 p.m.	-
Point Ybel	2:39 a.m.	7:49 a.m.	4:38 a.m.	9:03 a.m.
	1:13 p.m.	9:34 p.m.	2:41 p.m.	11:26 p.m.
Punta Rassa	3:28 a.m.	7:42 a.m.	5:27 a.m.	8:56 a.m.
	2:02 p.m.	9:27 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	11:19 p.m.
St. James City	3:59 a.m.	8:17 a.m.	5:58 a.m.	9:31 a.m.
	2:33 p.m.	10:02 p.m.	4:01 p.m.	11:54 p.m.



FOX 4 CAST



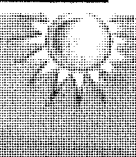
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Darren Sweeney
Meteorologist

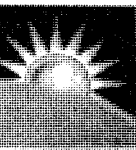
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STATE FORECAST-SATURDAY

CITY	LOW/HIGH
CAPE CORAL	65/85
DAYTONA BEACH	62/85
FT. LAUDERDALE	63/85
FT. MYERS BEACH	67/84
GAINESVILLE	62/85
JACKSONVILLE	62/82
KEY WEST	72/84
KISSIMEE	65/83
MIAMI	70/85
ORLANDO	65/83
PANAMA CITY	60/78
PENSACOLA	62/78
SARASOTA	65/85
ST. PETERSBURG	65/85
TALLAHASSEE	60/80
TAMPA	65/85
VERO BEACH	67/82
WEST PALM BEACH	63/85



SATURDAY
SUNRISE
6:15 AM



SATURDAY
SUNSET
6:47 PM

Eco Events

Wildfire Awareness Week

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson is urging residents to learn more about protecting themselves and their homes from the devastation of wildfires by observing Wildfire Awareness Week, April 6-12.

"Springtime in Florida is typified by dry, windy weather, which leads to increased wildfire activity throughout the state," Bronson said. "It is important that residents of our state take this opportunity to learn how to protect their lives and property."

Following Florida's disastrous wildfires of 1998, the governor and cabinet designated the second week in April each year as Wildfire Awareness Week.

Bronson noted that, while the state has received considerable rainfall in recent weeks, wind and humidity conditions can change quickly in Florida, increasing the potential for wildfires. "It only takes a second for an innocent trash fire to become a raging wildfire," Bronson said.

Bronson's Division of Forestry will promote Wildfire Awareness Week by helping inform residents about safe outdoor burning practices.

Put a manatee in your Easter Basket

This year, why not make room for a manatee in your child's Easter basket? Adopting a manatee is a great way to introduce children to the environment, a real hands-off (as opposed to hands-on and messy!) way to get to know animals. Proceeds from Save the Manatee Club's Adopt-A-Manatee program go toward conservation programs to protect endangered manatees and their habitat.

From now until April 30, each person who joins the Adopt-A-Manatee program online at \$30 or more will receive a manatee adoption packet and a free plush manatee toy while supplies last. The plush manatee is an alternative to purchasing a live chick or bunny for a child and an opportunity to teach children about the humane treatment of animals. "Parents" of adopted manatees receive an adoption certificate, a photo of their manatee, the manatee's biography, and a membership handbook with educational information. In addition, a coloring and activity book for young children can also be included in the adoption packet if requested.

Manatee "parents" receive updates on their manatee four times a year in a newsletter. As children follow the activities of "their" manatee, they learn a great deal about the life cycles of these mammals and about manatee conservation efforts.

Although they average 10 feet in length and weigh between 800 to 1,200 pounds, manatees are gentle animals. They are slow-moving aquatic mammals that travel the rivers, estuaries, saltwater bays and coastal

areas of the southeastern United States. They migrate and are concentrated primarily in Florida in the winter, but they can sometimes be found as far west as Texas and as far north as Virginia in the summer.

About 3,000 manatees remain in the United States and are listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Because they are slow-moving and need to surface to breathe air, manatees are often vulnerable to boat hits. Breathing just above the water's surface as they do, they are also subject to acute toxic reactions when traveling through red tide blooms.

Other causes of human-related manatee deaths include the accidental ingestion of discarded fishing line, hooks, plastic six-pack holders and other debris left floating in waterways.

Save the Manatee Club's Adopt-A-Manatee program helps to fund education and public awareness endeavors; manatee research, and rescue and rehabilitation projects; and advocacy and legal efforts to help protect manatees and their habitat. SMC is a nonprofit organization established in 1981 by U.S. Senator Bob Graham and singer Jimmy Buffett.

For more information about manatees or the Adopt-A-Manatee program, contact Save the Manatee Club, 500 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL 32751, 1-800-432-JOIN (5646). You can visit the SMC web page on the Internet at <http://www.savethemanatee.org>.

Students can also request a free student education pack by sending their name, address and grade level to SMC via regular mail or by e-mail to education@savethemanatee.org. Educators can receive Manatees: An Educator's Guide, a free 30-page guide accompanied by a four-color poster, by sending a request on school letterhead and a self-addressed 9" x 12" envelope with \$1.95 postage.

Patients coming to CROW at increasing rate

Destruction of habitat in Lee County is overwhelming. The homes of everything from gopher tortoises to burrowing owls, river otters to marsh rabbits, wood storks and panthers are being destroyed at an all-time record pace. The care of these patients at CROW is being done by a minimum number of staff supporting one staff veterinarian — up to 250 recuperating patients every day. They all come to CROW, the only rehabilitation facility in Lee County, with medical, surgical and rehabilitation needs ...and no health insurance.

2002 was another record year with 3,400 patients, surpassing last year's previous record by nearly 500 patients. With this increase operating costs now exceed revenues. Some of the costs associated with this alarming increase are held down with the help of volunteers who carry a big part of

West Nile Virus: Questions and Answers

Q. What is the origin of West Nile virus and its presence in the United States?

A. West Nile virus was first identified in the West Nile District of Uganda in 1937, and subsequently has been found in humans and animals in several countries. The origin of the U.S. epidemic is uncertain, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes the virus has been here at least since 1999 and that it is related genetically to a strain from the Middle East.

Q. How many human cases of West Nile encephalitis have occurred in the United States?

A. In its first year in the United States, 62 cases of severe disease, including seven deaths, occurred. In 2000, only 21 cases and two deaths were reported. In 2001, West Nile virus caused 66 cases and nine deaths. The WNV epidemic exploded in 2002, causing more than 3,000 cases and more than 200 deaths. For the most recent count, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/wncount.htm>

Q. Is West Nile virus here to stay?

A. Some experts have speculated that increasing warmer weather could help sustain the presence of the virus or that it will move in cycles. However, according to the CDC, continued expansion of WNV indicates that it is permanently established in the Western Hemisphere.

Q. How does West Nile virus spread?

A. The mosquito is the primary vector for West Nile virus transmission. Therefore, the greatest risk of infection occurs during prime mosquito season and when ideal breeding conditions exist. The optimal temperature for mosquito breeding is between 77 and 86 degrees Fahrenheit, so in temperate regions, including much of the United States, most

breed and transmit disease in the late summer and early fall. In the milder climate of the southern states, West Nile virus can be transmitted year round.

Q. Can mosquitoes survive over the winter and still carry West Nile virus?

A. One of the species of mosquitoes that can survive over the winter and is a carrier of West Nile virus is the Culex. It survives in the adult stage and is able to carry disease through cold seasons. Some infectious mosquitoes can even survive in frozen standing water. And, in cities such as Chicago and New York, mosquitoes have survived in underground areas such as subways.

Q. What are the symptoms of West Nile virus infection?

A. Most infections are mild, and symptoms include fever, headache, body aches, and occasionally skin rash and swollen lymph glands. More severe infection could cause headache, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis and, rarely, death.

Q. What can I do to reduce my risk of becoming infected with West Nile virus?

A. Stay indoors at dawn and dusk, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors, use repellents, and empty standing water where mosquitoes breed. The mosquito is the primary vector for West Nile virus transmission, so the CDC touts larviciding, the elimination of mosquito larvae as an effective mosquito-control method.

Source: Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Provided by Tim Gardner
Lee County Commissioner for Mosquito Control

the workload, but the increase in case load has driven costs for food, medicine, staff and patient space beyond our present support. We need your help now to deal with the needs of our wildlife neighbors from all over Lee County. We have never had to turn away any patients, but we could be forced to in the future.

Seagrass Wading Trips

Did you know that the shallow waters between Sanibel and Fort Myers contain a wide variety of fascinating critters? This estuarine environment is where the fresh water of the Caloosahatchee River meets the salt water of the Gulf of Mexico and it is one of the most productive places on Earth. The seagrass beds in shallow waters provide nursery grounds and feeding areas for many species of fish and other marine life.

Come explore the wonders living below the surface of San Carlos Bay with a Naturalist from the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and see the critters up close. You will learn about the ecology of seagrass habitats and find out what is being done to protect these valuable nurseries of the sea. This is a great opportunity for people of all ages to explore the world below the surface of an estuary. This program is a partnership between the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

When: Fridays, April 11th at 3 p.m. and April 25th at 3:30 p.m.

Where: San Carlos Bay - meet in the parking lot on the mainland side of the causeway adjacent to the tollbooth.

Cost: Free to both children and adults.

Sponsored by the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program. Reservations required, call 472-2329 limit 16 people. Bring: Old clothes/bathing suit, water shoes, hat, sunglasses, and towel.

Looking for a few good men... and women

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is on a recruitment mission, looking for people who are interested in an exciting and rewarding career in resource law enforcement. Positions are available from Pensacola to Key West.

The FWC is one of the nation's premier conservation agencies and has the largest law enforcement contingent of any fish and wildlife resource agency in America.

FWC law enforcement officers enforce conservation laws and protect public safety on 37 million acres of land, 12,000 miles of rivers and streams, three million acres of lakes and ponds and 1,200 miles of saltwater coastline — anywhere you find fish or



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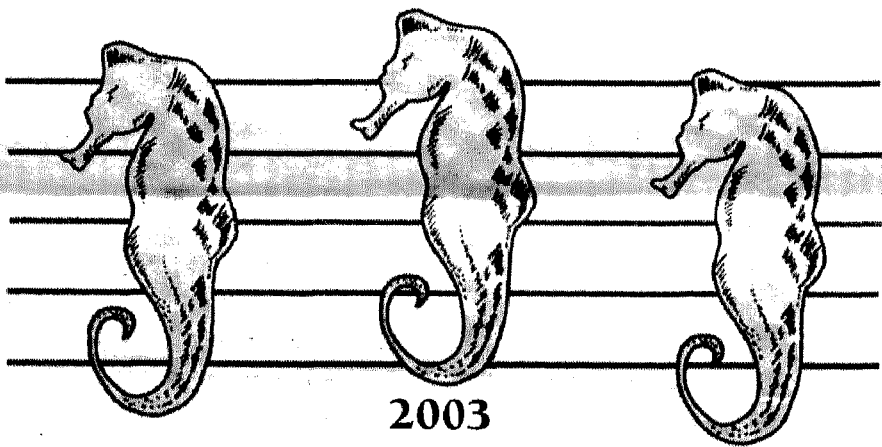
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The six new Realtors at the March monthly meeting were (l-r): Susan Conner, Mark Baker, Peter Aldrian, Margaret Cox, Kathryn Basinger, and Mark Saunders.

Seahorse Music Festival



2003
FRIDAY, APRIL 11
5-11:30 P.M.
At BIG ARTS
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All proceeds benefit the Sanibel School and BIG ARTS Youth Programs

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- Dessert Buffet
- Optimist Club Raffle and Sanibel School Fund Car Raffle
- Champagne Tent

Ticket: Adult \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door; Kids \$10, Grandparents \$15.

Available at BIG ARTS, Sanibel School, Island Cow, SAN/CAP Community Bank, Bank of the Islands, & the baseball field during games

BUSINESS

Realtors welcome six new members

Seven added to Honor Society

More than 120 Realtor® and Affiliate members attended the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Association of Realtors, Inc. monthly membership meeting at the Dunes Golf & Tennis Club. Association President Art Corace conducted the business meeting which was sponsored by affiliate member Gilda Suarez, — Regional Vice President, Zone 1, Executive Title Insurance Services.

Seven Association members were recognized by District V Vice President Maury Dailey for membership in the Florida Association of Realtors 2002 Honor Society and presented lapel pins indicating the number of years he or she has earned Honor Society membership — Susan Andrews, John C. Buskirk, Barbara Amon Chapin, Margie Davison, Dave Eaton, Jim Hall, and Norm Williams.

Since its inception 17 years ago, the FAR Honor Society has recognized members who strive to improve their profession, the Realtor organization and themselves by participating in educational programs and real-estate related activities.

The Florida Association of Realtors provides programs, services, continuing education, research and legislative repre-

sentation to its 90,000 members involved in 70 boards/associations. Realtors® are the only licensed real estate practitioners required to adhere to the Code of Ethics prescribed by the National Association of Realtors.

Six new Realtor members were inducted into the Association at the March 27. Requirements for membership, in addition to a Florida real estate license, include membership in the national and state associations, and completion of a local training program that includes professional standards and ethics, multiple listing service instruction, and orientation sessions at both the Conservation Foundation and City Hall.

Margie Davison, immediate past president and a member of the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Association of Realtors Professional Development Committee, performed the induction and presented the new members with their pins. The new members and their company affiliations are Mark Saunders, Margaret Cox, and Kathryn Basinger, Century 21 JB Novelli Internationale; Susan Connor, South Seas Sanibel & Captiva Properties; Mark Baker, RE/MAX of the Islands; and Peter Aldrian, Coldwell Banker Previews International.

PMR announces top producers for March

Priscilla Murphy Realty has announced its top producing Island Sales Division associates for the month of March: Judy Reddington is Top Listing Agent and Glen Simmons is this month's Top Selling Agent.

Reddington and Simmons are experienced, knowledgeable professionals, and consistent PMR and Association of Realtor top producers. They are market specialists of homes, condos and homesites on Sanibel and Captiva Islands.



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March 28, 2003

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Toni Warren
Coe Ridall
Doris DeWitt

4TH PLACE

Carolyn Jones 116
Pam Broderson
Pat Wentling
Claire Bowie

2ND PLACE — TIE

Grethe Christensen 115
Marcia Cohen
Joan Eschert
Lee Barnes Bogan

CHIP INS:

Lee Barnes Bogan
Grethe Christensen
Helen Craig (2)
Carolyn Jones
Sally Knaub
Judy Leeder
Katie Reynolds
Sandi Sultar
Mary Vernon

Diane Schults
Mary Ann Parmalee
Mardi Glenn
Jane Levene

Sponsorship for SCCF tennis tournament

There is still time to be a sponsor and join the festivities for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's 11th annual tennis tournament. Sponsorship to this event entitles one to press release recognition, listing on a sponsor board, acknowledgement letter for tax purposes, an invitation to all functions and a sponsor gift by Lucas Century. Century, founder of SCCF's tournament, has once again used his special talents to create sponsor gifts designed specifically for this tournament. A \$1,000 championship sponsor receives a large vase, a \$500 match sponsor receives a water pitcher, a \$250 set sponsor receives a decanter and a \$125 game sponsor receives a beer stein — each one deeply etched with butterflies.

Additionally, Century donates one of his masterpieces as the grand prize for the raffle. This year it is a 21-inch tall magnificent vase.

Sponsors are invited to all the events, starting with an old-fashioned western hoe-down cocktail party hosted by Bank of America. Just mosey on over to 2450 Periwinkle way on April 4th at 6:30 p.m. for cocktails, a taste of the Wild West and a silent auction. Incidentally, the silent auction includes a nine-day trip to Costa Rica donated by Intrav/Clipper Cruise Line.

That is just the beginning of a fabulous weekend. Join us on Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, at the Dunes Golf & Tennis Club for exciting, competitive tennis. Who knows? you may spot a future Wimbledon champion. In any event, you will enjoy championship play and lots of camaraderie.

All this excitement is sure to whet your appetite... And South Seas Resorts has just the thing to satisfy you. Both Saturday and Sunday mornings at The Dunes you will find a full breakfast and lunch replete with linen tablecloths and silver. As we peruse the menu, we see a sampling of such items as a breakfast croissant with sausage, cheese and egg, tropical fruits, herb-crusted chicken with natural sauce, sliced ham steaks with pineapple glaze, roasted carrots, penne pasta Alfredo, and tasty desserts such as apple pecan and key lime pies.

Sponsors are not only wined, dined and provided the opportunity to observe fine tennis but, first and foremost, receive satisfaction in knowing that a sponsorship supports the Foundation's operating account. The operating account assists the Foundation in maintaining the ambience of our wonderful Islands.

To become a sponsor, call Marti Bryant at 472-2329, Warren Schwab at 395-8774, or just show up at any of the events.

So long, 'Big Frank'...
an island bids farewell

A small group of Sanibel residents has organized a party to pay tribute to Sanibel postal workers. The party will take place from 6-8 on Wednesday, April 16 at the Sanibel Community House. There will be food, beverages and entertainment.

Admission is free.

One of the organizers said, "It's long overdue for islanders to pay tribute to our Post Office, and with 'Big Frank' Sadara having just retired at the end of March, we thought that the time had arrived. We may very well have the friendliest post office in the world; for me there's simply none other to compare with it for "down home" atmosphere. Many of us take it for granted, so maybe its time to pay a tribute to the people who make it that way. Frank has said that the toughest day of every year for him was tax day, April 15th, so we thought that the day after would be the best day for a party. Maybe in future year's islanders can do the same for our police, fire fighters and rescue workers. They're all great."

Entertainment will be provided by island favorites, Chuck Coughlin at the keyboards, with vocals by Theresa Shea, and some British repartee by Mike Macray. Surprise guest appearances (Danny Morgan?) are expected, with speeches held to a minimum by M.C. Sam Bailey, who will trace the history of the Sanibel Post Office from mail boats to cars and trucks (and maybe back again to mail boats, what with the causeway problems).

Several Sanibel restaurants will be

providing the food, led off by the generosity of the year-old hit eatery, the Island Cow for the main course and soft beverages. Others contributing "finger food" will be the Lighthouse Cafe, Crazy Flamingo, Mona Lisa, The Island House, Thistle Lodge, Dunes, Beachview, Pippen's, Katie Gardenia's and the Hungry Heron's famous conch chowder, with others expected to join.

Both Bailey's and Jerry's grocery stores are making major contributions to the party.

Patrons include Suzie and John Freeman, Jim and Penny Hetmanek, Albert and Sally Hanser, Duey Liber, Richard and Fleur Cook. Sponsors are Macintosh Books, Nave Plumbing, West Wind Inn, Frank Brown, The Bank of the Islands (Edison Bank), Colonial Bank and Community Bank; friends are Ace Hardware, Arundel's, PakNShip, Bill Boswell, CPA, She Sells Sea Shells, Phaedra Velarde, and many anonymous contributors and volunteer friends of Frank's.

Pat Slater of Weddings by the Sea will donate one of her beautiful seaside weddings, which to the winner, could be worth anywhere from a thousand to a million dollars, what with the rise in the cost of traditional weddings showing no signs of slowing down.

Proceeds of the event will be donated to a charity to be named later by Frank Sadara. To help get a headcount for food and beverages, RSVP to Richard Cook, 472 9052.

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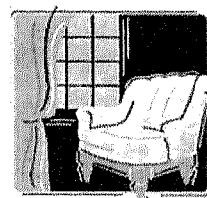
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Relay for Life - Tribute to a Friend

By David Lowden

A few years ago a pastor from Haiti wandered into my office with a long-time island resident. He introduced himself in a polite, reserved manner, then graciously took a seat in my office and continued to tell me a bit of his life story. As a banker here on Sanibel I hear a lot of interesting life stories but this one was unique.

It turns out the pastor had just lost his wife to cancer. She had had a good job working for a hospital in Haiti and was the family's major bread winner. In fact, she made enough money by Haitian standards to help support a church, a school with 400 students and their home (which had turned into an orphanage). At last count, some 65 children were receiving permanent food and shelter at their residence.

Now that the pastor's wife was deceased, he alone had the responsibility for maintaining the Good Samaritan Orphanage - church - school property. With the income gone, he was no longer in a position to make payments on their property. The Bank of Haiti was getting ready to foreclose and throw 65 orphans plus a school of 400 children out on the street. All of this for a grand total sum of about \$12,000.

Working at the bank we often hear about hardship, but this story left impact on me — perhaps because I am the father of four-year-old twin girls and a two-year-old baby boy. I had already heard stories of hospitals closing in Haiti where the



David Lowden

bed-ridden patients were carried out to the street.

I concluded it would not be too difficult to raise what seemed to be a small sum of money by U.S. standards.

First, I contacted my friend, Gerard Audain, who worked as a caretaker for close family friends, Belle and Norman Lipsky.

Mr. Lipsky was a tall man who left a lasting impression on people. In the early 1990s Mr. Lipsky and his wife traveled with my parents from Sanibel to Alaska including a side trip to Kodiak Island to see where my father had been stationed as a Navy pilot during World War II. The trip was a big success, but shortly after they returned to Sanibel Mr. Lipsky became very sick and remained so for many years. Fortunately, the family found Gerard Audain to help take care of him before he passed away in 2001.

I knew Gerard would be the right person to contact after I learned about the situation at the Good Samaritan Orphanage. Although he had fled the country in 1965 after his brother lost the presidential election to Aristide, he had maintained close contact with his friends and relatives residing in the country. Furthermore, he still owned a home in Haiti.

When I notified him of the situation at the orphanage he quickly helped me organize a group to travel to Haiti and look into what was happening. With the help of Robert Cosera, a local island photographer, they were able to verify the story and raise enough money to prevent the property from falling into foreclosure.

Gerard had a great heart. I remember vividly how his face lit up as he told me the story of the children lined up singing as they arrived at the orphanage. He was proud to be able to go back to his country and lend a helping hand. He was also proud of the work he did taking care of Norman Lipsky.

After Mr. Lipsky passed away, Gerard came to my office to tell me he was returning to Haiti. He was planning to visit the orphanage as well as spend time with his relatives. Several months passed and I did not hear from him.

Finally, I received a call from Gerard notifying me that while he was in Haiti he had gotten quite sick and somehow had let his passport expire. As a result, he was trapped in the country for several months without proper care.

Finally, he was able to get out of Haiti and return to Miami where his condition worsened and he learned he had colon cancer.

Last October Gerard died. It was difficult seeing someone who helped so many suffer so much. But even during his toughest times, Gerard held onto his "true island spirit."



Norman Lipsky and Gerard Audain

This April 11th I will be paying tribute to Gerard, Mr. Lipsky and other family members as I take part in the "Relay for Life" at the Lee County Sports Complex. Although this event takes place on April 11th and 12th, in reality the relay never ends. None of us is immune, but we can work to raise money to help families presently in need. In addition, we can work to raise money to help the American Cancer Society find a cure for this terrible disease.

If you would like to make a contribution to the American Cancer Society by sponsoring us at this event, please contact either Barb Travis or David Lowden at Bank of America at 472-2635.

David Lowden is Assistant Vice President and Senior Personal Banker at Bank of America on Sanibel.

Sitting on the dock of the bay...

The naturalists at Tarpon Bay Explorers have started up free lunchtime talks for the new season. Dolphins as a subject has been added to the line-up, with additional topics on the way. The talks begin at 12:30 on the observation deck overlooking the most

beautiful setting on Sanibel and last approximately half an hour.

**Mondays & Wednesdays
Lives of Shells.**

Sanibel has long had a reputation as one

of the premier shelling spots in the world. Take a peek at our common finds and our rare gems. Learn about the fascinating animals that once lived inside and the roles they play in our estuaries and oceans.

Tuesdays - Dolphins.

NEW! Dolphins are some of nature's most fascinating creatures. Discover the lifestyles and behavior of our local population of bottlenose dolphins, including hunting techniques, physical adaptations, and social hierarchy. Learn about the impact of humankind and the steps being taken to protect this magnificent species.

Thursdays - Manatees

Florida manatees often make use of the rich ecosystem within Tarpon Bay. Learn about their life histories, from their early

evolution to the unique ways they survive today, and discover how the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provides valuable habitat for the endangered Florida manatee.

Fridays - Calusa Café

The Calusa Indians lived along the Southwest Florida coast and made their living by harvesting an abundance of seafood from the rich backbay ecosystem and gathering from the local plants. Discover what lunch with this powerful, complex society would have been like.

Tarpon Bay Explorers is located at the north end of Tarpon Bay Road and can be reached by calling 472-8900. The company is a licensed concessionaire of the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, providing recreational and educational opportunities to the public under contract.

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Shell Island Garden Club members take top honors at Gateway Show

Glenda Campbell (left) and Faye Granberry (right) are both members of the Shell Island Garden Club. They took the top honors at the Gateway to the World Flower Show, put on by the Fort Myers Garden Council on March 22.

Campbell won the coveted Designer's Choice Award with her design, The Accidental Tourist — destination Africa.

Granberry won 50 ribbons in all with 41 being first place blue ribbons in horticulture.



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Susan Andrews
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Jim Hall
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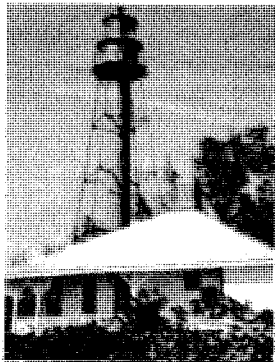
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Arts & Leisure

Vol. 42, No. 7

Week of April 4 -10, 2003

B Section • 16 Pages

INSIDE



Sanibel Library, Florida Gulf Coast University and the Island Sun celebrate National Poetry Month on Saturday, April 12, in the Sanibel Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a PoetryFest.



Johnny Bulldog
and fatback

Pat McCune, Brent Moyer and The Troublestarters lead off for Johnny Bulldog and Fatback at the Sanibel School Fund's Seahorse Music Festival on April 11th.

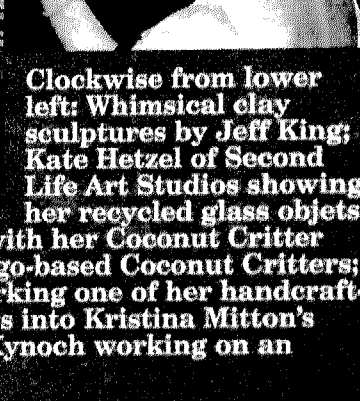
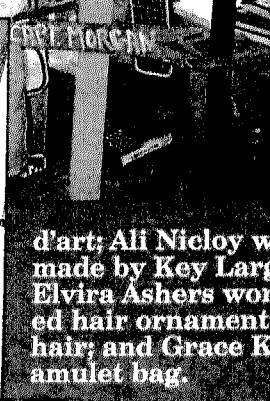
Ann Quandee is one of 14 artists featured at Hirdie Girdie Gallery. This is a piece called, appropriately, *Sea Horses*.

Nancy Santeusano's story is on pages 8 & 9.

Photo/Michael Pistella



20th Annual Lions Arts & Craft Fair



Clockwise from lower left: Whimsical clay sculptures by Jeff King; Kate Hetzel of Second Life Art Studios showing her recycled glass objets d'art; Ali Nicloy with her Coconut Critter made by Key Largo-based Coconut Critters; Elvira Ashers working one of her handcrafted hair ornaments into Kristina Mitton's hair; and Grace Kynoch working on an amulet bag.

Left, then counterclockwise: Fair Chairman Tom Krekel and NBC-2's Jessica Stillwell with Joan Milbrandt—2nd Place for Creative Crafts; Krekel and Cindy Hirt—2nd for 3D; Wayne Bellard—3rd (for his

Crafts; John Corbin—1st Place—Fine Arts (2D); Christine Reichen—2nd in 2D Fine Arts; and Bonnie Elvidge—3rd in 2D Fine Arts.

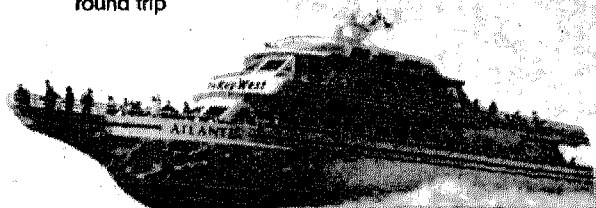
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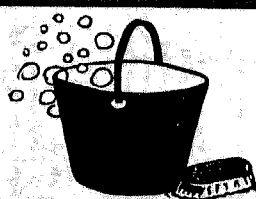
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The BIG ARTS Community Chorus, conducted by Carl Gnat, presented *Music for Spring* Tuesday evening, April 1, in Phillips Gallery.

Joining them in this musical debut was the New Horizons Band — our very own Big Band — recruited by both BIG ARTS and Kiwanis' Tom Uhler.



Final Shell Point concert



For the past several months, Shell Point has hosted its 2003 Classical Concert Series featuring nationally and internationally known artists. On Monday, April 7, at 7 p.m., the season will draw to a close with *Summer Nights*, featuring the Southwest Florida Symphony Chamber Orchestra and guest soloist Audrey Babcock.

Selections include Veracini's Overture No. 6 in B-flat Major;

Nuits d'été by Berlioz; and Mozart's Symphony No. 25 in G minor. "Our 2003 Concert Series was a great success," said Dawn Boren, director of resort services for the retirement community. "We were able to expand musical offerings to our residents and the local community with classical performances by top professional musicians, including several in partnership with the Southwest Florida Symphony. We look forward to topping the season off with the beautiful selection of music featured in the *Summer Nights* concert."

Cost for Summer Nights is \$25 per person. Tickets are available after 6:15 p.m. at the box office in the Village Church the night of the performance. Please plan to pay by personal check made out to Shell Point. No credit cards will be accepted. All tickets are general admission, with no refunds or exchanges. For more information, call 454-2282.

Shell Point Retirement Community is located on McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers, just two miles before (or after) the Sanibel Causeway.

'50s Diner and 'Sock Hop' at BIG ARTS

It will not be all business at BIG ARTS Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner held on its campus Monday, April 7, at 5 p.m. Phillips Gallery is the site of the brief business meeting where election of Board members and other business will take place followed by a '50s Diner and Sock Hop dinner dance.

The '50s fun starts in the Sculpture Garden where a DooWop group, The Del Prados, will sing. Fifties libations and nibbles include onion dip and chips, pigs in a blanket, bottles of Coke plus beer and wine. At 6 p.m. BIG ARTS Diner opens for a buffet dinner featuring Mom's meatloaf, Grandma's chicken pot pie, Art's tuna noodle casserole and chili cheese melts — catered by Island Cow.

Dancing will be to The Reunion Band with demonstrations of '50s dances by Fred Astaire teachers, Jessica and Alan. BIG ARTS tap dancers will perform. A King and Queen of the Sock Hop will be crowned during the evening. Rumor also has it that Elvis Presley is alive, living on Sanibel and will appear at the event. Dinner tickets are \$25 per person. Seating is limited, so reservations should be made right away by calling 395-0900.

Book Signing at MacIntosh

Laura Hays Barr's recently published book, *The Minor Poet*, will be available at MacIntosh Book Shop on Wednesday, April 9. Barr, a member of Sanibel Writers Group I, will be autographing her book between 1:30-3:30 p.m. Thought provoking, these poems relate to many aspects of life.

"Don't stop writing," advised her professor at the University of Pittsburgh way back when.

Kostrubala featured artist

The McEnroe Gallery is pleased to announce Teresa Kostrubala as their featured artist for April 2003. The show opens Friday, April 11, at the Gallery from 5 to 8 p.m. with a reception, refreshments and a chance to meet the artist.

Kostrubala has become well known for her brilliant colors, contemporary abstracts, and idyllic tropical scenes. New York art critic John Mendelsohn says, "Teresa Kostrubala's painted work is a candy-colored paradise... full of sophisticated abstract invention."

Currently, Teresa is one of the artists chosen for *Pelicans in Paradise*, a public art display to raise funds for an inpatient pediatric cancer unit at The Children's Hospital. Her "Party Pelican" is located at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa and will be auctioned at the Pelicans Take Flight Gala there on April 12. In addition, Teresa's work has been accepted in three juried, international shows of Artscape Naples 2003 for Exhibitions I, II, and III located at Gallery Victoria.

The McEnroe Gallery is located in the Palm Ridge Shopping Center on Palm Ridge Road. Its regular hours are 10-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For further information, please call 472-1118.

Unity Church hosts uplifting event

The healing power of music has long been recognized and, in these troubling times, many people will welcome

the opportunity to soothe their souls by attending the first *Our Hearts To Yours — An Evening of Uplifting Music* at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, at Unity Church, 11120 Ranchette Road in Fort Myers. The evening will feature a wide variety of spiritually healing music performed by Lee County musicians — Susie and David Jennings, Chuck Grinnell, Kat Epple, Spring, Kristen Licata and James Recca. The performance will be followed by a delightful buffet of hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages. April 5th's *Our Hearts To Yours*, the first in a new series of concerts at Unity Church, hopes to raise \$2,000 to benefit the music ministry. Planning for future concerts is looking at talent from all across the United States. Tickets are \$10 per person, and the ticket price includes the refreshments after the concert. Tickets may be purchased by phoning the Unity church office at 278-1511. Proceeds will benefit the Unity of Fort Myers Music Ministry Expansion.

Seating is limited, and tickets are going fast. Please phone now to book your seat!

Lee Island Coast festival coming up

The scenic Caloosahatchee River in historic downtown Fort Myers will be the backdrop for a music and food lovers' paradise during the 11th Annual River & Blues Festival, Saturday, April 12, from 2 to 10 p.m.

Centennial Park is the venue for the lively event, which grows in popularity each year as it showcases

See Potpourri, page 5

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LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE

Presented by
Margie Davison

MAKING INTELLIGENT PRICING DECISIONS

Pricing your home is one of the most important decisions you must make when selling your property. Some sellers want to price their home based on the return they would like on their initial investment, while others will base the price on what they need to buy their new home. Location, condition, and accessibility are three other variables that will affect the price of a property.

It is crucial to price your home correctly from the beginning because it will not sell if it is overpriced. Don't make the mistake of thinking that you can reduce the price later because you will have already lost many potential buyers. The motivation of the seller is another very important factor. The higher the seller's motivation, the lower the price, and low motivation will mean a higher price.

The state of your local real estate market is one of the strongest determining factors when pricing your home. A professional Realtor will be able to guide you through the pricing pitfalls with a written market analysis that includes the selling prices for similar homes in your area.

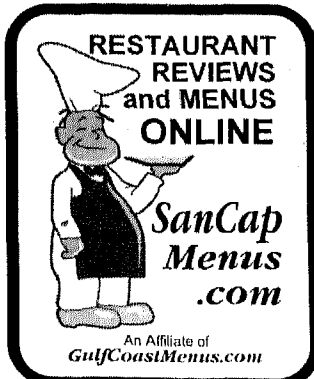
Specializing in Sanibel and Captiva real estate since 1991, Margie was just named 2002 Realtor of the Year by the Sanibel & Captiva Association of Realtors. She was named Realtor of the Year in 2000 and is a continuous award winner with Priscilla Murphy Realty, Inc. Call Margie at PMR, 472-1511, or e-mail her at Margie@MargieDavison.com

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THE MUSIC REVIEWS

The Russian Blue Jazz Quintet — offbeat at Schein Hall

For its next-to-last presentation on March 23, the BIG ARTS Great Performers Series presented the Russian Blue Jazz Quintet, sponsored by Wachovia Bank. Members of the ensemble were Lev Polyakin, leader and violin, Mike Petrone, piano, Marty Block, bass, Roy King, drums, Bob Fraser, guitar. Two special guests, Martha Aarons on flute, and Larry Block on conga drum, were also featured.

Polyakin grew up in Russia, began studying jazz at age 13, and completed studies at Moscow Conservatory. He is presently the assistant concertmaster of the Cleveland Symphony. Petrone has completed three albums for Goblin Bee Records and has recorded music for the award-winning film, *Fattered*. Martha Aarons has been a flutist with the Cleveland Orchestra for over 22 years.

Music, whether it be classical or jazz, contains three basic elements — melody, harmony and rhythm. Within these elements are established criteria of musical performance that musicians strive to attain. In classical music, the sound must be pure with proper intonation; the beginnings and endings of the notes must be cleanly produced with no distortion. Also, within the given meter, the notes should be evenly spaced. The established criteria for jazz differs considerably as the sound has to be neither pure nor exactly in tune and the beginnings and endings of the sound can be, and often are, distorted. What does matter, however, is that musicians move from note to note in a style established by jazz's great innovators — Armstrong, Parker, Davis, and so on.

Whatever the jazz style — bossa nova, tango, calypso, etc., whether big band or combo — the instrumentalist

improvises with the support of a rhythm section supplying harmony (piano/guitar), rhythm (drums) and the heartbeat of the section, the bass. These instruments hopefully work as a team with a steady swinging beat that has energy and propels the soloist to great heights.

The soloist — instrumental or vocalist — needs to conform to the established ways of improvisation. The sound can be impure — even out of tune with ragged beginnings and decays — yet be very acceptable. However, a true jazz performer has listened to the style of the recognized jazz innovators or practitioners enough to develop what is known as a “jazz feel” or “jazz conception.”

The Russian Jazz Quintet did not produce jazz within the above-mentioned criteria. The ensemble's sound was over-amplified (as in loud) yet did seem to have a beat to which the audience responded with foot stomping and clapping. However, these musicians lacked both the “jazz feel” and the swinging beat characteristic of the mainstream jazz that they played. The decibel level of the guitar and bass drowned out the other instruments, especially the violin.

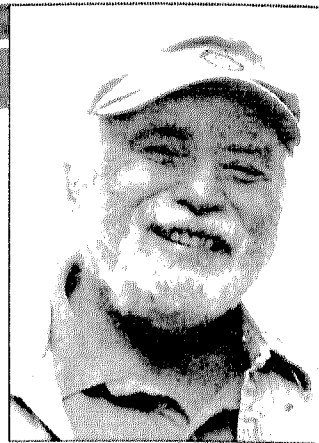
The bass player was visually entertaining with mobile facial expressions and the drummer was also a crowd pleaser but his sound was muffled and weak with no projection except when he played his sticks on the bass and on chairs in the front row (a trick we heard a few weeks ago with the Bob Crosby Band). The rhythm section simply did not gel, nor did it have the necessary collective and creative energy to inspire the soloists who relied on clichéd riffs and uninspired patterns. Aarons, who possesses a beautiful, well-centered sound, lacks the “jazz feel” and

obviously played a written solo on “In a Sentimental Mood.” And, it was as though she were “out there” on her own, abandoned by the non-cohesive rhythm section.

Polyakin is, indeed, an excellent classical violinist who displayed his virtuosity in the many cadenzas performed in the concert — even a Paganini quote. His feeling and tone in the slower tunes — “Nuages” and “Baroque Requiem” — displayed a sonorous, romantic sound and were, perhaps, the highlight of the concert. His up-tempo performances — “All Of Me,” and “Sweet Georgia Brown” — lacked the proper jazz feel and movement. The guitar solos had good movement, but the lines were very busy with one idea segueing into another. Non wind players sometimes forget that all instruments imitate the human voice — a voice that needs space to breathe.

Petrone served as MC, sang very well in the encore, “Let The Good Times Roll,” and showed good taste in not competing when the other chord instruments supplied the harmony. He performed very animated solos, often levitating above the piano bench.

In summary, although the Russian Blue Jazz Quintet lacked an integrated sound as well as a mature jazz conception, the audience seemed thrilled and satisfied.



HAROLD LIEBERMAN

Final session of Creative Women workshops

Joyce Carol Oates, distinguished Professor of Literature at Princeton, is the subject of the Women's Discussion Group at BIG ARTS on Tuesday, April 8, from 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The workshops on women writers and their impact on the psychology of women are led by Dr. Lorraine Herrenkohl. This is the fourth season of the series. Herrenkohl, a psychotherapist and writer on the psychology of women, is a former professor of psychology at Temple University.

Success came early to Oates. While still a student at Syracuse University, she won the Mademoiselle Fiction Contest. She graduated as valedictorian and earned a Master's in English at the University of Wisconsin, where she met and married Raymond Smith. The two complement each other in their interests in creative writing. She and her husband operate a small press in Canada and publish a literary magazine, *The Ontario Review*. Her prolific yield for over 30-some years has included virtually two books a year ranging from novels, short stories, plays, screenplays, poetry, literary criticism and history

to essays, fiction and nonfiction.

We Were the Mulvaney's traces the trajectory — the rise, the fall and the redemption — of an American family. The Mulvaney's seemed blessed with a hard-working father, a loving mother, three fine sons and a pretty daughter. Their life seemed picture perfect in the upstate community of Mt. Ephram, N.Y. until Valentine's Day, 1976. On that day the family starts to crumble. The 16-year-old daughter, Marianne, suffers a horrific event that is never spoken of again in the town or in the family. The father resorts to barroom brawls, the brothers verge on destructive retribution, and Marianne herself drifts to the outskirts of involvement with people whom she knows and loves. Marianne's redemption comes in the form of genuine love and fulfillment and a family of her own. Ultimately, the entire family bridges the chasms between them and reunites in a spirit of love.

The story is told by Judd, the youngest of the Mulvaney sons. Michael Mulvaney, the father, is a successful roofing contractor and his wife, Corinne, dabbles in antiques. The Mulvaney's are well known, high-profile members of the community but, after Marianne's “fall from grace,” the

proud Michael banishes her to the home of a relative. This action drives him to a state that results in the loss of both his home and his job. Other family members succumb to their individual demons in their own way. The saga of the family's downfall is lifted in a later decade by positive experiences they seek out on their own.

Oates maintains a daily routine of teaching and writing. Her commitment to literature as a transcending experience remains steadfast. Fixed to the bulletin board over her desk is a quotation from another prolific American writer, Henry James: “We work in the dark — we do what we can — we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion, and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art.”

This is the final meeting of the Creative Women Workshops for the 2003-2004 season. Herrenkohl welcomes suggestions for books for future discussion. Please bring them to the final session. For further information, call BIG ARTS at 395-0900.



Dr. Lorraine Herrenkohl is concluding the fourth successful season of Women's Literature Discussions at BIG ARTS.

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THE MUSIC REVIEWS

Amici String Quartet shines at Schein in final concert of season

The final concert of BIG ARTS' 2002-2003 Great Performers Series took place last Saturday, March 29, when the Amici String Quartet, performed works of Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, the American Samuel Barber, and 19th Century German composer Robert Schumann. Members of the ensemble are Takako Masame and Miho Hashizume, violins (alternating between first and second), Lynne Ramsey, viola, and Ralph Curry, cello. Liz Fowler, executive director of BIG ARTS, thanked the volunteers, audience and sponsors for their help and support in making this season a most successful one and then introduced the Quartet who "last played at BIG ARTS eight years and three children ago." (They figured that out, not Liz Fowler or I.)

The quartet has been playing together for 18 years and are members of the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. They have performed numerous recitals at colleges and universities and concert venues, mostly in their native Ohio. Schein Hall was not filled to capacity, perhaps because the Amicihas not issued a CD nor has it received the exposure or national reviews that other established quartets have amassed — most unfortunate as, musically, they are of equal stature to any of the major string quartets.

Their musicianship, tone, intonation, phrasing, and deep understanding of the music were brilliantly displayed throughout their performance. These four musicians are extraordinary and should be (hopefully will be) more recognized as one of the truly great string quartets of our time.

The first selection, "String Quartet No. 5," was written by Villa-Lobos. Born in 1887, he learned music from his father and, by the turn of the century, had turned himself into a professional musician and earning his living as a café musician, playing the cello and writing musical compositions. Perhaps his most famous work, "Bachianas

Brasilieras No. 5" for soprano and eight cellos, is his only work to have become "Classic FM" recognizable. He wrote at least 15 string quartets; the work heard tonight is seldom played. It is in five movements and rich in Latin American rhythms and haunting melodies. The first movement, "Poco andantino" highlighted wonderful effects of the cello's solos supported by the other strings' pizzicato effects and also, lyrical counterpoint between the viola and violin. The minor tonality and the bending of the melodies' third and seventh degrees were reminiscent of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*.

The second movement featured shimmering, dazzling tremolos and a nice dialogue between the violin and viola over a complex, Spanish-tinged rhythmic accompaniment of cello and viola. Throughout the third movement, a sonorous blend of impressionistic colors and harmonies framed with a very sensitive use of dynamics, was exquisitely performed. The fourth movement, "Allegro," captured the pulsating folk rhythms of Villa-Lobos' trips to the Amazonian interior and his encounters with the cannibal tribes of Brazil's North East. The ensemble played the work with great precision and exuberance.

Samuel Barber was the recipient of numerous awards and prizes including the American Prix de Rome, two Pulitzers and election to the American Academy of Arts & Letters. The ensemble played his "String Quartet, Op. 11," which is unusual in that it is written with fast movements, identical in thematic material, surrounding one of the truly great compositions in American music, the "Adagio." This movement was later arranged for string orchestra and was featured in the motion pictures *Elephant Man*, *Platoon*, *El Norte* and *Lorenzo's Oil*. All three movements are rich in romantic harmonies with probing lyricism.

The final selection was Schumann's "String Quartet in

A Major, Op. 41, No. 3." Composed in 1842, the quartet was written in a few weeks' time, shortly after his marriage to Clara. The program notes, written by cellist Curry state, "The string quartets of Schumann are perhaps the least played by a major composer, probably because of their extremely personal message, as they were written shortly after his marriage to Clara. One can sense the happiness in his personal life pouring onto the page." While his elation for his new bride is sensed in the joyful passages in this work, the many different moods and sudden changes of style reveal the other side of the composer's personality — the one characterized by great bouts of depression.

The change of the violinists from first to second added a bolder dimension to the overall sound quality and the Amici Quartet captured the various romantic moods with sensitive phrasing and dynamics — very expressive and musical in their rendering. The Schumann's fugal elements of lyrical themes complete with romantic ritards and dynamics were performed in a perfect blend and showed a cohesiveness and togetherness usually exhibited only by major string quartet ensembles.

It was a great ending to a fine season of great music at BIG ARTS that gave the community not only outstanding string quartets — Tokyo and Amici, but also so many different major, jazz, folk, dance and classical instrumentalists and singers — all condensed into a brief five month period. Sunshine and culture are radiant in Sanibel.

Harold Lieberman is a Professor of Music emeritus at Ramapo College of New Jersey, has also taught at Manhattan School of Music and played solo trumpet with the CBS Symphony Orchestra as well as with Benny Goodman, Arthur Godfrey and many other well known band leaders.

Potpourri, from page 3

nationally- and internationally-known blues bands.

While several area restaurants dish out appetizing menu items, children will be amused with activities planned just for them. Presented by the Florida Restaurant Association Lee/Charlotte Chapter, the event serves as a major fundraiser for the Harry Chapin Food Bank, a local organization dedicated to providing food to needy families.

Admission is \$7, \$6 with a canned food donation; children under 10 are admitted at no charge. Neither umbrellas nor coolers are allowed.

For more on the Lee Island Coast's popular nature- and history-based attractions and activities, log onto www.LeeIslandCoast.com for more information or call (888) 231-6933 for a free visitor's guide.

Clothesline sale coming up

Sunday, April 6, is the day for the San-Cap Art League's 2nd Annual Clothesline Sale at the Community Center. The indoor-outdoor sale is held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is ample parking across the street.

About 30 League artists will be selling their work, unframed and clipped to wires, with each artist having

his or her own area; some will have their work in portfolios indoors. There will be a great variety of Sanibel and Southwest Florida scenes and all will tagged with reasonable, affordable prices.

Last year's show was a huge success, so come, browse, ask questions and meet the artists in person!

Guild show and Market Day

The Southwest Florida Craft Guild has announced a Fine Craft Market Day to take place on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The show and sale features local artisans, including past recipients of the Guild's Scholarship awards, selling their fine crafts both inside and outside the Sanibel Community House. Raffle items will be available at \$1 per chance or six for \$5. The Guild's awards program benefits students of fine craft at Edison Community College and Cypress Lake Center for the Arts. In addition, the groups hopes to be able to share funds

with the art/craft classes at The Sanibel School.

For additional information, call Emily Muench at 472-2812.

Poetryfest at Sanibel Library

Sanibel Library, Florida Gulf Coast University and the Island Sun invite you to celebrate National Poetry Month on Saturday, April 12, in the Sanibel Library from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featured poets will include islanders Laura Barr, Don Brown, Belle Deutscher, Barbara Finklestein, Tanya Hochschild, Marilyn Koren, Fran Nuelle, Joe Pacheco; FGCU poets Dr. Jim Brock and Jill Drumm; and Florida poets Rochelle Holt and Jesse Millner. Members of the public are encouraged to participate by reading their own work or a favorite poem by other poets. A reception will follow the readings.

Admission is free. For further information, call Joe Pacheco at 472-1280 or Kathleen Teaze at the library — 472-2483.



The Board of the Sanibel Music Festival honored its volunteers and the press at a Casa Ybel brunch following the final concert of its *Magic of Music* season.

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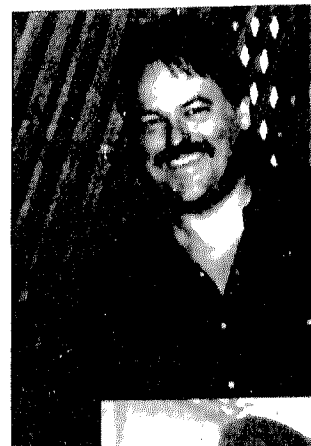
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Pat McCune, Brent Moyer and The Troublestarters open the Seahorse Music Festival on April 11th.



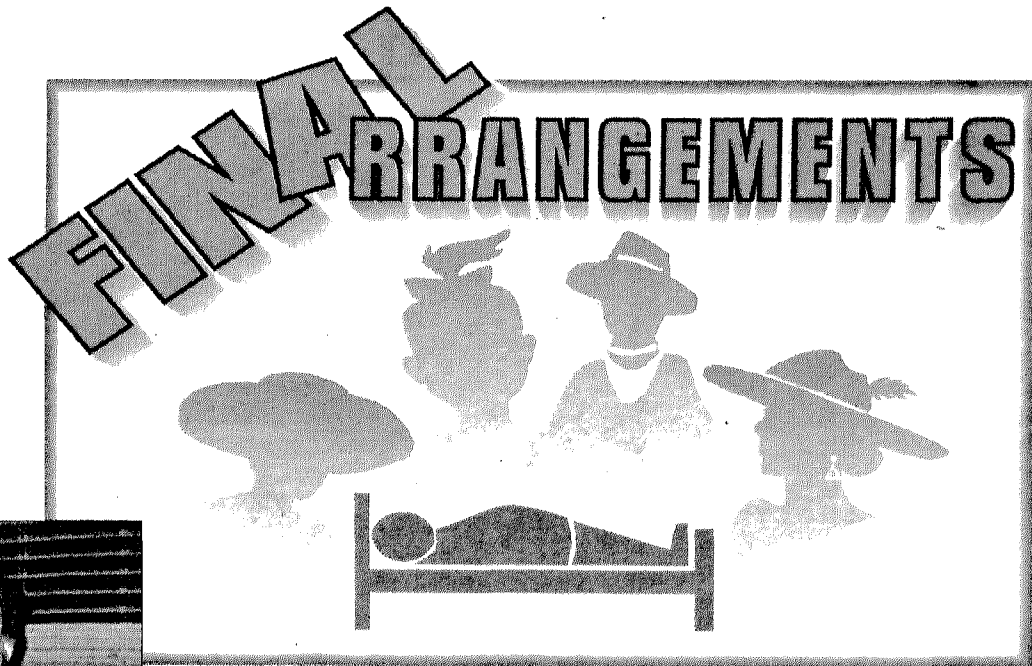
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This year's Seahorse Festival, an annual benefit for the Sanibel School Fund, will be held at BIG ARTS on Friday evening, April 11, from 5 to 11:30 p.m. and, this year, the festival will feature musicMUSIC MUSIC.

Headlining will be Johnny Bulldog and Fatback, playing this Sanibel gig as part of their *All Bite and No Bark* tour. Lead singer and rhythm guitarist of Creedence Clearwater Revisited, John Tristao, along with three very talented players — Kevin Johnson on lead guitar, Marcus Whiting on keyboards, and drummer Larry Mason — is bringing some his original music as well as some CCR favorites. Opening for them are three local talents — Pat McCune at 5:30, Brent Moyer at 6:45, and the ever-lovin' Troublestarters from 7:45 to 8:45. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Children will be admitted for \$10 and grandparents for \$15. Tickets are available at BIG ARTS and Island Cow daily, and at the Sanibel Ball Fields on Friday night and all day Saturday. Proceeds go directly to the Sanibel School Fund.



Claudia Burns, author of the play *Final Arrangements*, presented the cast members with certificates of membership to "Actors Inequity Disassociation" at a cast party. The highly successful play, presented for the Grand Opening of the Sanibel Community Association Periwinkle Playhouse, closed on March 29.

Center bottom: Burns and J.T. Smith noted theatrical director/producer.
Cast, L-R: Ann Arnoff, Judie zimomra, Fay Granberry, Steve Greenstein adn Robbie Roepstorff. Not pictured: Salli Kirkland.

To the Editor:

It was my privilege and pleasure to provide a play to jumpstart the revival of the Wood Theatre — formerly the Pirate Playhouse, now the Sanibel Community Association (SCA) Periwinkle Playhouse.

This was an exhilarating experience for me in many ways. First, I got to work with island leaders who dedicate themselves to serving our community — regardless of how much time it takes.

Second, I got to work with J.T. Smith, an exceptionally talented, skilled and professional theatrical director.

Third, I gained a new appreciation for the people who live here. All facets of our community came forth to contribute to and support theater on these islands, in whatever manner they were able.

Service groups, including Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions, cleared grounds and premises that had been neglected for months, fitted the theater with better seats, and built sets, under the dedicated direction of SCA board member Gordon Schopfer.

People who worked for the theater in the past came out to help, including Karen Nelson, who figured out how to operate the box office computer and print tickets for the two performances of *Final Arrangements*; and Todd Sherman, technical director of the former Wood Theatre, who operated the state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment for the dress rehearsal and both performances, with the assistance of Gene Routh.

Individuals who volunteered their services for the theater in its former incarnations came forth with gusto, including Bill and Jean Rankin, who insisted on ushering and bartending both performances as well as the dress rehearsal, and Bob Wimbush, who designed and produced a sign for the long-vacant standards at the entrance to the parking lot.

Employees of Bank of the Islands demonstrated their love for and loyalty to their president, including Pat Van Alstyne, who was in charge of selling tickets that did not materialize for at least two weeks after the performances were publicized.

Local newspapers went beyond the call of duty by designing graphics and providing advance promotion for

the production, taking photographs, and publishing rave reviews of opening night.

Members of SCA's board and staff, including Paula St. John, bent over backwards to accommodate constantly changing conditions... such as the script, which managed to modify itself during every rehearsal.

Local businesses supported the Grand Opening, as well, including Island House, which catered the opening night dinner; Bailey's General Store who donated refreshments for the reception following the dress rehearsal; and Jerry's Supermarket and The Bean — both of whom contributed coffee and cookies for the second performance.

Oh. Did I mention that the staged reading we told our actors would require only two or three rehearsals somehow evolved into a full production with sets, costumes, lighting, sound and — uh — memorized lines during the height of season when everyone — especially our local heroes — was at his or her busiest?

Kudos to our cast — Ann Arnoff, Faye Granberry, Steve Greenstein, Salli Kirkland, Robbie Roepstorff and Judie Zimomra — and to our director, J.T. Smith — for recognizing the value of this endeavor and gouging chunks out of their crammed schedules to make it happen.

Opening night of *Final Arrangements* was positively electric. There is no doubt that this community craves quality theater, or that the

new owners of the Playhouse are prepared to provide it.

I was proud to be part of the SCA Periwinkle Playhouse Grand Opening, and I thank everyone involved for their support and encouragement.

Claudia Burns
Sanibel

To the Editor:

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who donated their time and effort to the S.C.A Periwinkle Playhouse. And we particularly thank the community for laughing at the appropriate times and supporting us in our first endeavor at the S.C.A Periwinkle Playhouse. *Final Arrangements* netted \$10,500, due to the hard work of the cast and crew.

Catch a Falling Star, overall fundraiser for the S.C.A Periwinkle Playhouse is an on-going endeavor. We have raised almost \$30,000 and urge you to buy more stars. On behalf of the board trustees, the S.C.A, and the membership of S.C.A we thank you.

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14 award-winning artists — one award-winning gallery



greeted by the artist on duty who explains that they all take turns "sitting." (Coughlin usually adds, "This is my lucky day.") The visitors chuckle, relax and have fun as they ask questions and browse. Children, who very often imagine themselves as artists, are intrigued. One little girl loved Judy Friedman's hand-glazed ceramic tile of a kitty and compared it to her own "kitty" drawing. Some first-time visitors noted how much they liked the exterior but quickly realized the best part was the incredible variety of unusual things they found inside. "We're finding the island's best-kept secrets, and this little place is one of them," one visitor exclaimed.



NANCY SANTEUSANO

Making her debut at Hirdie-Girdie this season is clay artist, Kathy Boynton, who experiments with different clays, glazes and firing techniques. Her signature pieces are large cat sculptures — outrageous irresistible felines — not to be outdone by her equally popular raku clay squiggly snakes and exquisite vases.

Also on view this year is the work of multi-talented artist Nancy Cameron Smith who works in oils, watercolors and acrylics, as well as a variety of other media. Her colorful mosaic works are on exhibit along with her popular stained glass stepping stones, a first prize winner at the 2002 Sanibel Shell Fair.

Mary Ross excels at exquisite collages with delicate and perfectly blended colors. Her "Birch Forest" and "Golden Ladder" are favorites, and her florals, in both monochromatic and contrasting colors, along with her googly-eyed fantasy birds add a bit of humor. She is also showing a collection of hand-made collage greeting cards, each one different and each one not just a card but a gift to its lucky recipient.

Allen and Ann Quandee are a husband-wife team who work in different media. Allen, a woodworker, turns polychromatic-segmented wooden bowls. Ann, working as a fiber artist, incorporates her own hand-dyed and painted fabrics into her pieces, adding embell-

ishments to create "Sea Horses" and "Bottlenose Dolphin" now on display.

Woodturner, W. Philip "Phil" Krym, also new this season, says that each piece of wood dictates the shape it becomes. He has collected most kinds of wood in Florida and explains that no tree is ever sacrificed, since he obtains the wood from fallen trees. In his first public show, the 2002 Exhibit of Excellence in by the Southwest Florida Craft Guild, Krym won an Award of Merit for one of the bowls he is exhibiting at the gallery.

Sue Pink, another artist new to the gallery, whose paintings hang in both national and international collections, works in water-media and portrays her natural feeling for texture and motion both abstractly and realistically. Currently on display are "Bowl of Apples," "Frothy Shells" and "Fiesta del Sol," among several of her other paintings.

Well-known artists who represent the core group at Hirdie-Girdie include water-



At the corner of Tarpon Bay Road and Library Way is a bright-colored islandy building that was, once upon a time, a candy store frequented by a children of all ages buying penny, nickel or, occasionally, a bit-more-expensive favorites. Now, instead of candy, this colorful landmark is distinguished by its eclectic array of original artworks by regional, national and international artists — oils, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, sculptures, wood carvings, baskets and imported Haitian art. No posters! No frames! Just original art and

limited editions.

During the 1990s Hirdie Girdie Gallery came into being as a cooperative featuring 11 artists — just this year increased to 14. However, according to artist Gordon Coughlin, a core group, — Bea Pappas, Lola Katchen, Don Daniels and Coughlin — have been there since the beginning and became cool."

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Judy Andrews Friedman is a custom tile designer. She observes how tile design adds another sense through texture — that of touch. Her ceramic

glaze tiles continue in popularity at the gallery.

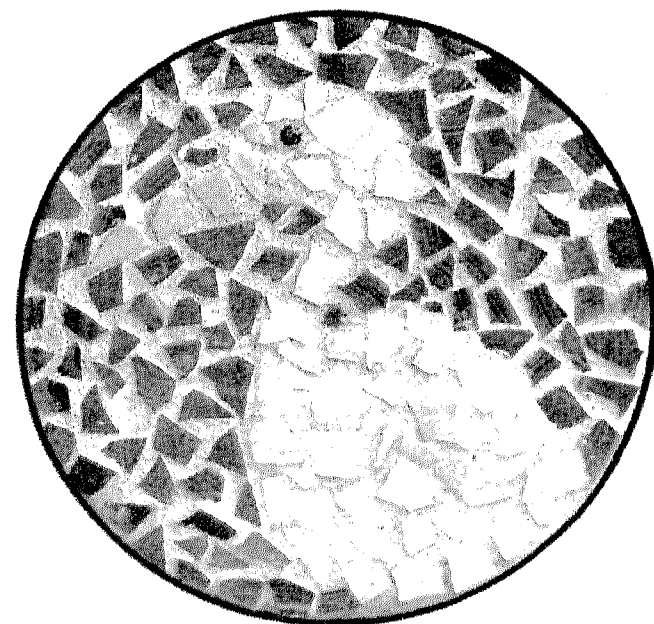
Don Daniels, who helped organize Hirdie-Girdie, paints realistic watercolors; his work is recognized for its crisp clarity, attention to detail and wide range of subject matter. Included in the gallery collection are "Sanibel Lighthouse," "Flying Great White Heron," and "Osprey Nest."

Coughlin, who is also known for his commitment and dedication to the gallery, works primarily in oils en plein air and humorously adds, "Any time you see an oil that looks as though it might bite you, it's mine!" Among his oils on exhibition are "A Private Path," "Nude on the Beach" and "Fall Harvest" (which he calls the perfect painting for someone who has a minimalist white kitchen). In addition to these 14 artists, current gallery owner Calvin Linneman displays a selective group of Haitian artwork

from his own private collection.

These are the artists, each with their own unique talents, who continue to bring visibility and spark to Hirdie-Girdie Gallery each season from November through April. They know how to work together in a cooperative effort and proudly announce that they are revving up for their Tenth Anniversary this fall.

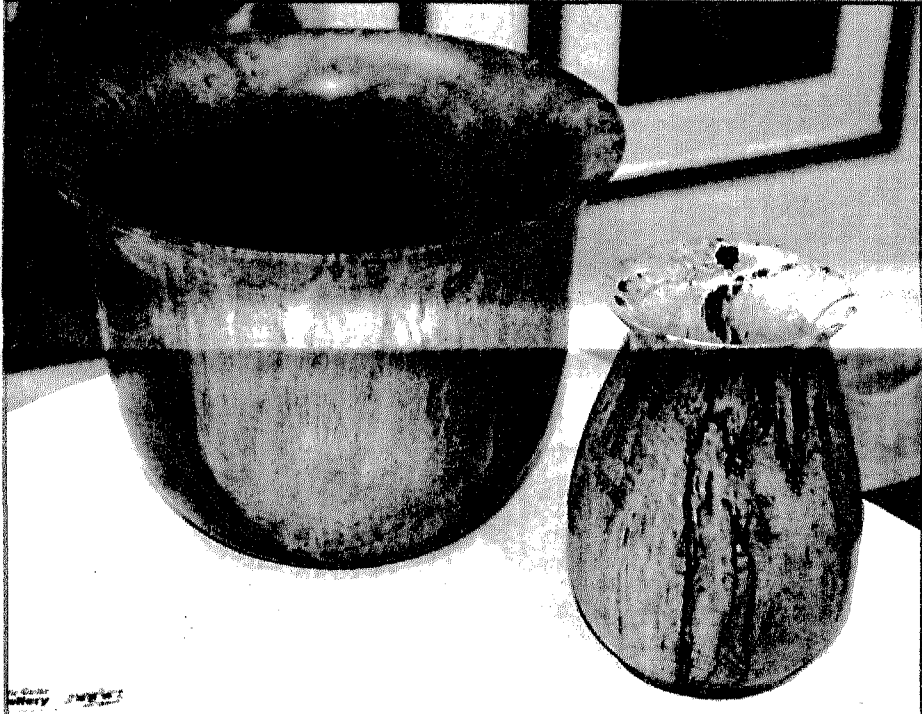
—Special to The Islander



Opposite page: Gordon Coughlin's *Fall Harvest* and a clay cat by Kathy Boynton.

This page, clockwise from left: *Birch Forest* by Mary Ross, a stained glass mosaic stepping stone by Nancy Smith, and Phil Crym's turned vessels.

Photos/Michael Pistella



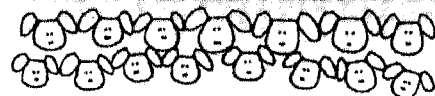
colorist Bea Pappas known for her ability to capture the reflective surfaces of antique automobiles in her still life paintings. She has earned such a wide reputation that people come into the gallery just to see her work. Lola Katchen is an award-winning artist whose work is displayed in the Exxon collection and at the JFK Library. Her bent is toward oils and she portrays people in pensive moods. Recent paintings include "You Never Talk to Me," "The Perch," and "Nude in White."

Carolyn Schooley is a high-profile fiber artist who has taken the craft of basketweaving to a higher art form and

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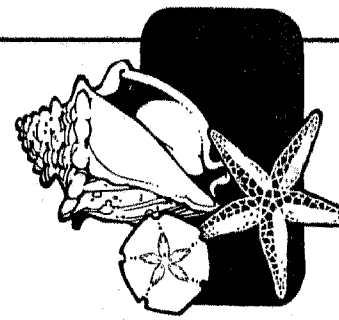
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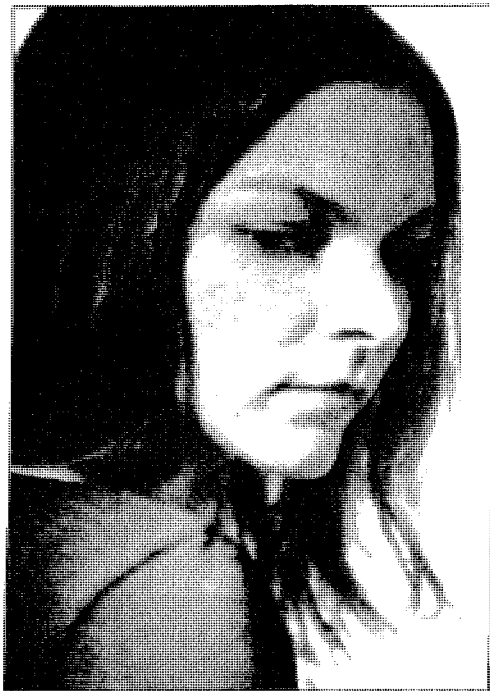
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CENTER STAGE



Rachel Burttram

currently playing at the Arcade Theatre does just that.

What is most striking about Auburn's first major production is his sense of structure, which is at once imaginative and yet entirely uniform. The author steers us gracefully from the past to the present, then from thought to conflict. Nearly every scene is based on bits and pieces of information cleverly withheld 'til the last moment, a kind of mystery brain game. In spite of the intellectual brain games the four dramatic characters play, they nevertheless depict real people whether loving, hating, encouraging or inhibiting one another. These four are intensely alive, complex, funny and human. They are quite original in the fact that they are characters we have never met before.

What the playwright does is intertwine a family drama with a mathematical mystery. Catherine (Rachel Burttram) gives up a college education to care for her brilliant but mentally ill father Robert (Tad Ingram). After her genius father dies, Catherine, her sister Claire (Carrie Lund) and Hal (Michael Hicks) — former student of her father's — try to find out who wrote a mathematical proof found among his belongings while Catherine, at the same time, wonders how much madness and genius she may have inherited from him. There are further com-

Who'd have thought that a dry subject like higher mathematics could be crafted into a riveting mystery that explores four extraordinary yet engaging characters who are involved in an intelligent love story? Well, playwright David Auburn's brilliant, Pulitzer & Tony Award-winning play *Proof*,

plications: romantic and sexual entanglements, a variety of motives behind each character's action. The puzzle of who came up with the proof isn't the most intriguing of issues... there is also how easily can Hal and Claire write off Catherine as another genius/lunatic (or how easily can she write herself off?). This thin line between genius and madness makes for potent, thought-provoking, compelling theater.

Auburn has created a great part in Catherine, which Burttram fills to overflowing. She is stunning as she vacillates from vitality to vulnerability, from rage to high intelligence. A true mark of a fine actress is what happens in the quiet, private moments on stage when the character just is — Burttram fills these moments masterfully. Her last moment at the end of Act One is one of those and I, for one, will file it away in my mental treasure chest.

Ingram creates such a strong presence from his very few but telling moments on stage that his participation is felt in each and every scene. Hicks plays Hal with a shy, gawky, charm that reminds one of a young Anthony Perkins in his early Broadway years. Lund gives a stellar, rock-solid performance that has wonderful tinges of humor. Her morning-after, hangover scene is both painful and amusing. This is an actress who seems to stretch and grow with every role, and I've been following her career since the early, early days of the Pirate Playhouse.

This riveting play is well-produced, with a strong, starkly correct set design by Richard Crowell, Kevin Shaw's lighting is most fitting, and Amanda Fritch's costumes were just right. But it is the truly splendid direction by and vision of Producing Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo that pulls this flawlessly acted, well-crafted play together and make it an altogether stimulating, thought-provoking evening at the theater.

So, if you're ready for an intriguing, (dare I say intelligent?) mystery, make tracks to see *Proof* before it proves to be a total sell-out and you miss your chance. *Proof* runs 'til April 13. Phone 332-4488 and prove to yourself what really good theater is all about.

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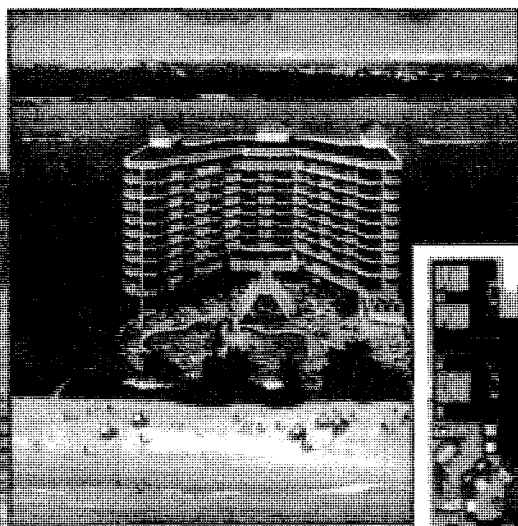
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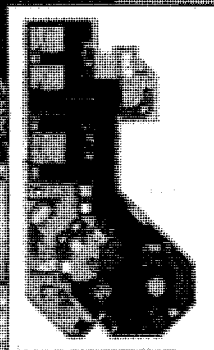
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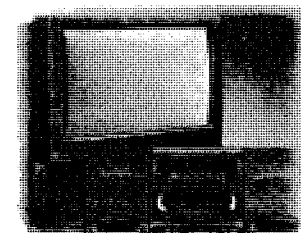
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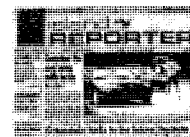
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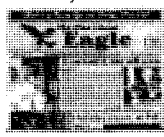
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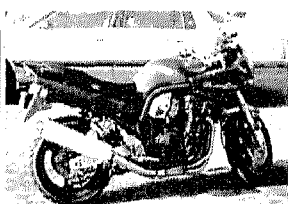
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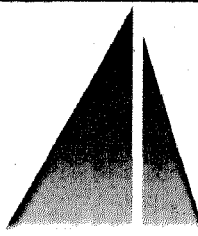
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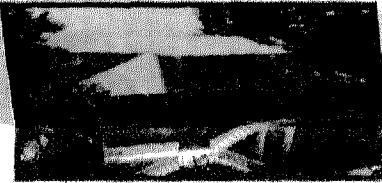
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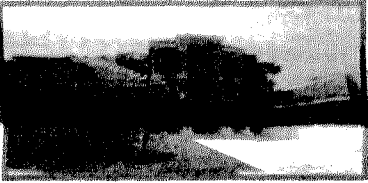
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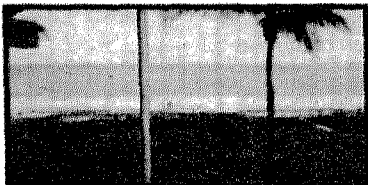
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