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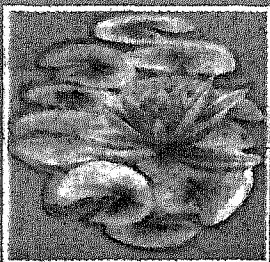
Vol. 42, No. 40

Week of November 21 - 27, 2003

Two Sections • 40 Pages



The Home Pages
this week look
at a new service
for home-
builders.
See page 11A.



BIG ARTS hosts
an art fair.
See page 2B.



Photo by Richard Finkle

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation takes seventh graders from the Sanibel School on a tour upriver to the Franklin Locks.

PIPPING'S
TAHITIAN GARDENS

The only "Almost Endless" Salad Bar on The Islands

CELEBRATION OF OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY!
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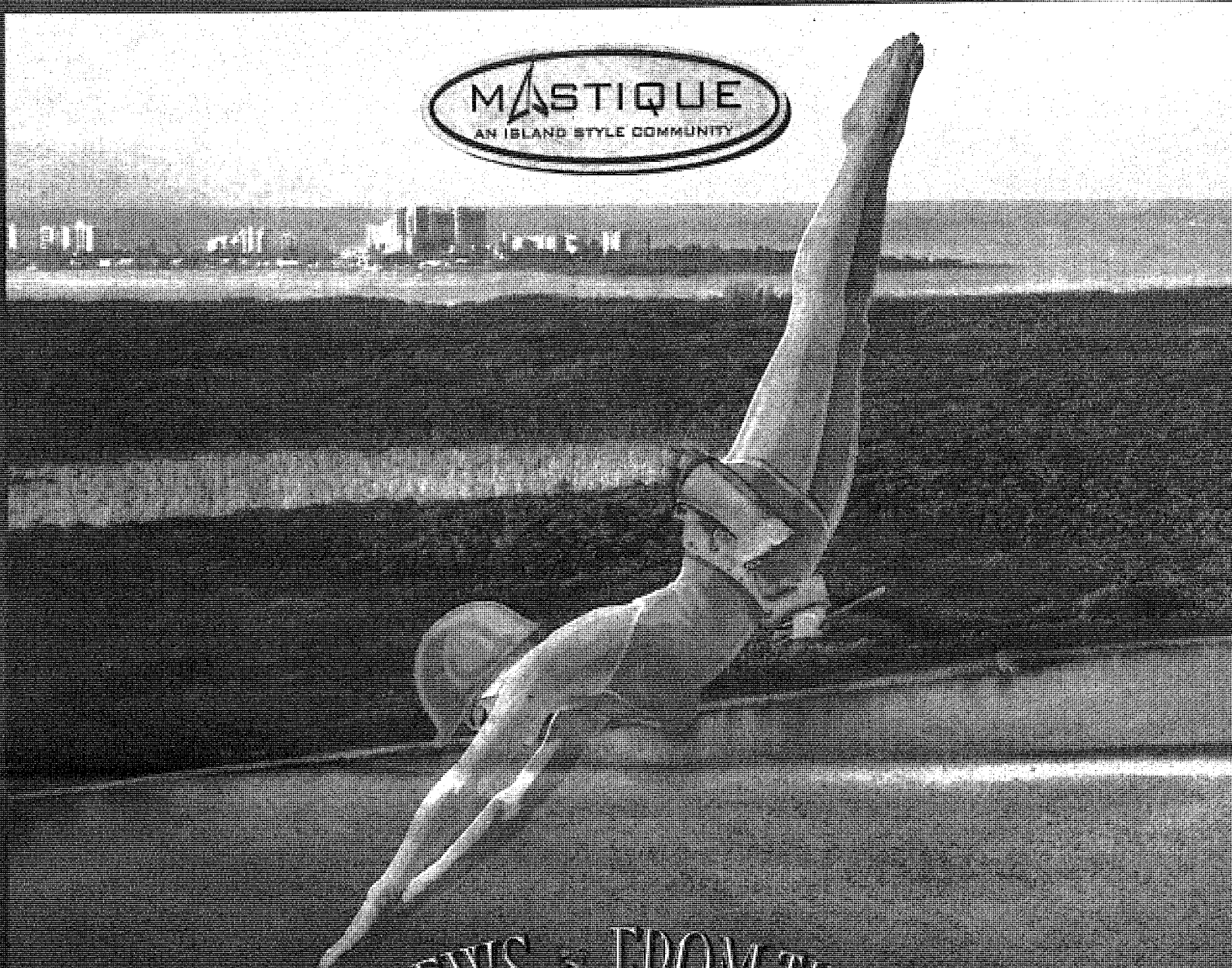
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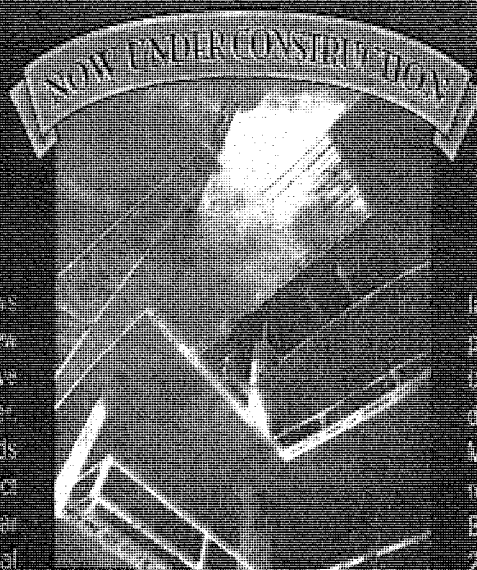
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TURN SOUTH ON JOHN MORRIS ROAD OFF SUMMERLIN ROAD TO MASTIQUE BEACH BOULEVARD - 1/2 MILE ON LEFT
A JACK PARKER HOMES & ROYAL PALM BUILDERS DEVELOPMENT

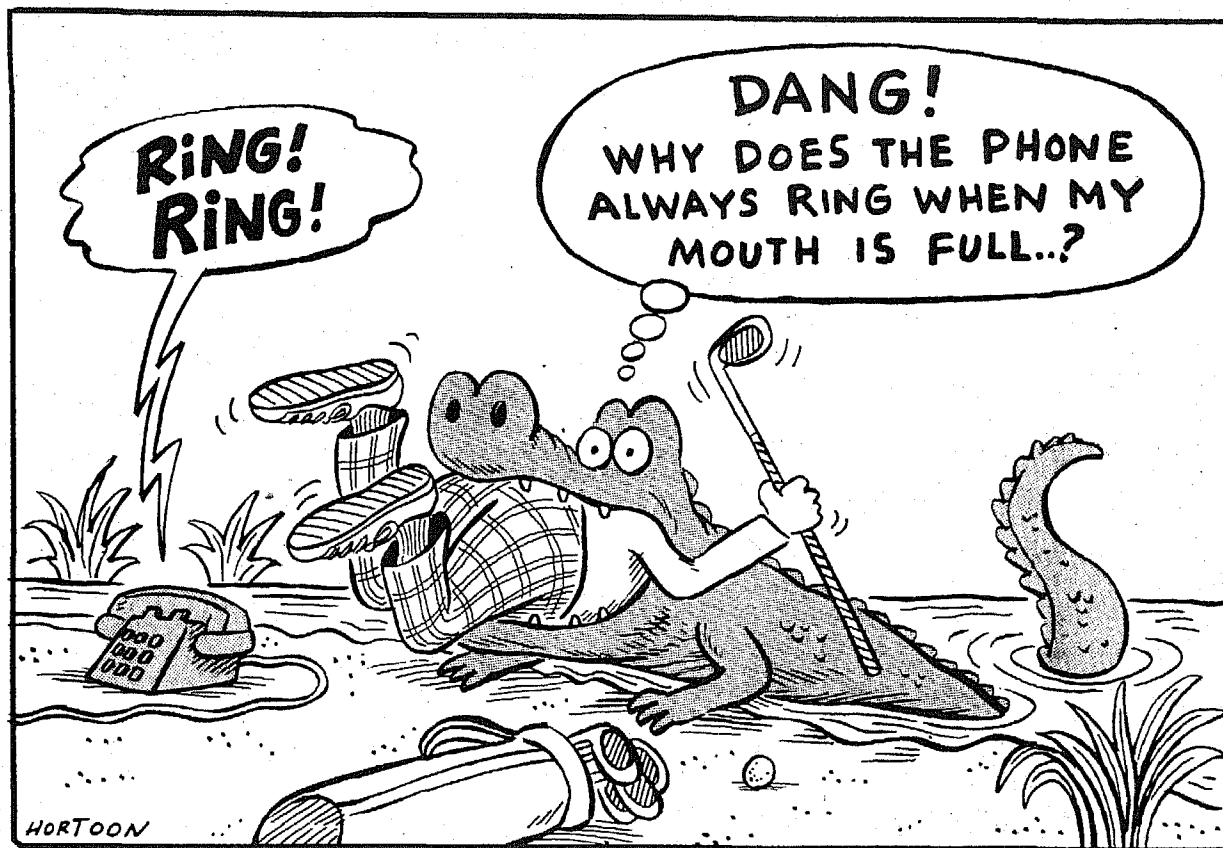
TOO MUCH SUN



Dave Horton



Lee Horton



HORTON

UP PERISCOPE

Well I'm just about ready for Halloween. I've stocked up on goodies for the trick or treaters and I managed to find a really scary costume that doesn't require too much face paint to peel off later.

So next week I'll be ready for..... Thanksgiving?? No wonder there were such good deals available on bulk candy.

I was still recovering from the excesses of the Labor Day weekend when fall shot by. It's getting harder to tell just what part of the year we're in and which holiday to prepare for. I'm not sure if it's just a function of "advancing maturity" on my part or if it's something external. Like global warming, maybe there's some sort of temporal shortening going on in the universe.

Or maybe large consumer retailing chains have started selecting their seasonal displays from a random number table. It's hard to come up with a snappy, eye-catching, wallet-opening display for Labor Day, and even Halloween seemed to be

RENNY SEVERANCE
Editor

What happened to Pilgrims and turkeys? What happened to those Norman Rockwellesque pictures of large families, groaning tables, and little girls struggling to carry huge plates of steaming mashed potatoes?

When drug store chains start carrying frozen turkeys we might start to see something, but right now, even Hallmark doesn't seem to pay much attention to it. Are Thanksgiving cards a casualty of the internet?

given only brief, glancing attention by these guys.

Just when I was expecting to see some telltale black and orange decorations last month it seemed the color scheme was out of whack — green and red started to emerge with accents of silver sprinkles.

But on the bright side, perhaps this is a great chance for mere mortals to celebrate Thanksgiving truly as a family affair, unencumbered by excessive commercialism.

My family is scattered all over the east coast literally from Maine to Florida, so we haven't maintained a tradition of the big family feed. But our alternative is even better: we have developed a tradition of gathering a few close friends who are similar geographical orphans and having a very traditional over-eating festival of a wide variety of delectables, punctuated by some thoughtful moments of remembering our absent folk, and being thankful for what we have and how we got here.

One of the great advantages of this approach is not being required to invite crazy Uncle Ezekial and chillingly dour Aunt Frieda. We get to invite whom we like — not whom we have to. That's worth giving thanks right there — that and all the treasures we do enjoy, and so often take for granted.

COLUMNISTS

The Metastatic Life
Lisa Pierot
— page 5A



Business Profile
Nancy Santeusano
— page 11A

Hollywood Dateline
Little Joe Micale
— page 5B



Fishing & Shelling
Capt. Mike Fuery
— page 7B

Center Stage
Marsha Wagner
— page 1B



**Tennis
Anyone?**

**The
Hope Hospice
Tennis Challenge**

**Saturday & Sunday
Nov. 22 & 23**

The Sanctuary Golf Club

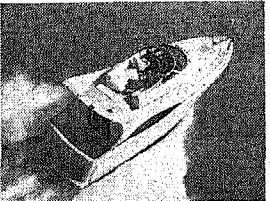
CORRECTION

In last week's story about Veteran's Day we incorrectly identified the president of MOAA as Bob Wasno. We meant to say Bob Laswell. Our apologies, gentlemen.

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HAPPENINGS

Deadline for items to be included on this page is Friday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you an unabashed tree-hugger? Do you like to work outdoors? Do you enjoy learning about plants and animals? If you fit into any of these categories, there are several openings for volunteers in our immediate area.

- "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge incorporates many volunteers into its operation, from front desk personnel, Education Center docents and bookstore clerks to rovers answering questions on Wildlife Drive — and all sorts of jobs in between. Training is provided, and volunteers receive a discount in the bookstore. Call Cindy Anderson at 472-1100 Ext. 222 if interested.
- Bowditch Point Regional Preserve on Fort Myers Beach needs year 'round and seasonal volunteers to help staff care for the trails, native plants and to serve as interpretive guides. No experience needed, tools and training provided. Call 765-4222 for a volunteer application and leave name, mailing address and phone number.
- Manatee Park also needs volunteer interpretive naturalists as educational guides at the park on State Road 80, about a mile east of I-75. Training has started, but continues tomorrow, Nov. 22, and Dec. 6, 9 a.m. to noon. E-mail

Pat Simms with Lee County Parks & Rec at psimms@leegov.com or call 461-7477.

- Still nature-oriented but not so outdoorsy, The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum is also looking for both education docents and volunteers for its gift shop.



Volunteer education docent Ann Tennery shows live mollusks to Lee County public school students in the Children's Learning Lab at The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel Island.

Perhaps you are a retired teacher, or just enjoy being with young people, and could help with visiting elementary school students? The museum also hosts older students and adult study groups such as Elderhostel.

The museum store offers a large selection of books for adults and children on mollusks and marine biology. It also sells

Holiday Reminders

Garbage and Recycling Pick-up

All garbage, recycling and vegetation waste collection by Florida Recycling Services (FRS) scheduled for Thanksgiving Day will be one day later. Therefore, if your normal pick-up day is Thursday, your waste will be picked up Friday, and one day later the remainder of the week.

The normal waste collection schedule will be followed starting Monday, Dec. 1.

Municipal closing and garbage pick-up Sanibel City Hall offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 27, and the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 28.

The offices will re-open Monday, Dec. 1.

Decorations

On Sanibel, no holiday lights, decorations and displays are permitted prior to the day before Thanksgiving and must be removed by Jan. 9.

City Offices & Rec Center

All City of Sanibel Recreation facilities — Civic Center and Recreation Center — will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving. The Civic Center offices will re-open Monday, Dec. 1. The Rec Center will be open Saturday, Nov. 29, from 1 until 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 30, the same hours. The Recreation Center will resume regular office hours, Monday, Dec. 1.

an unusual array of shell-themed gift items.

Volunteers receive several benefits, including a 20 percent discount in the museum store, honorary museum membership, and \$25 reimbursement toward a LeeWay transponder after three months' volunteering. They are expected to work only a few hours each week.

For further information, please call volunteer coordinator Libby Grimm at 395-2233.

fresh cider and homemade cookies (contributions to the cookie buffet are more than welcome).

Costumed Pilgrim ushers will hand out programs and help children who want to try writing with a quill pen. Visitors to the islands are always welcome.

Help is needed around 3 p.m. with setting up chairs; in other years, young people have gained some of their community service credits by helping with set-up. Anyone who can help should call program coordinator Jean Wood, at 472-0673.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist— Sanibel-Captiva will hold its annual Thanksgiving Day service on Thursday, Nov. 27, at 10:30 a.m. in the church located at 2950 West Gulf.

This "giving of thanks" meeting is open to all and will include prayer and readings from the King James Version of the Bible and from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy. There will also be hymns and spontaneous sharings of gratitude from participants.


The community is invited to this service.

Happenings, from page 4

Annual Thanksgiving programs

The islands' family Thanksgiving Eve program will be held Nov. 26 at starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Sanibel Community Center.

This ecumenical, interfaith program is held annually the evening before Thanksgiving with members of local congregations invited to participate. In addition to songs and psalms, Councilman Jim Jennings will deliver a Thanksgiving message. There are always favors for each family and take-home activities for each child and the program ends with Bailey's



The Islands' Community Newspaper since 1961

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THE METASTATIC LIFE

Let's see, first Dad was admitted to the hospital for knee replacement surgery. This makes his second knee, so he has two artificial knees and two artificial hips. He is now officially bionic. You know, my dad is so funny. The first day, the day he had his surgery, I was sure I was coming down with a cold. My oldest daughter has had one, as has my Realtor, and it seemed like it would just be a matter of time.

Anyway, I woke up with a sore throat and no energy and so I forced myself to stay in bed. I read and I called the hospital to talk to Mom. She told me Dad was fine and they were moving him to a private room with an extra large bed. You might not remember that my father is 6'10" tall. A regular hospital bed just doesn't cut it.

By the second day, after talking to an agent in Pennsylvania who contacted me about the possibility of a book, and after seeing Dr. Harwin who was incredibly busy but still managed to inquire again about the movie *Mystic River*. I'd given him the book for Christmas a couple of years ago. He hadn't seen the movie yet. I had. It was amazing.

I had two hours to kill before picking Emily up from school. So I headed over to the hospital. Dad was in good spirits. He was coming off the morphine and going on regular Percodan and our good friends the Sproat's were there as well.

There was this plastic disc on the right side of his body, opposite the side that was operated on, and he lifted it and looked at it. It was full of blood which made me very squeamish and I said "Dad, please put that down." Well, about 15 minutes later I noticed that the same kind of disc was on the left side of his body and so I asked Dad if there were two of them. My dad, who had prostate cancer many years ago and was rendered impotent as a result of a radical prostatectomy, said "I just thought that the blood flow would be easier if it didn't have to cross over the 'Rockies' pointing to his groin and then he added "and the lonesome pine." We were in hysterics.

I left, got Emily who was in a foul mood, and later talked to Anna who had no voice at all. I told her I would take her to the doctor the following day after my bone treatment. She came with me to that, then we picked up Emily and headed for their pediatrician where, of course, we waited.

The girls, especially Emily, drove me crazy as I was three hours overdue for my pain meds.

When the doctor came in he suspected strep or possibly mono, and also treated her for a wart on her finger. It was two hours of testing and waiting and I was literally losing it. The final consensus was that she had a secondary infection from a viral infection and needed to take antibiotics as well as a nasal inhaler.

She was not to use her voice until Sunday so he wrote her a note to not go to work or class and suggested that perhaps she should stay with me as her apartment is tiny and full of cats and a dog which could have been contributing to her prolonged illness.

So we left and picked up prescriptions as well as a cool mist humidifier. Her boyfriend came to stay and we had a good dinner with real vegetables and roast chicken. I pampered her and got them to bed by 11 p.m. I could barely keep my eyes open and crashed in my bed within minutes. The plan is for them to stay with me until Sunday. She doesn't have mono or strep, but she's still a sick, sick girl, so my nurturing mother instincts kicked right in.

Somewhere in the middle of all that I just described, Mom saw Dr. Harwin and was told that her markers were up and she would have to switch to a new chemo. So I spent what little time I had reading up on the two options.

Despite any conclusions you might have drawn before, I really do love my family and will do anything to come through in times of crisis. Today I start back on my chemo. Never a dull moment but I'm actually feeling pretty good. Dr. Harwin assured me, yet again, that I am not terminal and, though I have tests again in the next couple of weeks, I feel pretty certain that I'm alright. Just plugging along with what we all now refer to as a "chronic illness."

Here's hoping that next week is cooler as regards weather and less hectic so I can find that quiet time to sit down and reflect on whatever is roaming around in my brain.

Until next week —



Lisa Pierot

Happenings, from page 4

Bazaar & Bake Sale coming

The Sanibel Community Church Women's Guild Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale is nearly upon us.

Held the afternoon and evening of Dec. 5, it features an extensive selection of handmade crafts and wonderful baked goods perfect for holiday giving. There are great bargains at the silent auction and, hopefully, the Guild Cookbooks will be ready as well.

Lunch and snacks will be available throughout the day at a nominal charge, followed by the best luminary presentation ever.

The doors open at 1 p.m., and all proceeds go toward the many benevolences and ministries, both local and worldwide, the Guild supports.

Shop where orchids bloom

Village Shops 16th Annual Orchid Show November 21, 22, 23

The 16th Annual Orchid Show at the Village Shops is Friday, November 21 through Sunday, November 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For 16 years orchid shows have been a perfect fit in the Village Shops.

The shopping center, tucked back away from busy Periwinkle Way and set among lush trees blooming with orchids, offers a charming environment and relaxed setting for viewing and buy-

ing the exotic and beautiful orchids.

The orchid show features locally grown orchids and free orchid seminars including potting lessons. Orchids from well-known Marilyn's Orchids are available for purchase and the Village shops and galleries offer an artful shopping experience for residents and vacationers alike.

With such unique shops and galleries as Aborigines: Art of the First Person, Essentials, Kirby Rambo Collections, Matsumoto Gallery & Frame Shop, Nanny's, Oh Mangol, Seaweed Gallery, The Write Stuff, Why Knot, Why Knot Relax and William E. Wilson Fine Jewelry Design there is something for everyone.

AAUW fashion show

The Lee County branch of the American Association of University Women will hold its annual fashion show on Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Royal Palm Yacht Club in Fort Myers (sponsored by a RPYC member) with Draper's & Damon's providing the fashions. In addition, there will be entertainment, and an array of arts and crafts will be available for purchase. The doors will open at 11 a.m. and lunch will be served at noon. Tickets are \$25 and may be obtained by calling Judy Sims at 334-2037. Proceeds from the fashion show benefit the AAUW scholarship fund.



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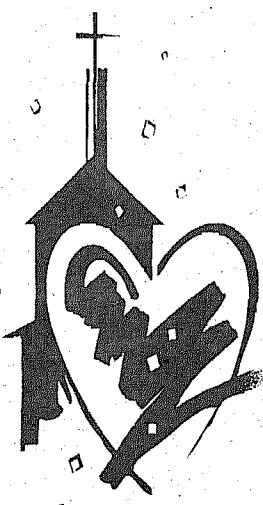
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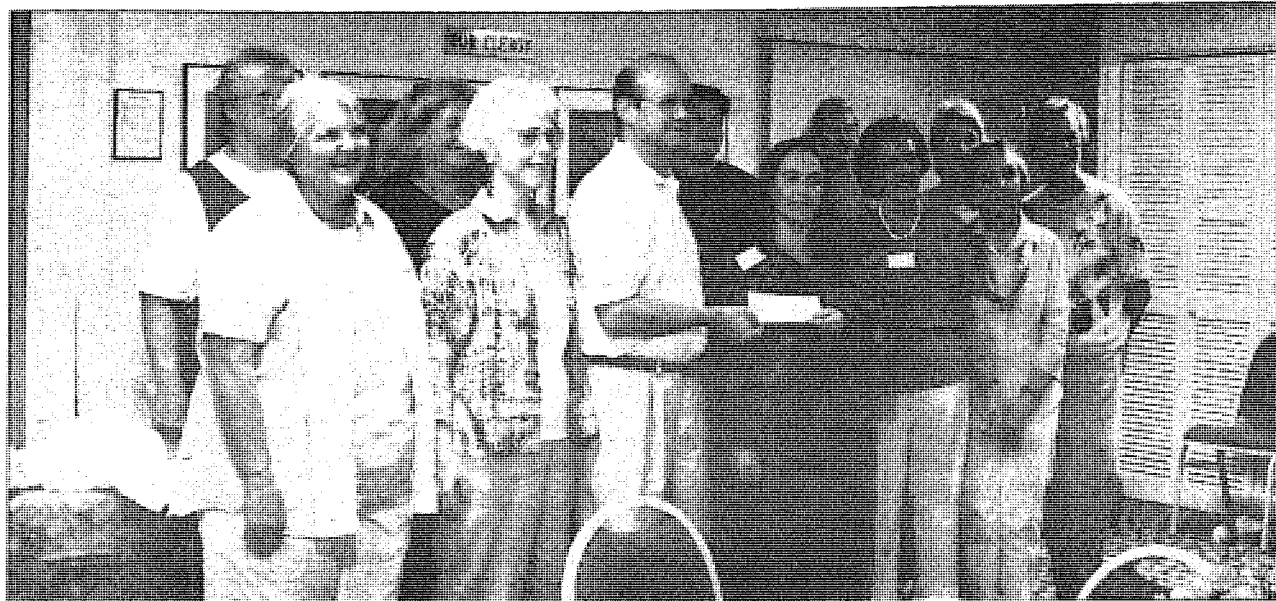


Photo by Anne Bellew

The Episcopal Church Women have raised the money to get St. Michael & All Angels' Habitat for Humanity build going through Noah's Ark and other fundraising efforts. Pictured are Jane Adams, Ruth Denhart, Eleanor Hornbrook, Penny Chrysler, Gale Summa, Elise Allen, Gillian Bath, The Rev. Donald Fishburne, Jean Lanphere, The Rev. Suzy Post-Toto and Bettie Modys.

By Anne Bellew
Associate Editor

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church has embarked on what could be called a "Church Build" (as opposed to a Women Build) for Habitat for Humanity with, hopefully, all church members over 14 pitching in (one has to be 14 to be on the job site, but there's no top age limit). Sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), the house will be built in Cape Coral for Teresa Johnson and her three children — 18-year-old Tina, 14-year-old Joshua and 11-year-old Natalie — and will replace the two-bedroom mobile home the family is crammed into right now in North Fort Myers.

Teresa works at Plattner's Automotive in Fort Myers and goes to school full time at Southwest Florida College. She has completed her 500 hours of "sweat equity" at several different builds in the county, has her \$1,200 cash down payment and can't wait to move in.

"Not only is the sweat equity part of a new homeowner's down payment," said Becky Sanders, Lee County Habitat's vice-president in charge of outreach, "but building a home also teaches how to maintain it."

"Habitat for Humanity International is quite an organization," she continued, "the 19th largest non-profit in



Photo by Anne Bellew

Becky Sanders, St. Michael's pastor, Donald Fishburne, and soon-to-be homeowner Teresa Johnson.

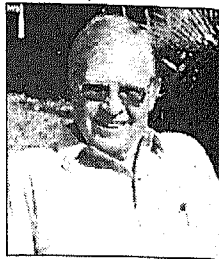
the world with more name recognition in some parts of the world than Coca Cola, believe it or not. There are offices in 86 countries, 1,200 in the states, and Lee County Habitat is the fourth largest in the country. We've been here 21 years and Teresa's will be our 451st home."

OBITUARY

Raymond R. Davis

Long-time winter resident of Sanibel Ray Davis passed away Nov. 16, 2003 at the age of 86.

Davis had lived in Pitman, N.J. most of his life, retiring from a career as a chemist in 1983. He was program chairman of the Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society from 1992-1995 and arranged for numerous well-



known photographers and speakers to make presentations at the popular Thursday night meetings, Ray was, himself, an avid nature photographer and, according to friends, could sit for hours without moving a muscle... waiting for the perfect shot. He met many of his friends, both on the island and from around the country, while shooting pictures at the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge. His photographs have been published in wildlife magazines, calendars and guide books on nature.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and two daughters, Lynn Davis Neview and Patty Davis, and one son, Dan Davis.

Private services were held and burial was at the Seventh Day Baptist Church cemetery in Shiloh, N.J.

She also pointed out that by 2010, the need for affordable single family residences nationally will exceed 40,000 units. Research indicates that eight percent of the homes in Lee County (approximately 6,000) are substandard. The goal for this coming year is 90 homes... there are 109 families waiting who have done everything they need to qualify — acquired their hours and their down payment, completed all the forms, etc.

"Put faith in action" is our slogan, so to speak, and we're looking to St. Michael's to kick off Building for Faith Week with their house-raising on Jan. 10.

"All kinds of skills are needed from sandwich or cookie -making and go-fering to measuring and cutting, nail pounding and drywall finishing. But the most important need is your time," Sanders said. "The build will last from eight to 10 weeks and we work from Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 in the morning to 3:30 in the afternoon."

Habitat for Humanity of Lee County puts 92 percent of the money they raise into building homes. All their funds are raised locally through their Thrift Store, and donations made by individuals, churches, corporations and civic and organizations; they do not receive any government funds or funds from Habitat for Humanity International. Homes are sold at no profit to the new homeowners who make interest-free, monthly mortgage payments to Habitat. Each Habitat home costs \$67,500 to build, of which \$40,000 in cash is necessary. One of the simplest ways for anyone to support Habitat is through its Community Partners program in which a percentage of the total amount spent at certain retailers (Albertson's is one) is contributed to Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat offers a one-hour session called Habitat 101 where participants receive a "behind the scenes" tour of how homes are built and meet some of the Habitat families. Help is always needed on the homes as well. Information is available at 652-0434.

Islander and church member Chuck Hoover is leading the construction group. Gale Summa, also an islander, is president of ECW.

"I am so grateful to the people in the community who donate to the Ark," said St. Michael's pastor, Donald Fishburne, "as well as to the folks who work in the Art and to their customers for shopping there. All of them make it possible for ECW to make this wonderful gift to Habitat for Humanity. The financial gift from Noah's Ark thru ECW is now encouraging the whole congregation to join in building Teresa's house."

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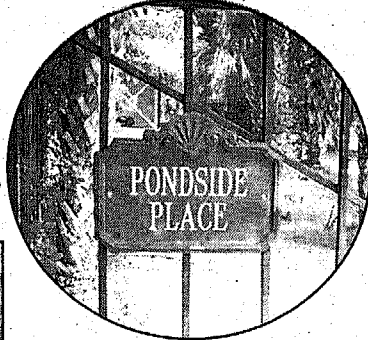
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SCCF annual meeting and auction coming Dec. 5

Foundation Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting and Snowbird Auction of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation is on Friday, Dec. 5. Auction items will be on view from 4 to 5 p.m. with the meeting starting at 5 and the auction following. The bar will open at 6 and the Foundation will be serving ribs and chicken accompanied by all those delightful delectables made by SCCF volunteers. Reservations required — 472-2329.

At the meeting, in addition to the usual state of the foundation and treasurer's report, new members of the board and new trustees will be chosen. The following people have been nominated for terms on the board of trustees:

Richard A. Collman

Before becoming a stockholder in Henderson, Franklin, Starnes and Holt, PA in February of 2001, Richard Collman was the managing partner of a Sanibel law firm for 10 years. Previously, he had practiced law for 15 years in Wisconsin. A graduate of Luther College and Drake University School of Law, he is a member of the Wisconsin and the Florida bar. He focuses his practice in the area of real estate. Richard is a member of the Sanibel-Captiva Realtors Association and the Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club.

He and his wife, Georgia, are active in the First Assembly of God Church. Richard has two sons, Benjamin and Nicholas.

Dr. Carolyn Gray

Carolyn Margaret Gray, Ph.D., is dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University and a resident of Sanibel. She earned a B.A. from the University of Missouri at St. Louis, a Master's in Library Science from the University of Oklahoma, and her doctorate from The Florence Heller Graduate School for Social Welfare, Brandeis University.

Her current professional focus on educational reform efforts in higher education has resulted several publications, not only

on reform but also on information technology. She has worked as a library technology consultant with various organizations, including establishing an online catalog at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in the People's Republic of China, and she has extensive experience securing grants. At FGCU she teaches The University Colloquium, an interdisciplinary environmental ed course designed to explore the concept of sustainability as it relates to a variety of considerations and forces in the environment.

Gray is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Florida Symphony.

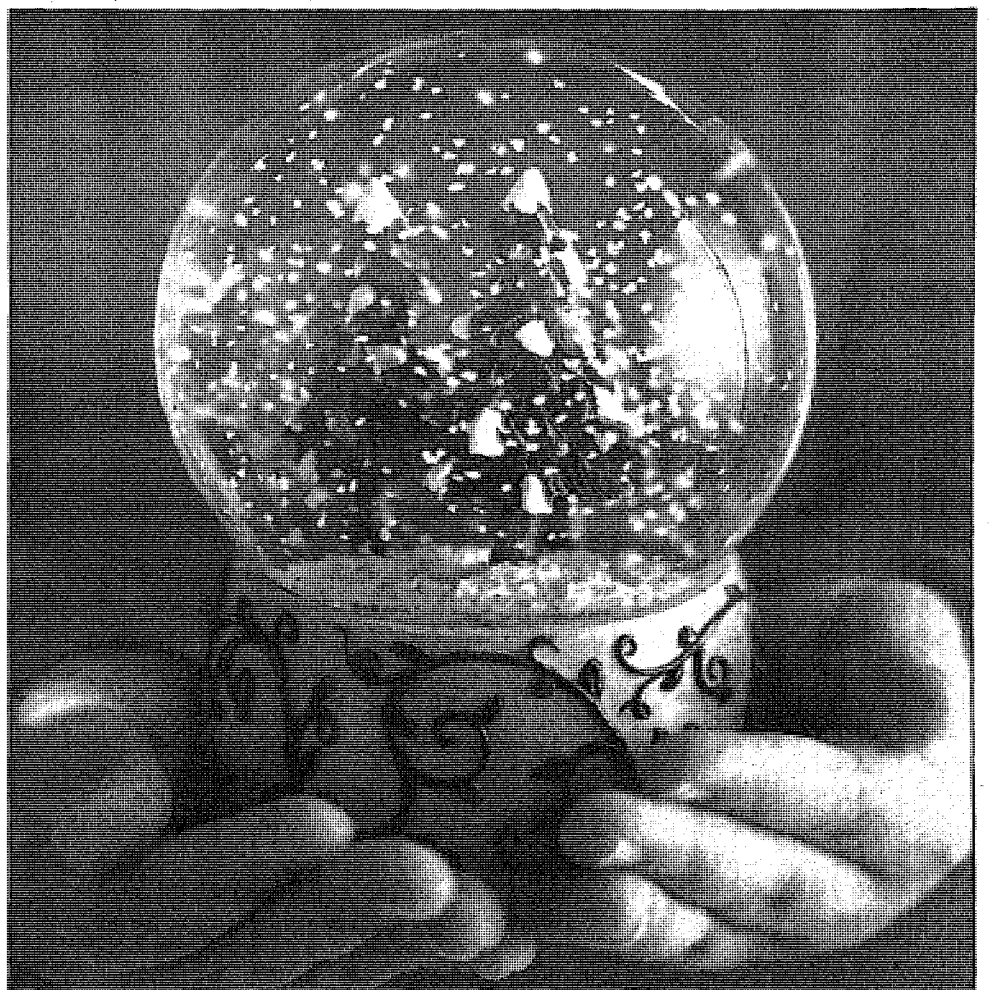
Rae Ann Wessel

Since 1978 Rae Ann Wessel has been engaged in environmental work in South Florida. A limnologist and marine scientist she runs her own environmental firm, Ecosystem Specialists, concentrating on aquatic ecosystem analysis, water quality and habitat restoration. In 1995 she assisted with coordination of a News-Press sponsored community forum focusing on issues related to the Caloosahatchee which resulted in the creation of the non-profit Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association, CRCA.

Since then, Wessel has been involved with identifying critical Caloosahatchee issues and building support for sustainable solutions. In addition, she is involved in oxbow research, historical documentation, and education projects on the Caloosahatchee. She has developed and guides river cruises to educate the public and groups about the history, folklore, ecology and current issues related to this historic river. This year she accomplished funding initiatives for oxbow restoration — federal through the Corps of Engineers 1135 program, and State through the watershed Initiative program.

Wessel is active in several professional and non-profit organizations and serves on the Board of the Southwest Florida Council for Environment Education (SWFCEE).

SCCF meeting, see page 9



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SERVICE CLUBS

Kiwanis - Lou's Hotel

By Bob Wimbush

Lou Kowalsky was a dear friend and master sign painter. He knew about the old days in Chicago, and told of painting the billboard that stood for years on the magnificent mile, current site of the John Hancock Building, and of working 20 stories up on a scaffold at all times of year and throwing a rope over the side to shinny down for lunch. But I think his favorite story was of being called to a totally enclosed Southside hotel where the internal court yard for parking large, expensive cars was invisible to the street and there were no windows facing the public.

Each room Lou painted had a different theme; one was an exotic voyage on the Nile, another of Can-Can Paris. There was a jungle and, of course, the Harem. The hotel did a brisk trade, much of it during the day, and all of it so discrete.

I was reminded of Lou when Paul Wingard, County Causeway Czar, again appeared before



Wingard: The master at work.

Kiwanis to talk about the choice of decoration for the ubiquitous bridge. We have the choice of dolphins (but not Dauphines) or palm trees or seashells. Decorative fixtures may or may not work (depending on the turtles' preference). It will operate day and night, but the centerpiece six miles away will be nearly invisible to Sanibel's resident public most of the time. Except for the comings



Terry Brennen accepts a check for WGCUP's Radio Reading Service for the Blind.

and goings, of course. Lou would have been proud.

Not that it isn't a pleasure to listen to Wingard, who is always funny, well-prepared and usually brings pictures. And I like his moxie. Although this sort of arrangement was usually unwritten over a handshake at Democratic headquarters in Chicago, Paul has his agreements from the powers-that-be, including Fish and Wildlife, and "Based on written confirmation (of their PDE plans' acceptance several years ago — long before current machinations, surveys and the like) we are proceeding." Oh, the authorities and an occasional, self-proclaimed concerned citizen would rail against establishments like the one Lou painted, but the politicians continued to collect the tolls and never shut one down.

You can, and probably have, if you're still interested, read about the various lane configurations in early columns here and almost everywhere else, but a couple of operational features are interesting. There was general consensus

by Kiwanis armchair scientists (of course everything about the bridge is supported by science) that the current single lane configuration is faster than the old multi-lane scheme. According to Paul's wonderful sense of the obvious, traffic flow has for years been controlled primarily by the Periwinkle intersection and embellished by the drawbridge.

A lot of the spoil island's asphalt will be recycled — used to provide turn lanes that will eliminate "side friction." The test pilings will be broken off below the mud line and removed. Actual bridge pilings will be larger.

Current bridge pilings are spaced every 48 feet. Pilings on the new bridge will be fewer and almost 100 feet farther apart. The tollbooth — Lou would have loved this, I wish he were here to paint it — will be decorated to represent the grand "entrance to the Causeway Islands."

Removing (or turning) any causeway island will wreck havoc with sea grasses, water flow and darn near everything else environmental.

County science (of course) does not support the removal. (Actually, any school kid not on Ritalin, but with a basic grasp of fluid dynamics, can easily tell that the water on one side of the islands is not appreciably higher than the water on the other.

Fish and Wildlife, like our own Planning Commission, has a role that is advisory, not binding. The Coast Guard has final say — except for the weigh station. That belongs to the city, and the county has no plans. Perhaps someone will mount a project to design it by binding voter referendum.

Kiwanis breakfasts at the Dunes on Tuesday where our government, and the citizens' attempts to affect it, entertain us constantly.

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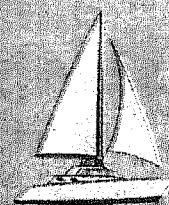
Serving
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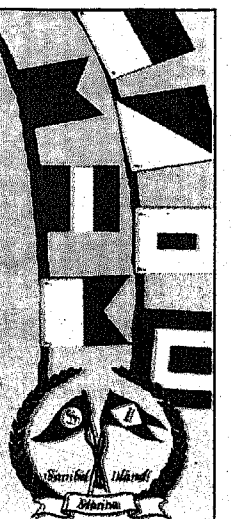
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Pockets of wildlife in far away places

By Bev Postmus
Special to the Islander

HOT is the only word to describe birding in Texas in late summer. It was 110 degrees as we drove the dusty road through Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, but we were rewarded with great views of an adult and an immature crested caracara.

Our best birding experience in Texas was at our daughter's home in the Hill Country. On an early morning walk down her steep-sloped, wooded backyard bordering one of Austin's wonderful green-belt areas, we flushed a chuck-will's-widow from its daytime perch. It's hard to say who was more surprised. We hear these birds on Sanibel, but, they are never easy to find.

bers of these jays here. Were they grouping to migrate, or attracted to the abundant crop of nuts from pinyon pines that in other parts of the west are dying from an

infestation of a bark beetle? White-throated swifts and blue-green swallows soared over the cliffs while we struggled to keep these fast-movers in our binoculars so we could distinguish between them.

Wildlife, see page 10



Photo by Clair Postmus

An elk bugles in Rocky Mountain National Park.

If we hadn't agreed to present our Midway Island program in Houston in early September, we certainly would have chosen a better time for our 7,000 mile jaunt that would take us through Texas and on to Colorado and Illinois. My husband, Clair, always takes lots of photos when we travel, while I fill a notebook with birdlists and impressions. Both are great for jogging the memory once we return to Sanibel.

In western Colorado, the temperatures were more moderate. Early morning hiking in some of the canyons of Colorado National Monument was comfortable as well as beautiful. Mere words cannot describe the morning treat of the sunlight sliding down the red rock of that impressive national landmark.

The raucous calls of large flocks of pinyon jays echoed between high canyon walls. We had never seen such large num-

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WEEKEND FORECAST FOR NOVEMBER 22 & 23

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Daytime temps will be warm at best. Expect a chilly night.		Daytime temps are again on the cool side, with nights getting into the sixties.	

WEEKEND TIDES

City	Sat. High	Sat. Low	Sun. High	Sun. Low
Cape Coral Bridge	5:18 a.m.	2:53 p.m.	6:28 a.m.	10:54 p.m.
Captiva at Redfish Pass	3:08 a.m.	11:37 p.m.	4:18 a.m.	8:44 p.m.
Fort Myers	6:11 a.m.	3:35 p.m.	7:21 a.m.	11:47 p.m.
Mattacha Pass	4:46 a.m.	2:19 p.m.	5:56 a.m.	10:22 p.m.
Pineland	3:44 a.m.	1:17 p.m.	4:54 a.m.	9:20 p.m.
Point Ybel	2:13 a.m.	11:39 p.m.	3:23 a.m.	7:49 p.m.
Punta Rassa	3:02 a.m.	11:32 p.m.	4:12 a.m.	11:57 p.m.
St. James City	3:33 a.m.	12:07 p.m.	4:43 a.m.	1:08 p.m.

Gulf of Mexico

BOATING FORECAST
Wind: NW 12 Knots
Seas: 2-3 Feet
Bay & Inland: Moderate Chop

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81/82 Sat
83/85 Sun

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STATE FORECAST-SATURDAY

City	Forecast
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DAYTONA BEACH	78/60
FT. LAUDERDALE	82/58
FT. MYERS BEACH	80/64
GAINESVILLE	78/50
JACKSONVILLE	78/52
KEY WEST	80/68
KISSIMMEE	78/58
MIAMI	80/60
ORLANDO	78/58
PANAMA CITY	75/52
PENSACOLA	75/52
SARASOTA	78/58
ST. PETERSBURG	78/58
TALLAHASSEE	75/58
TAMPA	78/58
VERO BEACH	78/60
WEST PALM BEACH	80/67

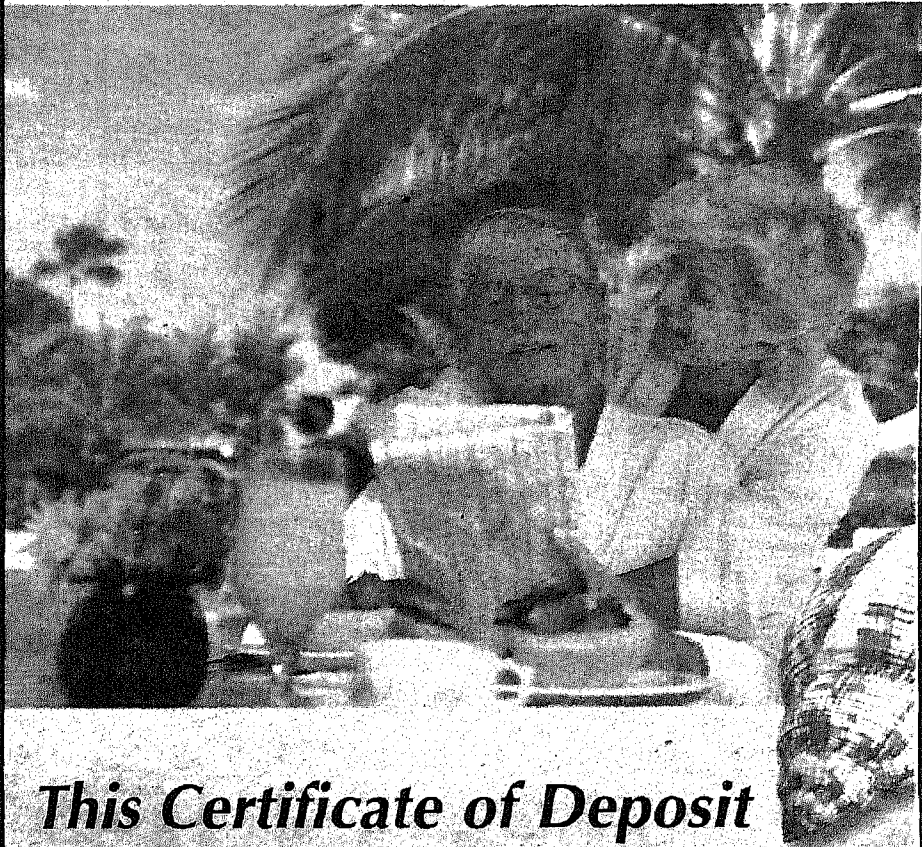


SATURDAY
SUNRISE
6:49 AM



SATURDAY
SUNSET
5:43 PM

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Wildlife, from page 9

We had a three day "winter" in eastern Colorado. It was cold (28 degrees), windy, and it SNOWED one day. Hiking our favorite Rocky Mountain National Park trail to Mill's Lake was like stepping through a fairyland. As the dark pines absorbed heat from the sun, the snow on their branches began to melt and drip. The air was still cold enough to freeze the drips, forming in icicles that hung like Christmas tree decorations from the tips of the branches. It was breathtaking.

September in the park means bugling elk. Bugle is as close as our human vocabulary can come for naming this call, but it fails to convey the frustration and emotion that the elk pour into it. At dawn and dusk the largest bulls, their impressive racks still partly in velvet, sound forth as they round up their harems and warn off challengers. While Clair photographed a number of six-point bucks, I listened and birded at the same time. Wilson's warblers looked like tiny suns as they flitted in the shrubs along Cub Lake Road. There were also many yellow-rumped warblers, birds we have throughout the winter here on Sanibel.

Before we moved to Florida, we often traveled the Colorado/Illinois part of our trip. We camped in several interesting places on the way from Colorado to Illinois.

Our best pocket of wildlife on the whole trip occurred at the base of the Kingsley Dam, just north of Ogallala in Nebraska. A recently mowed hay field bordered the road to the campground. Hundreds of eastern meadowlarks must have thought it the field of milk and honey. In early evening, and

again at dawn, they filled the air with their fluid, flute-like calls. Some "Florida" birds enjoyed the wetlands at the base of the dam. Ospreys soared overhead; a black-crowned night heron adult and young flushed from the reeds, as did an American bittern. Coots and blue-winged teal filled the waters below the dam.

Our most exciting find there was a long-eared owl. It is a slightly smaller and more slender version of the great-horned owl we see and hear on Sanibel, but its facial disk is rufous, and its long ear tufts are closer together than are the great horned. I've only seen this owl once before. It doesn't occur in Florida.

There were even a few pockets of wildlife in and near Chicago. Our highlight here was a visit with a dear Sanibel friend to McGinnis Slough southwest of the city. There were more great blue herons and great egrets in this slough than we ever see at one time, even in "Ding" Darling. Impressive!

Here we delighted in watching the beautifully colored wood ducks. Trees along the paths around the slough gave us a chance to see many warblers: Tennessee, Nashville, black-throated greens, yellow-rumped, magnolia, ovenbird, and redstart.

It is wonderful to visit family and friends. It is delightful to find pockets of wildlife wherever you go. But one of the best parts of our trip was coming across the Sanibel Causeway, back to this special sanctuary island. It always makes us ask each other why we ever bother to travel so far.

SCCF meeting, from page 7

Ann Bruning

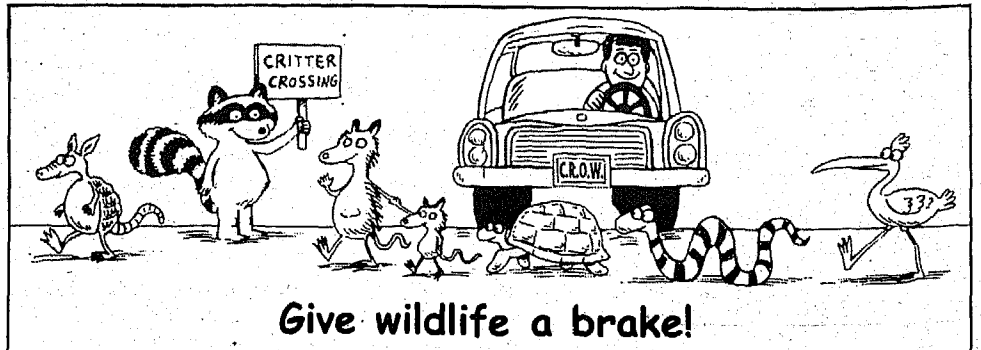
Long-time Captiva resident Ann Hayford Bruning has been a stalwart supporter of the Foundation for years. Born in Evanston, Ill., in 1928, she started visiting Captiva with her family in 1938 and moved to the island in 1944. She earned a degree in chemistry from Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C. Bruning continued annual visits to Captiva through the years and returned permanently in 1981. She has served on the boards for the Captiva Civic Association, Captiva Library Association, and Chapel by the Sea.

Ann and her husband, Chuck, have five children and 14 grandchildren. They have been Life Members of the Foundation for about 15 years and Ann is a regular volunteer in the Nature Shop/Bookstore as well as in the office. An avid swimmer and sailor, she sails in the Caribbean every year and, when she's home, she can often be found kayaking around Buck Key.

Janie Frese

After moving to Sanibel in late 1982, Janie Frese's first job was at SCCF, working with the Foundation and assisting the new board chairman, Porter Goss. After several years at SCCF, she worked with the Goss family for more than 15 years as their "island assistant." In 1986, she started Island Homewatch, Inc., looking after people's residences in their absence (which she still does) and, in 1998, started her real estate career. She is affiliated with Priscilla Murphy Realty. Janie has volunteered for J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and the International Osprey Foundation.

She currently serves as a member of the board and treasurer of Community Housing & Resources, Inc. Her son, Joe Carr's first job was at the SCCF Native Plant Nursery. Her husband, Charlie, is an artist with the Tower Gallery and recently donated a whimsical birdhouse for the upcoming auction to benefit the Foundation's intern program.



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Building or remodeling? What can On Site-Assurance do for you?

by Nancy Santeusano
Special to The Islander

From new construction to remodeling to researching questions, like the possibility of putting in a dock or adding walkways, are all within the parameters of Sarah Ashton's On Site Assurance. Getting information from the Planning Board, locating the best vendors for special materials and finding new options are all in her day's work. "I am not a general contractor and I can't pull permits, but I can do the leg work to find out the possibilities." After only one year in operation, On-Site Assurance is already meeting expectations and fast becoming a referral business.

As Georgianne Nienaber of Pequot Lakes, MN who, with her husband, recently completed extensive remodeling at White Caps says, "We want to thank you for your invaluable assistance with our White Caps remodeling efforts. Having you as our 'eyes and ears' has assured us that living 1,500 miles away does not have to equate with constant worry that the project is proceeding as we had hoped and planned. Your diligence and attention to detail is unsurpassed."

Ashton explains that this job operated on a tight deadline and delays had to be avoided. She tracked the progress on a frequent basis, E-mailed digital photos and asked pertinent questions of the contractors on site. In turn, she called her clients on the spot and obtained immediate answers.

At Butterknife, Ashton's job was quite different. Here the client wanted to add additional features outside the general contract. The owner wanted to explore the possibility of adding a pool/waterfall and installing a customized closet system. Toward the end of the project Ashton



Sarah Ashton taking notes on the job.

assisted in identifying a punch list of items. She explains, "That's like walking through the house and creating the 'still to do' list. These are the kinds of things I did to add value for the owner who could not be on site."

Currently, one of her exciting assignments is the Symphony House. Each year one showcase house is selected as a symphony fund raiser, and each year its opulence and elegance are among the finest. For 2004, the chosen site is in Bonita Springs and with rain delays, the construction schedule has become very condensed.

Here, Ashton's primary role is to ensure that all of the selections, like fixtures and customized counter tops, follow specifications and are on location when needed. Initially, during the framing and prewiring of the house, Ashton had to ensure that electrical and plumbing plans were accurate.

The challenge of Off-Site Assurance is to avoid the need for re-work or change orders. "Any time you talk about unforeseen things, you are talking about delays and unforeseen costs," points out Ashton.

The construction process for the Symphony House has had to be as streamlined as possible to meet the February 12, 2004 gala opening date, and Ashton knows how to make this happen!

On-Site Assurance is best defined as "custom construction coaching." Their ultimate goal is to help you end up with a house or renovation you always wanted, and without horror stories or regrets.

This may seem relatively easy until you realize the amount of time and the number of decisions you have to make. You've chosen exactly what you think you want and,

according to your plan, all should go smoothly until delays and unforeseen obstacles begin to occur. You're either too busy or too far away to keep the project on track. You become frustrated with the number of details and the amount of interaction required between you and the builder to make the whole thing happen in a methodical and timely fashion. That's where On-Site Assurance comes into play.

From the very beginning, Ashton helps you clarify your choices. No detail is too insignificant and she works with you to find out your top priorities. Imagine having a knowledgeable person who can eliminate the worry and disappointments involved in construction. That's a remarkable service and begins with establishing expectations between you and On-Site Assurance in making design decisions that can save you money by avoiding costly changes later.

To accomplish this Ashton creates an "Assurance Map" which means going through each room with you, highlighting the details that need to be decided. That's

On Site Assurance, see page 12



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On Site Assurance, from page 11

how to avoid a long laundry list of dreaded change orders and spending additional dollars later.

The second step is the "On Site Assurance Review" which means tracking the progress of the work from start to finish. To accomplish this, Ashton makes frequent visits to the site, checking on decisions the owner has specified. For each project she sets up a log, and her goal is to troubleshoot errors before they can occur.

Not only home owners appreciate Ashton's service, but builders and contractors also appreciate the consistency, follow-up and communication she provides between them

and the home owner.

Dan Dodrill, President of Daniel Wayne Homes, Inc. whole-heartedly endorses her services. "Sarah Ashton & On-Site Assurance has been a valuable asset during the construction of a custom home for one of my clients on Sanibel Island. Her follow-up and professionalism were absolutely wonderful."

This becomes a winner for both the client who wants to be sure that everything is done right, and the builder who wants everything to go smoothly. Her communication and clarification throughout the project make the difference between new construction, additions or renovations completed on time, within budget and at the end, a punch list with a perfect score!

For further inquiries contact Sarah Ashton, owner of On-Site Assurance at 239-395-3142 or Email: sarah@onsiteassurance.com www.onsiteassurance.com



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Realtors see a lot of houses and listen to a lot of buyers. Along with architects and professional kitchen planners, they can provide valuable advice on how to change a kitchen or bath, or add a room that will add to your family's enjoyment and attract future buyers.

Before you decide to take the remodeling plunge, you should consider whether expensive improvements will over-improve your home. If you are inclined to make an investment in your home in the Sanibel and Captiva area that far exceeds the selling price of other homes in the area, it may be better to sell your present home and buy one that corresponds to your needs.

Margie specializes in Sanibel, Captiva and Ft. Myers real estate. She was named Realtor of the Year by Sanibel and Captiva Assn. of Realtors in 2000 and 2002. Her new book, "How To Make Your Realtor Get You The Best Deal--South Florida Edition" is must reading if you are thinking of buying or selling. Call Margie at PMR 472-1511, or visit her web site at <http://www.MargieDavison.com>.

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Not quite sure what to buy that cook for the holidays? There are a number of kitchen devices on the market that they may find handy and useful.

For example, manufacturers are making food thermometers that are more user-friendly and accessible to consumers. Some types of food thermometers currently available include:

☉ **Digital.** These read temperatures instantly and are best for small pieces of meat and poultry like hamburgers and chicken breasts.

☉ **Disposable.** Handy when grilling at home or away from home; the tip changes color when the safe temperature is reached for a particular food.

☉ **Large Dial.** Made for large foods like roasts and turkeys, these are easy to read and can be left in the food for the duration of cooking.

According to USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline, using a food thermometer is the only way to tell if food has reached a high enough internal temperature to destroy harmful bacteria. Cook steaks to at least 145°F, poultry breasts to 170°F, hamburgers to 160°F, and whole chickens or turkeys to 180°F.

Insulated carrying cases for casseroles make great gifts and are convenient for transporting hot or cold food. The insulated casserole carriers will keep things hot or cold for approximately an hour.

When it comes to cutting boards, research shows that nonporous surfaces, such as plastic and tempered glass, are easier to clean than wood. If you are using a solid hardwood cutting board, it is dishwasher safe; however, wood laminates should not be washed in the dishwasher. Disposable cutting boards made of paper and plastic are readily available, but are designed for one-time use only.

Slow cookers are still a very popular and safe-convenient countertop appliance for busy cooks. They cook foods slowly at a low temperature—generally between 170°F and 280°F. The low, moist heat helps less expensive, leaner cuts of meat become tender.

Another useful appliance is an electric roaster oven. This tabletop appliance serves as an extra oven for cooking foods such as a turkey or large roast. Generally the cooking time and oven temperature setting are the same as for conventional cooking.

To learn more, visit the USDA Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov or call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854) or TTY at 1-800-256-7072.

Handcrafted touches to décor

A timeless creative outlet, crafting is a great way to express yourself, discover new talents and connect with family and friends. Whether creating special gifts, memorabilia or accessories, you'll also be crafting moments to remember. Turning Leaf Coastal Reserve Vineyards offers simple tips for creating chic crafts.

The Keeping of Keepsakes. From old photographs to concert ticket stubs, special mementos are priceless. Compiling these items in one place, such as a beautifully decorated scrapbook, is an excellent way to preserve them. What's more, a scrapbook makes an ideal gift for almost everyone.

Bring the Outdoors In. As your garden flourishes, celebrate by adding outdoor touches to your indoor décor. Personalize decorative pieces such as table arrangements with wild flowers and fresh sprigs of herbs from the garden. Place small arrangements in antique jars and bottles for a shabby chic look. These crafts are festive, earthy and stylish—and can be created at little or even no cost.

Coordinate a Crafty Gathering. From the Manhattan skyline to the foothills of Arizona, creative-types everywhere are painting pottery. Try hosting a "paint your own pottery party," inviting friends and family to paint together at a local pottery boutique. Ask each guest to bring delicious snacks or a handcrafted bottle of wine, such as Turning Leaf Coastal Reserve 2001 Cabernet Sauvignon. Let the oak background and rich black currant and black cherry flavors inspire you. After experimenting with different colors of paint and wine varietals, send each person home with per-



sonally designed pottery and fond memories.

Crafts in the Kitchen. Sharing recipes between close friends and family is a great way to exercise creativity, while making menu planning interesting. To keep family recipes and traditions alive, incorporate stories about the birth and evolution of a recipe or even a funny cooking mishap. When gathered with friends, open a bottle of your favorite wine and try experimenting with new recipes, or add a twist to traditional ones by incorporating fresh spices and herbs, which can infuse new flavor into food. You can celebrate your new flavors by serving a unique, tasty hors d'oeuvre, such as Portabello Bruschetta with Rosemary Aioli, paired with Turning Leaf Coastal Reserve 2001 Pinot Noir—its juicy cherry and strawberry flavors taste delicious with the earthy flavors of Portobello mushrooms and rosemary. Your recipe collection will be a perfect mix of new and old world flair.

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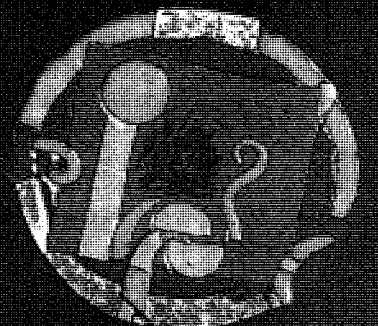
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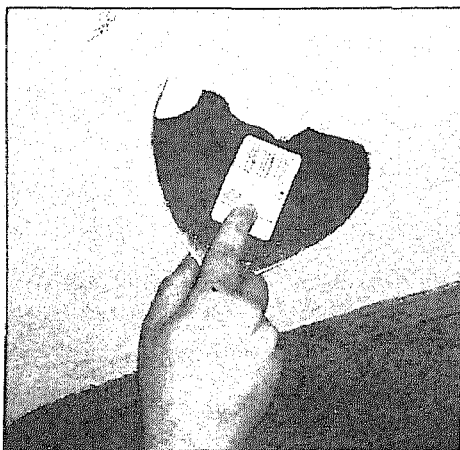
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A professional-looking paint job: it's in the preparation

Holiday entertaining is right around the corner, and a new coat of paint on the living room and dining room walls is one of the least expensive ways to give your home a whole new look before company arrives.

Paint professionals offer these tips for a great-looking paint job:

- The key to a professional looking paint job is in the preparation. That includes filling and fixing the nail holes, cracks and divots in your walls. To begin, you need the right tools and materials: a putty knife, spackling paste, self-adhesive backing material, fine (100-grit) sandpaper, and in some cases a sanding block and utility knife. In addition, companies that make wall repair products, like DAP, now offer wall repair patch kits that include most of the tools and materials you'll need.
- High-quality products make for a high-quality finish. This is true even of spackling paste. Inexpensive spackling will flash paint and shrink or crack when dry, ruining an otherwise perfect paint job. So spend the extra money to get a high-quality spackling, such as DAP's Crackshot® spackling paste.
- Thoroughly clean the surface of the repair site, getting rid of any loose paint, wallpaper, loose drywall, dust or dirt. For nail holes, cracks and small divots, use the putty knife to fill the area with spackling, smooth and let dry. When dry, check for any shrinkage and fill again if needed. Once dry, lightly sand the repaired area to make it level with the surrounding area. For larger holes in dry wall, cut self-adhesive backing material to cover the hole, place on the hole and apply spackling paste.
- Always make sure that the spackling is completely dry before you paint. Painting on wet spackle usually means you'll have to reapply spackling and



It's important to prepare a wall before painting, with the help of spackle and caulk.

repaint. One way to avoid this problem is with DAP's DryDex® dry time indicator spackling paste. It goes on pink and dries white, taking the guesswork out of when to paint.

- A really good finish to a room usually involves some caulking. Caulking the cracks between floor molding and wall or ceiling molding and wall completes the wall preparation and quickly eliminates drafts and unsightly gaps. For this, use a good acrylic latex caulk that can be painted. If you want the beauty of the surface to shine through without painting, DAP has new AlexPlus® Crystal Clear caulk that seals gaps and dries crystal clear.

Whatever you are looking to paint this fall to get ready for company, be sure and take the steps to clean and prepare all surfaces. Even the professionals take from two to four days to properly prepare, prime and paint your average room.

For more help with your wall repair questions, you can call DAP seven days a week at 1-888-DAP-TIPS (1-888-327-8477) or go to www.dap.com.

Thanksgiving hosting tips

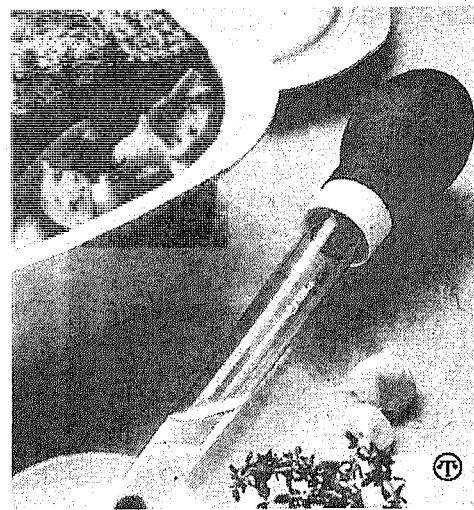
(NAPSI)-If you've agreed to host Thanksgiving at your home this year, you may be feeling a bit overwhelmed. Don't let the stress of preparations ruin the festivities! Organizing your errands, meals and entertaining responsibilities will allow you to accomplish one task at a time. Tupperware offers the following tips to help you plan in advance. This way, you can focus on the holiday, rather than the preparations.

Don't let hours spent in the kitchen keep you from actually enjoying time that should be spent with family and friends. Plan ahead and begin preparing meals and desserts in advance. You can store and freeze these foods in Tupperware® Rock 'N Serve® containers, which are designed to transport meals and desserts from the freezer to the microwave to your dining room table. Tandem Cooking will help cut down on your kitchen time considerably. Ovenworks® by Tupperware allows you to begin cooking your meals in the microwave and finish or browning them in the oven, without sacrificing food quality.

You can also save time by hitting the supermarket well in advance. You'll be able to avoid the crowded aisles and long lines at the deli and checkout counters. Shopping early gives you a better chance of buying necessary ingredients and food items while they're still in stock. It's also wise to buy your ingredients in bulk in order to cut down on time and energy spent making quick, last-minute trips to the grocer.

There's no greater disappointment on Thanksgiving Day than a dry turkey! Be sure to baste your turkey often to keep it moist and well-flavored. The Tupperware® Healthy Baster has a drip-less design feature that enables easy separation of fat from basting juices for healthier preparation of meat, poultry and gravies. Cooking the traditional Thanksgiving turkey can become an all-day event, so be sure to start your preparations early in the morning.

Don't stop your garnishing at the turkey! Create a festive Thanksgiving table and spread to accommodate the holiday meal. Your dining room table can be transformed



easily to reflect the holiday with the simple additions of a cornucopia centerpiece, holiday candles or Thanksgiving place cards. The Tupperware® Impressions Collection (matching bowls, tumblers and pitchers) which is available in colorful autumn shades, can be used to complement a seasonal spread.

Not every guest will be interested in the Thanksgiving football games! Keep several holiday videos on hand for guests to watch in a separate room or dig up some of your favorite boardgames for a great family challenge. Be sure to keep a steady flow of beverages and hors d'oeuvres available as well.

Want to avoid feasting after the celebration is over? If you're concerned about putting on extra pounds this holiday season, then send the leftovers home with relatives! Pack leftovers in CrystalWave® containers by Tupperware which are available in divided dishes for multi-course meals, soup mugs and a variety of bowl sizes. These containers are virtually liquid-tight so there's no need to worry about spilling. Or, freeze the leftovers for yourself...just in case you crave that Thanksgiving meal in February!

Planning ahead will allow you to host a successful Thanksgiving gathering. In the midst of your hosting responsibilities, make it a priority to spend your holiday in the company of family and friends. This way, you can celebrate Thanksgiving the way it was originally intended.

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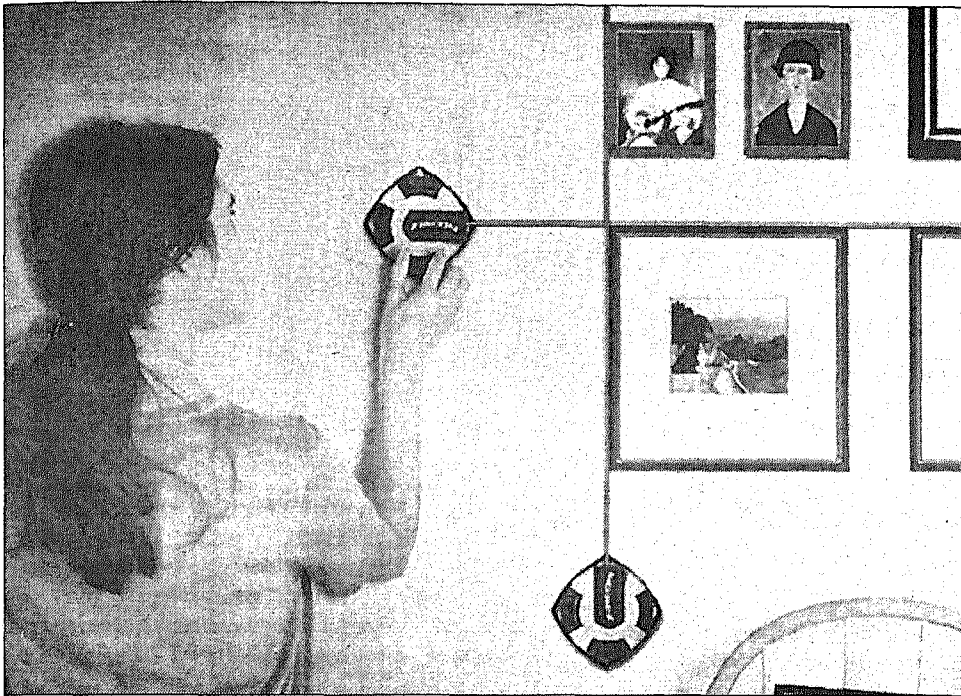
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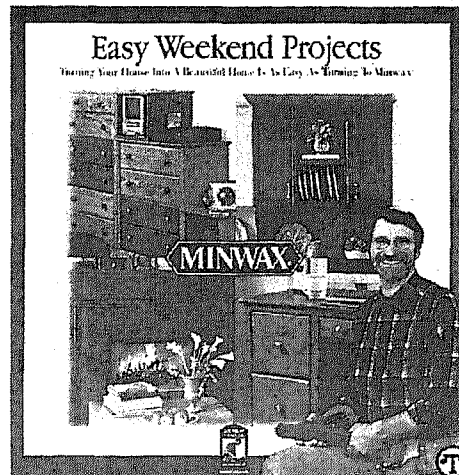
Creating the perfect picture collage



Pictures, whether great works of art or precious family snapshots, give a room warmth and personality. Grouped together in a collage, they can become a striking focal point. For a decorator look, frame the entire collage with molding and paint the interior a bold accent color. Following a few simple steps, it can be easier than you might think.

1. Scope out a prominent place for your collage. Measure the size of the space you want to fill, giving yourself a little room for fine adjustments later.
2. Lay out your collage on the floor; position the molding to frame the collage in the desired size and shape and arrange the pictures inside. Varying the size, shape and frames will add interest to the final display.
3. On the display wall, find the location of wall studs to make sure any heavy items will be in position to be attached securely. A stud finder, such as the Zircon StudSensor™ Pro SL-AC, is perfect for this job. It finds studs without guesswork and includes a new WireWarning™ safety feature so you won't accidentally nail or drill into live AC voltage.
4. Prepare to transfer the layout to the wall. Measure from the middle of one strip of molding to the middle of the opposite side to determine the overall length and width. This will become the perimeter for the painted backdrop.
5. Outline the perimeter of the collage on the wall, making sure lines are level and plumb. Zircon's iLine™ can make quick work of this important step since it projects both plumb and level laser lines in all four directions with a twist of the wrist. Just place the painters' tape along the outside of each laser-generated line to get the layout and paint preparation done in one easy step.
6. Paint the backdrop for the collage using a bold color that will complement the room's décor. With the many textured paints and faux finishing techniques available, the opportunities for creativity are endless.
7. Once the paint has thoroughly dried, attach the molding, centering it over the paint line to make sure there are no unsightly gaps between paint and molding. The iLine™ can again ensure the molding placement is level and plumb.
8. Hang the pictures according to design. Once again, the iLine can come in very handy to make sure all the photos are straight and aligned according to plan.
9. Step back and enjoy.

Work wonders with walls



This free 12-page **Easy Weekend Projects** booklet can help homeowners do wonders with walls over the course of a weekend.

If your walls could talk, they'd probably cry out for a makeover. Fortunately, do-it-yourselfers can open up a world of decorating possibilities by simply focusing attention on their walls—and the wonders of wood to transform them.

The latest issue of the *Easy Weekend Projects* booklet from Minwax® focuses on walls with practical, easy-to-do projects that can be completed in a weekend or two. From an attic/home office to a basement/playroom, do-it-yourselfers are inspired with unique solutions using wood paneling, molding, cabinets and trim. Once these ideas become reality, homeowners are encouraged to take advantage of a wide selection of Minwax wood stains and clear finishes to personalize their projects.

Five clever projects illustrate how rethinking your walls can yield surprising results:

Improving the View: Beyond fresh air and natural light, a beautiful window

boosts a home's style. Today, windows can be transformed from dull to dramatic with simple, yet gorgeous ready-made moldings that you stain and finish yourself.

A Show of Warmth: Designers agree that a fireplace should warm up a room even when there isn't a flame. Luckily, "faceless" fireplaces can be easily transformed into stunning showpieces by using ready-to-install mantel and surround kits.

Paneling Makes Perfect: Once the design disaster of the '70s, paneling has come back to life in fabulous fashion. Because walls can suffer from the effects of time and wear and tear, paneling is a quick and stylish decorating solution with lasting appeal.

Playing Down: Kids today have more stuff than storage, and as a result homes are being overtaken by toys, books and sporting equipment. Happily, it's a problem with a solution, as an ordinary basement can be converted into a kid-friendly, storage-minded area by the addition of unfinished oak modules and drawers that you stain, finish and stack to fit the space.

Cabinet-Level Decision: While most kitchen designs favor cabinets set in a row, a few small changes can turn a cabinet into a built-in hutch that really stands out as a focal point.

Do-it-yourselfers can pick up a free copy of the *Easy Weekend Projects* booklet at participating Minwax retailers, or visit www.minwax.com. To send for a booklet, write to *Easy Weekend Projects* Offer, P.O. Box 1211, Grand Rapids, MN 55745-1211.

For product information, wood finishing tips and project ideas, visit the Minwax Web site at www.minwax.com.

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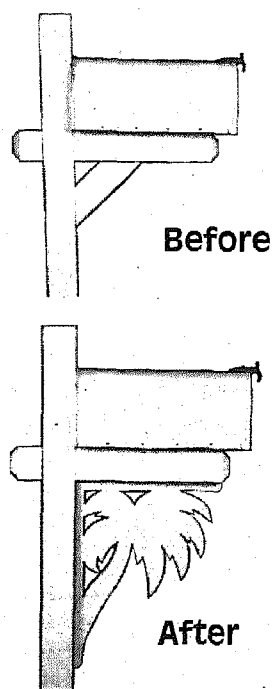
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SPORTS

FGCU's 12th annual Founder's Cup



Fiddler's Creek team (left to right) Joe Parisi, Corporate Attorney; Gerry Bergmoser, Golf Member; Jeff Raimer, Golf Pro; and Jim Vajen, Superintendent were the low gross winning team in the 12th Annual Founder's Cup golf tournament at Mediterra's North Course.

A record 64 teams helped raise \$70,000 during the 12th Annual Florida Gulf Coast University Founder's Cup at Mediterra, The Bonita Bay Group's 1,697-acre master-planned community in North Naples. To date, more than \$487,000 has been raised to benefit the university's Foundation.

"The success of this golf tournament is vital to the scientific, educational and athletic programs that are related to the mission of the university," stated Dr. William

C. Merwin, FGCU president. "We are looking forward to returning to Mediterra for our 13th tournament on Oct. 15, 2004."

"The Bonita Bay Group is pleased to have this opportunity to support FGCU through this great fund-raising opportunity at Mediterra," said Dennis Gilkey, president and CEO. "We are committed to sponsoring this financially worthwhile event."

Along with The Bonita Bay Group, other major sponsors of the 2003 tourna-



Bill Merwin (right), president of Florida Gulf Coast University; and Tournament Sponsor Dennis Gilkey (left), president/CEO of The Bonita Bay Group; celebrated the success of the 12th Annual Founder's Cup golf tournament at Mediterra, which raised \$70,000 for the FGCU Foundation.

ment were Shelton Imports, Kraft Construction, University Housing Services, Beers Skanska, Ajax Building Corporation, Five County Insurance, Johnson Controls and Wayne Wiles Carpet.

For more information regarding the 2004 Founder's Cup at Mediterra or to request an invitation, call FGCU at 590-1071.

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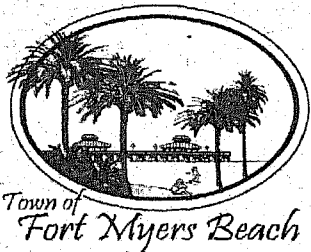
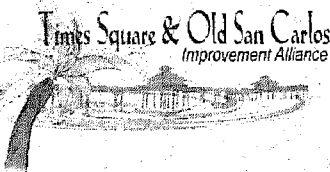
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SPORTS

Beachview Women's Golf Association

The ladies of the Beachview Women's Golf Association met on Wednesday, November 12, 2003, for individual play. Prizes were awarded for low net and low gross scores.

Winning low gross in the 18 hole division was Kandi Sanger with a score of 94, while Diane Metz took second place scoring a 97. Capturing first low net with a score of 71 was Bea Maggio. In second place, Nancy Carlile and Cecilia Olsson tied with a 72, but a score card playoff determined Nancy Carlile as the winner.

The 9 hole low gross winner was Ginny O'Neil who carded a 47, and Betty Puff won second place scoring a 54. Nancy Stell won first low net with a score of 34, while Sally Prentice took second place shooting a 40.



Kandi Sanger



Above: Nancy Carlile

Below: (l-r) Diane Metz, Cecilia Olsson and Bea Maggio



Sanibel Youth Soccer Cup matches Friday night

The Sanibel Youth Soccer League will conclude another season of recreational soccer this Friday night at the Sanibel School athletic fields.

The Cup Matches mark the end of a successful year of soccer according to league president, Keith Cruickshank. "We've continued to enjoy more interest in island soccer than ever before. We have more kids... close to 200 this year... and more coaches and volunteers showing an interest in the game and the league than ever before." Sanibel Youth Soccer fielded 16 teams in four different age divisions. Division teams will pair off in six final matches Friday night.

For each of the U8, U10, and U14 divisions, there will be two final games. The third and fourth place teams in each division will vie for the Gold Cup, and the first and second place will play for the Championship Cup.

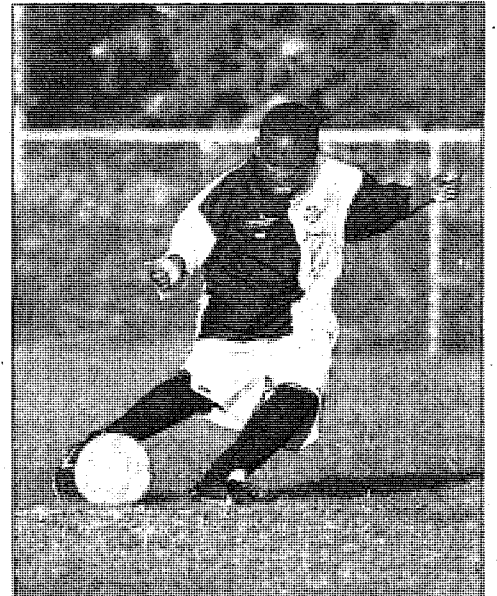
The league's youngest players, the four and five year old U6 teams, will compete in the season ending Soccer Olympics — fun, "no score" soccer events designed to challenge the young ones. Carmen Aulino, U6 Soccer Olympics organizer says, "For the little guys, we try to keep things moving and downplay score keeping, so we have lots of special soccer activities planned. At this level, we don't worry much about winning." The U6 Soccer Olympics will start at 5:30 PM. The four U6 teams that will compete Friday include Southwest Florida Dental Group, VIP Realty, Sanibel Print and Graphics, and Jerry's Foods.

The U8 Division championship game will be contested at 7:30 between the first place YOLO and second place Sandcastle Construction teams. Cindy on Sanibel and Sanibel Air Conditioning will compete for the season ending U8 Gold Cup at 6 p.m. According to the team Sanibel Air coach, Steve Toub, the kids are expecting a challenging match. Taub said, "Cindy on Sanibel is one tough team, but our kids are ready for the challenge. We believe we have a good shot at winning this match. We have been challenged, but we have a young team. I hope that all our kids come back because I'd like to continue to see them develop."

The U10 Division championship game will feature a matchup at 7:30 p.m. between the first place Bailey's General Store and second place Congress Jewelers teams. The U10 Gold Cup match at 6 p.m. will be contested by Corke Dentistry and Lazy Flamingo. Mike Neal, Coach of the Gold Cup contending team, Lazy Flamingo says, "Our kids are looking forward to this final game. It always is the funnest game of the year."

The U14 big kids division will showcase what league organizers call two power-

packed matches. The first match of the night will be the Gold Cup event with Jacaranda playing Bank of the Islands at 5:15. "These teams faced a tough schedule this year but have shown a lot of heart," according to Bank of the Island coach Dan Budd. "We



Sanibel Youth Soccer U14 Player, Micheal Micheal lines up a shot for Team Prime Financial.

played hard. The kids really pulled together as a team later in the season. We can't wait till next year." The U14 Championship game will follow the Gold Cup match. The Island Cow will face off against Prime Financial for the division title at 6:45 p.m.

For the latest information of game schedules, standings, rosters and more, please visit the league's website at www.sanibel-soccer.org.

Friday night is the last regularly scheduled event for this fall soccer season. In celebration, the league is providing free cake for everyone. The Island Cow has donated hotdogs, hamburgers, and other special menu items that will be available for a nominal charge at the concession stand. All concession stand proceeds, as always, are used to help run league operations. Trophies will be presented to each player at the end of each match. All islanders are encouraged to come to the ball fields and cheer for the kids.

Sanibel Youth Soccer, Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer run organization that operates recreational soccer on Sanibel and Captiva. The league welcomes your participation. To find out more, to become a sponsor, or to volunteer please contact the league. For more information please go to www.sanibelsoccer.org.

Nifty Niners

Nov. 6, 2003

Low Net, Low Putts

Low Gross

1 st Place	
Janice Smith	31
2 nd Place	
Joan Sprinkle	34
3 rd Place Tie	
B. J Weimer	35
Gwen Trautwein	

Low Putts

1 st Place Tie	
Virginia Green	17
Betty Long	
Patti McConnell	

Nifty Niners

Nov. 13, 2003

2 Person - Better Ball

A-B Flight

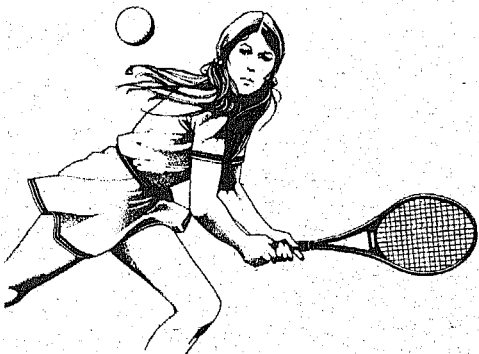
1 st Place	
Jeannie Lindstrom	28
** Blind Draw **	

2 nd Place	
Gay Nichols	30

C-D Flight

1 st Place	
Joan Sprinkle	28
Ginny Burgoyne	

2 nd Place	
Virginia Green	29
Gwen Trautwein	



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Hope Hospice Tennis Challenge

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 22 & 23
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TO YOUR HEALTH

Mayo surgeons using new lens for cataract surgery

Ophthalmologists at Mayo Clinic are among the first in the area to implant a new, blue-light filtering lens in patients having cataract surgery. "Chronic exposure to light is one of the things we think causes degenerative eye diseases," says Dr. James Bolling, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. "We've known for a long time that ultraviolet light causes damage. But blue light, which is part of the visible spectrum, could actually be damaging to the retina over a long period of time." The retina is the thin layer of tissue at the back of the eye where images are formed.

The new lens, approved by the Food and Drug Administration in June, is the first one designed to filter out harmful ultraviolet light and potentially damaging wavelengths of blue light as well. Bolling suspects use of the new, yellow-tinted lens will soon become widespread, especially with younger patients who can look forward to many more years of exposure to sunlight. He says there's evidence the new lens may prevent macular degeneration as well. Macular degeneration is the loss of central vision that can be quite debilitating.

A cataract is a clouding of the eye's normal lens. Cataracts usually develop in both eyes, but not necessarily at the same rate. Eye trauma, diabetes and even certain medications may cause a cataract to form, but most develop as part of the aging process. Bolling says some people develop cataracts earlier than others, but if a person lives long enough it's almost certain he or she will develop cataracts.

How are cataracts treated? Surgery is the only way to remove them. So it's a question of when and not if a person with cataracts could benefit from the simple surgical procedure to remove one and implant an artificial lens. "The decision is really driven by how the cataract affects their activities and how disabled they are," Bolling says. "If there's something they want to do, and can't because of their vision, then it's time to have a cataract removed."

Mayo Clinic ophthalmologists in Jacksonville perform about 1,000 cataract removal surgeries every year. It is the second most common surgical procedure performed at Mayo. The 15- to 30-minute procedure is routinely done at Mayo's outpatient surgical center. The surgeon puts numbing drops in the patient's eye, makes a tiny incision in the cornea and removes the clouded lens. He then folds and inserts an acrylic lens through the incision and positions it where the original one was. Vision improves as the eye recovers from the surgery, and most patients quickly resume normal activities. Typically, patients must wait a week to a month before having a cataract removed from their other eye.

Mayo ophthalmologists plan on using the new blue-light filtering lens in every procedure, unless the patient has already had a clear lens implanted in the other eye.

Bolling says although the new lens has a yellow tint, patients will not notice it and others will not be able to see it. "You would think maybe it would cause a problem by making things look funny or a different color," he says. "But it turns out this lens has almost the exact absorption spectrum of the natural lens we remove from a 50-year-old patient."

Mayo Clinic is a multispecialty medical clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. The staff includes 328 physicians working in more than 40 specialties to provide diagnosis, treatment and surgery. Patients who need hospitalization are admitted to nearby St. Luke's Hospital, a 289-bed Mayo facility. Mayo Clinics also are located in Rochester, Minn., and Scottsdale, Ariz. Visit www.mayoclinic.org/news/ for all the news from Mayo Clinic.

ENVIRONMENT

Island adventures

- This Saturday's Audubon Birding Outing will be at "Ding" Darling Refuge starting at 8 a.m. Meet at the trolley stop in the overflow parking lot.
- The outing on Saturday, Nov. 29, will be at Blind Pass, also at 8 a.m. Park in the town parking lot just before the Captiva bridge.

All birders are welcome. \$2 is the suggested donation. Malcolm Harpham at 395-3804 has more details.

- The next kayaking adventure with SCCF and Captiva Kayak will be tomorrow, Nov. 22, at 9:30 a.m. These on-the-water explorations paddle in and around Buck Key observing and discussing the importance of the islands' back bay estuary.

The tours help fund SCCF's environmental ed programs. No experience is necessary, just interest, a sense of adventure and curiosity. The cost is \$35 per person and reservations are required. Call 472-2329.

Tarpon Bay exploring

Sanibel School Comes to Tarpon Bay

On Nov. 13th the fifth graders from the Sanibel School teamed up with the folks at Tarpon Bay Explorers for a morning of creativity and critters. Thanks to a cool, sunshiny, no-see-um-free day, most agreed that the deck overlooking Tarpon Bay made a pretty spectacular classroom, providing plenty of inspiration for their artwork. Under the guidance of Tarpon Bay Explorers' Patricia Clark, the students learned the history of mosaic art and discussed places where they had seen mosaics in the world around them. Finally, the students were let loose to design and create their own mosaics, depicting many of the fascinating critters that make their home in Tarpon Bay. Their designs included sea stars, manatees, sea turtles, crabs, sand dollars and more.

Following the art project the students were treated to a special Touch Tank presentation. Tarpon Bay Explorers naturalist, Brianna Coffman, shared some of her favorites with the kids, including horseshoe crabs, sea stars, hermit crabs, and a feisty Florida horse conch. Although the students definitely knew a lot about the local wildlife, Brianna was able to teach even those bright fifth graders a few new things about familiar critters. But you don't have to take her word for it, here's what some of the kids had to say:

"I learned that the sea star eats by tak-

ing its stomach out from its mouth!"—Corrina

"I learned that horseshoe crabs' tails do not sting you, about mosaics, and much, much more!"—Anna

"I hope I can come again!"—Tyler

"I had an exhilarating time!"—Joey

So if you're looking for an "exhilarating" time, give Tarpon Bay a try. Whether you're the artsy type, a science geek or somewhere in between, Tarpon Bay has something to offer for students of all ages interested in discovering more about the amazing world in which we live.

Breakfast on the Bay

The early bird gets the worm... the early vacationer gets the doughnut.

—Tarpon Bay proverb

Since experts agree that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, the folks at Tarpon Bay Explorers invite you to join them on their newest tour, Breakfast on the Bay. Spend the morning with an experienced naturalist exploring the tranquil waters of Tarpon Bay, in the heart of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. You'll cruise aboard a 26-passenger pontoon boat in search of amazing wildlife — egrets, herons, ibis, dolphins and more. Plus, you'll enjoy complimentary coffee, orange juice, and fresh gourmet pastries along the way. It's the perfect way to beat the crowds and enjoy one of the most beautiful settings on Sanibel. Cruises depart Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. and return at 10:30. Call 472-8900 for information and reservations.

Shopping, Holiday Punch and Chocolates

At the north end of Tarpon Bay Road, tucked away and hidden among the mangroves of the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge is beautiful Tarpon Bay and the home of Tarpon Bay Explorers. Perhaps best known for breathtaking cruises on the bay and peaceful kayaking along Commodore Creek, no trip to Tarpon Bay would be complete without a stroll through one of the most unique gift shops on the island.

So, with the holidays just around the corner, the folks at Tarpon Bay Explorers are inviting all the ladies to leave your gents at the door and join them for a LADIES ONLY evening of "Shopping, Holiday Punch and Chocolates" on Tuesday, Dec. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. With a shop full of distinctive gifts and 20 percent off everything in the store, you're sure to find the perfect thing for the nature lover or wildlife enthusiast on your list.

Picture frames, slate lanterns, unique candles, and hand-painted cocktail and wine glasses are just a few of the items you'll find. They also have a beautiful collection of home décor items that celebrate the beauty of the islands and outdoor living. And don't miss the children's room, full of snuggly friends, educational books and fun toys for kids of all ages. Tarpon Bay Explorers also offers



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Florida's migratory butterflies

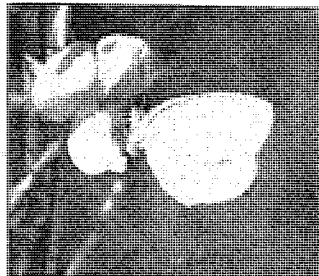


By Dee Serage

The mighty Monarch is the one migratory butterfly known to all. Monarchs migrate all the way to Mexico ahead of winter cold fronts — some spending the winter in Florida but most flying on to the



Long Tailed Skipper



Barred Yellow Sulphur

mountains outside of Mexico City. Here millions of Monarchs hang in the trees until spring arrives when they fly north again.

But did you know that other species of Florida butterflies also migrate into the state during the yearly southerly fall migration? Bring the family for a presentation on Florida's Migratory Butterflies this Monday, Nov. 24, at 1 p.m. Learn more about the different kinds of butterfly migration, see caterpillars, pupae, and live butterflies in the butterfly aviary.

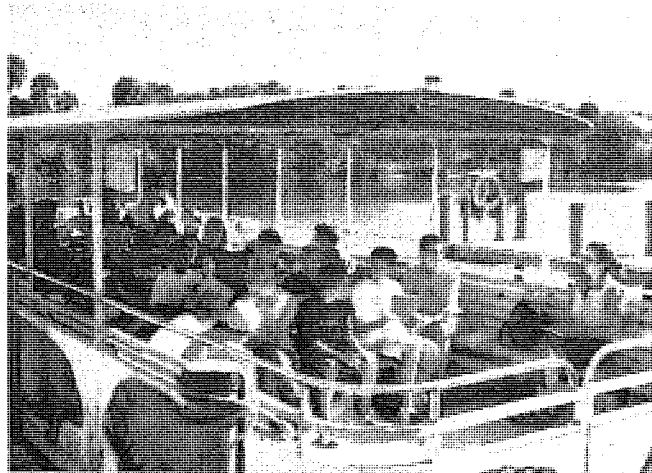
Call the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation @ 472-2329 for reservations.



Foundation takes seventh graders up the river

By Richard Finkle

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation is in the midst of an educational program focusing on our local watersheds and their effect on the Everglades ecosystem as well as the estuarine waters surrounding Sanibel and Captiva. SCCF's "Watershed Adventures" are field trips to local wetlands for first-hand exposure and education. Funding for school field trips is at a minimum and SCCF feels it important to provide students in our area the opportunity to see and learn about areas that might not be often seen, but can have a direct influence on their lives. This special trip up the Caloosahatchee for The Sanibel School's seventh graders was planned to be integrated with their Everglades and Estuaries study unit.



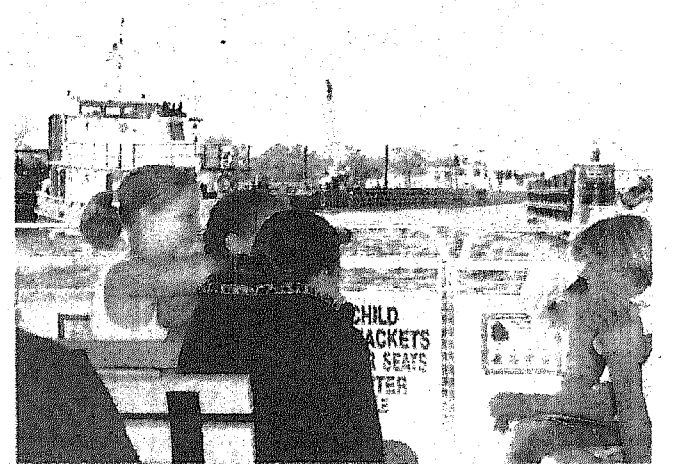
The boat trip started at the WP Franklin Lock & Dam and proceeded upriver towards Alva. Along the way students were able to see for themselves how the Caloosahatchee was transformed from a small, narrow meandering and bending river to a deep channel connecting the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. The historic bends of the river, known as oxbows, were once lush with vegetation and supported a diverse food web and absorbed flood waters — the present steep-banked deep channel lacks all that diversity of plant and animal life.

The students were also treated to going through the lock system and seeing how the river system controls and can affect areas downstream including the estuarine waters around Sanibel and Captiva. Rae Ann Wessel, who helped start the Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association and is a nominee for SCCF's Board of Trustees, narrated the voyage and was joined by 90-year-old "River Rat" Charles Foster, who added stories of what it was like growing up along the river. Cheryl Darbyshire, a Sanibel School middle school teacher, said "the trip reinforced the classroom unit on the restoration of the Everglades and the oxbows along the river. Rae Ann was so knowledgeable and did a nice job explaining the oxbows and history of the river. Charles also had great stories to share with us."

SCCF was able to make this trip possible through a grant from LEAF, Ltd. SCCF's Watershed Adventures will be offering a diversity of field trips in the coming months... How the Caloosahatchee and Orange Rivers fit into the larger Everglades restoration plan while enjoying their beauty. Enjoying Tarpon Bay and finding out how the Foundation's new Marine Lab fits into this larger restoration project. Contact Dee Serage-Century for more information and reservations: 472-2329; e-mail dserage@sccf.org.

•Caloosahatchee Oxbows and Riverlore — A Riverboat Cruise, Dec. 11

A trip back in time through the historic oxbows of the old Caloosahatchee River with new SCCF board mem-



ber, Rae Ann Wessel. This pontoon boat trip will include cracker tales of the area's history and an update on the river as part of the Everglades restoration. Experience the raising and lowering of water levels as the boat passes through the Franklin Lock. Boat holds 45 people. Cost \$50 per person.

•Marine Lab-Tarpon Bay Boat Ride, Dec. 17

Join the staff of the Marine Lab for a 1 1/2-hour boat ride into Tarpon Bay. Catch up on what is happening at the Lab and learn what lives in the bay. Cost \$30 per person.

•Orange River Pontoon Boat Trip, Jan. 3

The Orange River, formerly known as Twelve Mile Creek, connects Lehigh Acres and Buckingham to the Caloosahatchee River. Go up this lazy river with Rae Ann Wessel past Manatee Park, so manatees may be sighted. Cost \$50 per person.

Contact Dee for more information and reservations; 472-2329 e-mail dserage@sccf.org

gift certificates redeemable for tours, rentals or gift shop items — what better gift for those "hard-to-shop-for" people on your list?

And, ladies, while you shop, enjoy complimentary Goumas Chocolates and punch, plus door prizes and free gift wrapping. Whether you're in the mood to browse or you're out to shop you drop,

you won't want to miss Tarpon Bay this holiday season.

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 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Bailey's 'Support Our Troops' Shipment set to go

Bailey's General Store Manager Jessie Burke will be packing up Christmas supplies to send to U.S. troops in Iraq next week so that the packages will reach them by Christmas.

There is a box in Bailey's for drop off if you wish to contribute. Small Christmas items would be appreciated and things that the troops can always use include sunscreen, lip balm, razors, shaving cream, crossword puzzles and magazines, stationery, pencils and pens, deodorant, deodorant wipes, snacks (as long as they don't melt, like cookies and beef jerky), bug spray and Skin So Soft, body powder, foot powder, dark T-shirts and socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes, books, letters and all personal hygiene items.

Burke sent five cartons to her nephew, Pfc. Joshua Swan, serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, in August.

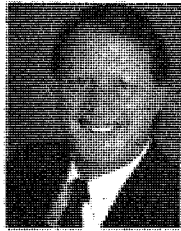
The next shipment will be sent to Pfc. Zach Thomas and Capt. Robert Degand.



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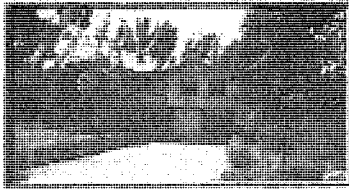
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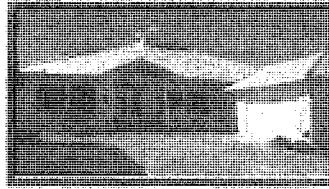


Total Rehab 3/2 Near Beach With Canal

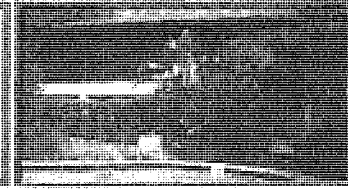
Totally renovated by top notch architect, cabinet maker & designers. Walk to the beach, or hop on the boat. Best of all worlds! \$779,000



Great Home On A Huge Lot
Central location, easy on and off island. 3 bed/2bath with plenty of room to expand, add pool or grow! \$429,000



Old Florida At Caloosa Creek
3 bedroom, 2 bath "Tortuga II" model on an oversized lot. Great community with pool and tennis. Only 5 minutes to Sanibel Island. \$346,870



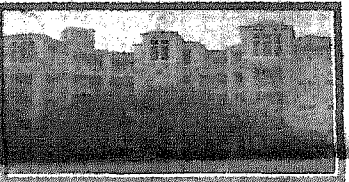
Direct Gulf Front Condo
Free standing 3 bedroom, 3 bath luxury home, contemporary designed kitchen and baths. Large family room & porch overlooks Gulf. \$1,595,000



Gulf Front Town Home
Stunning views of the Gulf from all major rooms. Lives like a house on the beach with all the extras - pool, outdoor patio and much more. \$1,750,000



Captiva Get-A-Way
Just completed old Florida style home. Four bedroom, each with private bath. Roof top sun deck, pool, elevator. Fully furnished. \$2,195,000



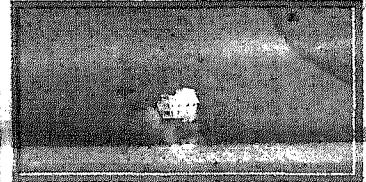
Sandpiper Isles
Beautiful preserve views with many upgrades, lots of glass. This home offers privacy, security and amazing amenities. \$289,000



"Motivated Seller"
New Old Florida Style Lakefront
Beautiful 3 bdr, 2bth home with pool & lovely lake view. Gated community, tennis, all minutes from the island beaches. \$392,500



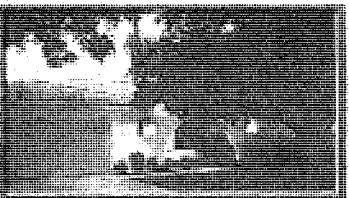
Lake Front
Three bedroom, two bath, pool home built in 2002. Mint condition. Gated community. Moments to Sanibel beaches. \$418,000



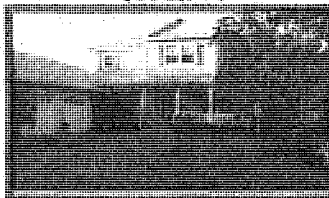
Private Island Escape
Own your own island. The total package. Deep water dockages and a great house complete the property. 3/3 with a heated pool overlooking San Carlos Bay. \$1,200,000



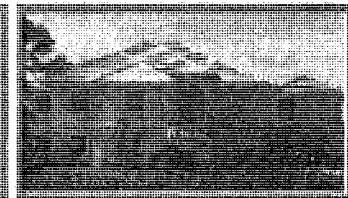
Elegant Home w/Boat Dock
Located in prestigious Catalpa Cove this 4/4 home was built as the builders personal residence with all the bells and whistles. \$729,000



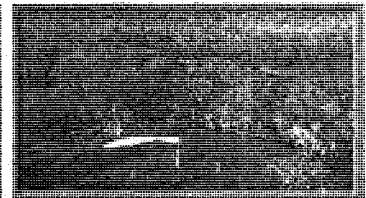
Canal Front
Lovely three bedroom three bath direct access canal home. One block from river. Caged pool with boat lift. \$349,000



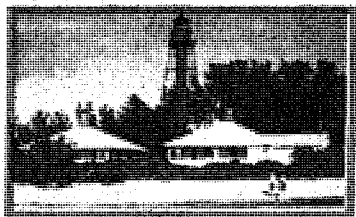
Fabulous "Old Florida" Style
2 story home with all the bells & whistles. Built in 2001. Pool home is in mint condition. Landscaped lot offers wonderful privacy. Community offers pool, tennis & clubhouse. \$649,900



Jonathan Harbour
Under construction. 4 bedroom plus den, great room, pool & spa. Overlooking lake. Deep water access dock with boat lift. Gated community. \$1,245,000



Beautiful Lot On 13th Tee
Private championship Golf Club Community. Equity membership available. Lot will have an abundance of space & privacy when built. No house ever to the East side. Survey, site plan & blueprints are available. \$295,000



Canal Front East End Homesite
Cleared homesite located on the convenient East End of Sanibel. \$449,000

All offerings are subject to errors, omissions, change of price or withdrawal without prior notice.

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CENTER STAGE

Jackpot! Smart, slick Las Vegas legends

The Off Broadway Palm is dressed up in its glitz and glamorous best for a whale of a good show titled Legends of Las Vegas. This tribute to the best of the best that the Vegas strip had to offer is a razzler dazzler both in talent and looks. Talented triple threat writer/director/choreographer Victor Legarreta has outdone himself with this one. He has fulfilled all the promise hinted at in his first original try, last year's fun-filled Fuh-Ged-About-It. This entertainment showcases the cast (including Legarreta) portraying the "Night Club Circuit's Super Stars" who made Las Vegas legendary.

The three guys of the cast — Erik Hogan, Legarreta and Jeff March — and the two dolls — PJ Davis and Danielle Vetro — open the proceedings with a rousing version of "Luck Be A Lady Tonight" from the Broadway original Guys and Dolls... followed by a high-energy Hogan playing that wild and crazy guy, Louis Prima, to super-cool Vetro's Keely Smith. Lagerreta got the audience singing along to the Tony Orlando & Dawn tune, "Tie A Yellow Ribbon" with Dawn played by two Dawn Dish Detergent bottle puppets. March and Davis were just dandy both vocally and stylistically as Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme; equally well paired were the screamingly funny Vetro as Cher and Legarreta in his munchkin version of Sonny.

Hogan's comic take on Rodney Dangerfield's material and delivery was far funnier than the original. Double the pleasure/double the fun with two Tom Jones shakin', rattlin' and rollin', but when you got three guys doin' the Jones thing, it triples

the laughs. Their gag interpretation of "Delilah" and "What's New Pussycat" not only brought down the house, it brought down "panties from heaven." A smart, slick, adaptation of Barry Manilow's "Copacabana" ended the first half of the Vegas tribute.

No Vegas tribute would be complete without The Rat Pack — Dean (Jeff March), Frank (Legarreta) and Sammy (Hogan) — which opened the second half. The trio got all the inebriated



MARSHA WAGNER

delivering them exactly and sounding really like the real thing. Stand-out moments in the second half: the low comedy of Lounge Act team — Fig and Isaac Newton replacing an ailing Vegas legend, Wayne; the over-the-top singing of two Vegas divas — Davis as belting out songs à la Judy Garland and Vetro having a go at Streisand's vocal acrobatics. Davis really came into her own emulating the rich country sounds of Patsy Cline and the lush lilting of Peggy Lee. Naturally, "The King" made his appear-

ance for the closing segment — it was refreshing to not see a caricature of Elvis. Jeff March in satin, cape, big belt (rhinestone buckle and all) gave it his very best vocal shot, a touching version of "Dixie" and "The Battle Hymn Of the Republic" for a super-duper finale, that brought the audience to its feet for a well-deserved standing ovation.

The total package by Legarreta — putting this show together along with staging as well as direction — took a great deal of work, research and thought. The extraordinary cast delivers the story line, handles the introductions for the star personalities authentically, their characterizations genuine and not hokey take-offs. All that, coupled with their song stylings, creates fine tuned representations of each famed Vegas Legend.

So, if you long to hear great songs ranging — from "Copacabana," "It's Not Unusual," "Delilah" and "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" to "I Got You Babe," "Boots Are Made for Walkin'," "Lady Is A Tramp" and many more — sung by Las Vegas legends of old when Vegas was Sin City, the gambling capital, and not Disneyland /Nevada, you'd better hotfoot it to The Off Broadway Palm, for the memories and fun of the real thing. They hit the jackpot with this version... it is as good as it gets, plus it's a whole lot cheaper and lots closer.

So, grab your best gal or guy, a bunch of fun-loving friends and have a blast from the past Vegas style. Phone 278-4422 for the Off Broadway Palm's Las Vegas Legends now playing 'til Dec. 21. When you call, remind 'em Marsha sent you.



At BIG ARTS



Chamber of Commerce AfterHours comes to BIG ARTS

The Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce held its monthly AfterHours get-together on Monday, Nov. 17. The event was hosted by BIG ARTS with tasty refreshments provided by the Jacaranda. The courtyard at BIG ARTS was a good venue for the event since the

weather was most comfortable and chamber members were invited into the galleries to view two exhibits. The Faculty Exhibit in the Phillips Gallery offers over 125 pieces by award-winning artists. The Founders Gallery features a Life Drawing Exhibit with 65 drawings and paintings of the human form.



Photos / Renny Severance
Art pieces from the 2002 show



24th Annual Art Fair

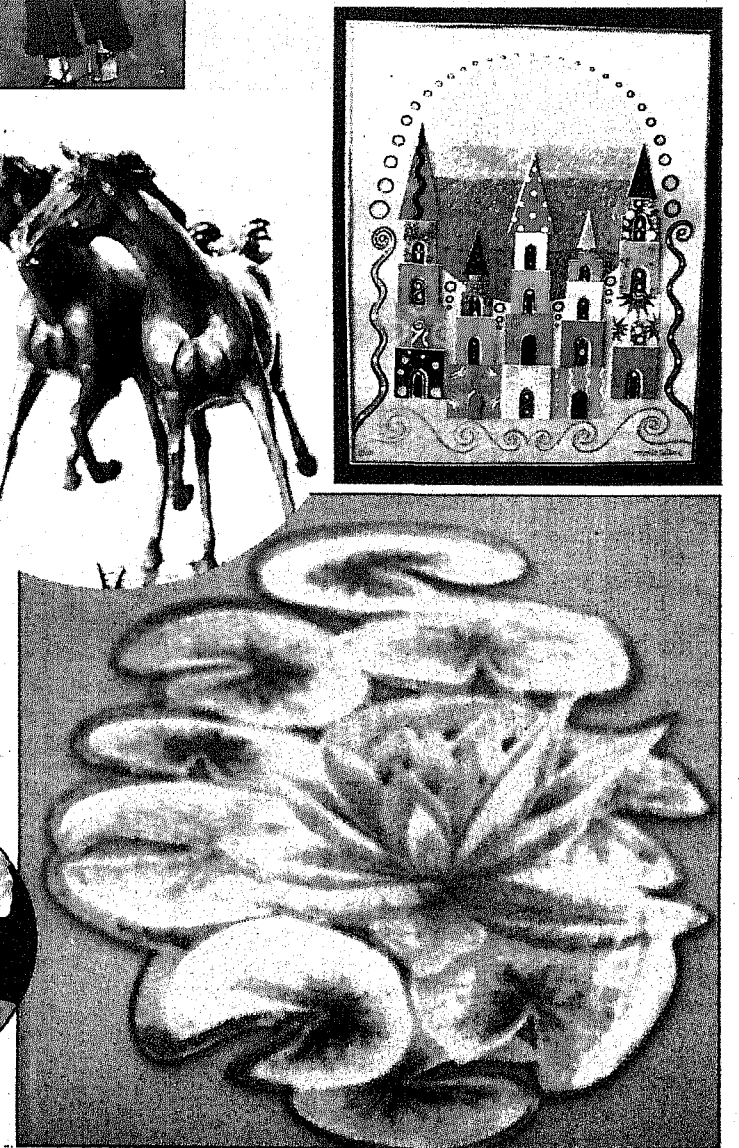
It is that time again, time for the BIG ARTS Art Fair! Artists from around the world will be returning to the island over Thanksgiving weekend to show and sell their wares.

New this year will be a street fair atmosphere with a portion of Dunlop Road closed to vehicle traffic to allow for the booths. In the spirit of celebration there will be a variety of live entertainment, including the Malibu Duo and J. Robert. Special events include the Fantasy Theatre's production of Cinderella Saturday morning at 10:30 and BIG ARTS' Open House with ongoing art demonstrations throughout the two days. The Sanibel Historical Village & Museum will host a Living History Days celebration over the weekend complementing the Fair, and shuttle service will be offered on Friday for visiting local galleries.

Despite these changes, the heart of the event remains the same. The quality of the juried work included this year is held to the same standard of quality set by the 23 preceding fairs. Categories include ceramics, mixed media, fiber, glass, graphics, jewelry, painting, photography and sculpture.

Stop by and take advantage of BIG ARTS Art Fair for early holiday shopping for family, friends, and even yourself. Food will be provided by Sanibel Steakhouse. Support for the event will also be donated by volunteers from local organizations — the Art Fair has truly evolved into a community event.

The Fair is open on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 28 and 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. along Dunlop Road and at the BIG ARTS Center. The \$3 admission includes the Fair, Living History Days at the Village, Cinderella, the art demonstrations, and music and entertainment. Children 12 and under are free, and parking is free.



AT BIG ARTS



Triple Play back in town

Back to celebrate BIG ARTS' 25th, Triple Play will be on stage, Saturday, Nov. 29 at 8 p.m., in Schein Hall. Triple Play is the name given to three outstanding and versatile musicians, Chris Brubeck (electric bass, bass trombone, piano and vocals), Peter Madcat Ruth (on harmonica, guitar, jaw harp, percussion and vocals), and Joel Brown (folk and classical acoustic guitar and vocals). Collectively they bring a rare level of joy, virtuosity, and American spirit to the folk, blues, jazz, funk, and classical music they perform.

Son of well-known jazz musician Dave Brubeck, Chris, is a composer, orchestral arranger and world class performer on four instruments and has played all over the world from the White House to Russia. His compositions have been performed by a wide range of well-known artists and his recent composition, Concerto for Bass Trombone & Orchestras, has been enthusiastically received by the international community. He has a string of CDs to his credit and he collaborated with his father on a commission for a new orchestral composition for the Pittsburgh Symphony, Theme and Explorations for Orchestra.

Ruth is hailed as one of the best and most versatile harmonica players in the world and has performed at many harmonica festivals in the United States and Europe. He can be heard on over 50

record albums in addition to his many national TV, radio, and symphony orchestra performances. Madcat takes the harmonica to new levels of good music and great fun. Madcat is more than an expert musician — he is also a performer who has such a good time playing music that audiences, ranging from pre-school children to senior citizens, delight in his performances. His enthusiasm is both unpretentious and contagious.

Brown, on guitar, has been heard on some of the most prestigious stages and concert halls in the United States and Europe. He has recorded with the London Symphony, appeared at Alice Tully Hall with the Chamber Music Society of the Lincoln Center, at the Tanglewood Festival, at the Chamber Music Festival in Saratoga, and been featured with the Boston Pops, among other notable appearances. He is presently Artist-in-Residence at Skidmore College.

The concert is generously sponsored by Fifth Third Bank and Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. Tickets available at \$25, BIG ARTS, (239) 395-0900, 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel.

Film Society movie

The BIG ARTS Monday Evening Film Series will feature the 1995 film, *Jefferson in Paris* (PG), this Monday, Nov. 24, in Schein Hall at 7 p.m. The film takes place in Paris when Jefferson replaces Benjamin Franklin as Ambassador of the new United States to the court of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Lavishly produced and visually splendid, the film explores Jefferson's relationship with Sally Hemings, his daughter Polly's slave.

The ticket price is \$5 per person and tickets are available at BIG ARTS prior to the film. This marks the eighth year for the BIG ARTS Film Society to bring together a selective series of films for viewing and discussion. The evening starts with a brief introduction to the film and is followed by a "wine and cheese party" for attendees afterward where they can discuss what they have just seen.

For more information call BIG ARTS at 395-0900.

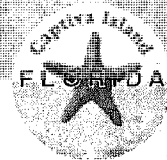
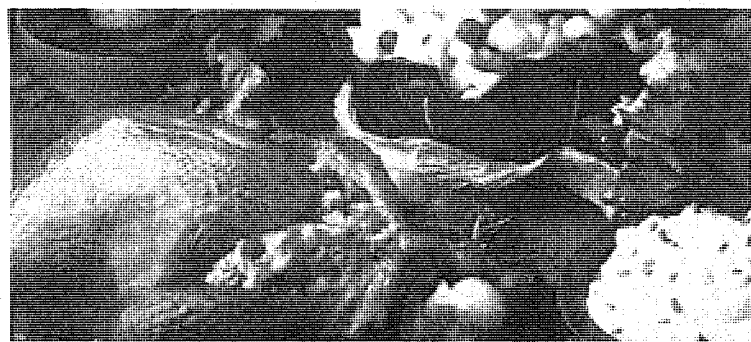
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Susan Bluehs, R.N. (239)472-3327



AN EXTRA REASON TO GIVE THANKS.

This Thanksgiving, dig into a bountiful display of traditional favorites and island specialties. From carving stations to exotic seafood entrees, soups, salads, sides, appetizers and a lavish display of desserts. Make Thanksgiving fun for the whole family at Chadwick's!

Thursday, November 27

11:00 am - 2:00 pm \$14.50 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm

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MUSIC REVIEW

Esther Budiardjo In Concert



On Saturday, Nov. 15, BIG ARTS presented its first Great Performers Series concert — the gifted pianist, Esther Budiardjo. Born in Jakarta, Indonesia, Budiardjo received Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees as well as a Presidential Scholar Award from the New England Conservatory of Music. Her recordings and performances have received critical acclaim from the presti-

gious, Gramophone Magazine as well as from international music critics.

The program opened with two works by Felix Mendelssohn, *Three Fantasies or Caprices, Op. 16* and *Fantasy in F-sharp Minor, Op. 28*. The informative program notes, expertly written by Budiardjo herself, greatly helped in explaining the origins and intent of each composer. The Mendelssohn enabled Budiardjo to display a most professional command of the piano in shimmering cascades of passionate romantic phrasing with mature, virtuoso technique. This was especially evident in the fiery third movement, "Presto" of the *Fantasy in F-sharp Minor*.

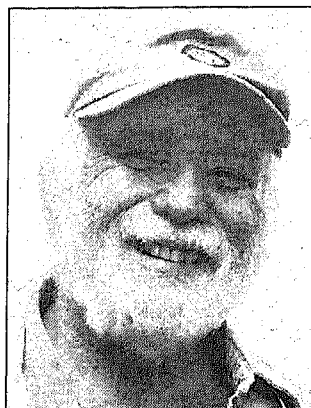
The next composition, titled "Exotique (Danse Javanaise)" was written by Alexandre Tansman whose tour of the Far East in 1932 inspired the piece. It was indeed a treat to hear a performer whose indigenous roots enabled her to feel and convey the Javanese nuances that permeate the work. The pathos of the dance, the distinctive rhythms of the gamelan and the beginning section's mysterious moods were communicated with great authority.

The third work, "Les jeux d'eau à la Villa d'Este" by Franz Liszt was written by the composer when, in 1864, he visited the changing fountains of a sixteenth century

castle in Tivoli named Villa d'Este. Budiardjo captured the varying shapes and colors of the water fountains with its many hues. This work did not contain the usual bombastic technical displays so characteristic of the composer but, surprisingly, quite futuristic harmonies were incorporated that later were to flower in Debussy's Impressionism.

After intermission, we were treated to *Syncretismus* by the American composer, Timothy Pickett. The work is in four movements — "Blue Fantasia," "Dodici Phunk," "Astral Mirror" and "Gazpacho." Three of them, the third being excepted, are written in the 12-tone genre but are not atonal at all — instead, symmetrically tonal, incorporating pop characteristics such as blues and odd meters. In the third movement, Pickett uses jazz and Latin harmonies but no syncopation. The composer states that "in regard to rhythm, all of the pieces utilize the concept of irregular regularity."

The final piece, *Java Suite*, was written by Leopold Godowsky when he travelled to



HAROLD LIEBERMAN

Java in 1923. He wrote 12 pieces, each representing his roaming experiences on the island. Budiardjo performed four of these tone poems — "Wayang Purwa," "In the Kraton," "The Ruined Water Castle at Djokja," and "A Court in Solo." Again, as in the Tansman piece, she was able to capture the feeling and mood of Godowsky's poignant composition with great sensitivity.

At the conclusion of the program, the BIG ARTS audience rose in applause and was rewarded with two encores — "Hungarian Dance No. 7" by Brahms

and a short Ballade -type composition written by a contemporary of Chopin, Adolf von Henselt. Once again, this talented performer displayed her technical prowess and keyboard mastery.

It was a treat to hear the sound of the Steinway with its resonant, warm timbre and solid intonation. This recital was the first in a series of great musical events that promises to be another banner season of BIG ARTS Great Performers.

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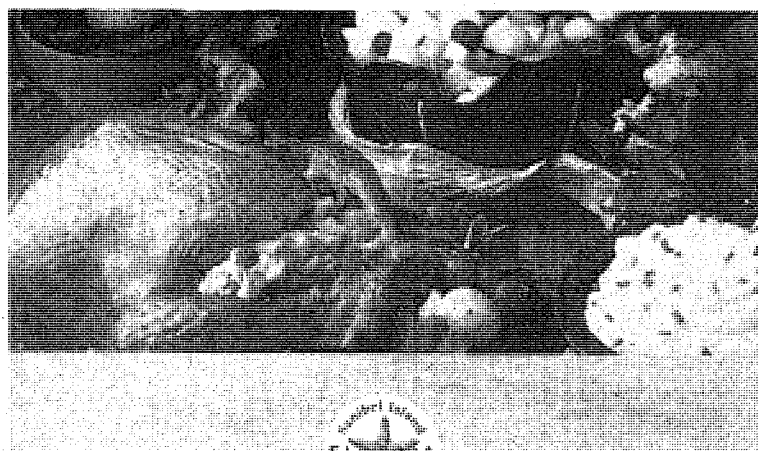
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DATELINE HOLLYWOOD

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner!

A happy surprise can convert an otherwise ordinary day into one that is labeled "special" from that time forward. A happy surprise day occurs when we unexpectedly meet someone new who becomes important to us, or when we buy a car when we really didn't think we would, or on one of those occasions where we get dragged to a movie or stage-play that turns out to be a new favorite instead of the anticipated bore. Those kind of happy surprise days are the bright spots we live for, you might say. They are every bit as good, though somewhat more exciting, than when a well thought-out plan happens as designed.

So, once again, come with me on a little trip back in time. My family in those days consisted of my father Paul, my mother Pat, my sister JoAnn, and me. We had been living in Mayfield Heights, Ohio — a suburb on the far east side of Cleveland — for about six years. My dad worked as a barber and real estate salesman. He made a decent living, but if he really had his druthers, he would have been working as an actor — a movie actor. He'd get a gig as a radio actor once in a while, but not enough to quit his day job, which is not a thought I would have expressed.

The Chagrin Valley Little Theater and the Cleveland Playhouse acting groups were — and still are, I'm told — two highly acclaimed theatrical groups known throughout the Midwest. Tim Conway had been a member of the Chagrin Falls group, as was Milburn Stone (Doc on *Gunsmoke*) before venturing to Hollywood. The Cleveland Playhouse can boast Paul Newman and producer Ross Hunter (*Pillow Talk* and other Rock Hudson vehicles) among their distinguished alumni.

In a previous two-column set, I enjoyed telling how my dad, Paul, was a member of both theater groups. I called Part One "Little Paulie's Big Dream" and Part Two,

"Hey Ma, Lookit Me!" The two columns are a mini-biography that people tell me they enjoy reading. If you missed it and want a copy, let me know.

Movie actors would often join live theater groups (still do) in the summertime to hone their acting skills, a practice referred to as doing summer stock. At the time in focus, I was in my late teens. My mom asked me to be home for dinner one evening in particular as my dad was bringing a guest, an actor he befriended who was doing summer stock, from Hollywood. The actor had been with the Chagrin Valley group for a week or so and had impressed my dad as a fine young person and highly talented actor.

His name was Alan, he was kind of tall (so who isn't?) and seemed to be a rather quiet, pleasant sort. He was at least part Italian and I'm sure he truly enjoyed my mother's fine Italian cooking. He even asked for seconds, my next clue. Alan seemed genuinely interested in getting to know each of us rather than talk about himself or Hollywood. There was no particular incident I recall outside of a very pleasant dinner and quiet conversation.

A few weeks later my father announced that Alan had requested a second invitation as my parents had invited him to do. This time he was more relaxed and open, more friendly and talkative. The whole evening was very pleasant indeed.

A year or two later we moved to Hollywood. A few years after that, I attended my first Writers Guild Preview. The evening was an annual event, sponsored by the Guild to showcase TV shows that were scheduled to air during the upcoming season. The press was more

than aptly represented, for each TV show would run about 15 minutes worth of clips from episodes past or upcoming, looking to make deals with writers, directors and producers who would be given assignments — read that "contracts" — to perform for a specific upcoming episode(s).

The evening was not intended for signing actors, so very few were on hand. Those who were present were helping attract attention to their series by making brief appearances, usually pulling some kind of schtick.

The season before, *M.A.S.H.* burst upon the scene, looking every bit like a show that would run for 11 award-winning, highly entertaining years... but nobody, most notably their own publicity people, would have made such a brazen prediction.

Kojak was being ballyhooed, too, with my good friend Telly Savalas conspicuously absent. Every so often a buzz would light up the place as word got around that Telly had just parked, but he never did show. Maybe it was the smartest tactic, who's to say.

Just as I saw Alan, the young actor from a few years before, several other people, mainly press and TV news people, formed a semi-circle with him while a local-celebrity TV newscaster was asking him questions. There he was, as pleasant as I recalled him being during those two evenings in my parents home, smiling and

giving cordial responses as he greeted various acquaintances.

Alan did a sort of double-take when he saw me and started shuffling his feet, moving sideways as he dragged his inquisitor, excusing himself as he passed people in the semi-circle.

When he finally got to me, he put his left arm around my shoulders, concluded his sentence to the reporter and, without skipping a beat, said, "I can't remember your name for the life of me, but your mother makes the greatest spaghetti sauce I've ever tasted!" He turned his full attention on me and we chatted briefly. Alan gave my dad — who had just walked over to us — a big friendly hug, turned back to me and said to be sure to give his best to my mom.

Every media person in the place wanted my name and the complete skinny. The incident got mentioned as a minor item in *The Reporter* or *Daily Variety*, I forget which, primarily to play up Alan's good-guy image, but nobody offered me a contract. They didn't have to. I just got another happy surprise.

I really have not been trying to fool anyone and I'm sure I didn't. I've just been playing off the title to this column which I saw as too appropriate not to use. I'm very happy to report that Alan Alda is every bit the nice guy and decent human being he appears to be.

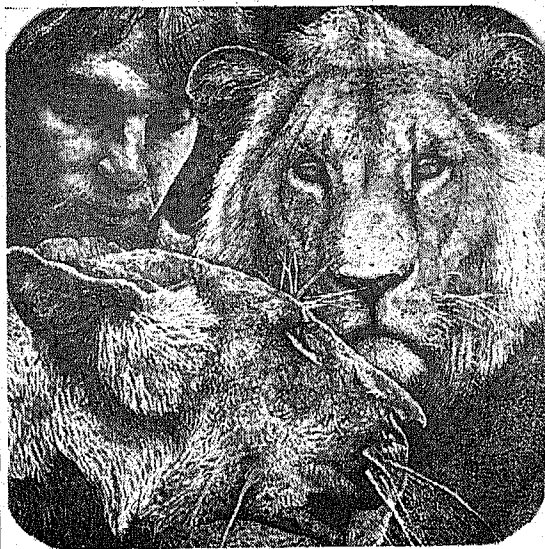
Little Joe Micale can be found at his emporium on Sanibel, Beverly Hills Hair Design, in the Village on Periwinkle Way. He can be contacted at littlejoe@earthlink.net.



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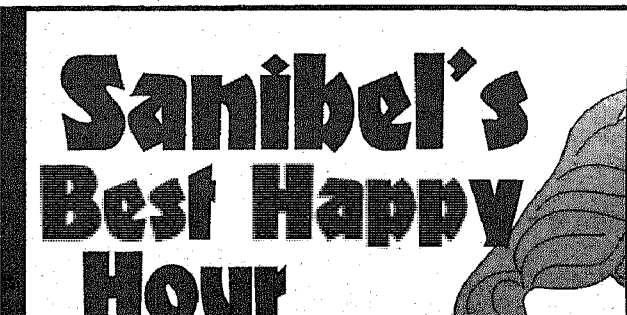


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FISHING & SHELLING

While the state, county and federal agencies are putting the final touches on the plans to rebuild the Sanibel Causeway bridges, I hope it's not too late to put in a word for shore bound-anglers. I grew up fishing on all kinds of bridges all over the state. My father and I earned the title of "regulars" on the bridges between the barrier islands and the mainland on the east coast of central Florida. We fished in cold, rain, sun, and at night we would watch launches from the Kennedy Space Center.

Without a boat, structure fishing was all we had and we joined my many others who fished the spans. The year the first Skyway Bridge was built south of St. Petersburg, we were there to try it out.

As the last details are being made for the new Sanibel bridges, I hope someone will consider putting catwalks on the sides, or under the new structures. There are only a few places shore anglers can fish, outside of the gulf beaches. The waters are so shallow and the waves high enough so beach fishing is an marginal thing at best. The fishing pier down by the lighthouse is often over-used and usually the only ones who have a good chance of catching a fish are at the farthest end of the pier.

Safety is a major factor in planning a fishing spot so close to traffic. The Blind Pass Bridge offers a good example of a barrier between rail anglers and passing cars. It is high enough to stop a car which might wander off the side of the road while the occupants look at the beach and Gulf of Mexico beyond. It's a great fishing spot — when the pass is open — which it is not. The only thing under this bridge is sand.

I've been fishing on bridges where there was no guard railing between the traffic and people fishing. Once, before the Blind Pass Bridge was rebuilt a few years ago, a lady I know was driving over and a guy on the bridge pulled back his rod to cast and caught his lure in her windshield wiper.

The recent replacement of the bridge leading to Fort Myers Beach is a good example of how safe a productive fishing site can be.



CAPT. MIKE FUERY

Planners put short, weather-protected fishing platforms under the ends of the high hump bridge and it is one hot spot for snook in the summer months. In the cooler times there are snapper, sheepshead and others.

The under-structure catwalks could be made with entrances from the spoil islands which connect the islands and the mainland.

Parking is all ready in place. There is no \$2/hour per car parking charge, such as at the Sanibel fishing pier, and anglers could fish out of the sun on those hot days and have some protection from summer rains.

Not everyone can afford to have a boat. Island visitors might want to spend a short time testing their luck, and adding more sites can only help. Residents can stop and make a few quick casts when the bridges are showing Spanish mackerel or bluefish feeding.

These are hard to retrofit and it might be a good time to get a couple of more fishing spots while there is still time.

SHELLING NEWS

For the past week or so I have gotten lots of complaints from collectors having a difficult time finding much of anything all because of sea grass and red algae. It's been covering the beaches so thoroughly that shells cannot be picked out. This has been a problem for Sanibel Islands, but recently it has moved north and is on some of the upper islands where I shell.

Combine the thick stuff with riled up waters from a recent cold front and not much can be seen. The good news is that it soon breaks down. Meantime, it causes a smell which most of us can handle, but it's the covering of the shells which is frustrating most collectors.

The red stuff holds and covers a lot of shells, so as the sun gets to it, we should see better shells. Don't look for the City of Sanibel to clean it up. Over the course of a year this happens several times.

Good shelling and fishing this week.

Have a question or comment? You can reach Capt. Mike Fuery at 466-3649 or by e-mail at junonia4@aol.com.

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- *Give My Regards to Florida* Nov. 29th, 11 a.m., \$8
- *Rosie's Rainbow Road* Nov. 29th, Jan. 24th, Feb. 7th & 14th 12 Noon, \$10
- *The Magic Show* Dec. 20th, 4 & 8 p.m.
- *Most Affectionate Daughter* Dec. 25th-Jan 4th, 8 p.m.

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- *Triple Play* — Chris Brubeck, Peter Madcat Ruth & Joel Brown Nov. 29th, 8 p.m., \$25
- *Symphony on Sanibel Cool Discoveries...* with Toby Blumenthal Music off the beaten path Nov. 23rd, 7 p.m., \$25

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IN FORT MYERS

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre
1380 Colonial Boulevard ~ 278-4422

- *A Chorus Line* Through Nov. 22nd, \$21 to \$44
- *White Christmas Revue* Nov. 27th-Dec. 27th

Off Broadway Palm

- *Las Vegas Legends* Through Dec. 21st

The Arcade Theatre
Bay Street between Hendry & Jackson 332-4488

- *A Tuna Christmas* Through Dec. 6th, 2 & 8 p.m., \$16/\$7

Florida Repertory Theatre

- *Absurd Person Singular* Opens Nov. 28th, \$15-\$32

Theatre Conspiracy

Foulds Theatre ~ 10091 McGregor ~ 334-3239

- *A Tuna Christmas* Opens Nov. 20th, \$16/\$7

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall
Edison College Campus ~ 481-4849

- *We Three Kings — Christmas Spectacular w/The Irish Tenors* Nov. 28th, 8 p.m., \$40.50-\$75
- *Fame, the Musical* Nov. 29th & 30th, 2 & 8 p.m., \$27-\$50
- *Miss Saigon* Dec. 2nd-5th, varying times, \$27-\$50
- Gulf Coast Symphony presents... *Amahl & the Night Visitors* Dec. 8th, 7 p.m., \$13.50-\$40

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And in December...

- *Simon & Garfunkel return to Florida!!!*
- American Airlines Arena Miami, Dec. 17th
- Office Depot Center, Sunrise, Dec. 18th
- St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa, Dec. 21st

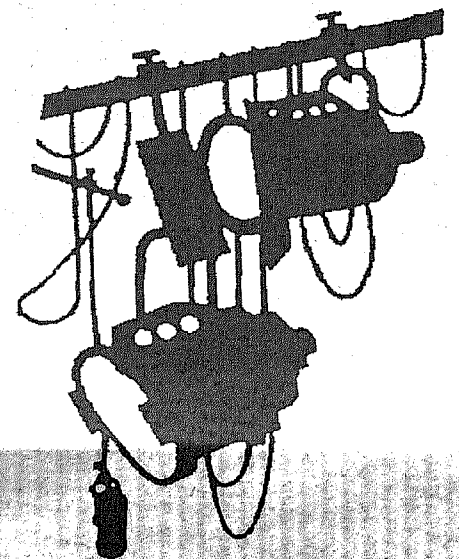
IN NAPLES

Naples Dinner Theatre
1025 Piper Boulevard ~ (877) 519-7827

- *My Fair Lady* Through Dec. 7th, \$37.50-\$45

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- *Cook Dixon & Young* (Formerly Three Mo' Tenors) Dec. 2nd, 8 p.m., \$62
- *Wynonna* Dec. 7th, 8 p.m., \$55



PERIWINKLE PLAYHOUSE

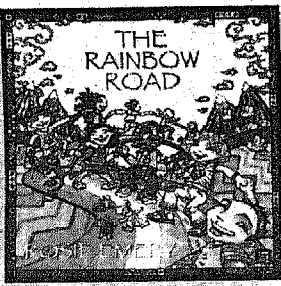
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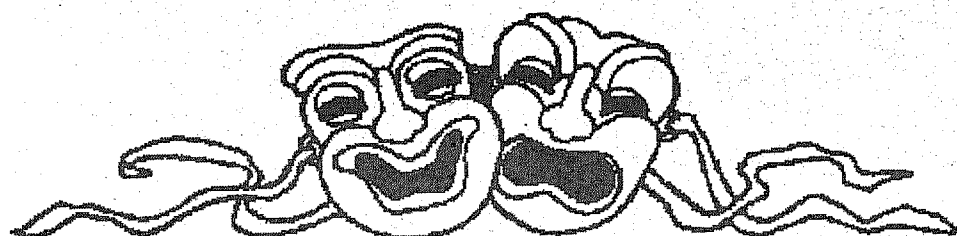
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AT THE THEATRE

Ayckbourn to open Nov. 28

Three kitchens ... Three Christmases... One hilarious night at the theatre!

Don't miss the production that everyone will be laughing about! Florida

Repertory Theatre is presenting *Absurd Person Singular*, sponsored in part by Hill Barth & King LLC from Nov. 28th to Dec. 21st. The New York Times touted this play as "the best comedy Britain has sent us in years."

A combination of pure, sparkling farce and wild gallows humor, *Absurd Person Singular* is the immensely popular theatrical sitcom by Britain's answer to Neil Simon, Alan Ayckbourn. Directed by Florida Rep's Producing Director Robert Cacioppo, *Absurd Person Singular* promises to keep Fort Myers area audiences in stitches all the way through the holiday season.

In *Absurd Person Singular*, Ayckbourn skillfully marries substance to hilarity when he pulls the curtain up on three immensely funny snapshots — each set during successive Christmas parties. Here, Ayckbourn pokes compassionate fun at the various pretensions, mannerisms and delusions of his six hapless protagonists. A slightly darker thread is also woven into this wild comedy of behind-the-scenes Christmas party disasters: the story of one couple's advance to material prosperity and independence and the decline of the other. In the end, "the little man" is on top and the others are literally dancing to his tune.

A stellar cast, made up entirely of Florida Rep favorites, appears in this much-loved comedy. Audiences will recognize Maurice Schlafer and Helen Mutch most recently from their work in the Rep's season opener, *Sly Fox*. Schlafer and Mutch have appeared together in many Florida Rep productions including *Sideman*, *Breaking Legs*, *Dangerous Obsessions* and the theatre's inaugural production in 1998, *Noises Off*.

Niels Miller, the incomparable Florida Rep company member who has performed in over 30 shows at the Rep, graces the stage once again in this high comedy. Miller was last seen as Jethro Crouch in *Sly Fox*. He appears in *Absurd Person Singular* opposite Southwest Florida's own Carrie Lund. Carrie, also the veteran of over 30 shows, starred last season in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Proof* and *Rumors*.

Filling out the cast, the theatre once again welcomes New York actors Stacey Scotte and David Weinek. Scotte's memorable turn in *Company* kept Florida Rep audiences cracking up night after night. Weinek, who recently finished filming *The Stepford Wives* with Nicole Kidman, will be fondly remembered from his roles in *Dinner With Friends*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Noises Off*.

"We have assembled the finest cast possible for this extremely funny farce. I couldn't possibly be more pleased," says

Producing Director Robert Cacioppo. "There is no finer way to celebrate the holiday season, than in a room full of other people, laughing."

Sponsored in part by Hill Barth & King LLC, *Absurd Person Singular* runs Nov. 28 through Dec. 21 in the historic Arcade Theatre in downtown Fort Myers. Performances are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. with matinees on Wednesdays, Sundays and select Saturdays. Tickets run from \$15 to \$32 with discounts available for students and groups. Call 332-4488 for more information, or visit Florida Rep on the web at www.floridarep.org.

Off again to the races!

Offshore Sailing School will be hosting the 2nd Annual Ya Gotta Regatta to benefit the Florida Rep, with a limited amount of boat sponsorships still available!

The sky was just that perfect Florida crisp blue and the wind was just the right kiss against the sails — all making last year's Ya Gotta Regatta a terrifically successful, fun-filled day of sailing competition.

And, with a limited number of boat sponsorships still available, now is the time to get on board for this year's event. Sponsors already on board include South Seas Resort, Merrill Lynch, Carlton-Naumann Classic Homes, H2O Outfitters and Gulf To Bay Construction. Sponsorship of a boat includes your crew of four, the name of your company prominently displayed on the boat, event publicity, pre-race cocktail party and, of course, Ya Gotta Regatta 2004 T-shirts! It is a great avenue for your company to make a real Splash! in the community while having a terrific time.

This year's regatta will be on Sunday, Jan. 4 and will hit Pine Island Sound off South Seas Resort with crews aboard six Colgate 26s. A special thank you to our event Sponsors this year — Off-Shore Sailing, South Seas, Captiva Cruises, H2O and Hill Barth & King LLC.

As the crews are put through their paces, spectators will enjoy activities aboard the Lady Chadwick — friendly bets on their favorite crews, fabulous prizes from local businesses, box lunches and the incredible January day on the water.

This year's Regatta will also offer two raffle drawings to benefit the theatre — one along with tickets sales at the theatre in downtown Fort Myers, and the second onboard the Lady Chadwick during the races. Some of the prizes include jewelry from Congress Jewelers, a three-day Learn to Sail Course donated by Offshore Sailing School, theatre tickets from Barbara B. Mann, a fabulous get-a-way at South Seas Resort, Charter Fishing, and a variety of restaurant packages to name a few!

Tickets and sponsorships are \$35 each for spectators, \$150 per crew member, \$1,950 to be a Boat Sponsor. Call the Florida Rep's box office for single tickets at 332-4488. Call Cindy-Lee at 332-4665 for sponsorships.

Children's play a hit

The Florida Repertory Theatre continues to score big points with its latest undertaking, Saturday morning children's theatre, served with a bagged lunch provided by Moretti's Restaurant & Café Scmoose and appropriately titled Lunchbox Theatre.

The theatre's Education Director Meredith Hoppe says, "We added Lunchbox Theatre to our programming this year to fill a void we noticed in the community, based on the many calls from parents and youth groups who asked if we had performances specifically geared to young people at the theatre." As part of its mission, Florida Rep has always put great emphasis on having strong and diverse educational programming. Producing Director Cacioppo makes what would appear to be an obvious point, "If we don't develop the theatre goers of tomorrow, who will?"

To this end, Florida Rep has continuously offered youth-oriented touring productions that perform at dozens of Lee and Collier County schools and retirement communities. Yet the calls Hoppe was getting seemed to indicate that parents didn't simply want their children to see a performance, they wanted to be able to enjoy it with them. Hoppe says, "Parents want to be able to offer the child a full theatrical experience. That means actually coming to the Florida Rep space and viewing a production right alongside of their family."

I Didn't Know That, the first play presented in Florida Rep's Lunchbox Series, has already performed on two Saturdays and is on stage one more Saturday at 11 a.m.: tomorrow, Nov. 22. As word of mouth has increased, so have the numbers of families in attendance. "We really want all of Fort Myers to know that our Lunchbox Theatre is a great way to spend a Saturday morning," Cacioppo said.

I Didn't Know That is a light-hearted revue of first facts and selected oddities performed in interactively with music and dance. Due to its popularity this time around, Florida Rep has added two more springtime performances of the show on April 10th and 17th.

The Quick and Easy Guide to Thomas Edison, sponsored by The Alan & Jacquelin Cadkin-Foundation and supported by Hill Barth & King LLC, a world-premiere original production will be the focus of Florida Rep's Winter Lunchbox Theatre Series. *The Quick and Easy Guide...* explores the life of Fort Myers' most famous resident in ways never before seen on the stage. "We worked very hard to make Edison tangible to young people," Associate Director Bari Newport, who also created the play, said. As a result *The Quick and Easy Guide...* is a thorough and thoroughly entertaining piece that the staff at Florida Rep is immensely proud of. "We hope to publish it," Newport added, "It's the most fun you'll ever have in 45 minutes. You'll learn a lot, too!" *The Quick and Easy Guide to Thomas Edison*, a sanctioned event in the Edison Festival of

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Lights, plays as part of Florida Rep's Lunchbox Theatre on Jan. 24th and 31st, Feb. 7 and 14th at 11 a.m. The \$10 tickets include the play, lunch, drink, a workshop and a tour of theatre.

To reserve seats or for more information about Lunchbox Theatre call the Florida Rep box office at 332-4488 or visit the theatre on the web at www.floridarep.org. Florida Repertory Theatre is located in the historic Arcade Theatre in downtown Fort Myers between Jackson and Hendry Streets.

Stunning holiday show...

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre will once again bring holiday cheer to Southwest Florida with its production of *White Christmas Revue*, playing Nov. 27 through Dec. 27.

White Christmas Revue combines song, dance and light-hearted comedy with everyone's favorite traditional holiday songs. The show features a fun-filled salute to reindeers, the trials of holiday shopping, a moving spiritual segment and the ever festive "The Twelve Days of Christmas." This special production promises to be a fun and touching Christmas musical for the whole family!

Make reservations today. Adult ticket prices are \$21 to \$44 and children 12 and under are \$19. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with selected matinees. For tickets call 278-4422, visit the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard, or order tickets on line at www.BroadwayPalm.com.

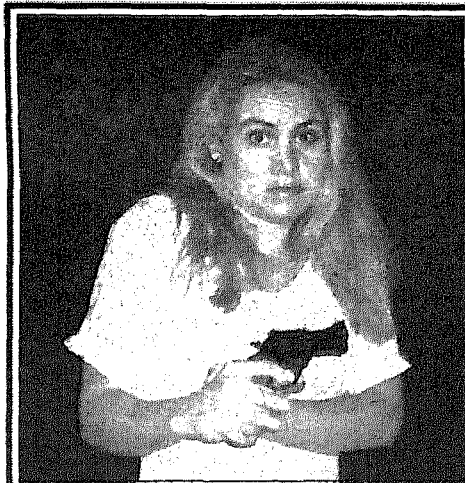
Come travel down The

Rainbow Road!

Celebrate the Earth and all its inhabitants with Rosie Emery's *The Rainbow Road* Saturday, Nov. 29, at Noon... A perfect way to spend part of the Thanksgiving weekend. This highly acclaimed children's show has kids and grown-ups singing and dancing at the same time they're learning about how we are all interconnected.



Originally from England, singer/song-writer Rosie Emery grew up in legendary Sherwood Forest where she found her passion for nature. She has been using her musical talents to inspire in children the love of wildlife and nature through her songs, workshops and educational programs. Emery has written several children's books, toured Canada and the United States, appeared on television in her own TV specials and has three CDs of her songs available. (Visit her website at www.interconnected.com)



Amanda Parke co-stars as Babe in *Crimes of the Heart* at Fort Myers Beach's only dinner theater, the Holmes House Restaurant at 2500 Estero Boulevard.

Performance dates are Friday and Saturday nights, Nov. 21, 22, 28, and 29. Tickets for dinner and the show are \$35; for the show only, \$15. For information and reservations, call 463-5519.

Happy Birthday Jane

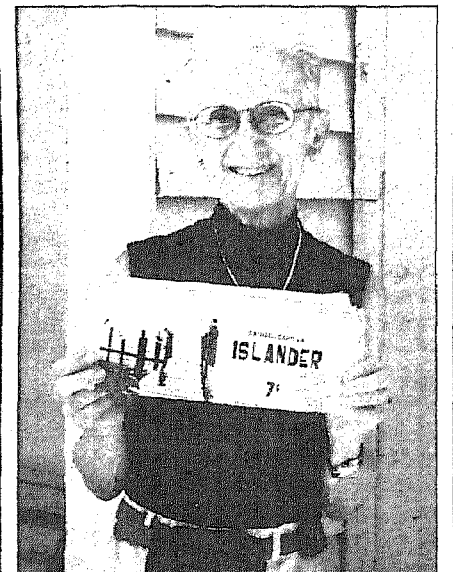


Photo by Amy Fleming

Say Happy Birthday to Jane Clemmens — if you can catch her. Clemmens has been a regular visitor to the islands since 1969, and even though she just turned 74, you can find her hitting the trails of Sanibel, running or walking a good four miles a day.

For the past three years, Jim and Mike Clemmens, her two sons, have made it possible for Jane leave the chilly climes of Baltimore to spend her birthday, Nov. 16th, on the warm beaches of Sanibel.



New postcard book Seashells now available on Sanibel

Anne Joffe, renowned seashell expert, has teamed up with Harlan Wittkopf, author of the best-selling *The Sanibel Kaleidoscope*, to create a new and interesting picture postcard book. This one-of-a-kind book entitled *Seashells* is a representation of Sanibel's and our Gulf coast beaches' live seashells in postcard form. The beauty of the book is that it can be kept as a beautiful reference book or used for its stated purpose corresponding briefly with someone — ideal for the island resident as well as the visitor.

As a permanent resident of Sanibel for over 25 years, Anne's expertise in the world of shells is nationally known. She has traveled the world collecting and buying shells, has been the president of the Conchologists Society of America, has served as a Sanibel Shell Show Judge in the Artistic & Scientific categories, has served as an associate curator at the Shell Museum, and has given countless lectures on shell and shellcrafting. Anne is also the author of her own book, *Shellcrafting*.

A former attorney and Judicial Magistrate, Harlan Wittkopf is a part-time resident of Sanibel and Algonia, Iowa. Other than his best seller, now in its 4th edition, he has also published *Favorite Collectible Sanibel Shells*, is a charter life member of the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum — as well as the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and belongs to the Conchologists of America Society.

This colorful picture postcard book contains 20 photos for suitable framing and features 32 identified live species. It is available at the two She Sells Sea Shells locations on Sanibel and other retail outlets.



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Blumenthal to appear

Nationally acclaimed pianist Toby Blumenthal will appear as guest artist with the Southwest Florida Symphony Chamber Orchestra this Sunday, Nov. 23, at 7 p.m. in Schein Hall. Cool Discoveries features pieces from Ravel, Michaud, and Busoni-Schoenberg. Blumenthal will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto in F major, K459 as the finale to the evening. The Sanibel Series includes two additional concerts — Twisted & Stirred on Feb. 8 and Bach Again on April 4. Both of these Sunday evening events take place at 7 p.m. in Schein Hall.

Subscribe to the Sanibel Series now and save! For tickets or a concert schedule, please call the box office at 418-1500 or visit the Symphony's web site at www.swflso.org. As of today, Friday, tickets may still be purchased at the door the night of the concert.

Island Writers to read

The public is invited to the Island Writers's Winter Read at BIG ARTS Thursday evening, Dec. 4, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Di Saggau will open the program with her memoir, "How Not to Meet Your Neighbor." Carol Ehrlich's poem, "Yellow Butterfly," follows. Sallie Rich next tells of an "Alligator Encounter," and Dix offers his adventure memoir, "Tested by Fire."

Tanya Hochschild describes "The Skeleton Coast - Namibia," followed by Peg McEwen's light hearted essay, "Stuff." Hal Iyengar offers his travel piece, "Dancing Lights," and Bill Hallstead will explore the pitfalls of telling it all in his short story, "Frankness." Vivian Pyke's personal essay "Fog" follows. Two poems by Vince Faraone, "To Maria" and "What do Buttocks Do?" wrap up the first half of the program.

After a brief intermission with refreshments, Bob Maxeiner will present his short story "Fish." The nature essay "A Pocket of Wildlife" by Bev Postmus is next. "Museum Music," an essay by Chuck Higgins is followed by three poems by Sid Simon, including "The Blonde in Front of me on Flight 1259."

Nancy Carlile's memoir recalls "Breakfast with Grandpa." Joan Grindley will read her memoir, "My Handle," and, closing the 90-minute program will be Joe Pacheco's poem, "Born in Bethlehem" and another called "Mending Drawbridge."

The twice-yearly Island Writers Read events are free to the public. A \$3 contribution to BIG ARTS is appreciated. The works to be read are selected by a committee representing all four Island Writers groups. The writers receive no compensation for their presentations.

New book by Maxeiner

Bob Maxeiner's new book of short stories is a recent arrival at island book stores. *Innocentia* is a collection of tales about the ways that ordinary, innocent people knock each other off track... or help each other back again. Maxeiner will welcome all comers to a book signing at Holly Smith's Sanibel Island Bookshop in Sanibel Center at the corner of Casa Ybel and Periwinkle from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26. His previous book, the novel *Transplant*, will also be available.

"Short stories are neat readings to enjoy around holiday times," Maxeiner says. "When you find a fragment of free time you can pop off a story that is complete in itself. And then, while you go back to your holiday duties, you can replay the story in your mind."



Classic Bugs! ...and other 'toons

The Gulf Coast Symphony's second 2003-2004 Galloway Magic Carpet Family Concert, *Classic Bugs! ...and other 'toons*, will take place this Sunday afternoon, Nov. 23 at 4 at the Galloway Ford Showroom, 1800 Boy Scout Drive in Fort Myers. The Symphony's Magic Carpet Family Concert Series is a partnership with the Galloway Family, the oldest automotive organization in Southwest Florida.

Designed for children of all ages, and especially for families, these FREE one-hour concerts are the perfect



introduction to the symphony orchestra. Audience members are invited to sit on individual "magic carpets" and journey through sights and sound unique to the symphony. Interactive demonstrations, explanations, and one-on-one interaction with orchestra members are all elements of these exciting and captivating concerts.

Sunday's concert will feature music like "What's Opera, Doc? (The Ride of the Valkyries)," "The Rabbit of Seville (Barber of Seville Overture)," "Johann Mouse (The Blue Danube)," "Rhapsody Rabbit (Friska from Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2)" and "The Band Concert (William Tell Overture)." An instrument petting zoo will be on display before and after the concert as well as a puppet art show sponsored by the Lee Country Vision & Strength through the Arts program. For more information call the Symphony office at (239) 472-6197 or email: GMCFC@gulfcoastsymphony.org

The final 2003-2004 Galloway Magic Carpet Family Concerts will be Sunday afternoon at 3 on April 18: Disney Magic — Music from Fantasia.

Local Authors on Tour

The co-authors of *Race to Kitty Hawk*, Annelle Rigsby of Sanibel and Edwina Raffa of Fort Myers Beach, were recently selected as the Cherokee County Authors of the Year and were the featured speakers for all the fourth grade classes in Cherokee County, N.C. The authors discussed how they came to write *Race to Kitty Hawk* as well as the Wright brothers' contribution to flight. They also met with children in Franklin, Silva, Highlands, and in Atlanta, and signed book in area bookstores.

The publication of *Race to Kitty Hawk*, a historical novel for children ages 8-12, coincides with this year's centennial celebration of the Wright brothers' first flight. Fort Myers artist, Wellington Ward, whose grandfather was the station keeper at the Kill Devil Hills Lifesaving Station in 1903, illustrated the book.

But, according to Kevin McCarthy, a University of Florida English professor, had the Wrights but heeded the advice of engineer Octave Chanute, a friend and an expert in aeronautics, the upcoming centennial of their famed flight might be happening near Fort Myers, not Kill Devil Hills. Chanute recommended Pine Island as having the best conditions for launching their glider — favorable winds, a location near water and the absence of nearby dwellings were all factors in Pine Island's favor. That didn't happen, however, he says in his new book, *Aviation in Florida*, "probably because Florida was inac-



cessible and did not have the tool shops and repair places needed for airplanes."

Race to Kitty Hawk has received the endorsement of the First Flight Centennial Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of the book will help the Foundation make improvements to the Wright Brothers National Memorial on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Art on the Beach

The Fort Myers Beach Art Association has announced the winning artists in the Fall Judged Show, sponsored in part by Anthony's on the Gulf.

First place winner was Steve Stephenson for his painting "Barn in Wisconsin Beautiful and Grand." Dannica Walker took second with "Petunias and Pincushions" and Bea Pappas' "Equinox Series #2" placed third. Merit awards were given to Carol Hagerman, Phil Rasmussen and Lee Ackert. Neil Glaser, Pauline Healy and Sue Pink received honorable mentions.

This exhibit will be up until Wednesday, Dec. 10, when noted local artist, Phil Rasmussen, will do a critique which will be open to all at 1:30 p.m.

Five artists from the Lehigh Acres Art League will be exhibiting at the Art Association in the Studio 2 Gallery beginning Nov. 28. All five of the women artists are members of both art groups and have been very active on the exhibition committee on the Beach. They hail from Indiana, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Florida.

Sheila Boelkens had a design studio and painted silk clothing in the Florida Keys where she was a member of the Key West Art Center. She loves painting and living in the tropics and finds watercolor a real challenge.

Janice Crum, a retired schoolteacher, is active in the Richmon Art Club in Indiana as well. Some of her favorite workshops have been with Tom Lynch and Jeanne Dobie.

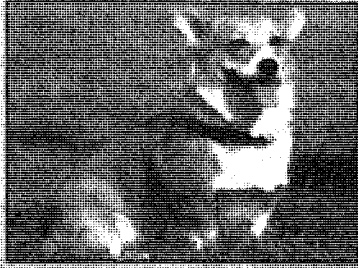
Madeline O'Brien changed from oil painting brushes to watercolor brushes and has enjoyed the challenge of painting and being involved in the local art world. She is also a member of the Florida Watercolor Society.

Vi Hathaway paints in Maine in the summer and in Florida in the winter and believes she has the best of both worlds for an artist. She has studied with many nationally known artists and has won numerous awards in juried competitions, including the Celebration of Women Juried Exhibit. Her works are included in many collections in the United States and Japan.

Terry Shattuck is a frequent exhibitor and award winner in juried and invitational art exhibits throughout Southwest Florida. Her paintings are filled with beautiful vibrant transparent color and truly touch the imagination. Shattuck teaches watercolor art at the Lehigh Art League and belongs to the Sanibel-Captiva Art League, where she often enjoys painting outdoors on location. She is an associate member of the Florida Watercolor Society.

This special show will be on exhibit until Dec. 16. The Art Association's Outdoor Painters will meet on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 at various locations in and around Fort Myers for informal painting sessions followed by a critique at noon over a brown-bag lunch. This Wednesday, Nov. 26, they will meet at the Public Beach on

POTPOURRI



Be on the lookout!

Island Maestro JT Smith reports that his 10-month-old Corgi named Desi must have run away, been stolen or (God forbid) been eaten by an alligator. Everyone in the neighborhood knows him and no one can find him... If you see Desi, please give JT a call at 472-8988.

Bonita Beach Road in Bonita Beach. In December, they will have an abbreviated schedule due to the holidays, but will be meeting at these sites:

Dec. 3—Times Square

Fort Myers Beach

Dec. 10—Snug Harbor Restaurant

Old San Carlos Boulevard

Fort Myers Beach

Dec. 17—Edison Home

McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers

For further information, contact Ralph Persson 466-2914.

The Art Association is located at the corner of Donora and Shell Mound, just behind the fire station on the Beach. To check out all of their ongoing and future activities look up their Web Page at www.fortmyers-beachart.com.

Calling all artists

Sanibel Cares invites artists of all media and genres to submit original artwork to benefit The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida at its Island Celebration of the Arts 2004 auction. Juried selection

will take place on Jan. 28 at Sanibel Community House.

Artists can drop off their work at the Community House between 9 and 10 a.m. and pick it up between 3 and 4 p.m. For information on the artists' jury selection, please call Julie Smith, head of Sanibel Cares' art committee, at 395-1721.

"The Celebration of the Arts is a gala event that attracts a sellout crowd of charity-minded art collectors," said Smith. "Contributing artists benefit greatly from highly publicized exposure to the local art-buying community."

Sanibel Cares has set its sights this year on new incubators for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Children's Hospital. This fourth annual auction and gala event will be held on April 3 to raise funds toward that goal.

A group of more than 30 concerned mothers, Sanibel Cares formed in 2000 to support The Children's Hospital, which receives no tax support and depends upon the community for financial assistance to provide all children with health care, regardless of their families' ability to pay.

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Seaweed Gallery -

Sanibel Artist Myra Roberts
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New Series of Dolls



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AT MANN HALL

We Three Kings Christmas Spectacular kicks off holidays

The world-renowned Irish Tenors — Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynan and Finbar Wright — will bring their We Three Kings Christmas Spectacular show to town next Friday, Nov. 28, at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the box office, by calling 481-4849, online at www.bbmahall.com and Ticketmaster at 334-3309.

Anthony Kearns, Ronan Tynan and Finbar Wright each has accomplished wonders on his own in music and other disciplines. But, when they take to the stage as The Irish Tenors, their voices, joined together, blossom with a beauty and power that's guaranteed to bring new life to even the most familiar old tunes.

Their last year's performance was a sell-out and this year's program is guaranteed to bring audiences to their feet. The tenors will perform, as always, with full 47-piece orchestral accompaniment on classic songs.

The phenomenon that would become The Irish Tenors began modestly one day in 1998 at the MIDEM Festival in Cannes, France when a representative of TV Matters, a U.S.-based company, and Radius, a company based in Ireland, conceived the idea during a conversation about the success of the original Three Tenors — Pavarotti, Domingo and Carreras. Recognizing that the history of tenor singing in Ireland is as rich as that of high opera they pulled three giants of that school — Kearns, Tynan, and John McDermott — into the original lineup of The Irish Tenors and organized their debut with a 60-piece orchestra at the Royal Dublin Society. Ironically Finbar Wright had been approached at the time but was unable to join the original group due to contractual obligations.

When tapes of this concert were broadcast shortly afterward over PBS, tenor mania swept the States. The trio launched its first U.S. tour in March 1999, drawing 15,000 new fans to Madison Square Garden and selling



out major arenas elsewhere. Their first two albums, *The Irish Tenors* and *Home For Christmas*, would both spend more than two years high on the Billboard World Music Charts and eventually topped two million in total album sales.

In February 2000, following the death of his mother, McDermott left the group. This time Finbar Wright was available and the current line-up was born. The Irish Tenors recorded their third album with the new lineup, *Live From Belfast*, with the 67-piece Warsaw Symphonia and a surprise guest appearance by McDermott. This was followed in 2001 by *Ellis Island*, a concept project based on the history of immigration into America with Martin Sheen as MC.

This summer, coinciding with their U.S. tour, The Irish Tenors released their fifth album, *The Irish Tenors: 1999-2002*, a compilation of their most beloved recordings. In addition to their American tour, the group continues to perform throughout the world and in their home country; in Ireland last year their shows outdrew all other live artists performing at indoor venues.

The accomplishments of each member of The Irish Tenors are among the most impressive in vocal music today. Kearns has taken top honors in "Ireland's Search for a Tenor" in 1993, the Dermot Troy Trophy for oratorio performance and the Best Male Singer Award at the Waterford International Festival of light opera; Tynan has received the Tenor Trophy and the John McCormack Trophy at the National Singing Festival in Dublin, and first place in the RTE/BBC Television Talent Competition as well as the French International singing competition; and Wright, a winner of the IRMA Award for Best Irish Male Artist of the Year, has hosted his own television show on Ireland's RTE network and chalked up platinum sales for his first solo album.

But the unity of their talent, their commitment to the

classic Irish tradition, their love for the music that lives in their hearts, and above all their ability to share that love with their listeners that is the strength of The Irish Tenors.

Tickets for *The Irish Tenors: We Three Kings Christmas Spectacular* range from \$45 to \$75.

Miss Saigon opens Dec. 2



From the creators of *Les Miserables* comes the epic musical love story *Miss Saigon*, which will play at Mann Hall for eight performances only starting Dec. 2.

Written by Alain Boublil (book, lyrics and original French lyrics), Claude-Michel Schönberg (book and music) and Richard Maltby, Jr. (lyrics), *Miss Saigon* was originally produced by Cameron Mackintosh at The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, in September of 1989. The production opened on Broadway in April 1991 with three North American companies following, including a run in Fort Myers at the Mann Hall in 2000. This touring production of the show is produced by Big League Theatricals.

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Miss Saigon is directed by Mitchell Lemsky, who previously served as Associate Director of the show for the Broadway and US Touring productions, as well as for productions in Canada, Germany and Japan. Jodi Moccia, who served as associate choreographer of the Broadway, US Touring and Toronto productions of *Miss Saigon*, provides musical staging.

Set in 1975 during the final days leading up to the American evacuation of Saigon, the musical is the story of two young lovers torn apart by the fortunes of destiny and held together by a burning passion and the fate of a small child.

A stirring blend of soaring love ballads, heart-warming melodies, electrifying marches and much more, the score of *Miss Saigon* has been acclaimed uplifting, exuberant, hopeful and true. Unforgettable songs powerfully conjure up the steamy nights, crowds, passion and danger of Saigon.

The sixth longest running show in Broadway history and one of the greatest

stage successes ever, *Miss Saigon* has grossed more than \$1.3 billion worldwide and won 29 awards. Internationally, it has been performed in 13 countries in eight different languages and has been seen by more than 28 million people worldwide. More than 13.2 million people in North America have seen the show.

The Broadway production of received 11 Tony Award nominations in 1991, including Best Musical, and won three. It also received the Outer Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical. The London production received Best Musical honors from The Evening Standard Awards and the London Theatre Critics' Circle Awards.

Performances are Dec. 2 and 7 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 3-6 at 8 p.m., and Dec. 6 and 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$40, \$50 and \$60.

Tickets for both productions are available at the box office, by calling 481-4849, online at www.bbmnpah.com and Ticketmaster at 334-3309. For groups of 20 or more, please call 489-3033, Ext. 3122.

Sweet Adelines to perform

Spirit of the Gulf Sweet Adelines will present their 2003 show, *Celebrate the Champions*, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. Tickets are \$20. Spirit of the Gulf is the 2003 First Place State of Florida Sweet Adeline chorus and will be competing in the international competition in 2004 in Indianapolis. Featured guest quartettes will be Swinglish Mix, the 2002 International Sweet Adeline champions, and BarbieShop, the First Place Young Women In Harmony champions.

The 130-member chorus, under the direction of master director Karen Breidert, will perform four-part harmony barbershop style. Spirit of the Gulf is a non-profit organization and each year Patty Bembry Memorial scholarships are presented to young people who plan to pursue a degree in the field of music.

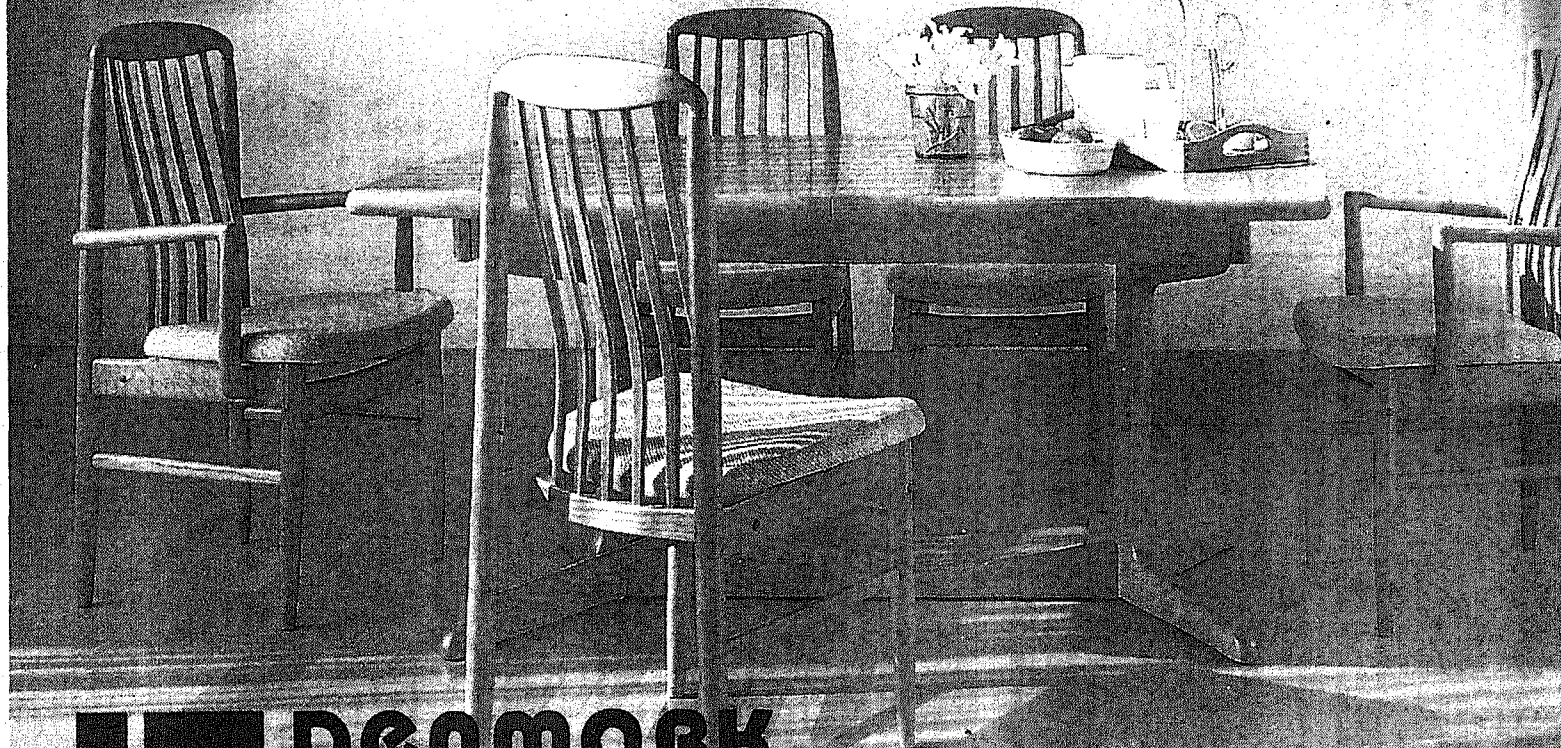
Come to the show, sit back and be entertained by exciting choreography, beautiful costumes, sparkling smiles and, most of all, great singing.

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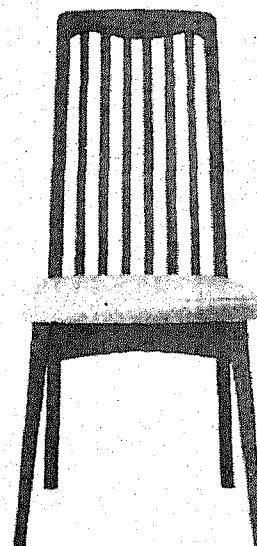
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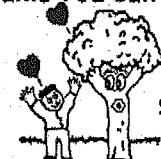
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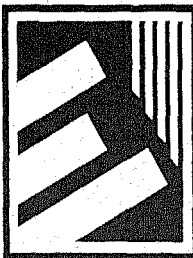
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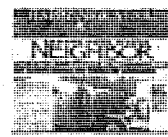
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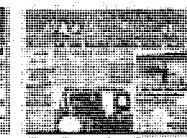
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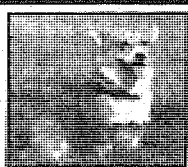
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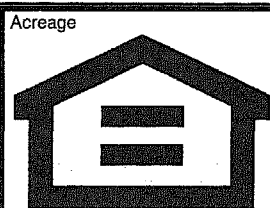
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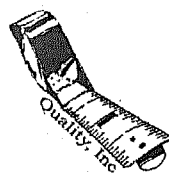
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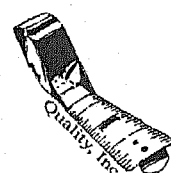
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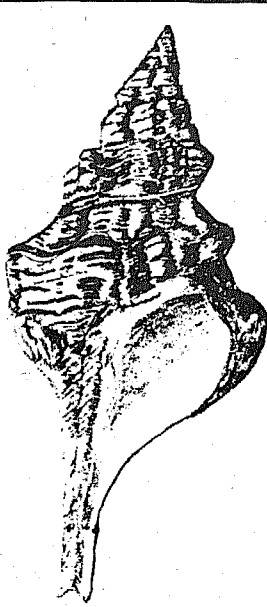
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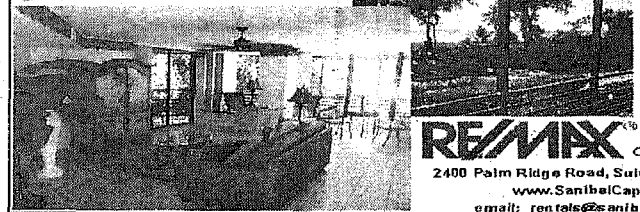
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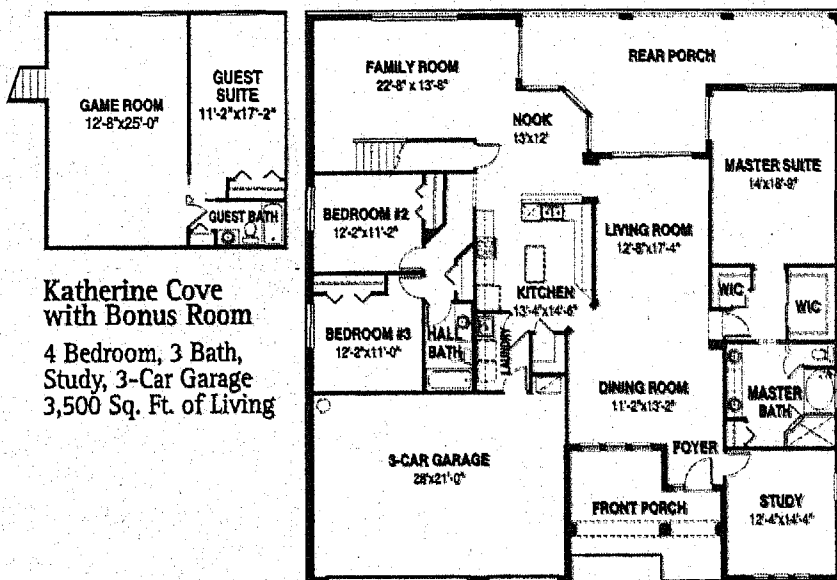
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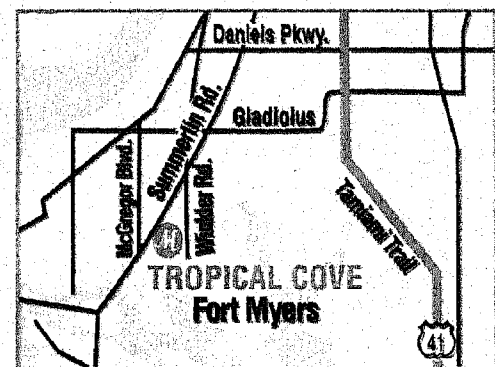
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