

Sanibel Islander

Vol. 43, No. 2

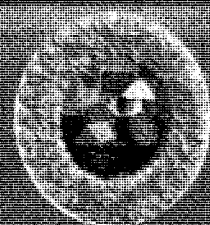
Week of February 27 - March 4, 2004

48 Pages • Two Sections

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**The 67th
Annual Shell
Fair & Show
March 4 - 6**

Page 6A & 11A

**SANIBEL
Music
FESTIVAL**

**The Sanibel
Music Festival
begins on
March 6**

Page 9B



Shell flower arrangements fashioned by the Sanibel Shellcrafters will be among the treasures at the 67th Annual Sanibel Shell Show & Fair, starting this coming Thursday, March 4. *Photo by Karen Nelson*

MONDAY NIGHT IS PRIME TIME!!



**ALL
YOU CAN EAT
\$14.95**

PRIME RIB

Served with baked Idaho potato
& corn on the cob



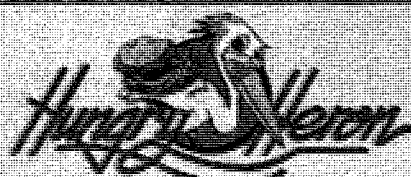
**"FRESH".... ALL YOU CAN EAT!!
EVERYDAY!**

**Shrimp
\$16.95**

**Crab
\$17.95**

**Grouper
\$15.95**

Served with French Fries & corn on the cob



Mon. - Fri, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
2330 Palm Ridge Rd. Sanibel Island

239-395-2300

37 items on the "Consider the Kids" menu.
All specials subject to availability.
Master Card, Visa, Discover Credit Cards Accepted



THURSDAY STEAM POT SPECIALS

New to the Hungry Heron!
Overloaded with an array of your favorite crustaceans
and more, steamed in the Heron's special brew

FRIDAY NIGHT LOBSTERFEST

1 1/4 Pound Maine Lobster served with
corn on the cob French Fries, & Coleslaw
(while supplies last)

\$17.95

RISE & SHINE Fabulous Breakfast Buffet

Saturday 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday 7:30 - 12:00 noon

\$8.99



Captiva Alternative



- 3/4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath main home w/ guest pod
- Hardwood floors, formal living & dining
- Remodeled baths, open kitchen to family room
- Covered boat dock, incredible view

\$839,000 (104372)
Jim Hall 472-5187 x215

Yacht Club Area



- 120' on the river
- 3 lot site on Riverside Drive
- 3 bedroom, 2 bath
- Excellent location in Cape Coral

\$995,000 (104222)
Robin Humphrey 472-5187x218

Boaters Paradise



- Beautiful home with guest house to be constructed
- Quality constructed homes, 2 car garage, custom pool
- Short stroll to deeded beach access
- French doors, fireplace, custom cabinetry, elevator

\$3,895,000 (101642)
Karen Bell 472-7800 x270

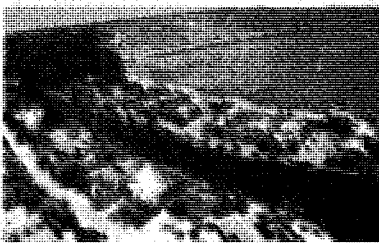
Top Floor Unit



- 2 bedroom, 2 bath
- Nicely furnished
- Partial Gulf view from lanai
- Great rental income potential

\$469,000 (102318)
Lynda Traverso 472-5187 x226

Set Your Course



- Mariner Pointe 8 acre peninsula on the bay
- Charming 2 bedroom, 2 bath ground level
- 33 boat slips, private fishing pier
- Tennis and beach access

\$419,000 (103808)
Ruth Hamann & The Gerasins
472-5187x 235/236/232

Look No Further



- 3 bedroom, 2 bath & den in Beachview
- Heated, caged pool, new pool pump
- Dual air conditioning units
- Open kitchen to den & pass thru to pool area

\$649,900 (104326)
Ruth Hamann & The Gerasins
472-5187x 235/236/232

Almost New "Olde Florida"



- 3 bedroom, 2 bath + den
- Split floor plan with vaulted ceilings
- Built in 2001 & over \$2,000 sq. ft.
- Furnished and room for a pool

\$595,000 (104384)
Carolyn Musgrave 472-5187 x243

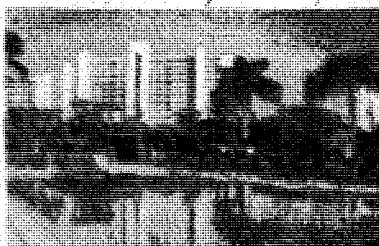
Vacation, View and Income



- Ocean's Reach, 2 bedroom
- Gulf front, 3rd floor overlooking pool
- Carport, outside storeroom
- On-site management and rental office

\$720,000 (103941)
Susan Andrews 472-5187 x251

Best Waterfront Buy



- 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo
- Popular Punta Rassa
- Island Style and rentals on-site
- Marina next door and great amenities

\$387,500 (103574)
Anthony & Kathryn Gaeta 472-5187 x231

Bandy Beach



- Wonderful Gulf front with view from every room
- Large floor plan with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
- Over 1900 sq. ft. of living
- Weekly rental with great rental income

\$1,199,000 (104099)
Rose Dakos 472-5187 x233

Island Charmer Deep Dockage



- Soaring ceilings, Brazilian cherry flooring
- Gourmet kitchen - a chef's delight
- Finest quality 3 bedroom, 4.5 bath with pool
- Dockage for 70' power or sail direct to bay

\$3,295,000 (103263)
Marlene Donaldson 472-5187 x242

A Touch of Key West



- Private, gated and Gulf front
- 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath
- Totally remodeled in 2001
- Exceptional

\$3,995,000 (103456)
Eric Pfeiffer 472-5187 x259

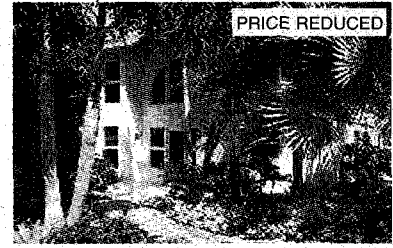
East End on Sanibel



- Gulf front Snug Harbor complex
- 15 units with pool and tennis
- 2 bedroom, 2 bath + den and cabana
- Spacious and furnished

\$675,000 (104228)
Karen Bell 472-7800 x270

Exceptional Dunes Home



- Custom windows & French doors.
- Huge garage with room for golf cart
- Caged & heated pool
- Great view of lakes & fairway

\$859,000 (103909)
Jim & Penny Hetmanek

Serene Captiva



- Tucked away with bay views
- 3 bedroom on large corner lot
- Pool and fenced area plus lower level storage
- Top floor master retreat, new carpeting

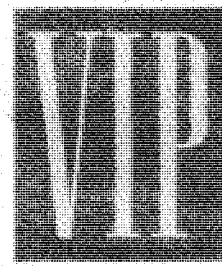
\$1,875,000 (104449)
Jim Hall 472-5187 x215

Seashell of Sanibel



- 2 bedroom, 2 bath top floor, corner unit
- Near beach, - 800 + s.f. of living space
- Bright and comfortable
- Heated pool, tennis and more

\$349,000 (103987)
Marcel Ventura 472-7800 x276



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TOO MUCH SUN

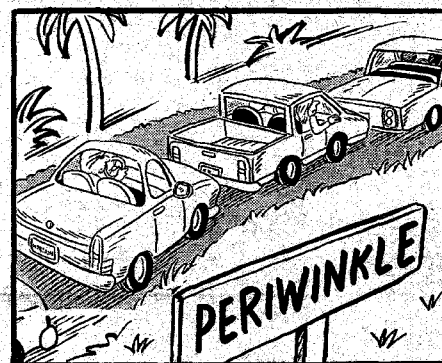
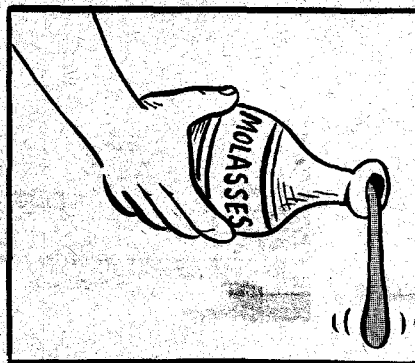
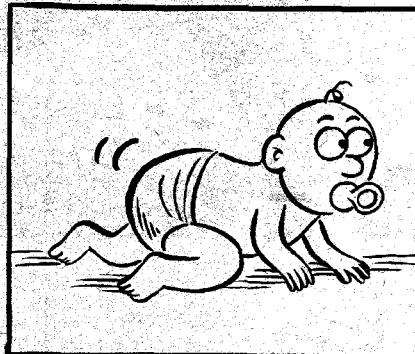
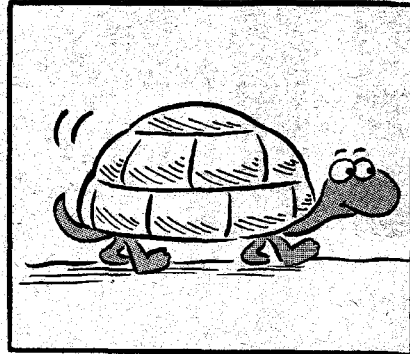
WHAT DO THESE THINGS HAVE IN COMMON?



Dave Horton



Lee Horton



COLUMNISTS

Fishing & Shelling
Capt. Mike Fuery
— page 9



Shell Shocked
Art Stevens
— page 10



Decorating Den
Nancy Santeusario
— page 13



Center Stage
Marsha Wagner
— page 1B



Music Scene
Harold Lieberman
— page 11B



UP PERISCOPE

Thoughts While Waiting to Make a Left Turn onto Periwinkle Way at Height of Season

By Joseph Pacheco

*Creating the paradise is easy:
You pick a place everyone else overlooked,
That goes against the current fashion,
Has some very special things: beaches
Filled with shells, a great big sanctuary
For animals, birds, trees and man
To be as close as they can ever be
And a panoramic bridge to get you there.
Then you pick out your spot and build on it
For far less the cost you hope
It will someday be worth,*

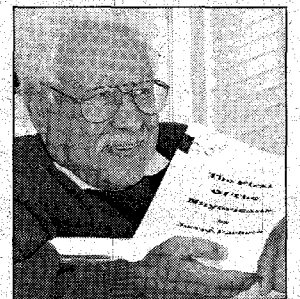
*And you revel in the restrictions and the limitations
You would never have put up with elsewhere:
Government telling people what to do
To keep other people from pouring in
And ruining your Eden.*

*Maintaining the paradise is harder:
The place is discovered; it's hot, everyone wants it,
The price of land and houses, everything, rises
Like the Australian Pines you now want to topple;
Builders burst out of their woodwork
Building like beavers before a flood,
Demolishing and replacing the bungalows
Of those who loved paradise first ---
The battle to contain them rages
And you choose the side of necessary ordinance
And the drawbridge dragon guarding the moat of your island.*

*Travel magazines put your paradise on their covers
And lists of the 50 best places to live and to visit,
Everyone's renting or buying and suddenly
There are never vacancies and the whole world,
It seems, wants to taste and drink
The milk of your paradise.*

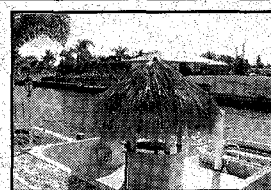
Leaving the paradise is hardest —

*The anaconda of pick-up trucks, campers and convertibles
Slowly choking Periwinkle
Suddenly relaxes,
A tiny space appears between two SUV's
And like a caged animal set free —
You make your left turn.*



Joe Pacheco

Hot Tubs, Tropical Decor & More



- Hot Tubs
- Tiki Huts & Bars (Indoor & Outdoor)
- Nautical Decor

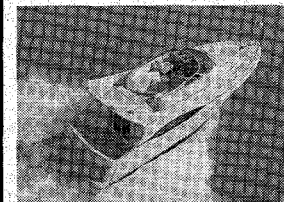
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Custom bars &
rethatch existing tiki's*

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HAPPENINGS

For items to be included on these pages, they must be submitted by Friday, a week before publication date.

Coming up this week —

Friday, Feb. 27

ABC Auction fish chairs

The ABC Auction Fish Chairs and several of the larger items will be on display through today at the CCA gallery. The ABC Auction will be held Feb. 28.

Saturday, Feb. 28

Sewing Guild Fashion Show

The 12th Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the American Sewing Guild will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, in the Grand Ballroom at Heron's Glen in North Fort Myers with vendor area opening at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30. The cost for tickets is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members and guests. Call Dorothy Holeman at 543-6473 for reservations and information.

Page Field Open House

Lee County Port Authority invites Southwest Floridians to celebrate aviation during Page Field Open House 2004 on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The free event will include airplane rides, static displays of aircraft, military-aircraft flybys, airport tours, demonstrations by airport rescue & fire fighting and airport-police canines, aviation-safety seminars and historical exhibits. Visitors will have the chance to browse the aviation flea market, try the U.S. Navy flight simulator, and learn how they can fly

without pilots' licenses. The Collings Foundation will sell tickets for rides in World War II B-24 and B-25 bombers.

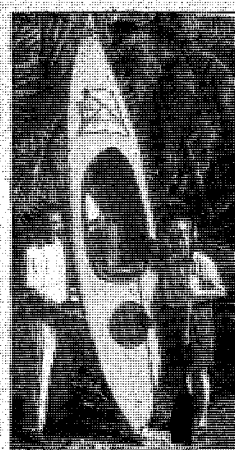
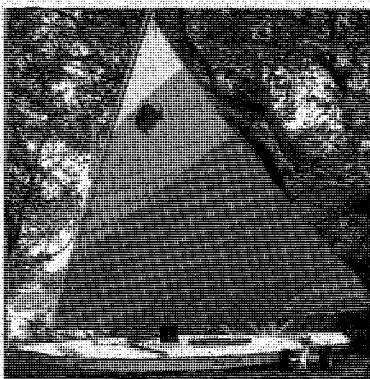
The Open House will be held on the airport's north ramp, located on North Airport Road, off U.S. 41 south of Edison Mall in Fort Myers. From I-75, take exit 136 (old exit 22) west to Fowler Street and turn left. Then turn left on North Airport Road.

To learn more about Page Field Open House 2004, please call 936-1443.

ABC Auction to be held Feb. 28

The Captiva Civic Association's ABC Auction will be held on Feb. 28; items can be previewed through Feb. 27 at the CCA gallery. The ABC Auction has collected some terrific items this year: 1986 Ford Mustang (red); children's nursery furniture hand-painted by Laurie Kaihlman; a 12-foot SunFish sailboat, and a vacation getaway to Steamboat Springs Grand Resort

Hotel. The ABC Auction Fish Chairs and several of the larger items will be on display



February 25-27 at the CCA gallery.

The ABC Auction pre-event dinner will be from 5 - 6:30 p.m., with the Auction starting at 7 p.m. Captiva Island restaurants are providing this year's dinner, and the cost is \$15 per person. For more information, please call the CCA at 472-2111.

Ten percent of the 2004 ABC Auction's gross sales will benefit the Sanibel School Fund, to be used as seed money for the Captiva Art room at the Sanibel School. One exciting addition to the Captiva Art room is the Kiln Room where students will be able to have their ceramic artwork fired.

The ABC Auction will be held at the Captiva Civic Association the evening of Feb. 28. If you would like to donate items for the ABC Auction, please contact Doris Holzheimer at 472-1978, Ron Gibson at 472-6179, or Alison Hagerup at 472-2472.

Volunteers are needed for the ABC Auction, please contact Rose at the Captiva Civic Association at 472-2111, to participate.

Last year the ABC event raised over \$6,600 for the SCCF's Tarpon Bay Marine Laboratory.

Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner

See story on page 8

Sunday, Feb. 29

Happy Anniversary, Anne and David Joffe! Is it nine years... or 36? We wish many more happy years to come!

Lawrence J. Korb: The Forum's Final Speaker

The FORUM at BIG ARTS completes its hugely successful season this Sunday, February 29 at 7:30 with a presentation by Lawrence J. Korb.

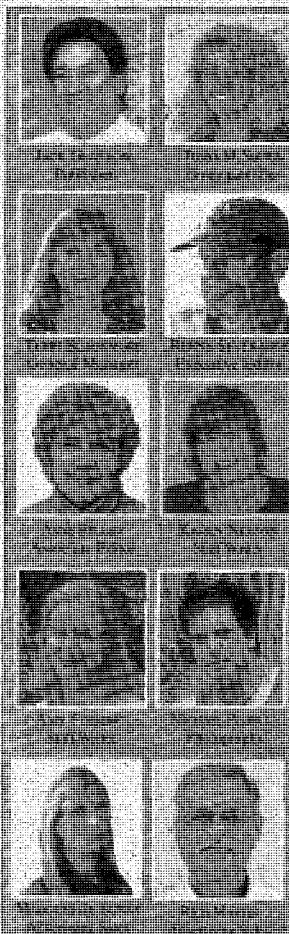
Dr. Korb will address the many issues of national security as he speaks on "National Security in an Age of Terrorists, Tyrants and Weapons of Mass Destruction".



Korb

Recognized as one of our country's foremost experts on national security, Dr. Korb served as Assistant Secretary of Defense from 1981 through 1985 where he was directly responsible for the readiness of the armed forces. He was a director at

the armed forces. He was a director at



The Islander

The Islands' Community Newspaper since 1961

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Phone: (239) 472-5185 • Fax 472-1372

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Promenade Center
695 Tarpon Bay Rd. Unit #13

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Classified Ad deadline: Noon, Tuesday.

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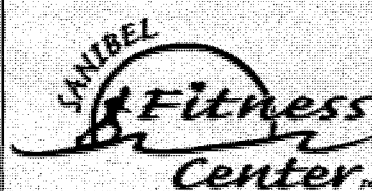
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The Islander
is printed on
recycled paper.

New Work by Lithuanian Potters Rassa and Jousas Saldaitis

Matsumoto Gallery & Frame Shop
At The Village Center
2340 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island
472-2941



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Dealer of Polar
HeartRate
Monitors

POLAR
heart rate monitors

YOGA FREE TO MEMBERS

Wed., 11-15 am



HAPPENINGS

Coming up this week —

the Brookings Institute from 1988 to 1998 and was a Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies Program. He has also served as Dean of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh and has taught at Georgetown University, University of Indiana and University of Southern California. Currently, he is Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and a Senior Advisor to the Center for Defense Information. Prior to joining the Center, he was Vice President and Director of National Security Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Throughout his years of teaching and public service he has written 20 books and over 100 articles on national security issues.

The FORUM at BIG ARTS endeavors to bring the finest in distinguished scholars to our islands. The thoughtful, learned expertise and insights of these carefully chosen speakers are meant to challenge the thinking, help hone perceptions and broaden the understanding of their-island listeners. Support for this year's program has been phenomenal, with many scholars speaking to sold out audiences. The FORUM is generously supported by series sponsor, Northern Trust as well as by Chico's, and The Sanibel-Captiva Trust Company.

Monday, March 1

SCCF resident orientation

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation is presenting its Resident Environmental Orientation several times this winter season, and it will be offered on March 1 and March 8, from 2 - 6 p.m.

The program is an overview of the conservation history of the islands. The group assembles in the Nature Center of the Conservation Foundation for a talk on geology and the human history of the islands. After a visit to the Native Plant Nursery and Butterfly House, everyone boards a Captiva Cruises trolley for a trip to Captiva. Along the way, the group discusses the Refuge, CROW, the Island Water Association and some of the history of the two islands. Once aboard a Captiva Cruises boat, venture out into the estuary that cradles the islands; if weather permits, the group will travel out around the southern tip of Upper or North Captiva.

Anyone owning property or residing on Sanibel or Captiva may participate in this free program; you need not be a new resident. However, reservations are required as space is limited to 25. Please call 472-2329 to make a reservation. Dates are filling fast.

Fabric Bowls craft demo

On Monday, March 1, learn about fabric bowls — a unique project that is easy and fun to create. These free craft demonstrations are held at 11 a.m. on Monday at Three Crafty Ladies in Heart of the Island at 1620 Periwinkle; phone 472-2893.

Tuesday, March 2

Hope Hospice volunteer training scheduled

Hope Hospice will conduct three-day volunteer training classes at its Bonita Springs and Fort Myers offices in March. Volunteers are needed for all types of work, including patient support, work at the Hope Chest resale shop and assistance at the hospice houses.

The Bonita Springs training will be on March 2 - 3 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with lunch being served and on March 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. The Bonita Springs Hope Hospice office is at 27970 Crown Lake Boulevard.

Fort Myers training will be offered on March 8 - 9 from 9 a.m. to 4:40 p.m., with lunch being served, and on March 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. The south Fort Myers Hope Hospice office is at 9470 HealthPark Circle.

To enroll, call (239) 489-9180.

CRFE meets Tuesday

The Caloosa Rare Fruit Exchange Club's March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 2nd (Note change of day) at 7:30 p.m. in the rear porches at the back of Terry Park on Palm Beach Boulevard in Fort Myers. This month's speaker will be Tom Betts discussing mangoes. There will be plant exchanges and a tasting table and the Rare Fruit Cookbook will be available. Meetings are open to the public and membership is encouraged. Call Bill Thompson at 731-1430 for club information.

Wednesday, March 3

Living Well With Diabetes

An educational series for self-managing diabetes

The Lee County Health Department and the University of Florida/Lee County Extension Service is teaming up to offer a six-week series for those members of the community living with diabetes. Diabetes is a disease that affects more than 18.2 million Americans. Although there is no cure, diabetes can be managed.

Presenters include a Certified Diabetes Educator, a Registered Dietitian and a Master's Prepared Family & Consumer Sciences Agent.

The six-week series will be offered beginning March 3 on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. The sessions will be held at the Lee County Extension Service at 3406 Palm Beach Blvd. in Fort Myers and the cost is \$50. Classes are two hours each. For information and registration, call Pamela at 239/461-7523.

More Happenings on page 6



ONE BITE AND YOU'RE HOOKED FOR LUNCH

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Yellowtail / Salmon / Cobia
Dolphin / Softshell Crabs / Scamp
Shrimp / Oysters / Clams / Scallops
Tilapia / Lobster / King Crab

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OBITUARIES

Bernice Ravenscraft

Bernice M. Ravenscraft, 85, of Sanibel, Florida, formerly of Washington, Illinois, died Wednesday, February 18, 2004 at Lee Memorial Health Park in Fort Myers, Florida.



Ravenscraft

Born September 3, 1918, in Quincy to Oscar and Emma Huttmacher Trine. She married Lloyd V. Ravenscraft on June 7, 1939 in Ewing, Missouri. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Allen of Sanibel and David (and Deanne) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; one daughter, Charlotte (and James) Barrick of Mackinaw; nine grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; three brothers, Henry (and Emily) Trine and Gene (and Betty) Trine, both

of Quincy and Norb (and Madeline) Trine of Clinton, Iowa; and one sister, Marilyn Degee of Magnolia, Texas. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Shirley Hixon; and one sister.

She was a member of St. Isabel Catholic Church in Sanibel and a former member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Washington.

Memorials may be made to St. Isabel Catholic Church, Sanibel, Florida.

Patricia Roberts Neitzke

Sanibel resident Patricia Roberts Neitzke, 69, died on Tuesday, Feb. 24. Arrangements to be announced.

HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, March 3 continued

Rubber Stamping craft demo

On Wednesday, March 3 learn about rubber stamping watercolor techniques — they're beautiful fun and easy. These free craft demonstrations are held at 11 a.m. on Monday at Three Crafty Ladies in Heart of the Island at 1620 Periwinkle; phone 472-2893.

Thursday, March 4

67th Annual Sanibel Shell Show & Fair

The 67th Annual Sanibel Shell Show and Fair will be held at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island, on Thursday, March 4 through Saturday March 8. The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Co sponsored by the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club and the Sanibel Community Association, the event features a juried shell show inside the Community Center and outside tents with local shells and shellcrafts for sale.

Inside, there will be both Scientific collections and Shell Art Display. There will be book tables, with the authors on-hand to sign their books, specimen shells to increase your collection, and award-winning shell art, including Sailor's Valentines.

Outside tents will feature local shells and shellcrafts (like flower arrangements and jewelry) for sale. Food and drinks will also be available.

There will also be a Live Shell Tank, manned by Sanibel School students who have spent the year studying about the mollusks and other sea creatures in the tanks.

Raffle tickets are available, with the drawing to be held on Saturday afternoon. You need not be present to win one of the seven great prizes, including a week's vacation for two on Captiva.

There is a suggested donation for the inside Shell Show of \$3 and monies raised go to the Shell Club's Educational Grants, awarded to recipients studying to further the interest of conchology. The monies raised by the Sanibel Community Association from the sale of shells and shellcrafts go to maintaining the grounds and buildings.

The event is listed as one of Florida's top attractions, drawing residents and visitors from around the world. The Shell Show is featured in the current March Issue of Coastal Living Magazine. (See story on Shellcrafters on page 11.)

CHADD - your legal rights

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) of Lee County invites you to a presentation on March 4 for parents, school and mental health professionals. Wilbur Hawke, training coordinator for Family Network on Disabilities (FND) and Paul E. Liles, a local attorney specializing in education rights, will present "Your legal rights — special education law."

Covered subjects will include: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a Civil Rights Law; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Writing Effective Individual Education Plans (IEP). There will be a question and answer session and all meetings are approved for teacher inservice credit by Lee County Staff Development. The presentation is free and open to the public. It will held on Thursday, March 4 from 7 - 9 p.m. in the Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium at 2776 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida. For more information, please contact Lynne Lampila, Chapter President, 466-1167, or M. Jean Gavin, Publicity Coordinator at 472-9758.

Sanibel Fitness Thursday class changes

The second weekly class in T'ai Chi at the Sanibel Fitness Center will change to Thursdays beginning Feb. 26, from 7 - 8 p.m. New and existing students are invited to attend this class, as well as the ongoing class on Mondays from 7 - 8 p.m.

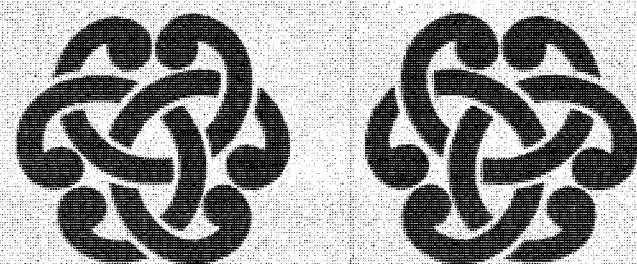
Self Defense for Men & Women will change to Thursdays from 8 - 9 p.m. starting Feb. 26. Please register at the front desk and remember to wear loose clothing and sneakers. Classes are \$12 each for members; \$15 each for non-members; a 10-visit pass is \$100 for members; \$120 for non-members. Sanibel Fitness Center is located at the corner of San-Cap and Rabbit Road; phone 395-2639.

Craft Demonstrations at Shell Net

Shell Net shellcrafter Arlene will be showing how she makes Easter ornaments from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Shell Net at Bailey's Center. Her hand-made "Easter parade" is sure to delight. And on March 4 and 5, local artists Rosalie will also be at the Shell Net from 10 to 3 with her watercolor, pastel and acrylic paintings.

Bailey's Center Sidewalk Sale

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 4 - 6, merchants in Bailey's Center will be having a sidewalk sale.



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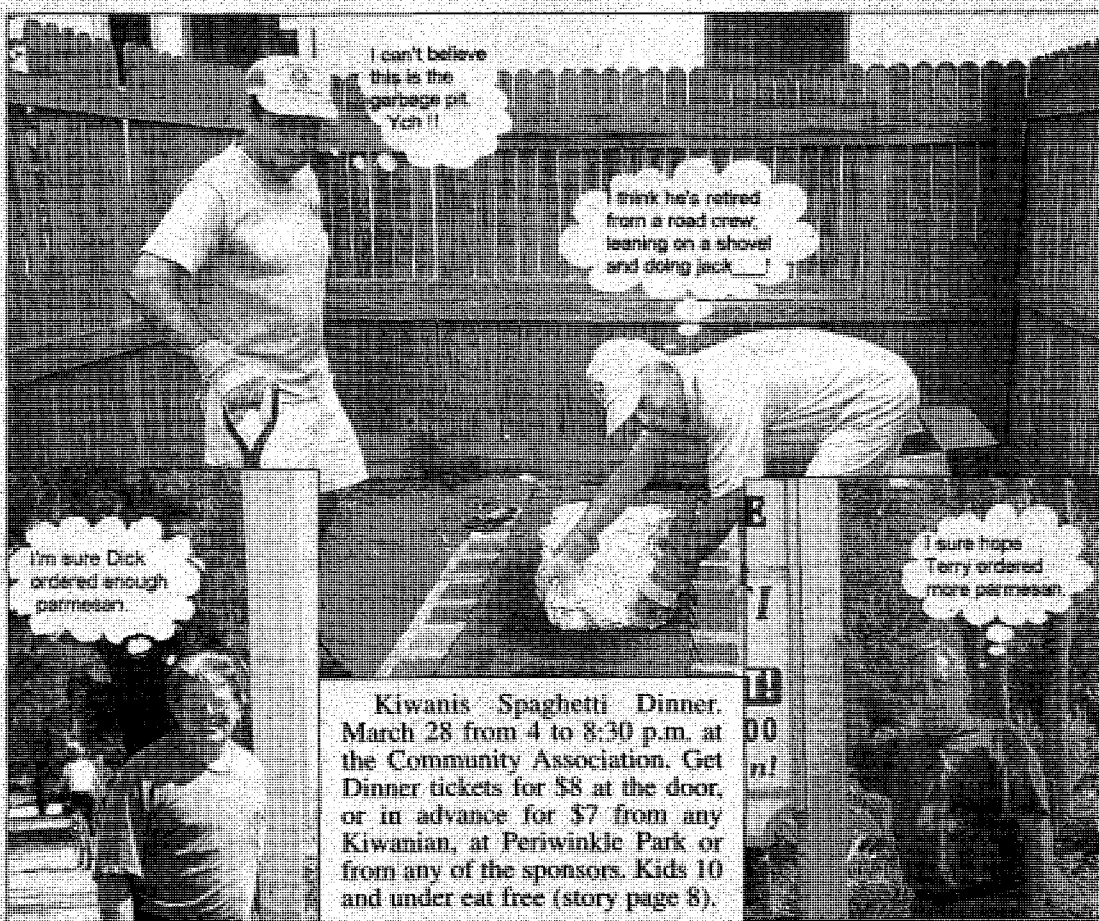
Presented by
Margie Davison

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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>.



Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner. March 28 from 4 to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Association. Get Dinner tickets for \$8 at the door, or in advance for \$7 from any Kiwanian, at Periwinkle Park or from any of the sponsors. Kids 10 and under eat free (story page 8).

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HAPPENINGS

For items to be included on these pages, they must be submitted by Friday, a week before publication date.



Dr. Aron Adams of Mote Marine Laboratory

Adams to speak at Sanibel Fly Fishing Club

Dr. Aaron Adams of the Mote Marine Laboratory will give a presentation at the Sanibel Fly Fishers' monthly meeting Thursday, March 4. Adams' recently published book, "The Fisherman's Coast," translates his knowledge of fisheries science and habitat into success for recreational anglers. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. at the new Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank on Library Way.

The SFF is a dynamic, growing club affiliated with the International Federation of Fly Fishers. The club is open to anglers of all age and ability levels and focuses on all types of fly fishing, as well as conservation, access and other issues. Guests are welcome. For more information, call Dick White at 472-4829, Norm Zeigler at 395-9442 or Glenn Pittard at 481-7362.

Literacy Volunteers Un-Scrabble Tourney

On Thursday, March 4, Literacy Volunteers of Lee County will be holding its second annual signature fundraising event to benefit those who want to improve their English skills. The event will be held at the Elks Lodge at 1900 Park Meadow Drive. The cost is \$40 each or \$300 for a team table of eight. Registration is from 5 - 5:45 p.m., with the first round of play beginning at 6 p.m. There will be 2 rounds and prizes will be awarded. Refreshments are included. For entry forms and information call Donna at 278 4400.

Friday, March 5

World Day of Prayer 2004 will be held on Friday, March 5 at 10 a.m. at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 2050 Periwinkle Way. Music and prayers will be in English, Spanish and Guaymi.

The theme this year is "In Faith, Women Shape the Future," and this year's worship service was prepared by the women of Panama. Susan Stuart of the Chapel-by-the-Sea, Captiva and Nisla Tolp, the former Spanish teacher at the Sanibel School and a member of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church will speak during the service about Nisla's childhood in Panama, her culture and teaching.

Planning the program cooperatively are churchwomen from all seven churches in the Sanibel community: Chapel by the Sea, First Church of Christ Scientist, St. Isabel Catholic Church, St. Michael & All Angels, Sanibel Community Church, Sanibel Congregational United Church Christ and the Village Church of Shell Point. Hazel Schuller of the Sanibel Congregational Church is the coordinating chairman.

Coming up at the Chamber

Chamber Box Lunch

The Sanibel-Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce will hold its monthly Box Lunch on Tuesday, March 9 from 11:30 until 1 p.m. at the Sanibel Community Center, 2173 Periwinkle Way. Gully's of Sanibel will provide the lunch.

George Cohan, Management and Quality Service Trainer will be the featured speaker.

Tickets for the lunch are \$10 and you must register by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 5. After that date and at the door, the cost is \$14. Call 471-1966 for reservations or e-mail your reservation to: office@sanibel-captiva.org

The Chamber hosts the monthly Box Lunch on the second Tuesday of every month. If you would like to help cater the luncheon at future dates, please call Ava at 471-1080, ext. 225.

Chamber After-Hours

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation will host the Sanibel-Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce monthly AfterHours on Monday, March 15. The Foundation is located on 3333 Sanibel-Captiva Road, approximately at mile marker 1. Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar and Grille will provide the food.

Reservations must be made by Friday, March 12 before 5 p.m. for all attending. There is a \$5 charge for guests; at the door without reservations, the charge is \$8. Please call 472-1966 or email your reservation to: office@sanibel-captiva.org. Chamber AfterHours is held on the third Monday at 5:30 p.m. Chamber members, prospective members and guests are invited to attend. For more information on attending or hosting an AfterHours, call Ava at 472-1080, ext. 225.

A fellowship hour will follow the service featuring some of the foods and decorative arts of Panama. Child care/nursery service is available from 9:30 to 12:30. For more information, please call the church at 472-0947.

Upcoming -

SWFIA at MOAA

The Sanibel/Captiva Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will meet Monday, March 8th at The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club on Sanibel. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. with cocktails and social gathering, followed by dinner (dinner is \$22.50 per person) and then a presentation by Susan Sanders from the Southwest Florida International Airport. Sanders will discuss the new airport design, timing, and significant upcoming changes that can be expected. All current and former military personnel and spouses are welcome. Membership is open to any military officer. Reservations are required and must be made by Thursday, March 4th by calling Alex McKinzie at 395-9232.

Centering prayer workshop

On Saturday, March 6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Isabel's Church will be hosting an Introductory Workshop on Centering Prayer. All persons of faith are welcome to come to the Parish Center, adjacent to the Church at 3559 Sanibel-Captiva Road. Centering Prayer was a common practice in the early days of Christianity, but then fell into disuse. Fr. Thomas Keating, a Cistercian priest, monk, and abbot and several of his friends are responsible for its strong renewal in the present time. Contemplative Prayer appeals to many people today. Please call the Parish Office at 472-2763 to register. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Bring a bag lunch. A donation of \$10 is requested.

Captiva Cruises Intro's Two New Cruises

Captiva Cruises is pleased to announce two new cruises for the 2004 season, which began on Feb. 18, Captiva Cruises, in conjunction with South Seas Resort: onboard lunch and dinner cruises.

The Dolphin Luncheon Cruise will depart at 11:30 a.m. and return at 1:30 p.m. This is an exciting family cruise with a casual lunch buffet served onboard while cruising the scenic local waters. Professional and trained staff will provide light narration about the many unique sights and the viewing opportunities of the Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. The buffet lunch, prepared by the professional chefs of South Seas Resort, will have a variety of choices,

such as hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and grouper sandwiches, an assortment of side dishes and salads, as well as dessert.

The cost for the Dolphin Luncheon Cruise is \$35 for adults and \$20 for children aged 12 and under. Children aged 3 and under are free.

The second new cruise will be the Sunset Dinner Cruise. This is a relaxing cruise into the beautiful gulf waters to view the spectacular sunsets that make Captiva famous. Enjoy cocktails and dining while the sun sets over the Gulf. The buffet dinner, prepared by the professional chefs of South Seas Resort, will have a variety of choices such as shish kabobs with beef, chicken, and shrimp, an assortment of side dishes and salads as well as ice cream dishes for dessert. Hot dogs and hamburgers

Cruise, see page 20

More Happenings on page 18

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SERVICE CLUBS

Kiwanis: Two Good, Old Fashioned Community Events

submitted by Bob Wimbush

This week, from 4 to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Association, Kiwanis — with help from Bailey's, Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank, Century 21 JB Novelli Internationale and Sanibel-Captiva Trust — brings you the Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner in all its splendor. Neighbor meets neighbor, yarns are spun, friendships begun and revived. It's the largest indoor get-together of the year. And the most fun. It crosses all constituencies, all the proceeds get plowed back into island children, and everyone has a good time. It is old-time Sanibel. It is renewal.

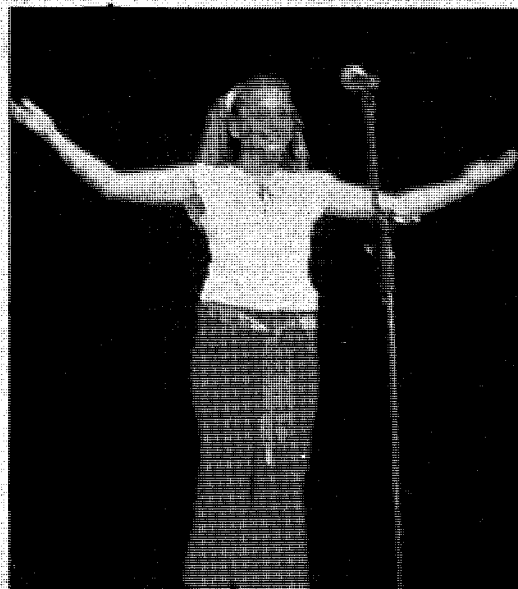
The following Saturday, March 6th, at 8 p.m. Kiwanis is at it again with an old-fashioned all-islands variety show, The San-Cap Review, a younger tradition, now in its fourth year. We talked about the first act last week, so now let's take a look at Act II.

It wouldn't be a show without a community band — the Kiwanis-BIG Arts band is the thunderous opener for Act II. Pianist Blake Sobczak follows with a little long hair and a little jazz. There is a cameo from the Periwinkle Players of Dearly Beloved, the first performance of this newly formed Island group scheduled to open on March 24, then... A jazz combo featuring pianist Marj Nordstrom and headed up by trombonist Terry Flannery.

Christie Melvin, whom you know as the ticket-taker at Island Cinema, follows — it will be interesting to see if her song will stop the show for the fourth year in a row

or if it will just be a very tough act for Vanessa Stocker and Lisa Gould's Belly Dancing Troupe to follow.

Marj Nordstrom gets back into the act accompanying diva Bonnie Bondurant and the always Dapper Fred Nordstrom in a medley and, then, Cindy Lee will return to



Above: Bonnie. Left: Christie Melvin's 2003 showstopper. Will she do it again? Below left: Terry Brennen and Dick Muench gearing up for the Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner.

lead the audience in the traditional, thunderous close.

All in all, it's two great weekends of fun, all-American entertainment. (Yes, the Spaghetti Dinner is really entertainment). Get Dinner tickets for \$8 at the door, or in advance for \$7 from

any Kiwanian, at Periwinkle Park or from any of the sponsors. Kids 10 and under eat free.

Although the San-Cap Revue is generously sponsored by Bank of the Islands, Johnny's Pizza (we've been told some of the performers show up just for the food, The Island Sun, The Islander, and Sanibel-Captiva Trust Company, tickets are available only at BIG Arts — 395-0900. Tickets are \$10 for adults; kids 10 and under are free, but must be accompanied by an adult and each have a ticket. Otherwise the fire marshal comes in and does a dance that isn't on the program. Because the San-Cap Revue always sells out (and the fire marshal won't), get your tickets NOW. When they're gone, they're gone.

Two great, fun events brought to you by Kiwanis. Also an Island Tradition, but that's another story.

ENVIRONMENT

Grandma Bea and Turtle Belle

by John F. Jones

The Clinic for Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) on Sanibel has received a monetary donation in the name of Beatrice Koehntopp. Claudia Milow of Plymouth, Minnesota and Sanibel gave the donation in memory of her grandmother in response to requests for food for the injured loggerhead turtle at CROW.

Some of the caregivers at CROW have nicknamed the about 25 year old sub-adult, 100-pound female loggerhead turtle, "Belle," who eats like a horse (fish and seafood). Belle was found in October 2003 in Pine Island Sound by father-daughter boaters immediately following what appeared to be a propeller wound caused by a nearby boat. Both father and daughter jumped into the bloody water, ignoring danger from sharks, and rescued the turtle. Belle had been hit, slicing open the top of her head. The fast work by the boaters was clearly instrumental in getting her to CROW and saving Belle's life. Dr. P.J. Deitschel, CROW's resident veterinarian, was

Claudia Milow with Turtle Belle

able to put Belle back together again (unlike Humpty Dumpty). Belle's daily care and feeding were becoming a burden to the organization until a few kind folks brought fish and Milow provided financial support.

Claudia Milow tells that the memorial began with her son, Chris, who at age 14 was diagnosed with Type 1 (adult) diabetes. Knowing that this was a genetically inherited disease, and since she was an adopted child, she needed to contact the Children's Home Society of Minnesota to see if they had any information about her birth parents and family diseases. She did a birth-mom search, but found that her mother had died six months earlier. She then searched for her maternal grandmother after the family lawyer obtained Claudia's original birth certificate.

"My husband, Carl, and I went to the town listed on the certificate and found my grandmother's house. I was afraid to go to the door. Carl said he would — he had a speech prepared. As he knocked on the door, I was so nervous that I slid down in the front seat and hid. Carl forgot his speech when my grandmother opened the door, so he just said, 'I have your granddaughter in the

Belle, see page 10

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FISHING & SHELLING THE ISLANDS

The pop-up islands

with Capt. Mike Fuery

About five weeks ago, something I have never understood occurred off Redfish and Captiva Passes. Literally overnight, three islands appeared. I call them pop-up islands because they just suddenly happen.

It's not anything new. A tremendous amount of sand shifts on the outside of most passes on the western side of Florida, due to a combination of winds, tides, dredging and, of course, storms. Most of the shifting sand forms "shoals," usually shallow underwater sandbars. However, in our case, the islands build to where they can appear over the high tide and form an island.

Some things we know about these pop-up islands: They rarely happen in the warm months, only in the blustery times of the year. The islands usually are kidney shaped, with the curve heading north and the two tips going south. Also, there will be deep, sharp drop-offs on one side while a flat underwater sand bar usually heads west on the other.

Here's a couple of things of interest for boaters. For you who fish, these island can be a hot spot for fish like sea trout, whiting, mackerel and even bluefish on the deep water hole side of the island. With my depth equipment, I note that sometimes the pocket can be 10 to 12 feet deep. Given the protection from the winds and seas provided by the new island, these holes can offer some very productive angling.

Of course, I am most interested in shell collecting and once the pop-ups appear, they can provide some very good shelling. The only problem is that they are short lived.

Whatever forces can push sand into a pile big enough to form a small sandy island, can take it away just as easily. While they can form in 24 hours, they can also disappear in the same time.

The islands which popped up outside of Captiva Pass seem to have a variable pattern. Some years ago, if they formed at all, they would be on the south side of the pass. We guides still refer to a shallow area, about 200-yards off the beach on

North Captiva Island, as "Steve's Bar" for a man many of us knew who drowned there several years ago. Although the bar has not formed there in years, it can still be a hot fishing spot, and pockets which hold deep water are not strangers to large, fat sea trout this time of the year.

The bar which came up recently is like one last year: on the north side of the pass this time. No rhyme or reason, but the north side of this deep pass has been getting shallower for several years. Running what we call the "outside flats" of the north side in the winter low-time months can mean going aground — it is that shallow and I am talking about a quarter mile off the beach in the gulf.



Capt. Fuery

We visited the pop-up in Captiva Pass early the other morning and as I got closer, I had to laugh. The island is banana shaped, about three-feet above sea level at low tide and there was a real estate sign on it! Someone had stolen a real estate sign from a lot on North Captiva Island and written their name on it, claiming the island for themselves. I knew it would happen one day.

Anyway, the island can be good for a few sand dollars and a few olives. Nothing spectacular so far, however boaters and personal watercraft people are discovering it and collecting there is not as good as when it first appeared.

If you would like to see one from shore, walk down to the northern end of Captiva Island. You can park at the public access just past the entrance to South Seas Plantation and look west. You will see one of these islands. I've checked it several times and it just doesn't seem to be stopping many shells.

The reason for this is that it is lower in the water. If the island goes underwater at high tides, or with high seas, the waves wash off the shells and bury them with sand. About 15 years ago, one came up which was about half an acre and it definitely stopped some great shells. It dissolved by spring, but for about three months it was one hot shelling stop, to the chagrin of those on the beach just 200 feet away.

There was an island which came up near Steve's Bar several years ago which lasted into May. I can recall it well because I had two guys who hooked a big tarpon in Captiva Pass. It pulled us with the outgoing

Come kayaking with the Conservation Foundation

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, in cooperation with Captiva Kayak Company will be offering naturalist led kayaking outings in our local estuarine waters. We will discuss the importance of our Back Bay estuary as we paddle in and around Buck Key, a unique island within The Pine Island Sound Aquatic Preserve. The next kayaking adventure will be on Friday Feb. 27 at 9:30 a.m. These tours will help fund the Conservation Foundation's Environmental Education programs while educating participants about the natural and cultural history of Pine Island Sound. No kayaking experience is necessary for these excursions, just a sense of adventure and a willing spirit. We will be using very stable kayaks and paddling instruction will be provided. The cost for this outing is \$35/person. Space will be limited so reservations are required. Reservations and additional information can be obtained by calling the Conservation Foundation at 472-2329.



Birdhouses auctioned for SCCF

Island artists have created one-of-a-kind birdhouses, which will be auctioned off on March 8 to benefit the intern programs of both BIG ARTS and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

The Swing Like a Bird auction and concert, to be held at BIG ARTS, will kick off at 5 p.m. with a cocktail party and silent auction of unique birdhouse works of art. The birdhouses, created by island artists, can be seen at the Foundation as well as in the Bank of the Islands. Following the auction and buffet, the Larry Elgart Orchestra will kick up the beat at 8 p.m. in Schein Hall.

Tickets for the evening are \$40 and are available by calling the Foundation at 472-2329 or BIG ARTS at 395-0900.

tide for about a mile and we lost it right near the island. As far as I remember, that island was the longest-lasting.

You would think that the powerful forces of tropical storms or near-miss hurricanes of the summer months would also pile up sand to make new islands, but so far I have never seen this.

The third island I mentioned was off

the middle section of North Captiva Island and, strangely, only lasted for a week or so.

Good shelling this week.

(Have a question or comment? Call Capt. Mike Fuery at 466-3649 or e-mail at junonia4@aol.com

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SHELL SHOCKED

LEAP YEAR

By Art Stevens

Yes, it happens every four years. It's called "Leap Year" and we benefit by getting an extra day tagged on at the end of February.

I have a friend whose birthday is February 29 and, boy, does he feel short-changed. He attempts to celebrate it on February 28 but his friends and family aren't buying it. They refuse to acknowledge his birthday unless it's celebrated on February 29.

So even though my friend is approaching sixty he's only had about fifteen birthdays in his life. The question he's asked most often is "Are you fifteen years old or sixty years old? How old are you technically?"

I wouldn't want to be in his position. My annual birthday presents are my due. I earned them by having a birthday every year. But, despite my good fortune, I've always wondered why they only put twenty-eight days in February to begin with, while many months have as many as thirty-one days.

Why wouldn't they have removed the thirty-first day from, say, July or August and added them to February to give it thirty?

And why does there need to be a leap

year that has one extra day? I'm led to believe that it has to do with the position of the sun, the axis of the earth and Barry Bonds' batting average. But why add that day to poor, undernourished February? Why couldn't there be a June 31, for example, if an extra day every four years is vital to our way of life?

Or why couldn't they spread it around — June 31 one year, November 31 another year, and even a March 32 yet another year? Why not make it totally unpredictable every four years so that it becomes one big surprise?



Art Stevens

Of course, as of now, no one was ever born on June 31, November 31 or March 32. The downside is that if we remove February 29 from the calendar starting immediately, my friend would never have a birthday again. Boy, would he blow a gasket.

"How can they do this to me?"

How can you take my birthday away from me and not replace it? It only comes once every four years as it is. Most people have one every year," he would lament.

But in this age of political correctness we would merely shrug and say that other months have the same rights as February. That they, too, deserve that extra day on our calendars every four years.

Get involved with FISH

Volunteers who care about their neighbors and their community are needed on Sanibel to ensure the successful operation of Friends in Service Here (FISH). A non-denominational, non-profit organization that follows a pattern set by other FISH groups throughout the country, FISH provides a wide range of non-professional, people-friendly assistance to those who need it.

FISH services, which are available to Sanibel and Captiva residents and visitors, include the following:

- Loaning wheelchairs, canes, walkers and other health-care equipment
- Meal delivery to house-bound patients, non-drivers, and anyone recovering from surgery, an accident or loss of spouse
- Transportation to appointments at medical facilities, both on and off island

- Visitation to provide companionship and encouragement
- Health referrals and help with medical record-keeping
- Assistance for coping with the illness or loss of a loved one through a Caregivers Support group

There are many ways to volunteer, and you can give as much or as little time as you want. Please join us in being good neighbors. You'll be glad you did.

Call FISH at 472-0404 or drop a line to FISH (at FISH of Sanibel, P.O. Box 854, Sanibel, FL 33957) and let them know whether you are 1) interesting in becoming a FISH volunteer; 2) would like to learn more about FISH; 3) would like to make a tax-deductible contribution; 4) have equipment that you could donate. Be sure to include your name and phone number!

Snowy Plover Project Report

Wednesday, Feb. 18: Baseline Count

By Ben Postmus

A total of 28 snowy plovers were found by biologists and interns from the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and "Ding" Darling NWR, and about fifteen volunteers who braved a cold morning to do an island-wide survey. The plovers sighted in the survey included two of the five birds that were born, banded, and fledged on Sanibel in the 2003 season and four from the 2002 season.

Snowy plovers are elusive, well-camouflaged, six-inch birds that begin nesting activity on Sanibel around mid-February and may nest here as late as

July. Throughout this time beachgoers can expect to see project volunteers walking the beach watching for signs of courtship and nesting among the plovers. When nests are found, the area will be roped off so that no one will accidentally step on the nests, which are little more than depressions in the sand. Beachgoers can help these birds be successful by giving them some space and stressing them as little as possible. Snowy plovers are classified as threatened in the state of Florida because their numbers are steadily decreasing.

Belle, from page 8

car. Do you want to meet her?"

"From that day until her death 24 years later at nearly 99, on Thanksgiving Day 2003, I had the most wonderful person ever in my life. She gave me unconditional love and taught me and my family to live everyday to the best of our abilities."

Claudia remembers that Grandma Bea loved all of nature. She had a huge flower and vegetable garden, and, not only fed the birds but also any and all guests who came to her door.

"I will miss Grandma Bea the rest of my life. But I will always remember her more fondly because of the donation in her name to CROW to feed and to care for the injured loggerhead turtle, and for anything else they need. I only wish Grandma

Bea could have met Turtle Belle and watched her be released about April."

CROW is one of the nation's leading rehabilitation hospitals for tropical native and migratory wildlife. A nonprofit veterinary hospital, CROW provides medical care for 3,500 injured and orphaned wildlife patients every year. CROW receives students from around the world, operates a wildlife hotline, educates the public and school students, and operates Fellowship, Intern and Extern programs.

CROW needs volunteers for all kinds of projects. Monetary donations are needed to feed and care for the injured wildlife. Contact Birgie Vertesch at 239-395-5358 for more information. Claudia Milow will be there helping, why not you?

Upcoming kayak trips

Tuesdays and Saturdays - Lover's Key State Park - 9AM - 2 hour guided kayak nature tour of the water surrounding this award winning state park. We see many of the 300 species of birds that frequent the area, dolphins and manatees. You will learn about the history of the Calusa Indians that lived here for thousands of years, and about the trees, birds, and mammals that live here. \$35 per person.

Tuesdays - Ostego Bay Foundation - 1PM - 5PM - Enjoy a guided tour of this wonderful Marine Sciences facility

and then take a 2 hour guided paddle on the Great Calusa Blueway to see the critters you just learned about - in their natural habitat. A portion of the proceeds goes to support the Foundation (www.ostegobay.org) - \$40 per person

Fridays - Sunset Tour - 4:00PM - In Estero Bay - This time of day is wonderful for bird sightings as they feed and then head home to roost for the night. Over 300 species of birds in this area - 2 hours - \$35 per person

For more information and a reservation call 239 694-5513

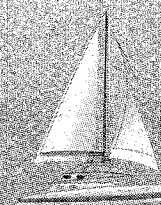
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67th Annual Shell Fair & Show: The Sanibel Shellcrafters are ready!

The shell flowers and animals that are sold at the Sanibel Shell Fair are made by the Sanibel Shellcrafters, who meet every Monday year-round. It's a social affair, one with a lot of concentrated (but fun!) work.

Chief Shellcrafter Wanda Will works with newcomers, starting them off with the simple five-petal flowers which form the basis of most shell flowers: "Essentially, all flowers set together in the same way." Once people learn the basics, they are free to move around the tables and ask questions. "They teach each other. It's never quiet in here. People look forward to seeing their friends."

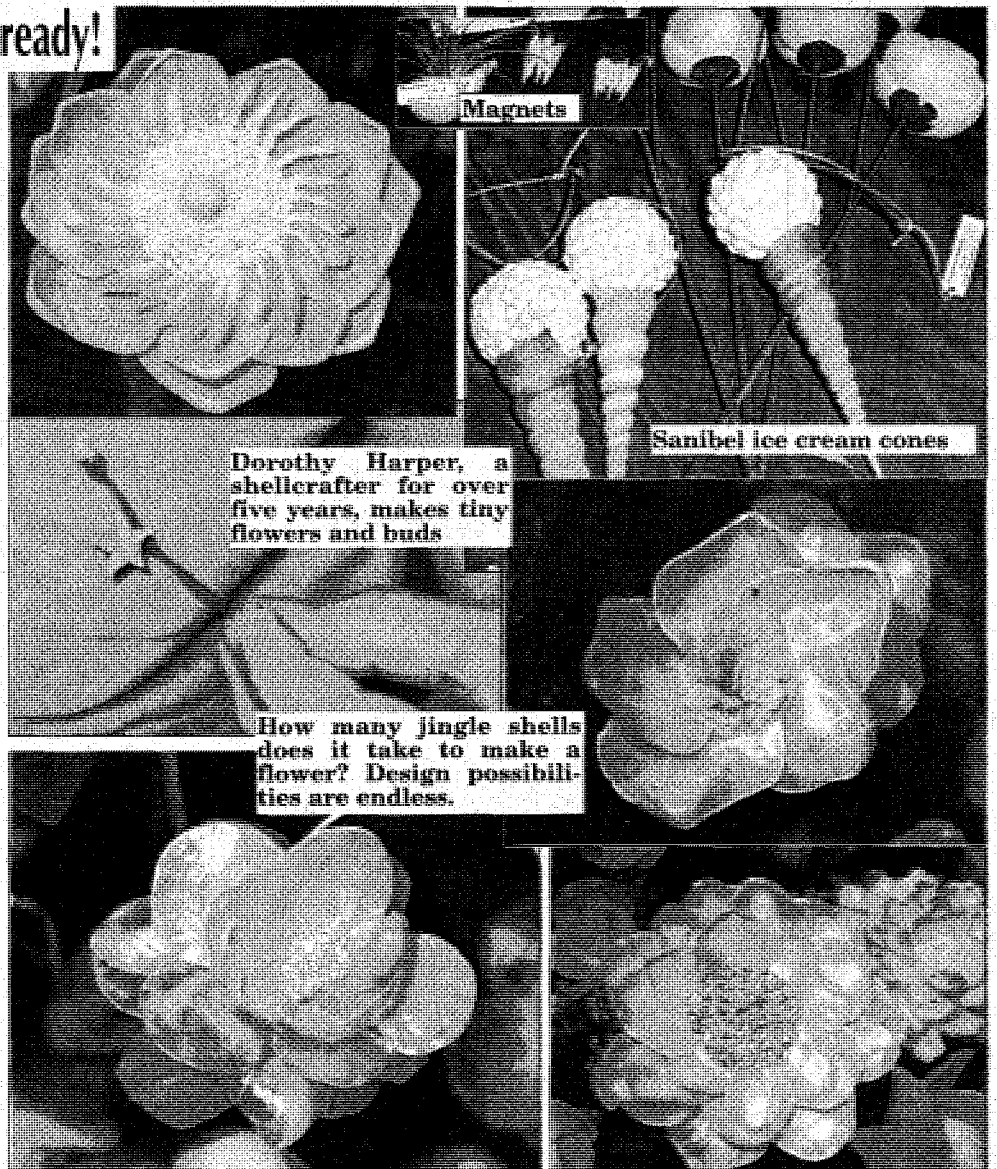
Will notes that this has been a banner year for the Shellcrafters: "We have a lot more and the quality is wonderful!" Master shellcrafter Goz Goslin is often on-hand to advise and give demonstrations and the ingenuity in the room is impressive. "There's not much of anything that we get on the beach that you can't make a flower out of," notes Will.

The Shellcrafters will take not be meeting on March 1, since set-up will have begun for the March 4 Shell Fair and Show, and they take a well-deserved post-fair break in March but they'll be back at the glue pots on the first Monday in April.

Below left: Linda Ledel, in her second year as a Shellcrafter, puts the finishing touches on an arrangement; **Below right:** Judy Rockenback working on an arrangement using small pieces of coral. "It was my idea to use the coral." "It looks like rock candy," someone noted.



Above: Betty Gardner came up with a way to make shell penguins. "The last couple of years at the Shell Fair, kids asked if we had penguins, and I finally came up with this idea to make them." An array of wings in various stages awaits gluing to the wingless, faceless fellows.

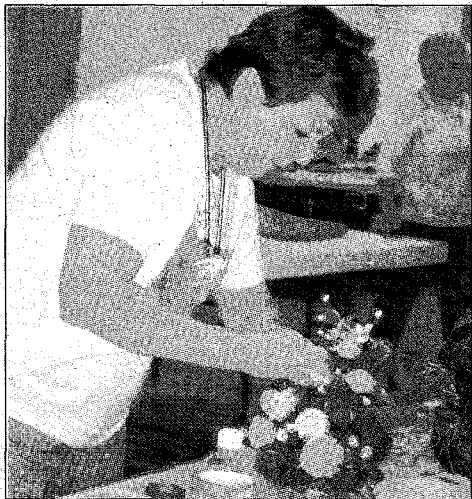


Magnets

Sanibel ice cream cones

Dorothy Harper, a shellcrafter for over five years, makes tiny flowers and buds

How many jingle shells does it take to make a flower? Design possibilities are endless.



Zonta's third annual Peek at the Unique

Saturday, March 13 marks Zonta's third annual Peek at the Unique, a tour of four very special homes on the islands. The club's mission is to improve the status of women, locally and worldwide, and this fundraiser will provide monies needed for various women's charities.

One of the homes on the tour, Clam Song, is sponsored by George Parker, Inc. Owner Doris Hardy bought her lot, located at Clam Bayou, in 1987, in preparation for her retirement from teaching. She wanted to have a home which, while unique, also fit into its environment. She and architect Toni

Ferrell worked together using "environmentally friendly" as the bywords of their creation. They discovered the wood pau lope which is used in the boardwalk at Corkscrew Swamp, and

Unique, see page 12



Katie Gardenia's cottage



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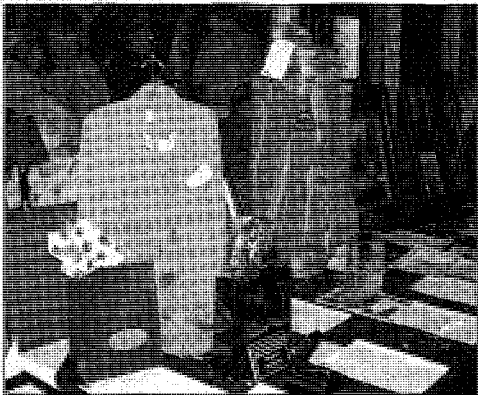
Optimist golf outing & silent auction



The First Annual Sanibel-Captiva Optimist Club Local Celebrity Golf Outing opened on Saturday, Feb. 21 with an evening reception at Ellington's Jazz Bar & Restaurant. Beachview Golf & Tennis Club hosted the Sunday tournament.

Among the prizes in the Silent Auction were an autographed photo of Tiger Woods, golf for 124 people at the Dunes, stays at Sanibel Harbour and West Wind Inn, three-month membership to "The Soa at Sanibel Harbour," fine wines, and golfing dinner and golf packages.

The Sanibel-Captiva Optimist Club is an all-volunteer, not for profit, 501 (c) (3), and all funds go directly to better the lives of children in our community.



Unique, from page 11

White Heron House



Silver residence

tures, signs and mobiles which will make you smile. Katie herself, a local artist with international fame, will take you on a trip through the magical world of her home.

Co-sponsors Sanibel-Captiva Trust Co. and Robert J. Wigley give you the opportunity to step back in time as you tour the White Heron House, an old Florida farmhouse on Clam Bayou. Purchased by John Oster (of Osterizer blender fame) to serve as a guest cottage for his

is a renewable resource, much like bamboo, and decided to use it. The landscaping surrounding the house is all native. The front door was designed to represent various native flora and fauna, and provides a beautiful entry to the home. The house was completed in 2003. Ms. Ferrell, the architect, will be the speaker at Clam Song, answering questions and pointing out all sorts of intriguing things.

Katie Gardenia's cottage provides entry to a whimsical tropical world. From the moment you approach the house you are surprised with sculp-

Captiva home, it was moved by barge to its present location. Although the home has undergone renovations, it still maintains its architectural integrity. The importance of historic preservation will be discussed here by speaker Gloria M. Saigo, a land use planner who has taken part in historic preservation of buildings and neighborhoods throughout the county.

Nora Price Interiors is the sponsor for the Silver residence on West Gulf Dr. Recently this home was written up in *Grandeur*, a Florida publication featuring luxury homes. This elegant compound is tucked away in a peaceful garden setting. Speaker JoAnne Marriott, a local artist who specializes in various faux finishes and other magic with paint, will guide you on a tour of the many trompe l'oeil and other wall treatments which are features in this home.

Words or even photos cannot adequately describe these four homes — they must be experienced first hand! Call 936-7497 for ticket reservations, and call soon because space fills up fast. Park your car and board a tour bus at Periwinkle Playhouse, with bus departures at 9, 9:30, 10, 10:30, 11, 12:30, 1, 1:30, 2 and 2:30. The tour will take about three hours and light refreshments will be available at the Playhouse before and after the tour, compliments of local businesses. Tickets are \$40 per person.



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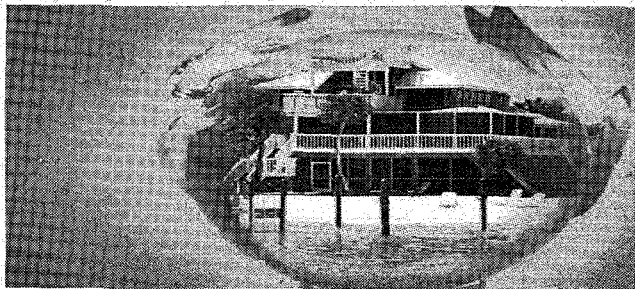
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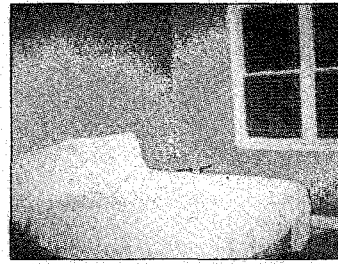
Decorating Den has five hundred worldwide franchises and Carol Gagnon's INTERIORS has ranked in the top ten since day one in 1990. Fourteen years ago, Gagnon opened her business on Sanibel and Captiva Islands and the look was conservative; conventional yet always in good taste. As she describes the 1990's look: white walls prevailed, with shag rugs in gold or green left from the '80s or — for those who wanted a more updated look — beige saxony rugs were a top choice. Kitchens were a pristine white and vertical white or multi-colored blinds were considered really cool. Gagnon says that shells were the abounding motif with shell lamps and shell mirrors, while pink flamingos strutted in the entries and teal dolphins jumped over the sofas. A lanai was furnished with basically strap furniture and if you were among the more daring, you may have introduced a newer motif with stripes. Vinyl flooring was prevalent in kitchens, baths and entries and pool decks often sported river rock.

During these past fourteen years, island lifestyle has changed and become much more complex and sophisticated. People are more serious about their investment and, in turn, making wiser decisions. With the whole new world of communication and internet access they can be totally involved in their design choices. "Today with Sanibel and

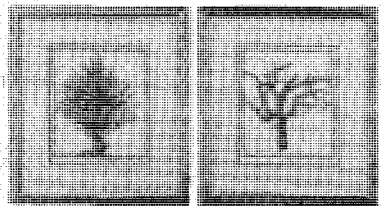
Captiva real estate being so valuable, many of our clients are requesting not only today's decorating looks but they are also thinking upscale and timeless," points out Gagnon.

There are three types of owners: 1) the investor who must keep his property updated and in good taste to appeal to the rental market; 2) the "second home" owner who tends to keep to an "Island Vacation" motif and 3) the year-round resident who may enjoy the typical Island look of today or may prefer to blend an Island motif with their own personalized tastes, emanating from their background. For example, Gagnon finds that sometimes New Englanders want to blend an Island look with some of their favorite and valued pieces. They like to accent their own lifestyle and individuality by combining their roots with newer ideas in furnishings and interiors. Decorating is intended to make you feel good not just to be "in style."

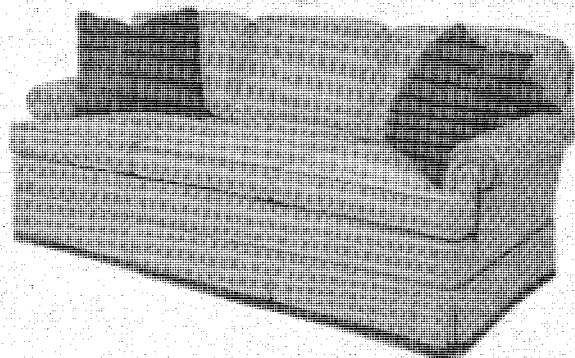
Decorating, see page 14



Above & below: before pictures of the bedroom and dining room, pictured right.

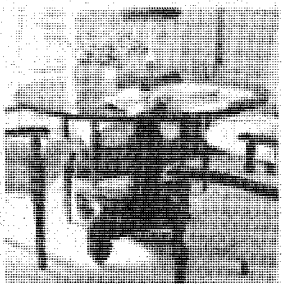


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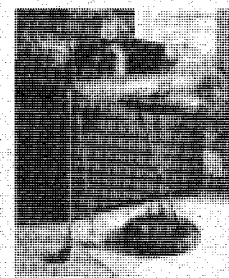
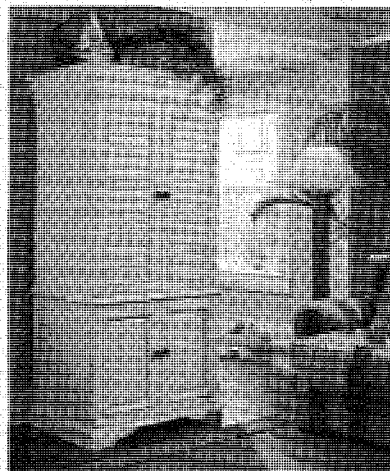
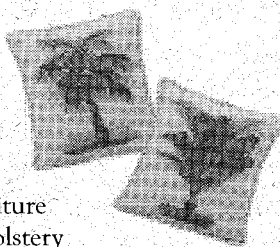


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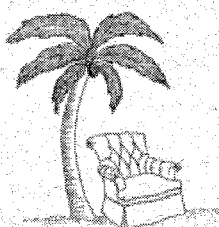


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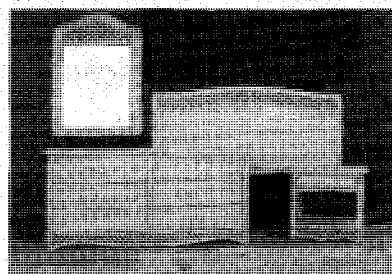
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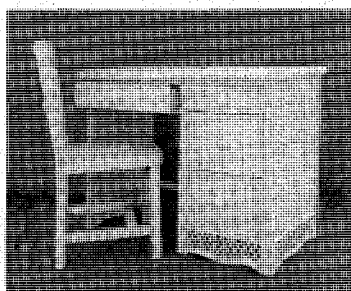


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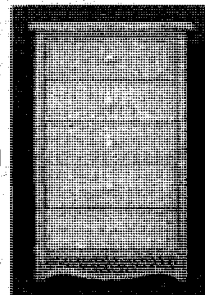
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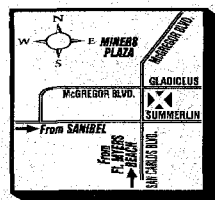
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Decorating Den, from page 13

How has island living changed since the nineties? Gagnon begins with "WOW! The decorating changes are truly dramatic. Today the trend is swinging to 'daring to be different' — yet good taste is always in good taste.

Walls are bursting forth with color. Sunny Tuscan gold, sage green, handsome neutrals and persimmon are inviting wallcoverings, bringing greater dimension to a room as well as a more upbeat look. The older condominiums are being transformed with color, with more attention given to space and light. Gagnon continues, "Let your floor become your fifth dimension by selecting some new flooring approaches." The choices range from the use of large, stone-like tiles, composite wood floorings, bamboo flooring or new exciting carpet choices featuring textures and designs from tropical, leafy motifs to block designs to unique textures.

Now in **furniture**, anything goes! There's the Cottage Look, the Beach Look, British West Indies, Eclectic or Traditional. Rooms are more multi-functional, combining home offices, guest rooms and hideaways. The emphasis in closet design is on space utilization. New, sleek rattan and wicker furniture designs combine stone and metal. There's an increasing interest in choosing deeper wood tones of honey, maple or mahogany. Gagnon suggests that if you have very light bleached wood furniture, add color to your walls and upholstered furniture and create further interest by bringing in some other pieces that are a complete opposite. The next secret is to accessorize with upscale beautiful silk greenery, unusual lamps, wall art that you love and the best in "coffee table" books. These are the appealing touches that transform a room from blandness to vibrancy.

Very high-end **kitchens** are becoming the norm, with raised wood or composite wood panel cabinetry, granite countertops and brushed stainless appliances. These new kitchens, designed for the most discriminating individuals, now compete with the luxurious style of a customized bathroom.

Window treatments are very important and there are many wonderful and functional solutions for the bright tropical sun. Choices include wood shutters, or timeless and beautiful Vertiglide blinds, which ease across sliding

Decorating Den, continued right

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INTERIORS by Decorating Den Staff
(from left): Cindy Malszycki, Jeanie Tinch, Carol Gagnon and Maria Feeney.

glass doors; others prefer luminette and silhouette blinds. Again, these choices are highly individual, with no rights or

wrongs, but wisely chosen in good taste!

Carol Gagnon is a high achieving businesswoman whose ability and that of her competent staff has kept INTERIORS by Decorating Den in Sanibel Promenade, 695 Tarpon Bay Road in a top ten position among five hundred worldwide franchises for fourteen years. As often as possible, Gagnon puts on her "painting" hat. She loves to paint and displays some of her paintings in the design studio. "I regard life and interior decorating as a 'Painting in Process.' Each stroke brings more beauty to our lives and environment." She adds,

"Life is a painting. Everyone at INTERIORS by Decorating Den is honored to be part of your world."



Drought-tolerant xeriscaping flourishes year-round

Lush plants, leafy trees and blossom-laden shrubs are showing up in every blooming place in Southwest Florida as more homeowners discover landscapes planted according to Xeriscape principles thrive year-round, even during the dry winter months. And they do it without much help from sprinkler systems.

That's precisely the message the South Florida Water Management District is taking to residents of Lee, Collier and southern Charlotte counties. "Water Wisely ... Conservation Starts in Your Backyard!" is the theme of the District's recently introduced program that expands water conservation efforts from a winter-only exercise to a year-round standard. The campaign has a dual focus: Safeguard water supplies and help homeowners maintain flourishing landscapes with less water.

Xeriscape landscapes are planned with native trees and plants at the core. But "native" is just the beginning.

"The cardinal rule of a successful landscape is using the right plant in the right place," said Steve Szabo of Szabo Garden Center in Naples. Simply installing native plants does not mean it's a Xeriscape landscape. "In order for native plants to survive and thrive, they require areas that replicate their native environments." A bald cypress tree and the flowering orange geiger tree are both natives, for example, but the cypress thrives in standing water during the summer rains and the geiger would wither in wetlands.

Natives have adapted to the wet and dry seasons of Southwest Florida, so if they are planted in areas that have the same growing conditions as their natural habitats, they need minimal irrigation beyond natural rainfall, according to Szabo. "That doesn't mean never having to water," he cautioned. "New plants and transplants need water until they are well established, especially in the dry season, and even Xeriscape landscapes may need to be irrigated during dry spells."

Thriving landscapes are well planned. "One of the mistakes I see in landscapes is overcrowding of plants," said Tony LaValle, owner of Growing Concerns, a landscape design, installation and maintenance firm. "This often comes from not realizing how

Xeriscaping, see page 16

SEAWEED GALLERY

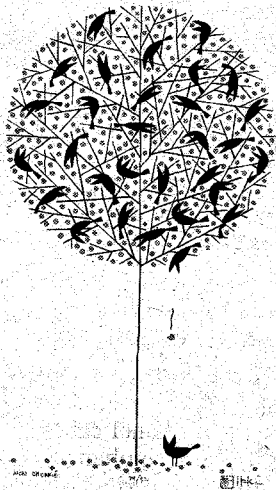


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Xeriscaping, from page 15

big specific species will grow, so the plants wind up competing for water, nutrients and sunlight." Irrigation water can't penetrate the thick vegetation, so it runs off and the water never reaches the roots.

Szabo helps customers lower water use with tips for growing great gardens and advises homeowners to know what they are buying. "We tag our plants and trees with information about growing conditions, sun and shade tolerances and soil conditions that will help them mature into robust landscape elements and accents." The Szabo team also helps homeowners select from a huge range of plant materials and tropicals that complement the principles of Xeriscape.

One of the easiest and most important things a homeowner can do to create the best environment is to check the soil of planting beds, Szabo said. "If water seeps through quickly, I recommend mixing in organic matter, which will increase the soil's ability to hold moisture."

The most sophisticated irrigation systems can't compensate for bad planning.

"Make sure the different plants and trees that will be near each other all have the same water requirements," LaValle said. "Otherwise some will always be underwatered and others overwatered, they won't thrive and may die."

Successful Xeriscape landscapes integrate a range of choices, plant characteristics and techniques that reduce the amount of irrigation needed. For example:

- Small-leaved materials generally fare better in dry conditions; large leaf surfaces tend to lose more moisture.
- Shade trees reduce watering needs by lowering evaporation, preventing the ground from drying.
- Mulch retains moisture and nourishes plants at the same time.

"Low maintenance is one of the outstanding benefits of using the principles of Xeriscape," said Kurt Harclerode, lead inter-governmental representative for the South Florida Water Management District in Fort Myers. "In addition to needing very little irrigation beyond the natural rainfall, the plant materials are naturally resistant to pests, need little attention

beyond routine pruning and trimming, and they provide food and shelter for wildlife. It's win-win."

For a copy of WaterWise, the District's Xeriscaping guide for South Florida landscapes or more information about SFWMD's watering initiatives, conservation information and water-saving tips, visit sfwmd.gov. To speak with a representative about partnering or arranging a personal appearance by Freddy the Alligator, the District's mascot, call (239) 277-6295.

Xeriscape Plants and Trees Thrive in Nature's Natural Cycle

Native plants and trees thrive year-round, need little or no watering during the dry season and make wonderful, colorful additions to landscapes. Near-natives — materials that were not "born" in Southwest Florida but grow well in this climate and complement rather than compete with natives — add even more choices for homeowners who want to maintain Xeriscape landscapes that are moisture misers.

Trees

- Crape myrtle produces masses of flowers during late spring and summer •

• Liriope, a rich green, grass-like plant that grows in both shade and sun, blooms with lavender spikes in the summer.

- Blue porter weed, a creeping ground cover with flowered spindles, is also a native attractive to butterflies.

Landscape Irrigation Measures

- Every landscape may be irrigated up to three times a week as needed. Addresses with odd numbers may water on Mondays and/or Wednesdays and/or Saturdays. Addresses with even numbers may water on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and/or Sundays.
- The approved hours for watering are midnight to 10 a.m. or 4 p.m. to midnight on the proper day. The best time to water is just before sunrise when the temperatures are cooler, preventing evaporation and allowing the water to reach the plants' roots.
- Watering is not allowed 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., nor anytime on Friday.
- Irrigation with well, lake or canal water is included in the schedule. 'Low-volume' hand watering is allowed at any time.



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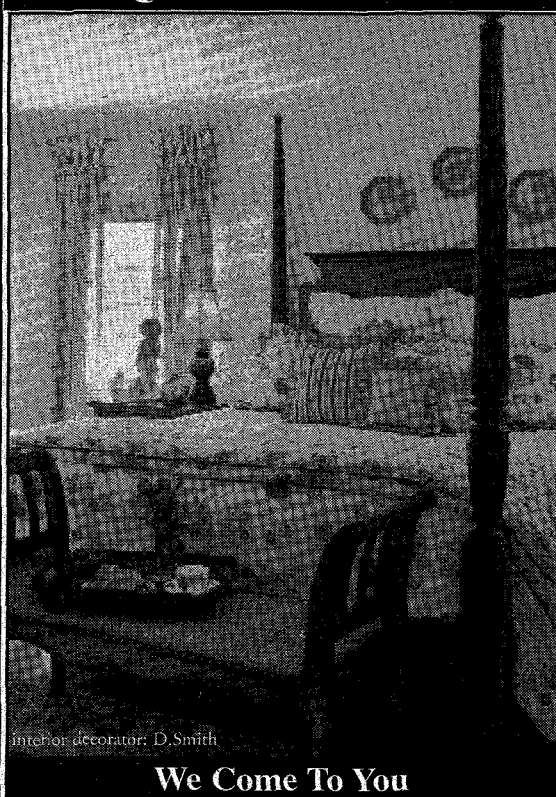
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"Too much water typically does more damage than too little," said Nik Nikolich.

Mobile, continued right

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Mobile, from left

the Mobile Irrigation Lab coordinator for the Lee Soil and Water Conservation District. Mold is a major illness when it hits landscapes and lawns, the infestation needs applications of chemicals to control, the substances leach and can contaminate underground water supplies and the environment, and unless the cause is cured, the cycle continues. "The biggest homeowner error contributing to the over-watering is not understanding the controls, the clock that regulates the amount of time the system waters the various zones."

According to Bill Beck, a major contributor is watering landscapes during the summer months, even when nature does the job with abundant rainfall.

Beck is with the Soil Conservation District with the USDA Natural Resource

Conservation Service in Collier County. His primary responsibility is to help agricultural businesses use water wisely. A second entity - Collier Soil and Water Conservation District - serves residents and businesses in the Big Cypress Basin area.

Both districts are supported by and report to the South Florida Water Management District, a perfect vehicle to put SFWMD's conservation program to work. The district has launched a campaign - "Water Wisely ... Conservation Starts in Your Backyard!" - that helps residents conserve water, grow healthy landscapes and protect the area's water supplies. The educational effort reminds people that water conservation efforts have expanded from a winter-only exercise to a year-round standard.

The mobile-labs' assessment and education program is so comprehensive that only one a day can typically be scheduled and on four days a week. "We are eager to work with residents who care enough to want to conserve water, and we want to make that as easy and effective as we can," said Beck. "We are available to help. We don't tell people what they must do; we don't impose rules or regulations. It's government at its best, and everyone wins."

According to Nikolich, residents receive a program of things they can do to help themselves and to continue the work done during the site assessment. The site work includes:

- running the entire system and look for problems with too much or too little water, watch that valves perform correctly and make sure the controller/clock is working properly;

- explain the controller system, how to work it and know how to monitor it;
- calculates how much water is used in each zone and adjust them accordingly;
- measure the effectiveness of the water applications by checking root depth, ground saturation and recommend how much or how little will be most effective;
- check sprinkler heads, make sure they're working properly.

"Often we find the homeowner or his lawn service used replacement parts manufactured by a different company - Rainbird valve on a Toro system, for example," Nikolich said. "That can cause uneven distribution, more water in one zone and less in another, among other problems. We recommend sticking with the same brand to have better control over the system."

Homeowners can call the district offices with questions about a specific problem, and the teams can often provide the answers - Lee County: (239) 995-5678; Collier County: (239) 455-4100.

The Florida Irrigation Society at (800) 441-5341, provides the names of irrigation

specialists, contractors and manufacturers, and Beck suggests homeowners make good use of the county cooperative extensions with master gardeners, general information about landscape needs and help through the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program - Lee County: (239) 461-7500; Collier County: (239) 353-4244; Charlotte County: (941) 764-4360.

For more information about SFWMD's watering measures, conservation information and water-saving tips, visit sfwmd.gov. To speak with a representative about partnering or arranging a personal appearance by Freddy, call (239) 277-6295.

For more information about the South Florida Water Management District's landscape irrigation measures, conservation information and water-saving tips, visit sfwmd.gov on the Web or call (239) 338-2929. (Follow the water conservation efforts in your area. If you're not sure when to water, contact the District for a watering schedule.)

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New summer tomato variety

Growing tomatoes in Florida's hot, humid climate isn't always easy. Too hot and the fruit won't set. Too much rainfall and the fruit cracks, or the plants develop diseases and lose their leaves.

These problems have been largely solved with the introduction of Solar Fire, a heat-tolerant variety developed by researchers at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"Solar Fire is our best bet yet for a tomato that can set fruit at warm temperatures," said Jay Scott, a professor of horticultural sciences at UF's Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Bradenton. "Most tomatoes that can set fruit at higher temperatures have small fruit, but this one is different. And you can plant this variety earlier in the fall growing season than other varieties."

Solar Fire has medium to large-sized fruit, just above 6 ounces, with an attractive red color and gloss. Each vine bears a lot of fruit, so crop yields are good. It is a firm tomato, an important factor when shipping produce, he said.

"It's best when eaten fresh in salads or sandwiches, rather than cooked or canned," Scott said. "I like it on bruschetta with pecans and blue cheese."

Solar Fire is resistant to races 1, 2 and 3 of Fusarium wilt as well as Verticillium wilt race 1 and to gray leafspot and it has moderate resistance to fruit soft rot.

"Until now, if you wanted to plant tomatoes in Florida from July through August, you've been pretty much out of luck," said Tony DiMare, vice president of DiMare Ruskin Inc., one of the state's largest tomato producers. "There are a few varieties such as Florida 91 that can be planted in early fall, but summer heat has always meant the fruit won't set."

Reggie Brown, director of the Florida Tomato Committee, an industry group based in Orlando, said tomatoes are the most valuable vegetable crop grown in Florida. A winter cash crop in Florida since the 1870s, tomatoes now bring more than \$400 million into the state annually.

"We think this tomato will extend the tomato season in Florida, and will prove to be a significant addition to the fresh tomato business in the state," Brown said.

Solar Fire has been licensed for production with Harris-Moran Seed Company in Modesto, Ca. Bruno Libbrecht, product manager for tomatoes for Harris-Moran, said his firm has fields of Solar Fire under cultivation, and seed will be available in late May to early June 2004.

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HAPPENINGS

For items to be included on these pages, they must be submitted by Friday, a week before publication date.

Non-Profit deadlines approaching

March 11, 2004 is the deadline for non-profit organizations to apply to the Southwest Florida Community Foundation's Winter Grant Cycle and Housing Grant Cycle (a one-time housing initiative). All grant applications must be received by 4 p.m. on that day.

According to Program Director Carol McLaughlin, "The Winter Cycle is the Foundation's largest funding cycle of the year. Last year, it awarded a total of \$318,860 to 33 non-profits. This year, the Foundation has approximately \$500,000 to give away in Winter Cycle grants — the increase is due in part to recent gains in the stock market and additional funds established at the Foundation," added McLaughlin.

Non-profits who have received their 501(c)(3) status may receive Winter Cycle grant awards of up to \$25,000.

Organizations providing housing-related services to Lee County residents are encouraged to apply to the Foundation's Housing Grant Cycle. The Foundation will award a total of \$110,000 in grants for this one-time housing initiative. The housing funds came from the State of Florida as a result of an antitrust lawsuit settlement.

The Community Foundation serves five counties: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee.

Non-profits are highly encouraged to download the grant application and review the grant guidelines from the Foundation's web site, www.floridacommunity.com. If you have specific questions, you may call Carol McLaughlin at 274-5900.

Founded in 1976, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation is a public foundation that administers over 240 endowed funds. The Foundation has assets of more than \$32 million dollars and has two affiliates: the Bonita Springs Community Foundation and the Community Foundation of Sanibel-Captiva.

Civil War reenactment

2nd Annual Raid on Gopher Ridge

On a sultry late winter afternoon in 1865, soldiers from the U. S. 2nd Cavalry and the 2nd U. S. Colored Infantry clashed with F. A. Hendry's Confederate Cow Cavalry on a remote prairie in Southwest Florida.

The encampment and battle will be reenacted on Saturday, March 13 and Sunday, March 14 at the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch. Relive the events of that historic day and visit the soldier's encampments. The hours are 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and the battle starts at 1:30 p.m. on both days.

Admission is \$3 for adults; \$1 for students and Free for children eight and under. The proceeds support the Friends of the Collier County Museum's educational programs and exhibits. Immokalee Pioneer Museum is on Roberts Avenue on the southeast side of the intersection of SR 29. (Coming from Fort Myers, take SR 82 to SR 29 and turn right. Turn left at Roberts Avenue.)

For more information, contact Event Coordinator Lee Mitchell at (239)658-2466 or (239)734-0359

Multiple Sclerosis fundraisers

The second annual silent auction to benefit the Multiple Sclerosis Society will be held March 20 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at the Sanibel Fitness Center on Rabbit Road.

For the past five years, Meta and Chris Luckenbill (owners of Sanibel Fitness Center) have been raising money for M.S. The disease is a common neurological disorder that affects 350,000 Americans a year. Patients experience visual problems, numbness, speech, memory and gait problems. Meta currently works with seven clients who have this disease and, after seeing the horrible effects, she wanted to help support the M.S. Society.

Meta and Chris ride annually in the Maroon MS 150 bike tour (150 miles) to raise money. Along with the silent auction and generous pledges, last year they were able to raise \$54,000.

Items being sought for this year's silent auction are jewelry, artwork, furniture, services, etc. If you are interested in participating or making a donation, please contact the Sanibel Fitness Center at 395-2639 and join in fighting for a cure.

Lee County Heart Ball

The Lee County Heart Ball will be Saturday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs. Chairing this year's event are Tom and Linda Uhler, and NBC-2 Anchor Craig Wolf will be the evening's emcee. The presenting sponsors are Lee Memorial Health Systems and Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center, and proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association, Lee County Division.

The cost is \$200 per person; \$2,750 to purchase a table of six and \$5,000 to purchase a table of eight. Call Michelle Schweber at the American Heart Association, 239-498-9288 for tickets.

Over 600 social, business, medical and community leaders are anticipated to attend this black-tie evening featuring gourmet dining, dancing, a silent auction, and outstanding entertainment by the Susan Taylor Starlight Orchestra.

Items up for bid include a lease on a Lexus, donated by Scanlon Lexus; a cruise to Polynesia, donated by Betty Maclean Travel; and designer jewelry, donated by Congress Jewelers.

Heart disease and stroke are the number one and number three killers of people in this country. Nationally, every 33 seconds someone dies from cardiovascular disease.

By conducting fund raisers such as the Heart Ball, the American Heart Association is raising money to fight heart disease and stroke — specifically in the areas of research and education. Research funded by the American Heart Association has yielded such discoveries such as cardiac catheterization, openheart surgery, angioplasty, pacemaker and CPR. Additionally, American Heart Association education programs reached nearly two million Floridians last year.

SCCF's Annual Tennis Tournament

It is that time of the year again! One of the Island's premiere tennis events will take place at the Dunes Golf and Tennis Club on April 3 - 4, when the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation hosts its 12th annual tennis tournament. There were 125 entries last year, and with Bank of America and South Seas Resorts once again sponsoring this event, early registration is strongly advised.

The format will be a traditional men's, women's and mixed doubles' competition featuring double elimination with first round consolation. An entry fee of \$50 entitles players to breakfast, lunch and beverages, all provided by South Seas Resort, on Saturday and Sunday. Bank of America will also provide players with a tournament T-shirt and an invitation to Friday evening's cocktail party. Flight winners and runners-up in all categories will receive etched cocktail glasses created by Lucas Century.

In addition to the tournament there will be a raffle and silent auction so that all the "non-players" can get in the action also. For the second year, Intrav/Clipper Cruise Line has donated a fabulous 8-day trip for two to Alaska's Inside Passage aboard the 138-passenger Yorktown Clipper ship, rated one of the world's best small-ship cruise lines by Readers of Conde Nast Traveler. The raffle includes an outstanding glass creation by Luc Century and a variety of Island vacations donated by South Seas Resort, Pricilla Murphy Realty and VIP.

Sponsorship entitles you to attend all events, have your name listed and prominently displayed at the tournament, and one of the following items, all deeply etched with river otters:

- Championship Sponsor - \$1,000 Bookends/Candleholders
- Match Sponsor - \$500 Large Bowl
- Set Sponsor - \$250 Vinciens Vase
- Game Sponsor - \$125 Coffee Mug

Proceeds will benefit the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's general operating fund. The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation is a not-for-

profit organization dedicated to the preservation of natural resources and wild life habitat on and around Sanibel and Captiva. For more information please call Marti Bryant at the Conservation Foundation 472-2329.

Johan Kriek Classic for Kids

Two-time Australian Open Champion and Naples resident Johan Kriek has announced the return of the Johan Kriek Classic for Kids charity celebrity event and its debut at the Colony Golf & Country Club in Bonita Springs on April 3-4, 2004.

This year's event will feature some of the world's top tennis competitors, including Johan Kriek, Petr Korda, Kathy Rinaldi, Aaron Krickstein, and Brenda Schultz-McCarthy. Peter Korda is a former Australian Open champion with ten singles titles and ten doubles titles under his belt. Kathy Rinaldi has won four singles and four doubles titles and was ranked among the top ten players in the world. Brenda

Schultz-McCarthy has captured seven singles and nine doubles titles during her career, and held the title for the fastest serve on the women's tour from 1990-1997. Aaron Krickstein won an ATP Tour event at the age of 17 and was in the U.S. Top 10 for seven years.

This year's event will benefit the Naples Equestrian Challenge, which offers therapeutic horseback riding for disabled children and adults living in Collier County. The format for this year's event will consist of a tennis pro-am and exhibition on Saturday, a gala Saturday evening, followed by a golf tournament on the Colony's US Open Champion Jerry Pate designed golf course Sunday morning.

Johan Kriek won back-to-back Australian Open titles during his professional tennis career and has lived in Naples for more than 25 years. For information on how to participate in the tennis pro-am and/or golf tournament, invitations to the gala and tickets to the tennis exhibition, phone (561) 394-9190.

Red Cross life-saving Classes

Discount Available through March 2004

Life-saving classes are offered on a regular basis to residents of Lee County by certified instructors for the Lee County Chapter of the American Red Cross. All classes are taught at the Red Cross office, 2516 Colonial Blvd. (in the AAA Building), Fort Myers. Each class is for one session only and participants receive a certificate of completion.

Adult CPR teaches participants to call and work with EMS, care for conscious and unconscious victims, perform CPR and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in adults, and know the role of automated external defibrillation. The class will be taught from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. on March 15. The cost is \$40.

First Aid and Adult/Infant/Child CPR is designed for anyone who cares for children. In addition to the Adult CPR training, it helps the individuals develop emergency action plans and learn how to prevent and reduce hazards in the home and play areas. The course will be taught from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 6. The cost is \$57.

First Aid and Adult CPR/AED will be taught from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 20. In addition to first aid and CPR, this course focuses on typical automated external defibrillator equipment, especially how to use an AED safely for a victim of sudden cardiac arrest. The cost is \$52.

Re-certification classes are also offered for Adult CPR/AED and Adult Infant Child CPR; participants must have taken the basic class within the last 12 months to be eligible. In addition, Babysitter Training and Pet first Aid classes are available.

Class registrants will be offered a 15% discount on any course through March 2004 if they bring in a copy of this news article. Pre-registration for all classes is required at least 48 hours in advance. Classes are subject to cancellation because of insufficient participants, holidays, or in times of emergencies and/or disasters. For additional information about the Red Cross and classes, call 278-3401, or log on to arclcc.org.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Holistic Health Notebook: Keep Those Bones Strong!

by Carol Simontacchi, CCN, MS

Martha was feeling fine. Time for her annual physical exam, that's all.

"You're looking great, Martha!" Doc closed her file and set it on the desk. "Except your bones. You have osteopenia - some bone loss. We need to do something about it."

She was stunned. She had always taken care of herself. Ate right. Exercised daily. Aren't bones supposed to last a lifetime?

Yes, bones should stay strong through the duration of our lives but unfortunately, twenty-first century diets and lifestyles can sabotage our best efforts to maintain bone health.

One of the popular misconceptions about bone density is that we simply load up on calcium. While we like the idea of "a pill for every ill," building strong bones isn't as simple as a calcium supplement. Bones are dynamic tissue. Minerals and

other nutrients are constantly being resorbed, or drawn out of the bones, and absorbed back in. The balance of nutrients in the bone matrix is dependent upon diet and lifestyle.

Fortunately, there is much we can do to ensure the health of bones all the way through our senior years.

Dietary Habits That Rob Bones

One of the most common problems related to bone health is our love affair with acid-forming diets. When the diet is overly acid (high protein, excessive grains, sugars, soft drinks, alcohol, as well as stress and other factors), the body alkalizes the blood by pulling minerals out of the bones. Maintaining the proper pH is critically important to health.

A high protein diet is destined to contribute to the loss of bone minerals because, with a heavy emphasis on animal-based protein foods, it is a highly acid diet. By the same token, a diet that focuses primarily on grains can have the same effect.

How, then, should we balance the diet to maximize bone health? Lots of vegetables and moderate amounts of fruit, along with protein foods, help maintain bone density by reducing the acid load and providing the body with a variety of minerals.

Remember that the various organs and systems of the body do not have competing interests. In other words, a diet that is good for the bones is also good for the heart and brain. A diet that is optimum for permanent weight loss is also good for lasting health.

Beverages for the Bones

While ad agencies would like to have you believe that "milk does a body good," that may be true only if you are a calf. Cow's milk was intended to build strong, big calves. Cow's milk is a rich source of calcium but according to the World Health Organization, up to 80% of the world's population is intolerant to dairy products. Countries that consume far less dairy than the US have far less osteoporosis, probably because their diets typically focus on lots of vegetables. Again, eat those greens!

"So, Martha." Doc was already getting

Bones see page 20

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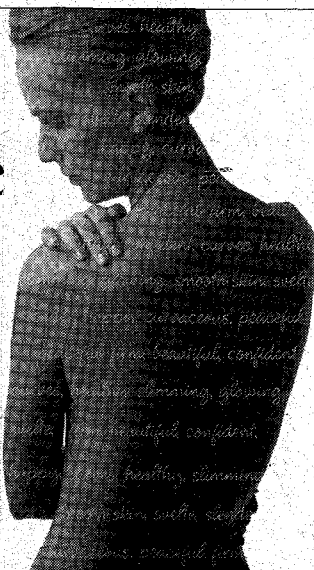
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Fit'n'Trim: Healthy Habits

Open a newspaper or magazine nowadays, and you're likely to find an article on the subject of health. Americans spend billions of dollars each year on medical care because many of us are unhealthy. The current epidemic of obesity is just one indicator of this problem.

Everyone wants to be healthy, of course, but it's often easier — and more comforting — to indulge in behaviors that sabotage our health.

Dr. Constance Clancy, a psychotherapist based on Captiva, spoke at the Fit'n'Trim meeting on Feb. 20. She acknowledged that eating for health is difficult because of the American dichotomy: being slim is a national goal, but, at the same time, bigger is better — especially when it comes to food portions.

She also observed that our culture is very busy — multi-tasking is a contemporary concept that has many Americans' heads spinning. Because we do so much on the run, we don't have time to savor any experience, let alone eating. As a result of cramming as much as possible into the limited time available, Americans suffer tremendous stress.

Dr. Clancy is a specialist in mindfulness-based stress reduction, which advises us to slow down and get the full benefit of all our experiences, including eating. When we're too busy to make choices about what we eat, we just grab what's in front of us and have no awareness of what

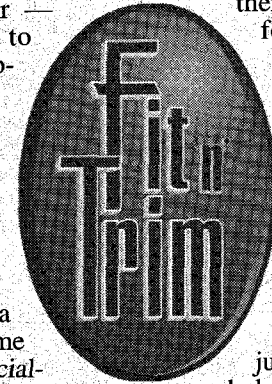
it is, or how it affects our bodies. This pattern throws us out of balance and causes stress.

But if we practice mindfulness, we can achieve balance and moderation. Dr. Clancy gave us an exercise in mindful eating. She offered each of us a raisin, and asked us to roll it around in our fingers, then sniff it for awhile. Finally, we put the raisins in our mouths, but didn't swallow them. We let them sit on our tongues for a moment, then slowly and thoroughly chewed them, before allowing them to slide down our throats.

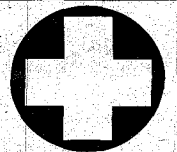
This exercise showed us how to savor the feel, the smell, the texture, and the flavor of food, to slow down and become AWARE of what we are eating, and to remember that eating food can, and SHOULD, be a wonderful experience - not just a rote action that "fills the hole."

If you make time to eat mindfully, you'll take the first step toward establishing healthy habits. You'll become aware of what you eat and learn to eat in moderation, both of which can help restore stress-busting balance to your life.

Fit'n'Trim, Weight Management from A to Z, meets for a half hour each Friday at 11:30 a.m. in Heron Hall at the Congregational Church, 2050 Periwinkle Way (across from Periwinkle Place shopping center). Doors open at 11 a.m. for weigh-in. \$5 suggested donation per meeting.



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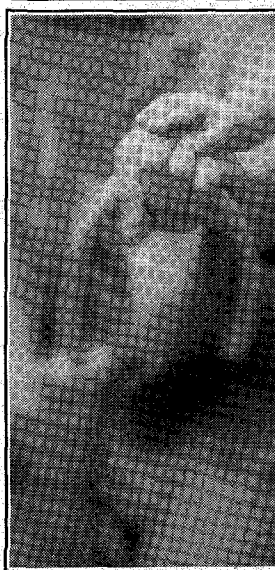
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Bones, from page 19

out his prescription pad. "What is the prescription for healthy bones?"

"I know, I know," she sighed. "Reduce the sugar. Cut out the soda. Maybe one cup of coffee each morning. But lots of vegetables! And moderate amounts of protein! That's not so bad, is it?"

Diet isn't the only factor in bone health, however. Next week, we'll examine lifestyle issues related to bones.

For more information, contact Carol at the Island Nutrition Center (472-4499).

Cruise, from page 7

will be available for the children.

The cost for the Sunset Dinner Cruise is \$45 for adults and \$25 for children aged 12 and under. Children aged 3 and under are free. Complimentary coffee and tea are available on both cruises. A full cash bar is available on both cruises with juices, soft drinks, beer, wine and mixed drinks.

Reservations are required. For additional information and to check availability, please call Captiva Cruises at 239-472-5300.

New exhibits coming to Collier museum

The Collier County Government Museum, located on five acres in the County Government Center will begin adding new exhibits during the month of March. A multi-year project, the first phase will be installed from March 1 to March 21, 2004. The main gallery of the museum will be closed at this time and re-opened on March 22, with new displays featuring Florida's prehistoric era, early peoples, the Calusa, the Spanish Conquistadors, and more recent County history such as tourism and movie-making.

The museum will continue to present the Smithsonian exhibition, "July 1942, United We Stand" until March 13, 2004. The grounds, complete with a native plant garden, logging locomotive, WWII Sherman tank, replica Seminole War era fort, and two historic Naples cottages will continue to be open free of charge to the public, Monday through Friday, 9 to 5, Saturday, 9 to 4.

"The new exhibits will be a dramatic addition to the museum," said Ron Jamro, director of the County's three history museums. The museum staff has been working with the Orlando design team, Sparks Exhibits to showcase the museum's collection of artifacts, art and photographs dealing with the history of Florida and Collier County. The exhibits are being completely re-designed and will include interactive displays intended to engage the younger visitor.

The Collier County Museum, founded in 1978, is the site for the annual "Old Florida Festival." The three day festival, attended by thousands of visitors, features historic re-enactors, craft vendors and period music.

Nifty Niners

Results: February 19
Member - Guest

Event: Four Person, Two Best Balls

	Score
1st Place	
Lois Smith	48
Peggy Hogg	
Joanne McKelvey	
Phyllis Koury	
2nd Place	
Jeannie Lindman	50
Joan Dyke	
Corky O'Reilly	
Mary Coddens	
3rd Place	
Julie O'Neill	51
Betty Long	
Janice McNeal	
Roberta Rohl	
Birdies	
Bridget Funk	#2
Gay Nichols	#5
Congratulations to the winners!	

Come to Calusa Fest

On Saturday, March 27, from 10 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., the Collier County Museum and Southwest Florida Archaeological Society will offer a free day's outing for the entire family.

Area archaeologists will give informative talks:

Dr. Randolph Widmer: The Evolution of the Calusas-20 Years Later.

Dr. John Worth: Seeking the Lost Calusas

John Beriault: Shell Tool Manufacturing

Corbett Torrence: Ridges, Residence and Refuse: A Model of Calusa Food and Mound Building

There will be an Artifact Roadshow table where experts will examine artifacts brought in by the public for identification. Dr. Robin Brown will discuss his new book, *The Calusa: Florida's First People*, written for children 10 years and older. Book signing proceeds will go to charity. Historic reenactors will portray a flint knapper, a Calusa Indian and an atlatl spear thrower. Cold drinks and hot dogs will be available for sale.

Collier County Museum, (239) 774-8476. The museum is located in the County Government Center at the corner of U.S. 41 and Airport-Pulling Road.





Sanibel Cares art committee members and artists Pumfey Silverglide, Marianne Ravenna, Julie Smith, and Myra Roberts (standing) pose with works that will go on the auction block at the Fourth Annual Island Celebration of the Arts on Apr. 3, 2004.

Sanibel Cares juried art selection a success

For the first time this year, Sanibel Cares conducted a juried selection for the art auction it will hold April 3 to benefit The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida at HealthPark.

The group's art sub-committee, headed by Julie Smith, selected more than 70 pieces by 68 artists in all genres, including paintings, fine art prints, sculpture, jewelry, pottery, glass, furniture, and more. Values range from \$30 to more than \$20,000.

"The juried selection proved a great success," says Smith. "This year's auction promises to be the best yet. We have an exceptional array of original art."

The Sanibel group raises funds through private and corporate sponsorships and its annual gala Island Celebration of the Arts auction. Goals for 2004's fourth annual event are a \$38,393 state-of-the-art incubator for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and a \$437,000 five-bed Children's Observation Unit.

Tickets to the event are \$150 each and available by calling event co-chair Heidi Marinello at 239-472-1540.

SBA loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers loans for Florida businesses wishing to purchase, expand or renovate commercial real estate or purchase machinery and equipment. Businesses in every county in Florida have taken advantage of these "SBA 504" loans, but the SBA and its affiliate organizations are constantly looking for new applicants.

504 loans offer below-market rates, low down payments and favorable terms that are often far superior to regular commercial bank loans. The money can be used to purchase real estate, build new facilities, modernize or renovate existing facilities, or purchase machinery or equipment. The program offers additional benefits for women-, veteran- and minority-owned companies, export-related companies and businesses in rural communities.

The 504 Loan Program is administered throughout the state by Florida First Capital Finance Corporation, a non-profit founded by the state of Florida in 1983. According to the FFCFC's president Todd Kocourek, its mission is to contribute to the economic development of

Right: 2004-2005 officers of the Sanibel Captiva Sail & Power Squadron were installed at the 29th Change of Watch. (from left) James Bradford, Ellen Yorke, Yvonne Neal, Mike Neal, Joanne Heroy-Giller, Mary Paige Abbott, Commander Dale McGinley, District Commander Kenneth Beckman, John Dale, Robert Allen.

Below right: Dale McGinley was installed at 2004-2005 Commander of the Sanibel Captiva Sale & Power Squadron by District Commander Kenneth Beckman at the 29th annual Change of Watch.



Dale McGinley is new Commander of Power Squadron

Dale McGinley was installed as the new Commander of the Sanibel Captiva Sail & Power by District Commander Kenneth Beckman at the 29th annual Change of Watch on February 9 at the Captiva Yacht Club. Past Commander John McCormick and Marilyn McCormick hosted the event.

Members of the 2004-2005 Executive Committee of the Power Squadron are executive officer, Robert Allen; educational officer, John Dale; administrative officer, Mary Paige Abbott; secretary, Joanne Heroy-Giller; treasurer, Michael Neal; members-at-large, Ronn Downey, Steve Abbott, Thomas Gillis and Rodney Verblauw.

2004-2005 assistant officers are assistant educational officer, James Bradford; assistant secretary, Ellen Yorke; assistant treasurer, Yvonne Neal. Rules committee members are Edwin Barnes, Bill Lucas and Charles LeGette. Audit committee members are Stephen Mihaly, Wallace Dunbar and Alan Boers.

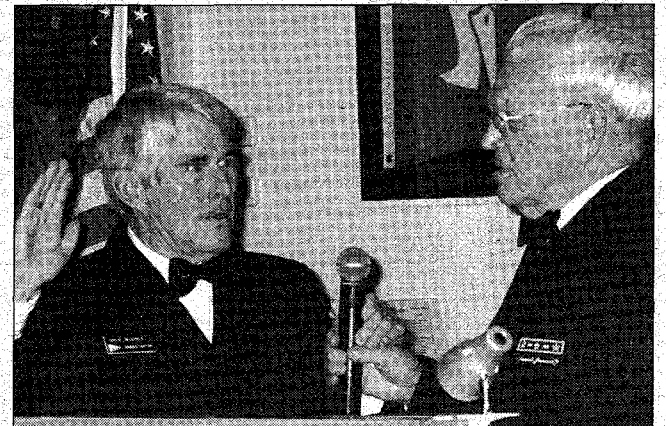
Nominating committee members are Ronn Downey, Jane Withers, Bill Kyle, John McCormick and George Irwin.

the state and provide financial assistance to small businesses in conjunction with the SBA and private sector lenders.

"We have money to lend for small businesses in South West Florida that want to grow and create jobs," said Kocourek.

To qualify, a company must be a for-profit small business in Florida with a start-up or expansion project. Most types of projects and companies are eligible. The program is ideal for small businesses that are unable to obtain conventional financing or financing at desirable terms. In general, projects also must create or retain one job for every \$50,000 in funding but this requirement can be waived in many cases.

For more information about 504 loans, contact Stephen Aronson at 239-462-3718 or steve@ffcf.com.



The Gabriel House

On March 6-7, the Junior League of Fort Myers is lending a helping hand at The Gabriel House, a Christian Home for abandoned, displaced, underprivileged and medically needy children. Ed and Annie Ravish founded The Gabriel House with a mission of rescuing, rehabilitating and seeing these children adopted. They focus on children from birth to six years old. Over the last thirteen years, they have rescued almost 200 children, who have been medically treated, shown love, and adopted by families across the United States.

Ed has a Masters in Social Work from the University of Connecticut. Annie has a degree in Special Education from St. Joseph College and the University of Connecticut, and extensive experience working with autistic and severely handicapped children. The Gabriel House is a 501 C-3 tax-exempt organization and receives no state or federal funding. Their only means of support is from private donations and grants received from private organizations.

The Junior League will be planting a butterfly garden and painting, laying ceramic tile, putting in new doors, repairing screens and doing some outside cleanup and landscaping. If you would like to help by donating money or supplies for this project contact Shannon at Markandshannon@hotmail.com. To learn more about Gabriel House, please go to www.gabrielhouse.org.

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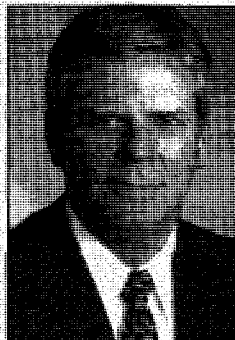
Eaton named as ResortQuest director of real estate sales

Chief Operating Officer Park Brady announced on Feb. 17 that David Eaton, a managing broker in Southwest Florida, will assume a new role as ResortQuest's Director of Real Estate Sales.

Eaton previously worked with the ResortQuest team as managing broker for ResortQuest International Real Estate Affiliates Bluebill Realty in Naples, Vanderbilt Beach and Bonita Springs and Priscilla Murphy Realty, operating in Fort Myers, Sanibel and Captiva Islands and Fort Myers Beach.

Eaton will report directly to Brady and will move to Destin. As Director of Real Estate Sales, Eaton is charged with coordinating Real Estate reporting, developing national programs for training and recruit-

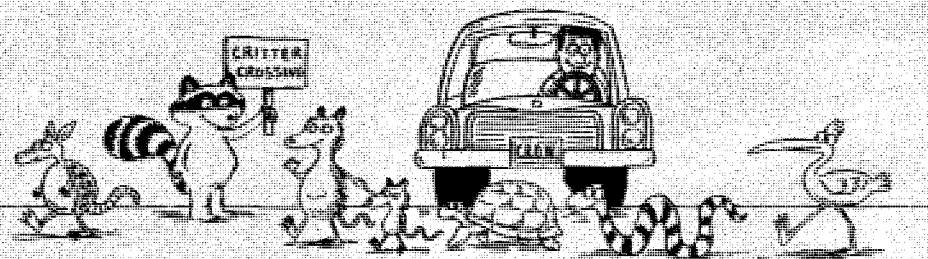
ing associates, marketing resort real estate services and development of new sources of real estate business.



Eaton

As an active member of the Florida Association of Realtors, Eaton serves on a number of committees, including Resort Specialists, Communications and Professional Development. Eaton earned designations of Accredited Buyer Representative, Certified International Property Specialist, and Certified Top Producer Instructor; and is a graduate of the Florida

Realtors Institute. He also served as an Air Force Officer after graduating from Indiana University with a degree in Real Estate.



Give wildlife a brake.

Sanibel-Captiva Pictorial History

Before the Causeway

revised edition

Our local heritage has practically vanished... A lifestyle alive only in the memory of our citizens. Now we have the opportunity to safeguard the history of our people through photographs from our files and from those submitted by our neighbors.

This 120 page book, with more than 300 photographs, is library-quality, printed on archival paper and bound in a beautiful sunrise/sunset (color) hard cover.

The books are now available at the Island Reporter office at 2340 Periwinkle Way in the Village.

They can also be found at these fine island stores:

Jerry's Foods
1700 Periwinkle Way

Tree House Gallery
630 Tarpon Bay Rd.

Kelly's Cocoons
230 Chadwick Sq., Captiva

MacIntosh Books
2365 Periwinkle Way

Bailey's at
Tarpon Bay Rd. & Periwinkle Way

Sanibel Island Book Shop
1711 Periwinkle Way

News from VIP Realty

VIP Realty Honors Sanibel Club Members

VIP Realty Group, Inc. has named the members of its 2003 President's Club, Executive Club and Champions Club at its recent annual recognition event at Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa.

Members from the Sanibel office in the President's Club include Susan Andrews, Barbara Beardsley, Karen Bell, Rose Dakos, Marlene Donaldson, Susan Dunn, Anthony Gaeta, Kathryn Gaeta, Cathy Gerasin, Fred Gerasin, Jim Hall, Ruth Hamann, James Hetmanek, Penny Hetmanek, Robin Humphrey, Mike McMurray, Carolyn Musgrave, Eric Pfeifer, David Schuldenfrei, Ada Shissler and Lynda Traverso. The Executive Club members are Kara "K.C." Cuscaden, Pam King and Marcel Ventura. Champions Club members include Jim Anderson, Shelby Bortone, Robert Cronin, Linda Gornick, Brian Johnson and Debbie Staley.

Lifetime Achievement was presented to Rose Dakos, Cathy Gerasin, Fred Gerasin, James Hetmanek, Penny Hetmanek and Ada Shissler. Mike McMurray was awarded Top Agent for the Sanibel office and company wide.

Lynda Traverso was awarded the Marketing Excellence Award company wide. The Rookie of the Year from the Sanibel office was presented to Brian Johnson.

VIP Sanibel realtor recognized for excellence

VIP Realty Group, Inc. is pleased to announce that Mike McMurray was awarded Top Agent for their Sanibel office and Top Agent company wide for 2003. Mike was honored at VIP's recent annual recognition event at Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa.



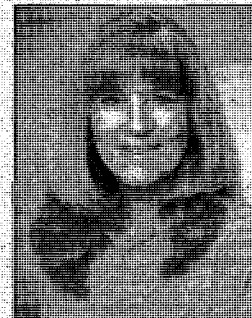
McMurray

Mike McMurray has been consistently one of the island's top producers and has been selling real estate on Sanibel and Captiva Islands since 1993.

McMurray is a member of the Sanibel-Captiva Association of Realtors®, the Florida and National Association of Realtors®, and a member of the Sanibel-Captiva Association of Realtors® Honor Society. McMurray has obtained both the CRS and GRI designations, which are

VIP names top producers for January

VIP Realty Group, Inc. has announced January Associates of the Month from the Sanibel office. Lynda Traverso was named Top Sales Associate and Karen Bell was named Top Listing Associate as well as Top Producer.



Bell

Lynda Traverso has been selling real estate on Sanibel, Captiva and South Fort Myers for over 15 years

and is consistently one of the island's top producers. Traverso has earned her G.R.I. (Graduate Realtor Institute) designation and is a constant member of the Sanibel-

Captiva Association of Realtors® Honor Society. She is also a member of VIP's prestigious President's Club.

Karen Bell, has resided on the Islands since 1979 and has been active in real estate since 1987. She serves on the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation



Traverso

Foundation Board of Directors, the Community Housing Resource Board, the Board of "Friends Who Care" and is a member of the Captiva Civic Association. She was active with the Loggerhead Sea Turtle Program for 9 years and served on the Sanibel-Captiva Association of Realtors Board of Directors. For many years, Karen has consistently been the top producer for both Sanibel and Captiva Islands.

held by the top Realtors® in the country and recently recognized as a "Top Gun" for Southwest Florida real estate. Mike is also a Life Member of VIP's prestigious Presidents Club. He is raising his family here on Sanibel and is very active in the local community.

"We are all so proud of Mike", commented Managing Partner Jim Hall. "He has proven that hard work, innovative ideas and exemplary customer service can lead to well-deserved success in the real estate business."

Thieves Targeting Credit Cards at Gas Pumps

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson warned consumers of a growing scam in Florida in which sophisticated thieves intercept the numbers on credit cards being used at gas pumps at primarily large service stations.

Bronson said the thieves attach what is known as a "skimming device", a tiny computer-like device the size of a cigarette lighter, to the credit card reader at the

pump. Where there is no interruption in pumping gas or getting a receipt for the charge at the pump, the skimming device records and stores the unwitting consumer's credit card number for later use. The stolen numbers then can be downloaded onto a computer and be encoded on counterfeit cards.

Bronson said that the scam is so sophisticated that authorities have yet to recover any of the skimming devices used in the fraud. Reports indicate that the fraud has

Credit scam, see page 23

Child safety and predators

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has a website which lists all of the sexual offenders and predators in Lee County. The Sanibel police department will notify residents within a one-mile radius of the presence of a sexual offender or sexual predator on Sanibel Island. In addition they will notify The Sanibel School.

Parents are encouraged to monitor the website for additional information: http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/sexual_predators/search.asp. A link to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement website will be added to The Sanibel School Handbook which is available for viewing on the School Website at <http://www.lee.k12.fl.us/schools/sbl>.

In addition, the School District of Lee County will send updated information at the beginning of each semester to all schools and the information will be available on the District's website. For families who may not have access to the website, you may check at the school office for more information. The safety of our children is always our first priority.

TIPS FOR PARENTS ON CHILD SAFETY

Parents, we strongly urge you to discuss this information with your children and pass it along to others.

1. Rehearse with your children their full name, address and telephone number. Teach them how to make emergency calls.
2. Have children avoid hanging out around lonely parks, woods, parking lots or even schoolyards late after school. Work out the best route to school or other places they go to often and then have them stick with this route.
3. Teach your children to pay attention to what is going on around them at all times.
4. Play games such as "What if" to help a child think about dangerous situations. Design role plays using situations that might be tempting or confusing to help him/her decide the best protective action. (Example:

someone looking for a lost puppy in the park) (example-being touched on private parts by anyone).

5. Teach your children to never accept a ride from anyone they don't know.
6. Do not approach a vehicle to talk to the occupants. Stay back away from the vehicle. If an occupant gets out, immediately run to a safe place. Run the opposite way if possible.
7. Make sure your child knows their neighborhood and knows where to go if there is an emergency.
8. When personalizing clothing or backpacks, make sure your child's name is not visible to strangers who could use the information to confuse your child and lure them away.
9. Monitor your child's computer use. Make sure the areas they are going into are safe for children. If they use chat programs learn whom they are communicating with. Advise them to never give out personal information online. Also, tell them to never arrange to meet with anyone they meet online.
10. If someone appears interested in your child - or too good to be true - they probably are. Remember child predators are good at the art of coercion. They will attempt to befriend your child and win their confidence.
11. Teach them to say "No" if someone they don't know asks them to go to anywhere with them. Let your children know that it is okay to say "no" to an adult, especially in a dangerous situation.

12. If they are grabbed by someone trying to abduct them, instruct them to yell, scream, kick, scratch, bite, fall to the ground, do anything to draw attention from bystanders. Yell "This is not my mommy (or Daddy)" keep yelling.
13. NEVER GIVE UP! Keep fighting to get away.

Credit scam, from page 22

hit in Southwest Florida, and perhaps other regions of the state as well, and occurs at service stations along interstates and busy highways where the volume of gasoline sold is high. Consumers using a credit card at a service station should use a pump closest to the store clerk, where tapping into a credit card reader would be less likely because it could be spotted by store personnel.

Consumers who believe they have been victimized by the scam are urged to call their credit card immediately, and then either Bronson's department at 1-800-HELPFLA (1-800-435-7352) or a local law enforcement office.

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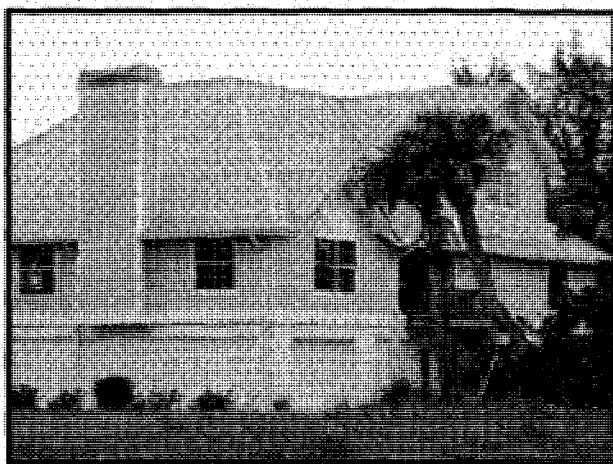
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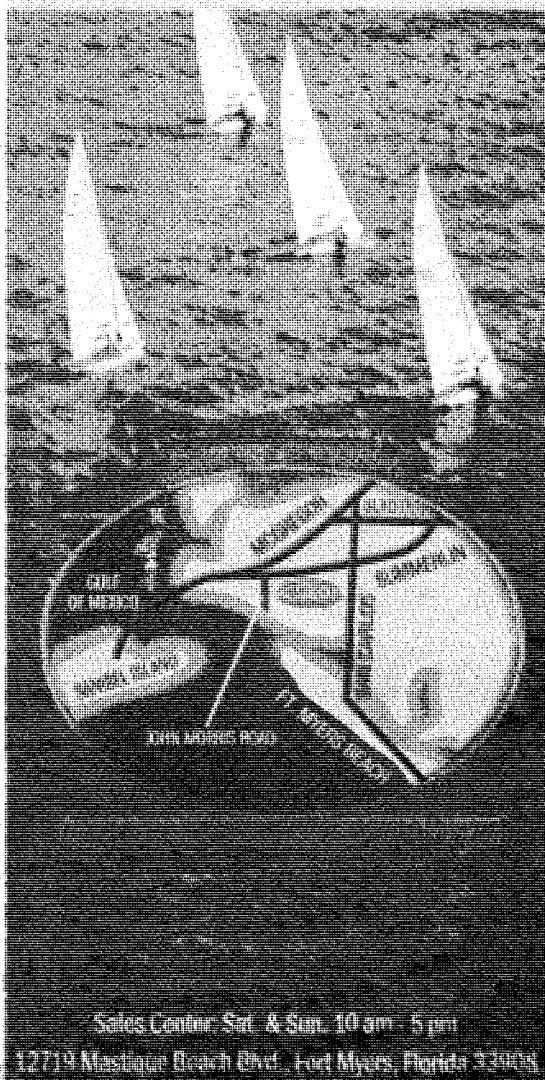
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CENTER STAGE

Superb production at Broadway Palm



Carousel, currently playing at The Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, is one of the finest productions I've seen of this show in quite some time. It has everything that the theater can give to a show — heart, integrity, and an inner glow that sends the audience home totally happy and satisfied. This Rodgers and Hammerstein show opened on Broadway in April 1945. The touching love story does not lend itself to the flash, bang, whoop-de-doo type of musical so popular now-a-days but it does offer stirring rewards for the listener who is willing to adapt him or herself to a slower progression and let the show tell and sing its story in its own way. *Carousel* is a song and dance translation of Ferenc Molnar's play *Liliom*.

This latest Broadway Palm production is romantic, melodramatic, fantastical, colorful, comic and tragic — an evening of sheer theatrical enchantment which starts the moment the curtain ascends. A prologue sets the stage as the overture is playing — a group of young textile workers mingling with a gang of roustabouts, in town to set up a carnival midway and carousel. Beautifully designed by Director Seth Reines and choreographer Chrissy Wright, it was one of the most effectively staged openings of this show I've ever seen.

Under Reines' watchful eye and telling direction, the production flows smoothly from music to dialogue and back again, the drama unfolding in song and lyric as easily as conversation. Since *Carousel* contains more substance than comedy, the score is a series of variations on the theme of love or sorrow; it bypasses monotony by its simple excellence and honesty. Both actors and director have met the challenge of a serious musical with performances that are sincere and simple. The tender rendering of the marvelous lyrics of "If I Loved You," exquisitely sung as well as acted by Tracy Lake (Julie Jordan) and her real-life husband, Aaron (Billy Bigelow), do much to prove that music and drama can be combined outside of opera with the same high caliber entertainment results. It was pure pleasure to hear these performers giving voice to the feelings embedded in the magnificent Hammerstein words. The entire ensemble of singers and dancers gave some really remarkable performances.

Two of the cast must be acknowledged as audience favorites — the winsome, effervescent Jan Hooker and big-voiced Adam Clough as Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Snow,

singing "When the Children Are Asleep." And Kelly Jo Eldredge misted many an eye with her touching interpretation of "You'll Never Walk Alone." Aaron Lake gave depth, honesty, and complete credibility to the arrogant carnival barker, Billy Bigelow, and was outstanding in the very difficult "Soliloquy." Tracy garnered every heartfelt romantic tug in all of her songs and scenes, particularly in "If I Loved You."

A great deal of credit is due to the fine work by Reines, who treated this script with affection, regard and attention to detail. Choreographer Wright created some rambunctious, high energy, happy dances that were performed by a very animated, fleet-footed ensemble. The orchestrations by Gary Bartholomew, conducted by Musical Director Al Fisher were so well played I thought for a while that they were recordings. The set design by John Rager was one of the best ever seen on the Broadway Palm stage.

If romance and the power of love still rate high on your list of favorites, then head for Broadway Palm's latest hit, *Carousel*, and an evening of sheer theatrical entertainment. Phone the box office at 278-4422 for times and tickets. *Carousel* plays 'til April 11th. And when you phone, don't forget to tell 'em Marsha sent you!

Adler superb in multi-faceted roles

The program notes for *Downloaded* and *In Denial*, which was presented by Big Arts On Stage last week, stated that Cynthia Adler "is one of the top voice-overists in America, having been the voice of many cartoons, narrations and numerous commercial campaigns such as Revlon, Mercedes Benz and Pampers to name but a few." What the program neglected to note was that she also has an incredible sense of humor, a fine-tuned ear for creating entirely complete characters vocally, and some fine writing abilities for summing up a generation's social history in a tightly compressed tale using only a few representative lives. Her particular take on things and her unique brand of humor stems from her own deeply rooted socio-political activism. Adler invites the audience in to explore how her personal environmental activism has helped her create her multiple characters.

The audience at this latest presentation of Big Arts On Stage had a real goose-bump experience, watching Adler trail like a comet through her galaxy of characters — with no props, costume changes or scenery. Another author's note (not listed in the program) that I found particularly interesting was that Adler, the playwright, chose to give voice to those characters who knew the least about their subject... but had a very definite opinion. Gosh, how many people do we know who fit that category? Case in point, according to Adler... "we are a society overloaded on media and advertising. Often we are not able to make our own decisions because we are fed selectively, by media and advertising. A programmed society thinks it is making its own choices but it isn't..."

Some of the cast of characters include: Millie Glaken, a Jewish matron from Forest Hills, New York who subscribes to the precepts laid down by her New Age guru, Dr. Rubin. Her peace and love hypothesis help her to deal with her punk-haired, multiple-pierced teenage daughter, who is involved with a Neo Nazi skinhead. Another is Eddie Barbieri, a Midas Muller mechanic, from Astoria Queens, holding a seminar on the how-tos of becoming a spin-doctor. He touts how to wriggle out of any and all responsibilities with an attitude of denial, done with style and a good spin on the facts. Sara Mae Idol is a plus-perfect example of our culture's obsession with youth and beauty through plastic surgery... all the while leaving your brains unretouched. Gwendolyn Bradford, a trendy,

jaded socialite who is bored by everything environmental, hires a Greenwich Village Comedy Club to vent her take on all this political hooah. She starts out wondering if her professionally spray painted fur coat, will baffle the animal rights activists into leaving her fur alone. Furthermore, Gwendolyn believes that the ozone holes make for a better tan. Gwen has spent her life standing still, attempting to avoid political consciousness, preferring to grab what she can in the climb to upward mobility. Lallie Mullalley is deliciously touching as the 71/2-year-old sugarholic, tallying up the number of presents and goodies received from her multiple sets of step-parents. There is the 92-year-old Hollywood star's domestic servant, who gets all the world news by reading movie trade papers.

There are so many unique characters... Adler rarely misses a witty trick whether describing the excesses of Hollywood or the most powerful woman in television. Not only is this a radical critique of the national status quo but a realization of the fact that, although various activist groups have been fighting heroically, there's been no visible effect so far.

Director Robert Kalfin made sure that the show's energy never flagged. My only nit to pick is that I would have liked to see some of Adler's shifts into her various personae done in full audience view instead of blackout. The multiple light blackouts, in my estimation, slowed the pace of the show. This fine actress is so mercurial in alterations of voice, posture and facial muscles that I would have enjoyed seeing the transformations from character to character. All in all, it was an amazing performance, by a stellar actor (... little play on words there).

Adler is the actress/master teacher Stella Adler's niece).

This sixth in the series of plays brought to us by Big Arts On Stage was another winner that was as entertaining as it was thought-provoking. So, having said that, mark your calendars now. "Daahlings," for Saturday, Feb. 28th, when Will Stutts makes a return appearance in his brilliant and joyous portrayal of the one and only Tallulah.

Sewell even better third time around

A packed-to-the-rafters audience at Schein Hall greeted the triumphant return (for a third appearance) of The James Sewell Ballet last Saturday. This stunningly inventive chamber dance company is fun, sophisticated and dazzling entertainment. The troupe's choreographer and founder James Sewell keeps challenging the audience with more and more interesting and inventive themes, music and choreography. He recently received a 2002 Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship to explore the application of improvisation and contact techniques in ballet and to broaden his knowledge of the world dance community.

The opening piece, "Improvisation," was crafted spontaneously by the entire company and was fascinating to



At BIG ARTS



Butcher exhibit to open

A new exhibit called *Clyde Butcher: Master Photographer* opens on March 4th in BIG Arts' Phillips Gallery.

Butcher, who is called the Ansel Adams of the Everglades, is a phenomenally talented artist — one whose career was born out of personal anguish. After his 16-year-old, Ted, was killed in a senseless automobile wreck (the result of a drunk driver), Butcher would rise before dawn and retreat

into the swamp to search for a way to deal with his grief. After four months of intensely personal search, employing the lens of his camera to examine his world and the world around him, he emerged as an incredibly sensitive artist — one who is able to capture the very soul of the landscapes that he renders in exquisite photographs.

Butcher uses large-format film to capture the transcendent, natural beauty of Florida's rapidly disappearing landscape, particularly the Everglades and Big Cypress regions. He uses 8"x10", 11"x14", and 12"x20" view cameras, which enable him to achieve the elaborate detail and textures that distinguish his work.

His underlying goal is to use photography to save nature's places of spiritual sanctuary for future generations. One writer noted that "Each of his photos is a wilderness trip" — a result of the artist having spent, quite literally, untold hours in hip boots amid the cypress knees, sawgrass, and mangrove roots of the wetlands.

Butcher has recently been honored by the state of Florida with the highest award that can be given to a private citizen — The Artists Hall of Fame Award — for his photographic excellence. He has been a Person of the Week on Peter Jennings' Evening News. Despite his national reputation, his primary goal is still to educate the people of Florida about the incredible beauty of their state.

His show in Phillips Gallery will run through March 31st. The Gallery is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The opening reception is on Saturday, March 6th, from 6:30 to 7:30. Additionally, for those who would like to get to know more about Butcher's work, there will be a special slide show and seminar with a question and answer period personally hosted by Butcher on Thursday, March 11th, in Schein Hall from 2-4 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

For additional information regarding the Butcher show and BIG Arts events and workshops, call 395-0900.

New Butcher book

A new book, *Living Waters — Aquatic Preserves of Florida*, documents noted photographer Clyde Butcher's year-long adventure of photographing the aquatic preserves in Florida for a PBS documentary. The result is an film by Live Oak Production Group, a traveling museum exhibit of Butcher's photography, a calendar, a poster, and the book itself. The exhibit opened and the documentary aired on Feb. 20 in Tallahassee.

To order the book and for more information on the traveling exhibit, log on to clydebutter.com/emarket2/home.cfm?emailid=77.

Under the direction of American Forest, the nation's oldest nonprofit conservation organization, ten renowned artists (Butcher being one of them) have created original paintings and photographs, to be reproduced on refrigerator doors in a limited edition of 100 per artist. The first ten Danby Art Coolers will be unveiled on Tuesday, March 2nd, at the OK Harris Gallery in Soho, New York City. For each Danby Art Refrigerator sold, American Forest will plant ten trees, thereby giving back to the environment and fulfilling American Forests mission to cool the earth with trees. For more information and to view the refrigerators go to <http://clydebutter.com/emarket2/home.cfm?emailid=79>.

Swing Like A Bird for interns

Monday, March 8th, at 5:30, come swing with all the friends of BIG ARTS and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation as they vie for the biggest, brightest, and most beautiful birdhouses ever created at "Swing Like A Bird." This joint fundraiser which benefits the intern programs of both organizations, includes a full evening of silent and live auction fun as well as delicious food, drink, and music to swing by from The Larry Elgart Orchestra.

Hand-made, original birdhouses of all shapes and sizes have been created and donated by local artists for this one-of-a-kind fundraiser. Some will be included in the silent auction, while others will be auctioned live at the event by guest auctioneer, Warren Schwab. The birdhouses are currently on display at Bank of the Islands. Drop in, scout out your favorites, then fly on over to BIG Arts to purchase tickets for the festivities and the concert/dance to follow.

The Larry Elgart Orchestra, led by that Ambassador of Swing, Larry Elgart, has been delighting audiences with their unique style since the 1950s. In 1959, the first year of the awards, his album, *New Sounds at the Roosevelt*, won a Grammy. This album was re-released in 1995 under the title, *Let My People Swing*. The band's

unique style is built around the graceful sound and stylistic phrasing of Larry's alto sax, each arrangement having Larry's own distinctive musical stamp. The orchestra's identity lies in its piano-less rhythm section, the non-muted rich brass (emphasized by a bass trombone) and the use of a percussionist augmenting the drums. Larry is credited with having revitalized swing music throughout the 90s and into the new millennium!

The evening is sponsored by 'Tween Waters Inn and Bank of the Islands. Tickets are \$40 with all proceeds to benefiting the intern programs of both BIG Arts and SCCF.

Make your reservations now for a swinging evening of music, fun, and fundraising for a very worthwhile cause by calling 395-0900.

Visiting Artists for March

Workshops! Acrylics! Watermedia! Sculpture! Literature! Music! Just ask... BIG ARTS probably has it happening in March. There are some truly exceptional workshops for the coming up.

Three special visiting artists are offering two-, three-, and four-day seminars.

Cathy Taylor, a BIG ARTS favorite, will offer her *No Mistakes Watermedia* Friday thru Sunday, March 5, 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost of the course is only \$130 with all levels of artists welcome. The

class will explore different areas of watermedia from transparent watercolors to gouache, acrylics and collage.

The fabulous **Gale Bennett** will offer his much sought-after two-day painting marathon on Thursday and Friday, March 18th and 19th. Taught from 9:30 a.m. 'til 4:30 p.m., this course is for students of all



Taylor



Bennett in the studio

levels and, while acrylics are recommended, oils, watercolors or pastels are also acceptable. Bennett demonstrates in all mediums.

The first day's focus is *The Art of Landscape Painting*. Lectures will cover freeing of the imagination and how to create landscape compositions. Students will be asked to compose a landscape using creative color combinations and original arrangements. There will be an instructor critique at the end of the day. Day Two is titled *The Art of Abstracting* and will start

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OCH FEATURES

Grilled Raspberry Duck Breast
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Sautéed Macadamia Nut Chicken
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Winter Menu Samples

OCH SEAFOOD TRADITIONS

Oven Broiled Pepitas Crusted
Pacific Rockfish

with Avocado Relish and Black Beans

Grilled Diver Scallop and Gulf
Pink Shrimp Harpoon

on a Bed Pad Thai Noodles

DAY BOAT SPECIALS

Grilled Japanese "Sashimi Grade" Hamachi

with Tempura Vegetables and Ponzu

Oven Broiled Anchovy Crusted Yellow Fin Tuna

with Saffron Cous Cous and Warm Iberian Relish



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Center Stage, from page 1

with a lecture on how to abstract directly from nature. Students will paint a full abstraction using everyday objects which the instructor will provide. Final critiques by Bennett will be offered at the end of the day. This course is \$200. Be sure to bring a bag lunch each day, for this is truly a painting/learning marathon — you won't want to miss a minute!

Finally, Monday, March 22nd, to Friday, March 26th, **Ralph Greenhow** will teach *Learning to Work in 3-Dimensions* from 9 a.m. to noon daily. This four-day seminar is a figurative sculpture class, with a live model suitable to newcomers and experienced artists alike. The class will explore the basics of anatomy and how these are part of the balance and structure of a sculpture. Teaching is energetic and interactive, focusing on personal instruction with each student. Cost of the course is \$160 plus clay. Enjoy four days of learning that will change your way of seeing and sculpting!

Besides these exciting special courses, BIG ARTS offers a full range of work



**Greenhow's
Enduring
Freedom**

shops in everything from art and music to literature, book discussion groups and weekly current events discussions. Call 395-0900 or come in to BIG Arts, 900 Dunlop Road to see just how much the organization has to offer!

observe — of the moment, exalting dance and ideas, expressing the total freedom of taking risks and trusting creativity to make dance articulate as well as accessible to the onlookers. This terrific improvisation became a giddy puzzle, where the dancers seemed to fit their bodies into each other's negative spaces... The movements got so contagious, it was like a passing around of physical jokes, in the blink of an eye. "Improvisation" certainly got the evening off to a great start.

"Loves Remembered" was based on six German lieder and featured Penelope Freeh and Sewell. This "...drama of romance, shaped by two peoples' memories of past loves" was a powerfully performed, exquisitely sensual dance duo, highlighted by commingled lifts and movements. Choreographer Sewell came to grips with both storytelling and contemporary movement in this pas de deux, maintaining the classical lines of both ballet and modern dance.

"Protective Coloring for Pointe & Cello," was choreographed by Sally Rousse, Sewell's wife as well as business partner in the running of the company. Steve Heitzeg's rather complex cello solo was rendered beautifully by Laura Sewell (James' sister). This duet between balleri-

na (Peggy Seipp) and cellist explores the relationship between animal and human sensation through music and dance. The dancer's movements and the cello's sounds go from savage to cultured, transforming the pointe work from something ethereal into something earthy.

"Barrage," the closing piece, reproduces people's feelings onstage when faced with frustrating problems, a loss of control, while still attempting to stay upbeat, retain focus, organization and efficiency. Sewell has choreographed this piece in such a way that the challenges are quite real for the dancers, and each performance is different. Saturday night a movie screen suddenly came down centerstage in the middle of the dancers, and the music kept shifting tempos from super slow to super fast. The dancers packed in umpteen moves per minute, full of witty moments and daring physicality. The choreography, which was devised by Sewell in collaboration with the dancers themselves, was an onslaught at first but, once it caught on, the audience roared with laughter, finding the whole piece satisfying, galvanizing and thrilling.

RANDOM THOUGHTS...

Nudity and Propriety

I started out bashing. I ended up praising the American moral fiber. It began with the reaction to Janet Jackson's "breast" incident. Countless commentaries pointed to this as evidence of the decline in American moral standards. I too quickly agreed.

Initially, I was angrily critical of the American media's tendency to appeal to the cravings for the sensational. If you wanted to get on page one you had to go beyond the edge. This encouraged performers like Janet Jackson to go beyond talent into exploitation of sexuality.

The dollar for many performers had become the all-consuming objective. And this seemed to be true for sports figures, for CEOs of major corporations, for journalists, for attorneys and accountants, for

professors and politicians. It was easy to see America's morality and mores as pervasively corrupt.

I was, so upset with these thoughts I turned to life on Sanibel for some kind of relief from the pessimism that emerged. My column by free association then came up with a list of positives. These positive factors suggested that most people lived by values that were worthy and exalting.

There was a disconnect between the critical beginning and then the conclusion so filled with praise. The editor who called to suggest I take a second look at the column duly noted this. And when I did, I found she was absolutely correct.

Yes, in a society as large and complex, as



**RABBI MURRAY
SALTZMAN**

dynamic and diverse as is America, there will be evidence of moral decline. And yes, it is true that sexual standards and mores are undergoing shifts and polarizing pressures. Indeed, the media has made profit too much of a determining factor about the extent of sensationalism for news to get on the front page. Nonetheless, the largely uncompromised freedom our media enjoys is crucial to the health of a democratic society. There are already too many constraints, such as the pressure for profit, to add censorship on top of everything else. And I do have confidence in the idealism and integrity of the average journalist.

With apologies to begin with to those I omit, let me indicate a few of the positives in our community duplicated in most

American communities, in one form or another: Below Market Housing; FISH, The Sanibel/Captiva Community Foundation, The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, CROW. In addition, hospital, library, and environmental protection organizations have countless residents serving as volunteers. If there is a cause that reaches out to the needy and vulnerable, islanders respond immediately with a helping hand. It's not paradise yet, but I wouldn't put down the values that inspire most of us.

The outstanding fact of life today, despite all the negatives, is the increasing priority our society places on the supremacy of life's value — all of life, everyone's life. After all is said and done, this is the most significant testimony to the good that blesses Sanibel, and our nation.

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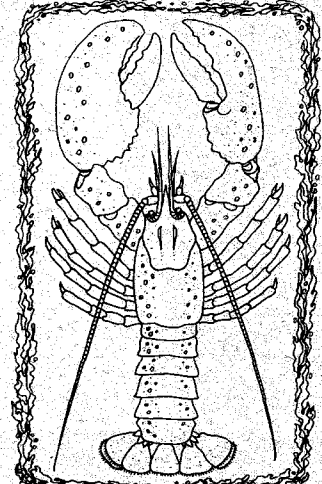
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DINING ON THE ISLANDS IS A TROPICAL EXPERIENCE

OPENING NIGHTS

...Our Song closing this weekend

Synergy Productions, Sanibel's new professional musical theater company run by longtime island resident Andrew Kurtz is in the final week of performance of Neil Simon's musical comedy, *They're Playing Our Song*. Performances run through Sunday, Feb. 29th, at the Periwinkle Playhouse.

The show is a warm, witty musical which concerns itself with only two characters — Vernon Gersch (Mick Hilgers), an Academy-Award winning composer, and Sonia Walsk (Lea Salonga), a witty, intelligent and off-beat lyricist of contemporary pop songs. It is a richly funny and romantic story about a couple who write today's most popular love songs, but have a difficult time making their lives as harmonious as their music. Originally staged in 1979, *They're Playing Our Song* marked Neil Simon's first musical since *Sweet Charity* and *Promises, Promises*, Marvin Hamlisch's first Broadway score since *A Chorus Line*, and a return to the theatre for lyricist Carole Bayer Sager after years of success in the pop field. This winning combination of Simon, Hamlisch and Sager has happily generated a collaborative effort full of magic, laughs and excitement.

Performances are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday through Sunday at 8 p.m., Wednesday and Sunday at 3. Tickets are \$25 and available by calling 472-0324 or visiting the Periwinkle Playhouse box office.

The final Synergy Productions musical

is *Marry Me a Little*, a musical revue of music by Stephen Sondheim, which runs from March 6-20.

Kurtz is the music director of the Gulf Coast Symphony, artistic director of the Center City Opera Theater in Philadelphia and is also program director of OperArezza, which is a new summer opera training program in Italy. His training and background cover a wide spectrum of music and theater with degrees from both the Peabody Conservatory and the University of Virginia.

Everybody's talking 'bout Talking Heads

BIG ARTS On Stage has struck gold this season with the Islands' enthusiastic reception to its series of one- and two-person productions. Now, it's going platinum with the fabulous acting duo of Dorothy and Reuben Silver in *Talking Heads* by Allen Bennett. First performed in Cleveland, Ohio, this show received rave reviews and played before sold-out audiences. Members of the BIG ARTS On Stage committee were in one of those audiences and immediately secured the production for their first season. *Talking Heads* will be at Schein Hall, Sunday, March 7 at 8 p.m.

The play is a hilarious, laugh-a-minute set of one act plays originally written for the BBC by one of England's most famous playwrights, Alan Bennett. The award-winning series of solo pieces is a classic of contemporary drama, universally hailed for its

combination of razor-sharp wit and deeply felt humanity. "This material is really enjoyed by American audiences," say the Silvers. "They roar with laughter."

Bennett has been a household name in British theatre ever since he co-authored and starred in the satirical review, *Beyond The Fringe*, with Dudley Moore, Peter Cooke and Jonathan Miller in 1960 at the Edinburgh Festival. Bennett's career has displayed great diversity and solid achievement, for example, *The Madness Of King George III* on both stage and film.

The evening of *Talking Heads* consists of two pieces, each focusing on a unique character. These vignettes are not only funny, but brilliantly constructed. In the first one, "A Chip in the Sugar," Graham, an aging bachelor, is frantically attached to his neurotic mother who has just rediscovered an old boyfriend and is planning to leave. In "Bed Among the Lentils," Susan, the repressed, alcoholic wife of the local vicar, finds temporary refuge in the arms of an Indian grocer.

Dorothy and Reuben Silver are an illustrious acting team that is often compared with Lynn Fontaine and Alfred Lunt. Based in Cleveland, the Silvers perform across the country, London, Russia and Israel. They have enjoyed highly successful careers in leading roles as well as directing assignments in a wide range of plays. Prior to launching their free-lance acting careers, Reuben Silver served as Artistic Director of the renowned, interracial, Karamu Theatre and Head of Cleveland State University Theatre. Dorothy Silver served as resident guest director of Karamu, as well as artistic director of Theatre and Cultural Arts.

"It's becoming monotonous to say, but fascinating to watch: Dorothy and Reuben Silver just keep getting better as they Energizer bunny-hop along into a sixth decade as local theater eminences. In their current project, Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*, the couple interchanges acting and directing assignments in a pair of impeccably delineated monologues that emerge as miniature tours-de-forces of nature. ...The pair's direction of each other is as indivisible as their performing. But what finally astounds is this unique couple's enduring artistic and personal commitment, enthusiasm, dynamism and pursuit of excellence after a lifetime in the theater."

—Free Times, James Damico

Tickets for *Talking Heads* are \$25. For more information or to purchase tickets, call BIG Arts at 395-0900, or visit the office between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday, and 9 to 1, Saturday.

Comedic drama opens at Foulds

Theatre Conspiracy has decided to take a "stab" at a thriller for their next production. *Murderer*, a dark and mysterious tale by Anthony Schaffer, will play March 4 through March 20 at the Foulds Theatre in Fort Myers.

This is not your typical murder mystery. Blood will spill in this play's unusual beginning leaving the audience's nerves twitching well before any dialogue confuses their minds.

And what of the rest of the show? Well, what happens when you mix an artist obsessed with murder, a nagging monster

of a wife, an inept police officer and a mistress who likes to flirt with the macabre? You get a killer show full of twists and turns that keeps the audience on the edge of its seats throughout. To divulge any more would be a crime.

Bill Taylor (*Barrymore*, *Tuna Christmas*) stars as Norman Bartholomew, an artist who has leanings toward the dark side of life. The rest of the cast —

Annie Crockett (*Kids Conspiracy's Christmas Carol*), Bruce Stanton (*50, Frankenstein Summer*) and Anne Wagner — brilliantly portray the other pieces that fit into this puzzling saga of murder and intrigue. Dick Westlake's direction has infused this clever story with just the right amounts of both fright and funny.

Don't miss this spine-tingling show, it's sure to be a scream. Performances run Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m., with matinees the first two Sundays at 2. Seating is reserved so reservations are suggested. Tickets are \$16 or \$7 for students. For tickets and more information please call 936-3239.

Rappaport extended

Florida Repertory Theatre has announced a four-performance extension of Herb Gardner's much loved, Tony Award winning comedy, *I'm Not Rappaport*. The play, which opened on Feb. 13th, has been extended through Friday, March 12th, due to popular demand. Producing Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo says, "Our box office phone lines have been busy since opening night. Audiences love Niels Miller. They love Adam

Wade. They love Carrie Lund. And they love the beautiful comedy of this story."

Cacioppo directs this story of unlikely kinship between two octogenarian men: Midge, a half-blind African building superintendent, and Nat, a lifelong radical and Jewish kibitzer. Sitting in a secluded spot in New York's Central Park, these two men, like Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, fight impossible fights against injustice, indignity and, ultimately, against time. Together, they cope with the denizens of Central Park, relive their glory years and dream the dreams of younger men.

"This play pays reverence to our human potential for greatness," Cacioppo commented. "Herb Gardner shows this to us in everyday people, characters we may pass on the street. Though their bodies are frail, living life is still very important to these two men. Their nobility grows from their willingness to fight against terrible odds for the respect of a beautiful young woman, or to persevere in their own dignity and independence."

I'm Not Rappaport opened on Broadway at the Booth Theatre in 1985 after a successful run Off-Broadway at the American Place Theatre. The original cast starred Judd Hirsch and Cleavon Little and ran over 800 performances. In addition to the 1985



Robert Cacioppo

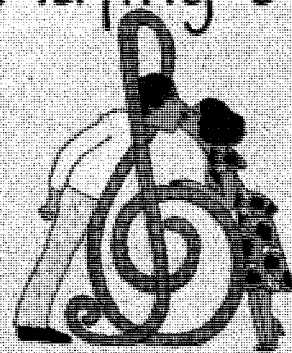
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Tony Award for Best Play, *I'm Not Rappaport* won the Outer Critics Circle Award and was adapted by Gardner into a film starring Walter Matthau and Ossie Davis. In 2002's well-received Broadway revival, Hirsch recreated the role of Nat, opposite Ben Vereen as Midge.

"If I had a magic wand, I couldn't have created a better cast," says Cacioppo said with a smile. "Niels Miller and Adam Wade are flawless."

Orpheus Players' newest

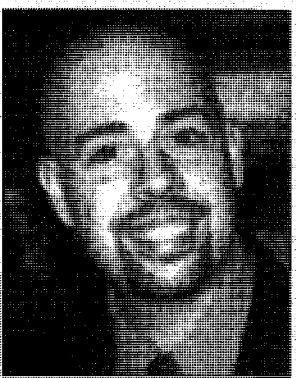
The Orpheus Players are proud to announce the upcoming production of *The Gin Game* by D.L. Coburn. Joe Porter and Carrie Hill are reunited on stage for this Pulitzer Prize winning drama directed by Donna Prima.

This is a bitter-sweet story of two lonely people growing old together in a retirement home. The poignant and often comical truths of their lives unfold over the course of a card game. It's a timeless classic and must-see production.

The show opens next Friday, March 5th, at 8 p.m. at the Holmes House Dinner Theater and plays Friday and Saturday nights through March 27th. with a Sunday matinee on March 21st. Dinner and show tickets are \$35, show only seats, \$15. Please call 463-5519 for reservations.

Let's Go To The Movies opens

The Off Broadway Palm Theatre, Broadway Palm's second performance venue, presents the zany musical comedy



Victor Legarretta

revue, *Let's Go To The Movies*, March 4th through April 25th.

Let's Go... is written, directed and choreographed by The Off Broadway Palm's artistic producer, Victor Legarretta, who directed the recent Off Broadway Palm hits, *Nunsense* and *Las Vegas Legends*.

The show is a musical comedy revue,

featuring everyone's favorite films coming to life on stage. *Let's Go To The Movies* features some of Hollywood's and The Oscar's most memorable moments, from Charlie Chaplin to Star Wars to Fred Astaire to Rocky. The cast includes Legarretta, Eric Hogan, Ken Johnson, Danielle Vetro and Hannah Zold.

Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings with selected matinees. The Off Broadway Palm Theatre is just off Broadway Palm's main lobby and is an intimate 90-seat black box theatre with no seat further than 25 feet from the stage. Ticket prices are \$20 to \$34. For reservations and show information call 278-4422. Tickets may also be purchased at the theatre box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers or on-line at www.BroadwayPalm.com.

Gigi to be season finale

Opening on March 11th, the final production of the Naples Dinner Theatre's fifth season will be *Gigi*. A musical penned by My Fair Lady creators Frederick Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner and based on their movie of the same name, *Gigi* originated as a Colette novel set in Paris, circa 1901. The City of Lights comes brilliantly alive in a flurry of colorful costumes, elegant dancing and beautiful music.

What was once a forward-thinking — even racy — story of a young girl who falls in love with an older man has mellowed into a tame, touching and timeless tale.

In the Paris of the turn of last century, young women like Gigi were groomed to become the courtesans of wealthy men who would take care of and cherish them, while continuing their own lives with a family the girls never knew. Gigi's aunts Mamita and Alicia had lived that life, and now it was Gigi's turn. But Gigi was different. Like the new age of girls she was coming up with, love and fidelity was what they yearned for, and Gigi was not ready to settle for anything less.

Enter Honore, a character immortalized by Maurice Chevalier in the film version, and played by Barry Marcus at NDT. Honore Lachailles is a perpetual bachelor who missed his chance at love but has no regrets. Through his eyes, we see the Paris of old — grand, elegant and full of life. His nephew, Gaston, is one of the world's richest and most eligible bachelors, fodder for the tabloids and the subject of gossip every-

where. Gaston goes from one woman to the next but comes to Mamita's home, where Gigi is being raised, for a respite from his life of leisure and thrills. It is there he can truly be himself and enjoy the simple pleasures of their simple home. The young man, who has known Gigi since she was a young child, is unaware of her budding womanhood and still treats her like the younger sister she has always seemed. But, before long, he realizes that it is Gigi whom he truly loves. Gigi, however, is unwilling to become one of his many conquests, holding out for more than just a fancy apartment and lavish gifts. In the end, she gets her wish.

The score, one of Lerner and Loewe's finest, features well-known songs such as "Thank Heaven for Little Girls," "The Night They Invented Champagne," "I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise" and "Paris is Paris Again."

The cast is led by Marcus in the role of Honore, with Joe Spieldenner, currently playing the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance* as his ward Gaston. As Gigi, newcomer Julie Lachance will play the role she has always dreamed of playing. The aunts are played by Kay Francis (Mamita) and Debi Guthery (Alicia). The ensemble of 15 other actors is made up of the current resident NDT company.

Choreography is by Christopher Noffke (*Chicago*, *Best Little Whorehouse*, *Beat Goes On*), with musical direction by NDT's new musical director, Loren J. Strickland, and direction by Artistic Director Michael Wainstein.

Gigi opens March 11th with regular performances Tuesdays through Saturday evenings, starting with a full buffet dinner at 5:30 followed by the show at 8, and matinees Wednesdays and Sundays at 1:30, following an 11:30 lunch; bar service includes wine and cocktails. The show runs through April 25th. Tickets cost \$40 for Wednesday

and Sunday matinees, \$45 for the Tuesday through Thursday evening shows, and \$47.50 for Friday and Saturday nights. Full price tickets includes meal, tax and show but does not include gratuity. There are special rates for groups of 20 or more. Tickets can be ordered by calling the box office at (239) 514-STAR (7827). The box office is open daily from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. All sales are final, no refunds or exchanges. *Once Upon a Mattress*, the next NDT production, opens April 29th. *Ol' Blue Eyes*, a celebration of the music of Frank Sinatra continues playing on Monday nights and Saturday afternoons through April 12th.

Wainstein has announced that, due to its imminent Broadway revival, *La Cage Aux Folles* is no longer available for regional professional presentation and will be replaced by *Victor Victoria* from Dec. 9th through Jan. 23rd, 2005.

The show, like the movie that preceded it, tells the story of an out-of-work actress who, with the help of her friend Toddy, realizes that her fame and fortune can be made by pretending to be a man impersonating a woman. When an American gangster, King Marchand, sees her act and falls hard for her, his bimbo blonde girlfriend Norma proves to be no fool, seeing through the charade. Everything falls apart, but the girl who pretends to be a guy pretending to be a girl gets the guy in the end.

The rest of NDT's 2004-2005 season includes *The Fantasticks*, *I Do, I Do!*, *Funny Girl*, *Anything Goes*, and *Cabaret*. The 2005 Winter Musical Revue will be *The Sexy Sixties*, playing Monday nights and Saturday afternoons only from January to April. Tickets for all shows are on sale now.

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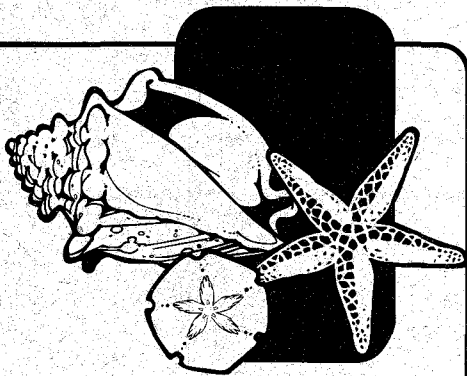
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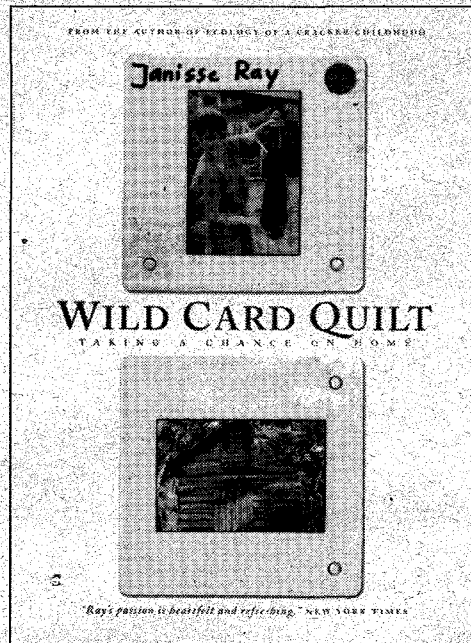


Florida law prohibits the taking of live shells on Sanibel Island to conserve this precious marine resource.

THE NEXT CHAPTER

When you live in a special place, as we do, if you are lucky and if you are careful, you can develop a "sense of place" — an understanding of how this place is different from all others. This sense allows you to feel rooted and to feel at home. Some of us feel that way about the place we were born and some of us never found home until we found Sanibel. This month I am writing about two books. One author has written a book about her childhood home and her return to it. The other book was originally written in 1904 and has been adapted and illustrated by a modern artist. It shows that even birds have a sense of place.

Janisse Ray has spoken on Sanibel before and her book, *Wild Card Quilt*, is one of the books that will be read in Peter Blaze Corcoran's Renaissance Academy course at SCCF next month — i.e., some of you may already be familiar with her work. In her latest book, published by



Milkweed Editions, Ray has returned to the small town in Southern Georgia where she grew up in a strict religious family that owned the local junkyard. She fixes up her grandmother's old, leaky house and lives with her nine-year-old son, surrounded by parents, uncles, cousins and people she has known since she was born. But, almost as importantly, she is surrounded by remnants of her past which are being threatened... like the local school which the county is trying to close so as to "consolidate" the kids into a larger school an hour and a half away. She is devastated by the loss of the longleaf pine forests that used to fill the land, now clearcut to make woodchips for paper and particleboard. At first, she is happy to be with family as she and her mother begin to piece together a quilt out of scraps but, gradually, she feels the need for other like-minded people who feel the same need she does to preserve what she loves. She sees her past being stolen by people who want to have what everyone else has and to turn their unique place into just another place. "Somebody, I thought, has to fight to protect the ravaged places. If a place loses the ones who care, the ones who can make a difference, what kind of doom does that spell?"

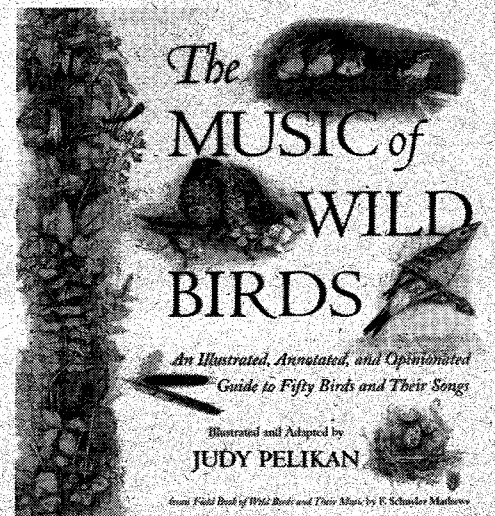
So, while her life is filled with the everyday minutiae, it is also filled with a longing to save what is special. She becomes an activist to save the things that make her small community special as well as the last remaining pieces of wilderness from those who are looking to turn them into something they want. She does this through organizing others, writing letters to the editor, attending meetings, and by talking to people so they understand what is being threatened. Since she is a writer by profession, she writes about what she loves and worries about. But she also works to make her own life and her relationships with her family and her land meaningful. Each chapter in her book is like the squares of the quilt she and her mother finish by the time the book ends. Each is different but, by carefully laying them out, she creates a coherent whole. It is a beautiful book and will awaken your own sense of place. Perhaps you too will feel a need to preserve what is beautiful on Sanibel and not let others devalue it.

Speaking of awakening senses, *The Music of Wild Birds*, illustrated and adapted by Judy Pelikan, from a book by F. Schuyler Mathews and published by Algonquin Books, will make even the most tone-deaf person aware of the music we hear around us. Pelikan, while walking through the woods in New Hampshire

during the course of a summer became aware of chorus of bird song surrounding her. She began to wonder if the music birds make is the same as human music and if bird song has been used by human musicians. This led to the discovery of a book written at the beginning of the 20th century by Mathews which describes the songs of 50 songbirds. He notes that individual singers of the same type of bird have a slightly individual song, but by listening to many birds a general notation of the song may be made. For instance, he says that while all robins sing the same song, about one in ten's song is worth all the others put together. Each chapter describes the bird's song in musical notation, but he also developed a simple notation system so that even non-musical people can "hear" the song. His manner of writing is charming, but not



NOLA THEISS



outdated, and he often includes poems or famous musical pieces, such as Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" which includes renditions of actual bird songs.

Pelikan has adapted Mathews' writing without losing the style, but her real contribution is the wonderful watercolor illustrations that fill the book. This is a book that can be enjoyed on many levels — the artistic, the musical, the natural. It, like Ray's book, awakens the senses. As Mathews suggests, "take ears as well as eyes into the fields and listen" and develop your own sense of place on Sanibel beyond its value as real estate but as a real state of being that is not duplicated anywhere else.

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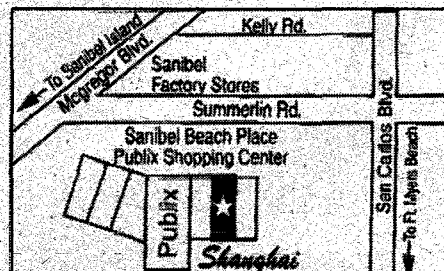
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AT THE THEATRE This is a MUST-SEE ~ A review by Sid Simon

A riddle: What do you get when you mix Neil Simon with Marvin Hamlisch and a Carole Bayer Sager? That's easy... you get a first-rate musical called *They're Playing Our Song*, and a lively production of it is on at the Periwinkle Playhouse right now — but only until Feb. 29th.

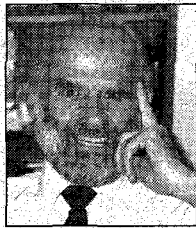
Neil Simon (damn, I wish he was my uncle, but, he isn't) has written a brilliant book, filled with some of his shrewdest insights, an abundance of one-liners and two well-drawn funny and eccentric characters, both of whom you come to love before the evening is over.

There's not a dull moment in the unfolding of the plot. This is not fluff, either. You find yourself entranced and worried about the relationship between the two leading characters — may even confront your own love relationship and how you play your role in it.

Couple that with some marvelous songs, some of which you will be humming all week long after you've seen the show. The music fits the story, and the story fits the music. No mean feat that. There was authentic genius at work in the creation of *They're Playing Our Song*.

The story is about an Academy Award-winning composer and a clever, off-beat lyricist setting out to work together. Ah, but it isn't easy. There are egos, there are "other people," and there are marvelous, funny personality differences. Simon can milk delightful dialogue out of their passionate love-hate relationship. "I was so mad I wanted to take a Valium, but my teeth were clenched." She's consistently late for most of their meetings and, once she storms on stage, never apologizes, and rushes over a shag carpet saying, "If that's an expensive carpet, you better tell me where the bathroom is, fast."

Simon creates wonderful stage business out of the lyricist's costumes. She specializes in wearing outfits that came out of the costume room of plays that have folded. Those outfits are almost like a third character in the play. In one of the funniest outfits, a great black coat and hood, Simon has the composer ask, "Are you off to the woods to see your grandmother?" She complains, earlier in the play, with one of my favorite lines. "I need to see my analyst about my love life, but I can't. He's in Mexico.



SID SIMON

Getting a divorce." There are only two performers in the play, and they are both just right. Mick Hilgers comes with great credentials, having sung lead roles in *1776* and *Man of La Mancha* at the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival. People who saw the last production at the Periwinkle, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, will be delighted to see that the woman who plays the lyricist in the current show, the one doing all those hilarious costume changes and belting out some of

Hamlisch's best songs, is none other than Woman #2 from *I Love You, You're Perfect*... Julie Ellis. She was the sparkling star who did that song, "I'm Always a Bridesmaid and Never a Bride," to tumultuous applause.

I go to theater for several reasons, probably similar to yours. I go to be entertained, of course, but I care even more about being moved emotionally. And if a play makes me think, while it makes me laugh, I am overjoyed. I am a rabid fan of this production of *They're Playing Our Song*, because it does all three. I heartily recommend it. I urge you to make plans to get out and see it, and bring a few friends. On the way home, then, you'll have some interesting conversations about "creative people working together, about egos, and about what it takes to make relationships work, not just last, but thrive in a world of creative artistry."

Andrew Kurtz is be applauded for his direction of this lively evening of theater and for bringing to the Island such a rich array of Broadway musicals. Synergy's last show, *I Love You, You're Perfect* was sold out for its last 5 shows.

The remaining performances at the Periwinkle Playhouse are tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and available by calling 472-0324 or visiting the box office.

Here are three more of those delightful Uncle Neil jokes that just peppered the dialogue...

The composer says: "I don't remember that perfume from our first date."

She says: "It has a time release feature."

He says, "You could eat off my mother's floors, but she didn't talk to my father for 30 years."

Finally, he ends up in the hospital with a broken leg. He tells her, "Tonight they served me some fish that I think was bought in the Intensive Care Unit."

They're Playing Our Song is a must-see. It's what live theater on our island is all about, or my name isn't Simon. No, no, I'm not his relative, but damn, I wish I was. Go catch the play before it closes.

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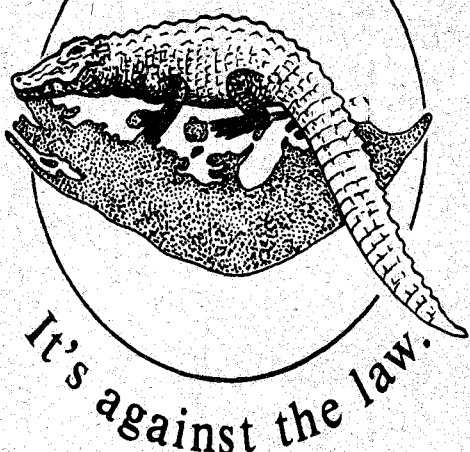
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THE MUSIC SCENE

St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble at Schein

On Thursday, Feb. 19, The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble presented a highly polished concert of music for strings before a packed house. Sponsored by the BIG Arts Angels, the program featured music composed by Alexander Borodin, Antonin Dvorak, Dimitri Shostakovich and Felix Mendelssohn. The ensemble, a double string quartet or string octet, was led by principal violinist Kenneth Sillito with violinists Harvey de Souza, Mark Butler, Jan Peter Schmolck, violinists Robert Smissen, Duncan Ferguson and cellists, Stephen Orton and John Heley. Founded in 1959 by violinist, Sir Neville Marriner, this original group of 11 musicians generated the present "The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble" which performs larger chamber works. Its original home was "The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields" in London's Trafalgar Square. With over 1,000 releases, the ensemble remains the most recorded chamber orchestra in the world and enjoys a prestigious reputation.

The first selection was Borodin's, "Sextet in Two Movements." Scored for two violins, two violas and two cellos, this incomplete two-movement work was written early in the Russian composer's career. The second movement, "Andante," written in a hauntingly minor tonality, captured true Russian romantic intensity and featured a warmly played violin solo by Sillito. Wonderful pizzicatos by the



violins and violas created an elegant and enchanted mood as the movement slowly faded away to its conclusion. The piece is similar to the later heard Mendelssohn, "Octet" in its exuberance and lightness.

The next work, "Sextet for Strings in A Major, Op. 48" by Dvorak, featured the same six instrumentalists. This composition is written in four movements, each capturing the influences of Czech folk music. The melodic first movement, "Allegro moderato" led into the second titled, "Dumka" — a melancholy folk tale in a minor mode with many tempo changes. The third movement, "Furiant" was a fast-tempoed Bohemian dance with alternating rhythms, changing accentuation and many fermatas or holds. The final movement, "Finale" was written in a "Theme and Variations" form whose main somber theme was introduced by the violas and cellos and then played by the first violin. The next six variations contained the principal theme that was presented in

various meters, tempos and exquisite dynamics ending in a very fast technical and shimmering tour-de-force — a fitting ending before intermission.

The third work, "Prelude and Scherzo Op. 11" by Shostakovich is written for eight strings — four violins, two violas, two cellos and, like the Borodin, consists of only two movements — "Adagio" and "Allegro molto." The former movement featured an impressive virtuoso violin cadenza by Sillito. This modern work, wrapped in atonal harmony, glissandi and sliding pitches, captures Shostakovich's inner pain — emotions he felt but was only able to communicate through his music during the hard and cruel Stalin era in which he lived.

The concert closed with Mendelssohn's Octet for Strings in E-flat major, Op. 20. This four-movement work also featured the double string quartet instrumentation. A Classic Romanticist, Mendelssohn's music contains influences of Mozart's forms, textures and harmonic

progressions, the rhythms of Handel and Beethoven, and Mendelssohn's own skillful and clear development of shimmering motifs. This last work was perhaps



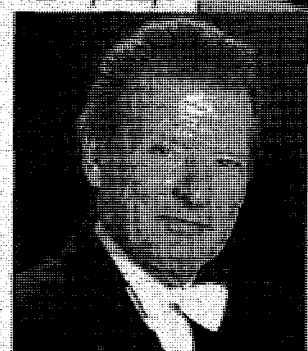
the most passionate and emotional performance of the evening. The final "Presto" was another tour-de-force effectively programmed to

end the evening's concert and allowing the performers to display their virtuosic technique in a breathtaking climactic ending.

The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble presented a polished and most professional concert that upholds their fine reputation. However, since I heard the Takacs Strings just two weeks ago, I cannot forget the level of performance, passion and awe that I felt then and almost felt tonight.



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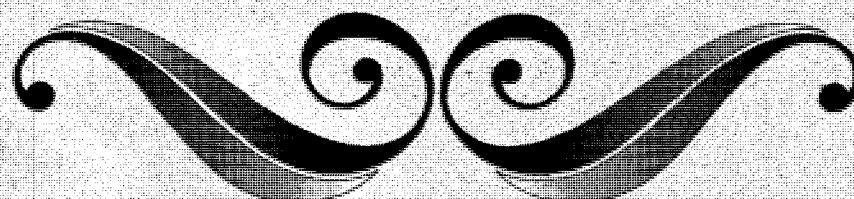
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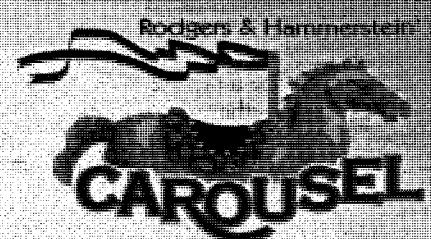


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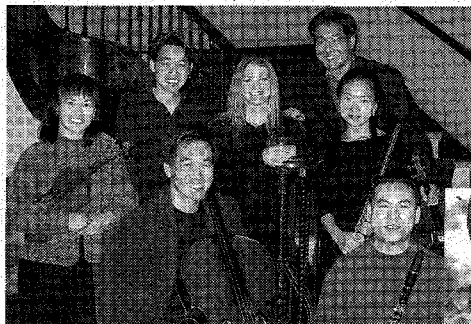
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18TH ANNUAL SANIBEL MUSIC FESTIVAL TO BEGIN



Ying Quartet to open Sanibel Music Festival



The Ying Quartet, resident artists at both Harvard and Eastman School of Music and the first all-sibling professional string quartet in more than a generation, continues to develop ways of making artistic and creative expression an essential part of everyday life. Now in its second decade, the Quartet returns to the Sanibel Music Festival for the second time next Saturday, March 6, to open the March program's 18th year.

Natives of Chicago, the Yings began their career as an ensemble in 1992 in the farm town of Jesup, Iowa (population 2,000) — the first recipients of a National Endowment For the Arts grant to support chamber music in rural America. Their residency was so successful it was chronicled in both national and international media and, while in Jesup, they earned the 1993 Naumburg Chamber Music Award.

In 1999, the Quartet of Yings — Timothy, violin, Phillip, viola, Janet, violin, and David, cello — introduced LifeMusic, a multi-year commissioning project, supported by the Institute for American Music, that is designed to produce a distinctively American string quartet repertoire. The idea of LifeMusic grew directly from what the Yings have set as their twofold mission: to make classical music a relevant and vital part of American culture and to do so with the highest standards of artistic integrity. The Yings commission two works a year — one from an established and one from an emerging composer. Included in their repertoire at the Festival will be a new work by Jennifer Higdon called Southern Harmony.

Artists Hye-Sung Choe, flute, Jun Qian, clarinet, and Katie Buckley, harp, will assist the Yings in other parts of the program that includes Mozart's Allegro from Quartet in D Major for flute and strings, K.285, and the Allegro from the Quintet in A Major for clarinet and strings, K.581 (Stadler's Quintet); Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No. 1 in D

Major, Op.11, (Accordion); and Ravel's Introduction and Allegro for harp, clarinet, and string quartet.

The Ravel Introduction and Allegro for harp, clarinet, and string quartet was commissioned to promote a newly developed double action pedal harp. The work might have been lost forever when Ravel, in a rush to go off on a Rhine cruise, left the score at a haberdashery in Paris. The harp used in this performance is being loaned by Leon Fleisher's son, Dickie Fleisher of Bonita Springs, and comes from the estate of

Harpo Marx, the late comic artist who was silent except through his music.

Born Nov. 23, 1888, Marx started playing the harp in his early teens. His grandmother was a yodeling harpist in Europe who used a non-pedal harp similar to a Celtic troubadour or Irish harp. Harpo was not very good either the singing or the dancing necessary for the early vaudeville shows with his brothers, but felt comfortable with the harp. Minnie, his mother, called an uncle in Chicago and asked him to find the young man a cheap harp. When it arrived, Harpo didn't know which shoulder to put it on, so he went to a dime store and found a picture of a girl playing the harp. Since there weren't any harp teachers in town, he not only had to teach himself to play the instrument, but he also had to figure out how to tune it.

One day, Harpo was in a train accident and the harp case was smashed. Although the harp remained undamaged, Harpo, thinking very quickly, immediately threw the instrument onto the tracks... Through the insurance money he would collect, he would be able to buy a new and better one.

The harp Buckley will play on March 6th — a gold, Style 23, Serial #3378 — was purchased by Harpo in February 1930. It was made by Lyon & Healy of Chicago who are still considered the finest harp makers around.

The Marx Brothers' first two movies didn't feature any harp solos, but their third, *Monkey Business*, released in 1931, featured this harp. It also was featured in *A Night at the Opera*, *The Big Store*, and *A Night in Casablanca*.

Bryan Wallick, twice the recipient of a

Virtuoso pianist Bryan Wallick opens PianoFest

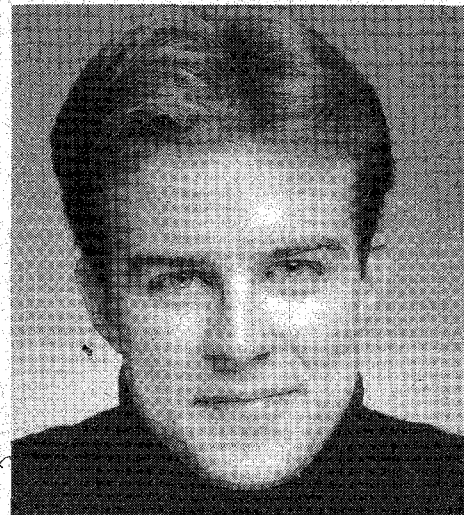
Sanibel Music Festival Young Artist Scholarship, is the first of three exceptional artists appearing in PianoFest, a festival within a festival. He will perform Tuesday, March 9, at 8 p.m.

Wallick comes from a musical family — his father is a violinist, his mother a singer, his grandfather a trumpeter and his great-grandmother a pianist. He also was very competitive in sports while growing up and credits his teachers, the Pridonoffs of the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, with showing him how to channel his athletic abilities into enhancing his keyboard technique. Wallick believes the athleticism required to play the masterpieces of both the past and present is equivalent to that required of a professional athlete.

Still in his twenties, Wallick has already created an impressive career path as a Gold Medalist at the Vladimir Horowitz International Piano Competition in Kiev, Ukraine, and as a recipient of the Associated Board International Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music in London where he finished his post-graduate residency in 2003 under Christopher Elton. He was selected from more than 150 applicants world-wide for this two-year fellowship. Wallick is the first person to graduate from Juilliard with both an undergrad honors diploma (2000) and an accelerated Master's (2001). He studied with Jerome Lowenthal and participated in PianoFest in the Hamptons, where he worked with Paul Schenly, Arie Vardi, Joheved Kaplinsky and Daniel Shapiro. Wallick's September 2003 debut at London's Wigmore Hall was a sell-out.

He has performed solo recitals at the Chateau Differdange in Luxembourg, the Phoenix Steinway Society Series, the Midday Music Series at Trinity, the International Institute for Young Musicians, and the 1999 Sanibel Music Festival. In March 2002 He performed not once but twice at Ledreborg Palace in Denmark for HRH Princess Marie Gabrielle Luxembourg, Countess Marie Holstein-Ledreborg, and HRH Prince Philip Bourbon de Parme and their guests.

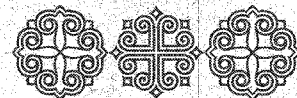
The diversified repertoire Wallick will perform on Sanibel includes Sonata No. 1



by Australian composer Carl Vine, who wrote theme music for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, the Bach/Busoni Chaconne in D Major, Mozart Sonata in D Major, Ravel's Mirroirs, and the Liszt/Horowitz Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2.

All Sanibel Music Festival concerts take place at the Sanibel Congregational Church starting at 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased for \$25 each by mail or phone by contacting the Sanibel Music Festival, Post Office Box 1623, Sanibel 33957-1623 or by calling 336-7999. Tickets are also available (by check only) at Bailey's and MacIntosh Bookshop. Tickets for the entire seven-concert series are \$165, the four-Saturday series \$95 and the three-Tuesday series \$75.

The Sanibel Music Festival presents world renowned artists during the month of March at the Congregational Church on Sanibel Island. Incorporated in 1987 as a non-for-profit organization, its mission is to present classical music of the highest caliber at affordable prices and to promote the careers of young artists through performance opportunities.



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~ Angels of the Arts Nominees named ~

The First Year Organizing Committee of Angels of the Arts Awards — Louise Senneff, Lee County Alliance for the Arts; Susan Bridges, Art League of Bonita Springs; Liz Fowler, BIG Arts; Cher Bell, Cape Coral Arts Studio; and Bonnie Grossmann, In the Name of the Artist — has announced its list of 98 Lee County artists and supporters of the arts certified as nominees for one of the 12 new Angels of the Arts Awards being announced Sunday, March 7, at the 5 to 8 p.m. Champagne Reception & Awards Ceremony at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre.

Tickets are available for sale to the general public this week. Anyone wishing to attend this historic, first-time-ever event can confirm advance reservations at \$25 per person (\$200 for a table of eight) by calling 939-2787.

The Committee received 184 nomination forms from members of the public. Many individuals were named more than once (some as many as eight times) so final compilation of all the forms submitted resulted the list of 98 official nominees. Each of these nominated individuals is eligible to receive one of the twelve Angels Awards. The Angels awards will honor and celebrate the often overlooked or taken-for-granted contributions ALL local artists, benefactors, contributors, patrons and supporters of the arts that enhance the quality of life in Lee County. The nominees in each of the 12 categories are:

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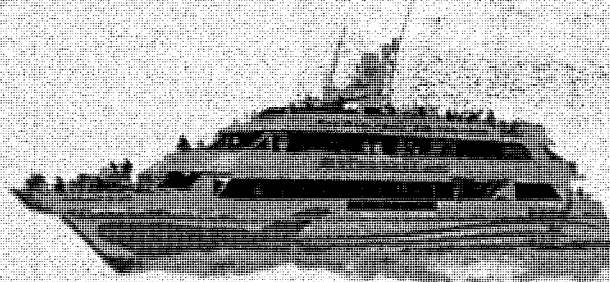
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Dorothy Causey, Nina Conner, Ikki Matsumoto, Darryl Pottorf and Robert Rauschenberg.

Artist of the Year

Gale Bennett, Ernest Cantu, Tracy Cullimore, Russ Ervin, Atiba Kojo, Norman Love, Leoma Lovegrove, Doug MacGregor, Mel Meo, Reiko Niiya, Helen Pierce, Jim Sprinkle and Lauren Drexler Taylor.

New Artist of the Year

Dr. Horace B. Dansby, Sandy DeGraff, Stephen Gray-Blancett, Marcus A Jansen, Victor Legaretta, James Milne, and Ellen Sheppard.

Arts Benefactor/Patron of the Year

Betty & Frank Bireley, Dr. & Mrs. John Fenning, Barbara B. Mann, Michael Peseffi, Richard Prescott and Barbara (Mrs. J. Howard) Wood.

Arts Public Official of the Year

Porter Goss, Jim Humphrey and Bob Jones

Arts Broadcaster of the Year

Dr. Kathleen Davey, Amy Tardif and Craig Wolf.

Arts Writer of the Year

Maureen Bashaw, Amy Fleming, Drew Sterwald and Marsha Wagner.

Arts Instructor/Teacher of the Year

Anne Byers Bennett, Mark Castellano, Joseph Caulkins, Carolyn Gora, Jay Harward, Elaine Hayes, Suzi Hosfeld, Sandy Lantz, Luci Macherowski, Helen Niedung, Doug Renfro, Ava Roeder, Melinda Roy, Robin Dawn Ryan, Gina Sabiston, Joy Schein, Tim Smith, Diane Stewart, and Vanessa Stocker.

Art Gallery of the Year

Art House, Arts for ACT Gallery, Crossed Palms Gallery, FGCU Art Gallery, Sanibel Gallery and Tower Gallery.

Arts Volunteer of the Year

Jennifer Benton, Aida Bukovica, Jan Egelund, Kat Epple, John Friedman, Shareen Groce, Bruce Tyler Hall, Dr. Geri McArdle, Maurice Oshry, Bill & Laverne Phillips, Natalie Pillion, Dr. David Robinson, Carol Rosenberg, Scott Siler, Judy Smith and Judy Wilson.

Arts Organization Leader of the Year

Robert Cacioppo, Claudia Goode, Sharon Hill, Debbie La Gorce, Sharon McAllister, Carol McLaughlin, Paul Nadler, Morgan T. Paine, Laverne Phillips, Will Prather, Louise Senneff, Bill Taylor and Thomas Uhler. (Note: Prather and Senneff are both deeply involved with the Alliance for the Arts, a sponsoring organization. Although they appreciate the honor of their nominations, they have requested that their names be withdrawn from consideration this year, leaving 11 nominees in this category.)

One additional category was determined by the public nominations process.

Arts Publication of the Year


Manfred & Ilse Behr (*Florida Journal*), Andrew Elias (*Fort Myers & Southwest Florida Magazine*), Ilene Safran (*Mainsail Video*) and Greg Welch (*Aesthetix*). [Mr. Welch has proposed that, henceforth, all future issues of *Aesthetix* will award the names of every nominee and winner with a little Angels... icon whenever they are mentioned in his magazine's articles.]

On Friday, Feb. 20th, the First Year Organizing Committee and an additional panel of prominent local arts representatives analyzed the personal information forms returned by each of the nominees and used a secret balloting process to select three finalist nominees and the Award Winner in each category. To maintain the integrity of that process, results of the final voting will remain secured in the vault of an area bank until they are announced March 7th at the ceremony.



The following local notables are confirmed as awards presenters and will be among those gathered to honor the luminaries from our arts community:

- Gale Bennett, artist, instructor, director of ArtStudy/Giverny
- Jennifer Benton, CEO, Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc.
- Stephanie Davis, actress, The News-Press "Downtown Diva"
- Liz Fowler, Executive Director, BIG Arts
- Bob Jones, Commissioner, Lee County Board of Commissioners
- Dr. Andrew Kurtz, Music Director, Gulfcoast Symphony
- Carmie Lund, actress, co-founder Florida Repertory Theatre
- Doug MacGregor, artist, News-Press cartoonist
- Geri McArdle, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Education, Barry University
- D. T. Minich, Director, Lee County Visitors & Convention Bureau
- Reiko Niiya, violinist, concert master, Southwest Florida Symphony
- Prof. Morgan T. Paine, Program Leader for Art, FGCU
- Darryl Pottorf, artist
- Melinda Roy, choreographer, teacher, co-director, Gulfshore Ballet
- Drew Sterwald, News-Press arts reporter, columnist
- Amy Tardif, news director WFCU Public Media, host of "Arts Edition"



The Organizing Committee deeply appreciates the support of everyone who has participated in the Angels of the Arts Awards process so far and looks forward to their and others' continued involvement in ensuring a successful launch of this exciting project, destined to be the first of many in years to come.




LEAVE ONLY TAKE ONLY

YOUR FOOTPRINTS

MEMORIES



Mardi Gras in Paradise

By Amy Fleming

Fat Tuesday came to the islands for the 10th year in a row, as residents and guests of Periwinkle Park put on the dog for Mardi Gras. According to Jerry Muench, owner of the park along with brother Dick, the annual parade was started by L.C. Miller and his wife, "and it grew every year from that."

Now, the Muenchess provide a cookout for all comers, with hot dogs, burgers, corn on the cob, side dishes and sodas for hundreds of partygoers. However, there are no plans to turn it into an island-wide event like the Sanibel-Captiva Fourth of July parade.

"This is big enough," Dick Muench said. "Never change a perfect system."

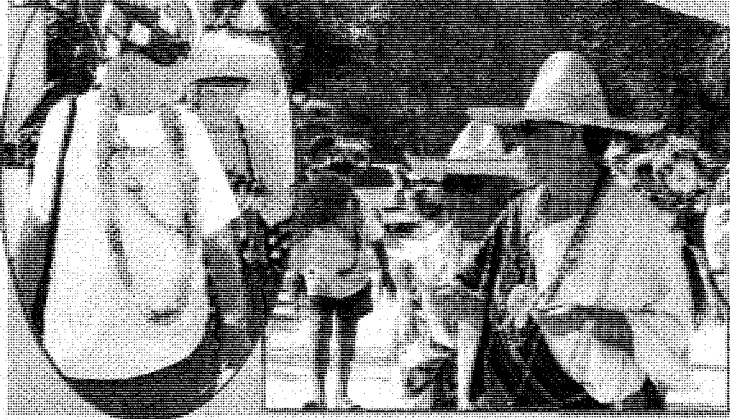
Revelers of all ages crowded the sandy roads of the park, cheering on dancers, krewes, musicians, and especially Floyd and Ardeth Hardin, this year's King and Queen of Mardi Gras. The Hardins, residents of the Park for 18 years, were chosen by the Mardi Gras committee to preside over the parade.

"We love the park just as much as the first time we came here," said Ardeth.

After the parade, everyone settled in for lunch and live music provided by a variety of local performers. Jo Ellen Tucker and Ruth Keel provided laid-back sounds from an electric keyboard. Later on, the Sanibel Community Band kicked off a selection with John Philip Sousa's "Liberty Bell," followed by "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "Stars and Stripes Forever." Hula dancers swayed to "Huki Laou," and the Shell Point Recorder Players, the Sanibel Singers and Jamie Knaub Irish Tap rounded out the afternoon.

The committee, chaired by Dr. Harvey Kiley, with the aid of about 100 volunteers, worked for the better part of a year to put the festivities together.

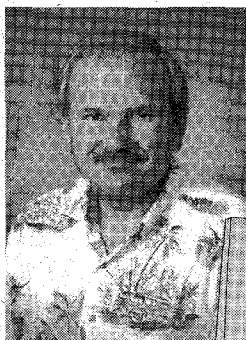
Plans for next year have already gotten underway.



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Charles Sobczak
Realtor/Author

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1633C Periwinkle Way • at Anchor Point
(under the orange awning)

ISLAND NUTRITION CENTER



by Nancy Santomasio
Special to The Islander

If you haven't visited the Island Nutrition Center, come in and explore the unbelievable number of organic foods which owner, Carol Simontacchi, certified clinical nutritionist, labels "for your good health." "What's new? What's special?" you wonder. A good place to begin is right at the tasting table, a perfect ice breaker for the new as well as the seasoned nutrition connoisseur. A conversation with nutritional expert Simontacchi can be exactly what you want to make it. Most people, whether they admit it or not, know that nutrition is the foundation of good health. They like to talk about what they eat and how they live. Laughingly but seriously, Simontacchi helps some people with new ideas and new recipes to feed their kids. Believe it or not, bean brownies become actual favorites.

Customers appreciate Simontacchi's "hands on" approach. "People here are passionate about health and I'm passionate about educating them. That's a good mix." Actually that's why Simontacchi became excited about opening a store on Sanibel. With her broad-based nutritional experience, she's highly qualified to discuss personal health questions in a one-on-one setting. That's truly her forte and the most common concerns range from diabetes, heart health, fatigue, chronic pain to allergies including celiac disease. Often people are looking for a holistic model and that's what she offers with her professional background as a nutritionist.

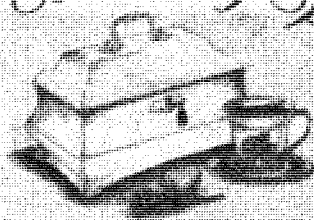
Among the most common products are multivitamins and supplements for the heart and osteoporosis. In addition, Simontacchi features lots of herbs. There's a "neutralizing cordial" good for any kind of tummy upset, St. John's Wort for depression, blue cohosh for menopause, turmeric for pain and, of course, fish oil for the heart, the brain and almost everything. Often people come looking for specific products and Simontacchi wants to have the product available or be able to suggest comparable substitutes.

Organic groceries are among the most frequently requested products. These include frozen and packaged foods, organic eggs, cheese, special milks, cereals, bread and soup plus some very special "fun" items. After all if eating is a pleasure, then it's important that organic groceries be highly appealing. Proudly Simontacchi can boast, "I have the best, the most fabulous chocolate—some very dark chocolate and some blended with nuts and cherries. If you're a chocolate gourmet, one bite will make you a lifetime devotee."

Allergy sufferers particularly like the Island Nutrition Center with its wide selection of gluten-free foods including rice almond bread, millet bread, gluten-free muffins and even organic coffee and tea. If you haven't been introduced to organic wines and beer, you're in for a surprise. There's not just a selection of red and white wine but there are French, Italian and some fine domestics. The alcohol content is the same as in other wines and beers but these contain a low sulphur content, meaning that most people experience neither headaches nor a feeling of sluggishness the next day.

Within only 400 sq. ft. on 1633C Periwinkle Way at Anchor Point, the Island Nutrition Center is earning its reputation as an extremely well stocked shop. "I don't carry everything but I carry the best." There's no reason why people who are vacationing on Sanibel should feel deprived. She emphasizes that most visitors are here for a good time and she's stocking her shelves with more and more organic groceries and highly appealing items like "fun cereals" and "fun crackers." Begin right at her tasting table, chat with one of the nation's finest nutritionists and — most of all — have fun with your new discoveries.

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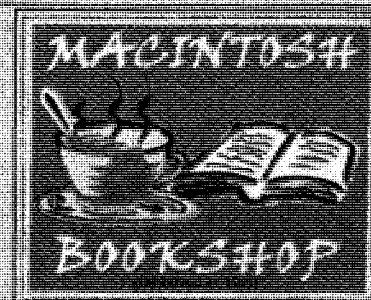
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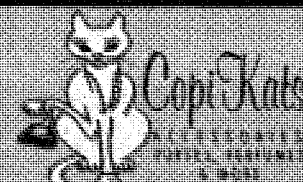


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POTPOURRI

For items to be included on these pages, they must be submitted by Friday, a week before publication date

Writers in the spotlight

February Open Mic today

This afternoon, between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m., the second Open Mic of 2004 will be held at The Bean, 2240 Periwinkle Way. Writers, residents and visitors to the islands are invited to read and/or listen to original and favorite selections of poetry and prose.

Open Mic readings are informal and very entertaining. The only requirements are that performers sign the Reader's List and limit their reading time to five minutes. If you choose not to read, you are welcome to listen.

In their first two seasons, Open Mics at the Bean on Sanibel became very popular throughout the entire Southwest Florida region. Poets from Fort Myers, Pine Island, FGCU and Collier County are frequent participants. The public is invited come and share this entertaining afternoon with the participants.

Island Writers Read at Big Arts

The Sanibel-Captiva Island Writers will perform selections from their prose and poetic works on Tuesday, March 2nd, in Philips Gallery, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The Fall and Spring Writers Reads have been an island tradition for 16 years. The Dec. 4th Read was a huge success, drawing an audience of more than 100 friends, neighbors and lovers of the spoken word. The March 2nd evening promises to be just as memorable.

Established in 1984, there are currently four groups of Island Writers who meet weekly. Members read and critique each other's work and share writing-related information.

The selections have been carefully chosen by a panel representing each of the four groups. The readers on Tuesday will be Mike Derechin, Tanya Hochschild, Peg McEwen, Don Brown, Ruth Yonan Iyengar, Mary LaVelle, Berdenna Thompson, Nancy Carlile, Laura Barr, Bill Hallstead, Winnie Donoghue, Joe Pacheco, Hal Iyengar, Vince Faraone, Marcia Rudin, Niravi Payne, Cecie Munkenbeck and Peter Hilger.

There will be an intermission with refreshments, a chance to speak with the writers, and some of the writers may have their publications available for sale. Admission is a \$3 donation to BIG Arts.

For further information on either reading event, call Joseph Pacheco, 472-1280.

Authors to sign at MacIntosh

Edith's Story is the true narrative of a young girl's courage, love and survival during World War II. Edith Van Hessen Velmans was born in the Netherlands in 1925. Her blissful youth ended with the German invasion of the Netherlands in 1940. Through excerpts from her teenage diary, the author shows how her life changed over a period of years as Jews were forced out of schools, prohibited from just about everything and, finally, rounded up, arrested and sent to concentration camps.

In 1942, Edith went into hiding for three years, sheltered by a courageous Protestant family who accepted her as one of their own. After the liberation of the Netherlands, she found that many of her closest relatives, including her parents and a brother, had perished in the Holocaust. *Edith's Story* has been pub-

lished in nine languages and has sold more than half a million copies worldwide. After the war, Edith became a psychologist, married Lou, raised a family, and eventually settled in the United States. They now reside in Sheffield, Mass.

Long Way Back To the River Kwai — Memories of World War II by Loet Velmans was published last fall. It is a stunning autobiographical account of Loets experience during the war. Escaping from Holland in the wake of invasion and occupation by German forces, he moved with his family first to London and then to the Dutch East Indies where he joined the Dutch army. He became a prisoner of war after the Japanese army conquered the Indonesian archipelago and was transported as slave labor for the infamous railroad being constructed through the dense jungle along the Burmese-Thailand border. Velmans survived malaria, dysentery, malnutrition and physical cruelty while some 200,000 other prisoners perished during construction of the railroad that was built to enable the invading army to conquer India. Fifty-seven years later, Loet Velmans returned to the area where he spent nearly four years in grueling captivity, revisiting the place where he had buried his closest friend. From that emotional visit came this stunning memoir.

The Velmans will be signing their books on Wednesday, March 3rd, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at MacIntosh Book Shop, 2365 Periwinkle.

Writers Association meets

The Gulf Coast Writers Association will present Courtroom, a two-act comedy by club member Jules Morreal on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The presentation will be at Beacon Executive Suites, 8359 Beacon Boulevard in Fort Myers.

To get to Beacon Executive Suites take U.S. 41 north to Crystal Drive; right on Crystal to Beacon Boulevard; left on Beacon to Beacon Executive Suites on the left.

The Gulf Coast Writers meet the last Saturday of every month, except December. All are welcome and no reservation is required. First time guests are free. For more information, call 489-1673 or check on-line at www.gulfwriters.org

League All-Member Show

Members of the Sanibel-Captiva Art League still have time to select two works for the all-member show that opens March 1st at the Sanibel Public Library. Pieces juried in must remain at the library until March 30th.

Works cannot exceed 22 by 28 inches. All members are guaranteed at least one space in the show, but it may be possible to have more than one work hung. One or two works may be entered for a \$10 fee. Computer art, sculpture, giclée and iris prints, photography and crafts will not be accepted.

Each participant is expected to donate 20 percent of the purchase price to the library if a work sells and should include that percentage plus sales tax in the purchase price. **Work should be brought to the ground floor meeting room at the library for judging on March 1**

between 9 and 11 a.m.

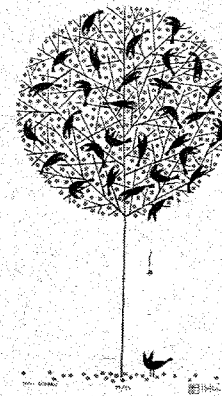
The show's judge, Douglas Flynt, will award 10 prizes, ranging from \$25 to \$200 and critique the exposition at 2:30 p.m. that afternoon in the meeting room. A reception follows from 5 to 7. Call Neil Glaser at 395-4683 with questions about the show.

Flynt holds a BFA and MFA from Florida State and the New York Academy of Art as well as a BA in Art History and Criticism. He is teaching this month at BIG ARTS.

Matsumotos featured

Crossed Palms Gallery is pleased to announce that highly acclaimed local artists, Ikki and Polly Matsumoto, will be the featured in the March 12th Art Night on Pine Island.

Ikki was born in Japan to a well-known cartoonist and children's book illustrator. He met wife Polly, a fellow art student and fiber artist, after coming to the United States to study art. After they were married they lived on the family farm in Ohio, raising



three children and a menagerie of animals. Ikki illustrated the 1972 edition of *The Joy of Cooking*. They moved their family to Sanibel Island in 1975 and enjoyed the "laid back island lifestyle." In 1985, Nancy Reagan chose 50 artists, including Ikki, to paint Easter eggs that are now in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Museum. He and Polly currently own and operate Matsumoto Gallery on Sanibel.

Ikki and Polly Matsumoto will be at the Crossed Palms Gallery from 5 until 8 p.m. on Friday, March 12, to greet the public and answer questions. Stop by for some refreshments and a beautiful view of Charlotte Harbor. The gallery is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. year-round. For more information or directions, call the gallery at 283-2283.

Well-known sax player here

Headlining the next outdoor evening jazz concert tomorrow on the Great Lawn of the Alliance for the Arts campus are the melodic and lyrical sounds of world-class, celebrated saxophonist Paul Howards and his backup band. Currently on a two-year tour with 'N Synch singer Justin Timberlake after a similar stint with the full group, Howards is considered an "extraordinary talent" and has played with Britney Spears, Aerosmith, Gloria Estafan, the Backstreet Boys, and

See Potpourri, next page

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POTPOURRI, FROM PAGE 13



jazz greats such as George Benson, Aaron Neville, Manhattan Transfer, Spyro Gyra and numerous others. He's released four CDs — most recently *Elegance & Decadence* — and he's done scores of national concerts, ads and commercials, TV spots, and special projects for Disney, StarQuest and Gallagher. His Jazz Alliance concert appearance brings a top-drawer musical performer to Lee County at an affordable, bottom-rung price.

Jazz Alliance has been produced since the late 1990s and evolves from Sanibel Jazz, a nationally recognized event performed for 14 years in the 1980's and 1990's before outgrowing its venue at the Dunes. The current series consists of three

concerts, Jan. 31st, Feb. 28th and April 3rd, all of which take place at the outdoor amphitheatre and lawn on the 10.5-acre Alliance campus. Although the Jan. 31st concert was cancelled due to inclement weather, all presold tickets are "flex" tickets which can be used for either of the remaining two concerts. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the gate, and concerts begin at 7 p.m. Food and beverages for the Feb. 28th event will be provided by the Broadway Palm. The next concert, on April 3rd, features The Atlantean Driftwood Band, the original band for Sanibel Jazz.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at the corner of McGregor and Royal Palm Square Boulevards. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 939-2787. Information about the Alliance is also available on its website at www.artinlee.org.

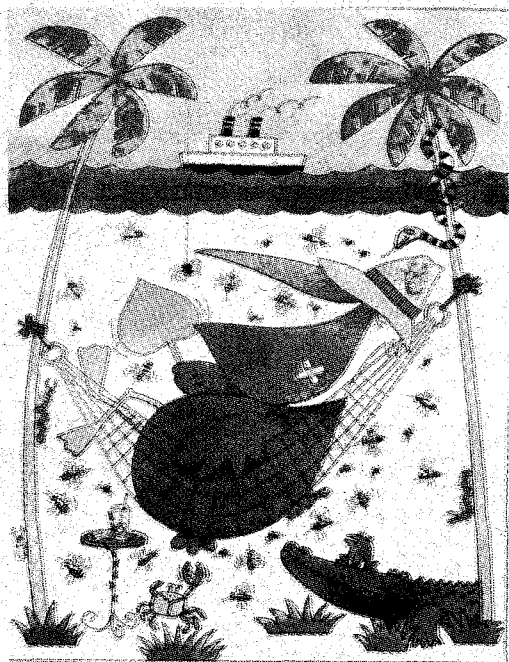
summer at a one-man show in the Governor's Gallery at the State Capitol. Most were done on location at the beach in the early morning light.

Treasures of Eden

The Southwest Florida Museum of History on Peck Street in Fort Myers is featuring through July 31st, an exhibit of rare original relics from early Mesopotamia to Egypt, Greece and points in between. Treasures of Eden consists of 80 pieces of pottery, statuary, jewelry, and tools, among other artifacts, recovered from the same period and region as the treasures of the Baghdad Museum — some of the oldest idols and sacred representations of deities ever found.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$9.50 for adults, \$8.50 for seniors, and \$4 for children. For more information, call 332-5955.

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Artists at Broadway Palm

Broadway Palm Art Gallery features works by local artists Bruce Gora, Roger Sherman, Robert York and the Woodturners of Southwest Florida. The exhibit is on display during the run of Carousel through April 11, 2004.

Gora is the founding partner of Gora/McGahey Associates in Architecture in Fort Myers. His interest and involvement in darkroom photography began while studying under Jerry Helmsmann at the University of Florida. His work has been in numerous juried shows and exhibitions all over South Florida. Gora captures brief moments in time — what the casual observer often misses.

Sherman's paintings offer larger than life recreations of children and adults. His attention to detail, from a freckle to a small wisp of hair across a forehead, make his pieces jump from the canvas.

York's work features a variety of media. From acrylics on wood to watercolor on handmade paper, his pieces are sure to catch and draw the eye's attention.

Various artists from the Woodturners of Southwest Florida also have pieces on display. They include the use of live oak, Florida mahogany, and Norfolk Island pine among other woods.

The exhibit will be on display through April 11th. Gallery hours correspond with box office hours and Carousel performance times. Call 278-4422 for more information, or visit the Gallery at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Bill North honored

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park presented local artist William North a Cultural Awareness Award at the Feb. 9th meeting of the Wiggins Citizen Support Organization. North was recognized "for sharing his artistic expression of the natural Florida" by creating a body of work portraying Wiggins Beach and Pass in fine art. North is also well known for his renderings of "real Florida oranges" and of various scenes in J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

His paintings are shown each year at the Annual Wiggins Art in the Park during the last weekend in January and his Wiggins paintings will be shown this

Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss!



To honor Dr. Seuss' upcoming 100th birthday, Target is participating in Read Across America by hosting a Dr. Seuss "read in" on Feb. 29th, from 1 to 3 p.m. The local store will be giving out Seuss gifts at the "birthday party" which is part of a company-wide initiative to help foster a love of reading early in kids' lives.

Art Show 2004 — a showcase



Artwork of all genres and styles will be showcased at Art Show 2004, a free two-day event to be held at the Social Center on The Island at Shell Point this weekend — Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, from noon to 4.

Many of the 1,700 residents of Shell Point will be showing off their artistic talents through watercolor, oils, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, woodworking, photography, and various other media. The Shell Point Artists' annual spring show has consistently drawn large numbers of both residents and tourists.

Announcement from Schoolhouse Foundation board

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE THEATER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT J.T. SMITH, THE THEATER'S LONGTIME ARTISTIC DIRECTOR WILL BE STEPPING DOWN. "J.T. SMITH HAS BEEN THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE THEATER FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, AND IS A BELOVED MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY", SAID GINNY FLEMING, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. "UNFORTUNATELY, J.T.'S HEALTH HAS DETERIORATED TO A POINT THAT WE UNANIMOUSLY FELT IT WAS IN J.T.'S AND THE THEATER'S BEST INTEREST FOR HIM TO STEP DOWN FROM AN ACTIVE ROLE NOW SO THAT HE CAN FOCUS ALL OF HIS ENERGIES ON HIS HEALTH ISSUES. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PLACE FOR J.T. IN OUR HEARTS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HIM BOTH AS BOARD MEMBERS AND AS FRIENDS"

FLEMING WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE BOARD WILL NOW SEARCH TO FIND A NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR. "JT'S SUCCESS HAS POSITIONED THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE THEATER FOR FUTURE SUCCESS, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL FIND THE RIGHT ARTIST", SAID FLEMING. "IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE J.T., BUT WE ARE COMMITTED TO FINDING THE BEST AVAILABLE DIRECTOR TO CONTINUE TO BRING OUTSTANDING MUSICAL THEATER TO THE ISLAND IN THE COMING SEASON."

THE BOARD ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE CURRENT RUNNING HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ONE WOMAN PLAY "FALLING TO PIECES" WILL CLOSE OUT THIS YEAR'S SEASON AT THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE THEATER. "MONICA ARKO'S AMAZING PERFORMANCE AS PATSY CLINE HAS BEEN WONDERFULLY RECEIVED BY OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY, SO WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO OFFER THIS PLAY", SAID FLEMING. "OUR 2003-2004 SEASON HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS, DUE TO THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION OF J.T. SMITH, JOHN VESSELS, JEFFREY SEARLES, AND THE MANY ACTORS WHO GRACED OUR STAGE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING ON THIS SUCCESS IN 2004-2005."

J.T. SMITH BEGAN HIS ROLE AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR IN 1990. FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS, HE HAS CREATED COUNTLESS MUSICAL EXPERIENCES FOR OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY AND VISITOR AUDIENCES. HIS CREATIVITY, LOVE OF THEATER, SENSE OF HUMOR AND ENERGETIC STAGE PRESENCE MADE FOR MADCAP, JOYFUL PRODUCTIONS. BEFORE COMING TO THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE THEATER, JT LIVED AND WORKED IN NEW YORK CITY AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY. HE WORKED WITH AND COACHED NUMBERS OF TALENTED PERFORMERS AND IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS A PRODUCER, DIRECTOR AND MULTITALENTED PERFORMER.

An elegant evening with the legendary DIONNE WARWICK

HER BAND & 24-PIECE ORCHESTRA

With very special guest
MACK AVENUE RECORDING ARTIST
ILONA KNOPFLER

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MARCH 18TH, 7:30 pm
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Ellington's Quartet with Special Guest Artist
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Tuesday

Dan Miller Trumpet
(Harry Connick Jr. Orchestra)

Wednesday

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Thursday

Ellington's Trio with Paul Ventura Vocals

Friday

Dan Miller Trumpet
(Harry Connick Jr. Orchestra)

Saturday

Dan Miller Trumpet
(Harry Connick Jr. Orchestra)

Sunday

Latin Jazz with Steve Uscher





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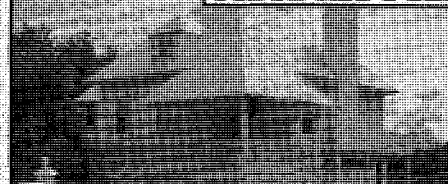
NEW LISTING



ELEGANT LAKEFRONT

This elegant lakefront + near beach home is being sold furnished. It has a great room with a cathedral ceiling, beautiful marble master bath, ceramic tiled entry with French doors, mirrored wall w/ wet bar, huge sun deck + lanai, 4 car garage, large master suite all on a large lakefront lot. Subdivision has tennis court, deeded beach access + picnic area. Deed 3rd bedroom makes this a very functional home. Room for pool. \$749,000. Call Glen Simmons at 472-1511

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LAKEFRONT - NEAR BEACH

Seagull Estates home on the lake & very near the beach. This 3 BD, 2.5 BA expanded "Pelican Model" home has been thoughtfully remodeled. New kitchen, office, half bath, & master bath w/ separate tub & walk-in shower, no more just a few of the amenities. Community pool, club house, beach access & tennis. Offered for \$665,000. Call Claudia Frey at 472-1511 or 910-3335 or 910-3335.



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Absolutely spectacular Gulf & Redfish Pass views from 2-level end unit in secluded Lands End at South Seas Resort. Beach in front, pool behind and holf, marina, restaurants complete this resort setting. Fully furnished, nicely updated. Excellent rental potential. Call Al Rogers or Marsha Asp at 454-5300.

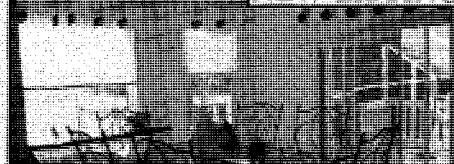
NEW LISTING



COMFORT-CENTERED LAKEFRONT HOME

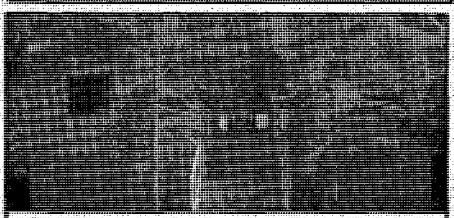
Relax and feel right at home in this very special 3/2 lakefront home. Terrific L-shaped design is ideal for enjoying the sparkling pool and enchanting view. Handy dine-in kitchen. Mature foliage, citrus fragrances. Don't miss seeing this very nice home! \$525,000. Call Margie Davison's 24-hr. prerecorded hotline for details. 800-572-8314, Code 2072.

NEW LISTING



THE ROCKS

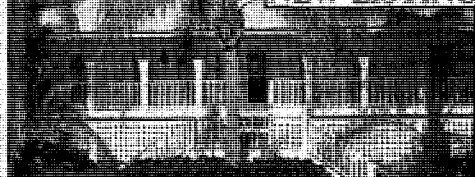
This 3-bedroom, 2 bath home is located on a wide corner lot in The Rocks. It has a large caged pool and you are located only steps to the beach. \$735,000. Call Judy Reddington at 472-1511



CAPTIVA'S ROOSEVELT CHANNEL

Old Florida style home on Captiva's Roosevelt channel. Great water views and boat dock with lift. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, pool plus a separate guest apartment. Lush tropical vegetation and abundant wildlife. A great value \$1,775,000. Call Jim Branyon at 472-5154

NEW LISTING



PRIVATE ISLAND COMPOUND

Quiet charm and exclusivity in this old Florida-community 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, fireplace, caged pool, park-like grounds, so many beautiful upgrades. \$695,000. Call Mary Lou Bailey or Chuck Bergstrom now at 472-1511.

NEW LISTING



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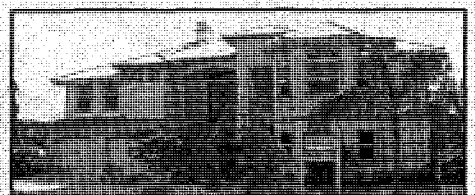
Constructed in 2000. This near beach old Florida style home is in pristine condition. This home features a bright open floor plan with cathedral ceilings, laundry room and white tile throughout. Just a few minutes walk to the prestigious beaches of West Gulf Dr. \$589,000 Call Ken Frey at 472-4121

NEW LISTING



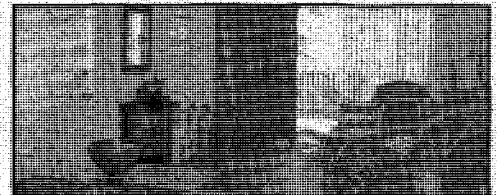
EAST END CONVENIENCE

This immaculate home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage and laundry area. A spacious living room/dining room opens up to a large enclosed lanai. Located near the causeway this home offers the convenience of East end shopping and dining. \$649,000 Call Ken Frey at 472-4121



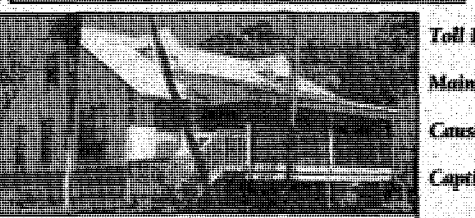
WALK RIGHT IN

This brand new construction custom built home features 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths plus den overlooking the golf course. Fireplace, pool, spa, granite countertops and near beach. Who says you can't have it all? \$1,369,000. Call Judy Reddington at 472-1511.



SEASHELLS OF SANIBEL

WOW! This 2bd/2ba Seashells condominium has been completely updated with new tile throughout the unit, paint, tray ceiling in the kitchen, new A/C system, new water heater and re-plumbed in 2002, crown molding and beautiful furnishings included. \$365,000. Call Judy Reddington at 472-1511.



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Comfortable Captiva living in this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse with private master suite upstairs. This Gulf to Bay community offers great privacy with beach and boating only steps away. Heated swimming pool, lots of dockage and excellent weekly rentals. \$995,000. Call Tom Wiley at 472-4121.

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BIG ARTS Film Society

- *Winged Migration*
Monday, March 1st, 4 p.m.

\$5 ticket includes wine, cheese and discussion following film.

2003-2004 Oscar Nominated Films

- 2004 BIG ARTS Film Festival
Florida Chic/Florida Kitsch
March 11th-14th

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- *Gigi*
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- *Let's Go to the Movies*
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- *Murderer*
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\$16/\$7

Florida Repertory Theatre

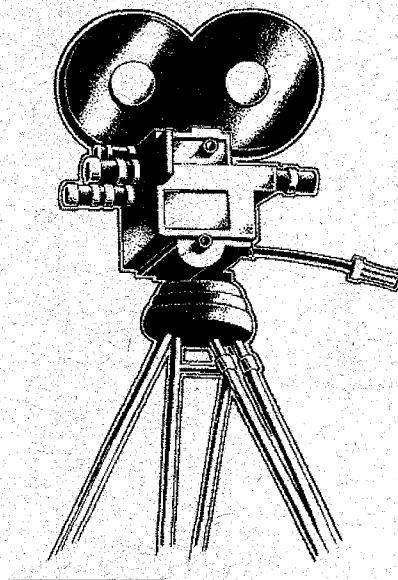
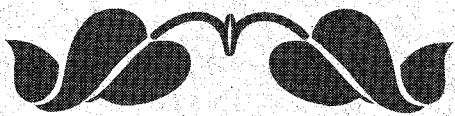
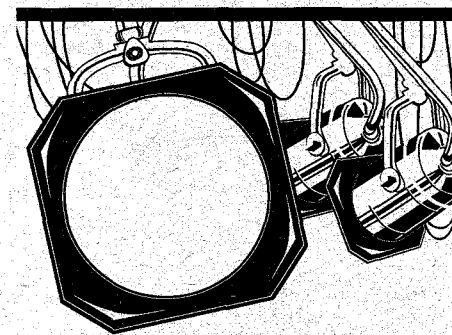
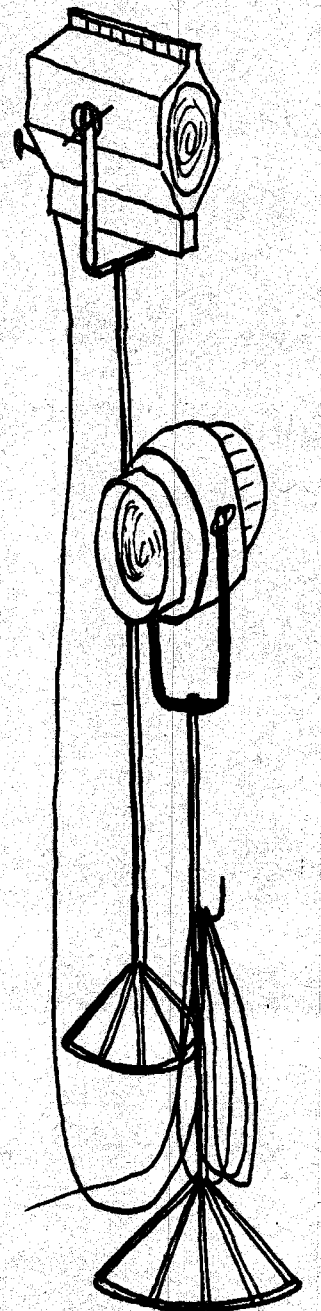
Arcade Theatre
First Street between Hendry & Bay
332-4488

- *I'm Not Rappaport*
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Feb. 29th, 8 p.m.
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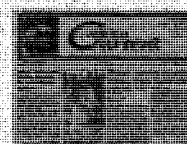
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Captiva Current
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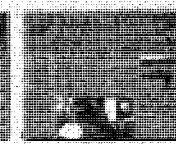
Fort Myers Beach Observer
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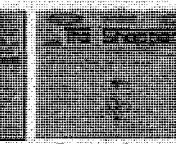
South Lee Messenger
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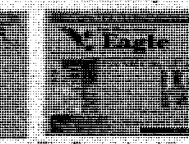
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hood, seawall, dock, boat basin,
lift, 80x120 lot. \$264,900. Owner:
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Cape, 3/2/2 home w/dock.
1739/interior, renovations, all
appliances. Quality, model like,
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Fabulous! Direct sailboat, Tarpon
Point area. No Locks, Bridges.
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style. Cabinets, stainless, granite,
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St. James City. 2 year old stilt
home w/pool on Henley Canal.
Very quick access & a gorgeous
view. \$429,900. 283-8433.

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& pool, wrap around dock, boat lift
& many upgrades. \$419,000. Call
(239) 283-0447 or 994-4335

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only... (239) 242-2300 ... realtor/
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Ft. Myers. San Carlos. lakefront with
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screened hot tub, roof 6 years old,
new septic & A/C, most rooms
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allowance. (239) 437-1051

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MARCH 7
WEDNESDAYS:
MARCH 3
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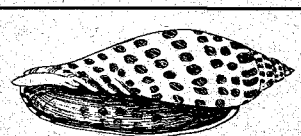
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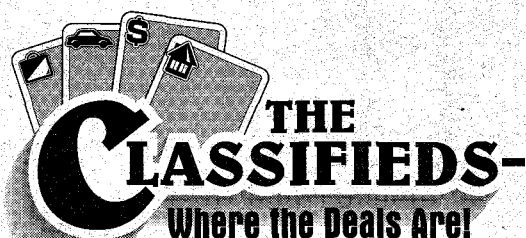
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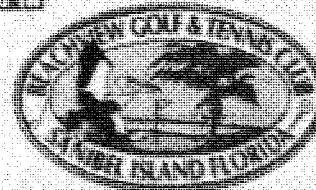


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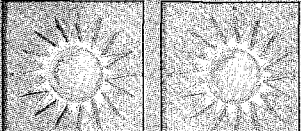
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FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY 28 & 29

SATURDAY

A.M. P.M.



Mild temperatures in the afternoon dropping down much lower after dark.

SUNDAY

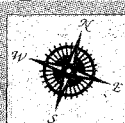
A.M. P.M.



Today will be much the same as yesterday; sunny and mild through the day and cold at night.

WEEKDAY TIDES

City	Wed. High	Wed. Low	Thu. High	Thu. Low
Cape Coral	5:18 a.m.	-	6:28 a.m.	3:54 a.m.
Bridge	-	2:53 p.m.	-	10:54 p.m.
Captiva at	3:08 a.m.	-	4:18 a.m.	12:38 a.m.
Redfish Pass	-	11:37 p.m.	-	8:44 p.m.
Fort Myers	6:11 a.m.	-	7:21 a.m.	4:36 a.m.
-	-	3:35 p.m.	-	11:47 p.m.
Mattacha Pass	4:46 a.m.	-	5:56 a.m.	3:20 a.m.
-	-	2:19 p.m.	-	10:22 p.m.
Pineland	3:44 a.m.	-	4:54 a.m.	2:18 a.m.
-	-	1:17 p.m.	-	9:20 p.m.
Point Ybel	2:13 a.m.	-	3:23 a.m.	12:40 a.m.
-	-	11:39 p.m.	-	7:49 p.m.
Punta Rassa	3:02 a.m.	-	4:12 a.m.	12:33 a.m.
-	-	11:32 p.m.	-	11:57 p.m.
St. James City	3:33 a.m.	-	4:43 a.m.	-
-	-	12:07 p.m.	-	1:08 p.m.



PORT CHARLOTTE
73/48 Sat
76/50 Sun

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

PUNTA GORDA
73/49 Sat
77/51 Sun

BOCA GRANDE
73/56 Sat
75/57 Sun

LEE COUNTY

LEHIGH ACRES
73/47 Sat
78/50 Sun

PINE ISLAND
74/51 Sat
77/54 Sun

CAPE CORAL
73/49 Sat
77/51 Sun

CAPTIVA ISLAND
73/56 Sat
75/58 Sun

FORT MYERS
74/50 Sat
78/52 Sun

IMMOKALEE
76/45 Sat
79/47 Sun

SANIBEL ISLAND
73/56 Sat
75/57 Sun

FORT MYERS BEACH
73/55 Sat
77/57 Sun

BONITA SPRINGS
75/52 Sat
79/54 Sun

ESTERO/SANCARLOS
75/53 Sat
79/53 Sun

Gulf of Mexico

BOATING FORECAST

Wind: Variable 15 Knots
Seas: 2-4 Feet
Bay & Inland: Light Chop

MARCO ISLAND
77/56 Sat
78/58 Sun

COLLIER COUNTY

NAPLES
76/55 Sat
78/57 Sun

FOX 4 CAST

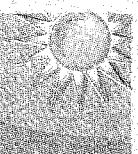
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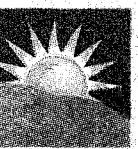
GET YOUR FORECAST FIRST ON FOX.
WATCH FOX 4 NEWS at 10:00

STATE FORECAST-SATURDAY

CITY	HIGH/LOW
CAPE CORAL	73/49
DAYTONA BEACH	72/42
FT. LAUDERDALE	78/45
FT. MYERS BEACH	73/55
GAINESVILLE	70/45
JACKSONVILLE	78/40
KEY WEST	77/57
KISSIMMEE	72/42
MIAMI	78/45
ORLANDO	72/40
PANAMA CITY	71/40
PENSACOLA	72/48
SARASOTA	71/43
ST. PETERSBURG	70/45
TALLAHASSEE	71/41
TAMPA	70/45
VERO BEACH	75/45
WEST PALM BEACH	78/45



SATURDAY
SUNRISE
7:10 AM



SUNDAY
SUNSET
6:13 PM

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SEATING



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