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Vol. 43, No. 6

Week of March 26 - April 1, 2004

Two Sections • 40 Pages

The
Great
Island
Pick Up

MARCH
27

Optimist
Pancake
Breakfast

MARCH
28

Last
week-
end's
Lion's
Art Fair

Page 1B



The SCA Periwinkle Players premiered their first production — Dearly Departed — on Wednesday. The wonderful ensemble cast includes island favorites Kelly Parker Legarreta, Lee and Joe Meyers and newcomer Fay Carney.

Cover photo by Karen Nelson; Inset photo by John Carney

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Mad Hatter Tea Party

The Women's Guild of St. Isabel held their annual Mad Hatter Tea Party on March 23. Strolling violist Bob Corning presented his whimsical Musical Hat Show and he also accompanied the Easter Parade of stylish hats, as the ladies paraded for the judges. There were hats with tea sets on top and hats with gardens on top, hats with Easter egg-decorated hatbands and hats with tools and gardening gloves on the hatbands. Ingenuity and humor (along with an occasional touch of elegance) won the day. A representative from Hispanic Services of Catholic Charities was on hand and funds were collected to assist needy children as they make their First Holy Communion.

-KN

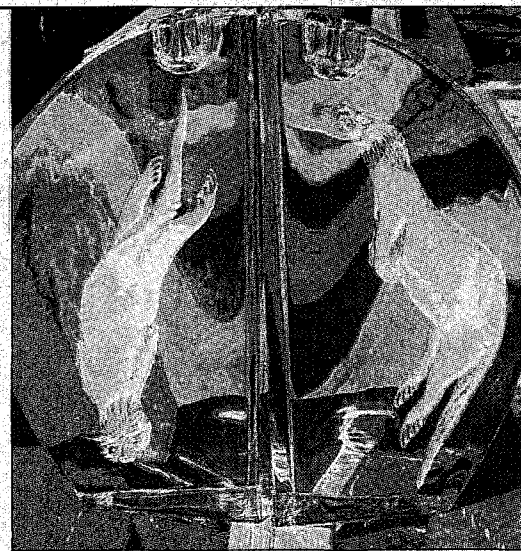


SCCF Tennis Tourney coming up

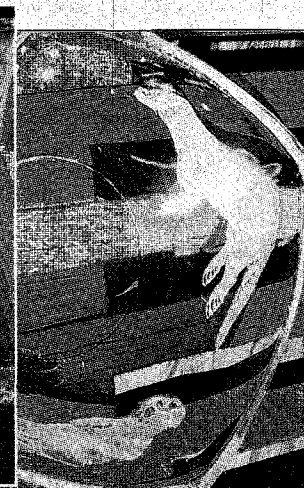
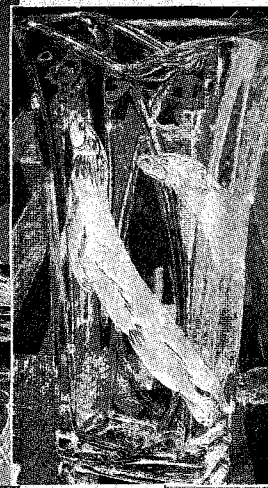
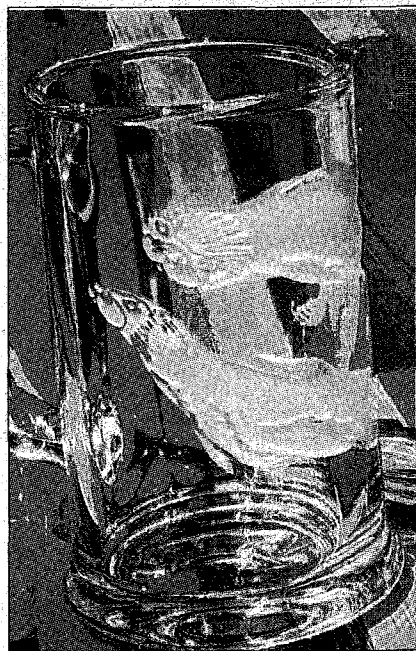
The 12th Annual Tennis Tournament benefiting the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation is coming up on April 3 and 4 at the Dunes Golf and Tennis Club. The tournament will kick off with a terrific Fifties-themed cocktail party and auction on April 2.

Pictured are some of Luc Century's etched-glass prizes and sponsor trophies.

There will be a raffle and silent auction and Intrav/Clipper Cruise Line has donated a fabulous 8-day trip for two



to Alaska's Inside Passage, an outstanding glass creation by Luc Century and a variety of island vacations. See story on Page 6



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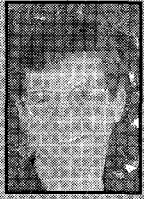
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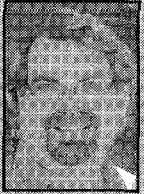
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TOO MUCH SUN

Dave Horton



Lee Horton

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ISLAND SCENE

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

Coming up this week —**Friday, March 26****Fundraiser for environmental education**

Florida Gulf Coast University Center for Environmental & Sustainability Education presented its inaugural Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture on March 25, and a fundraising reception for the Center will be held at the Sanibel home of Mary Bursley Carter, on Friday, March 26, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Center is directed by Sanibel resident and FGCU Professor of Environmental Studies, Peter Blaze Corcoran, who is involved in a wide range of environmental education activities, both locally and internationally.

Mary Evelyn Tucker, Professor of Religion at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Penn. and coordinator of the Forum on Religion and Ecology, and Alison Hawthorne Deming, Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and a direct descendant of American writer Nathaniel Hawthorne were the speakers at the lecture and Tucker will be at the March 26 reception, as well.

Paul G. Irwin, President and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, will be the guest of honor at the reception and will join Tucker for some brief remarks at 6:30 p.m. The suggested contribution is \$50 per person, \$75 per couple. During this inaugural period, gifts will be matched by the Humane Society. To attend the reception and lend your support to this important new force in the community, please contact Dr. Corcoran at 590-7166 or call 472-8998.

Saturday, March 27**Great Island Pick-up**

See story on Page 11

Island Seniors Bazaar

Join the Island Seniors for a fun day at the last Bazaar and Bake Sale of the season. Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the corner of Palm Ridge Road and Library Way. Look for the signs.

Crafts and collectibles will be for sale, such as hand-painted furniture, shell decorative items, bromeliads, hand sewn and painted clothing, calamondin marmalade, homemade salad dressings, household decorations, European soaps, a Trash 'n Treasures table and much more.

There will also be a delicious array of baked goods, hot dogs, soda and coffee for sale. Shop the treasures and enjoy a leisurely lunch in the beautiful native garden... and take dessert home for later.

Tables are available for rent at \$15 for Senior members and \$20 for non-members. For more information, call Vivian at 472-8925.

FISH volunteer appreciation

FISH (Friends In Service Here) will host a Volunteer Appreciation gathering on March 27 from 2 - 4 p.m. at

the Sanibel Community Association. All volunteers are invited to attend. Come meet your President, Board Members and other volunteers as well as enjoying some refreshments. Anyone interested in becoming a FISH Volunteer is also invited. Please RSVP to Virginia Green at 472-9709.

Audubon outing on March 27

The next Sanibel-Captiva Audubon birding outing will take place on Saturday, March 20 (tomorrow) at Blind Pass. Meet in the parking lot just before Captiva bridge at 8 a.m.

The next outing will be on Saturday, April 3 at the Sanibel lighthouse, also at 8 a.m.

All birders are welcome. These outings are open to the public and the suggested donation is \$2. Call Malcolm Harpham at 395-3804 for other details.

Sewing guild meets Saturday

The next meeting of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the American Sewing Guild will be held on Saturday, March 27, at the Lee County Extension Service in Terry Park, 3406 Palm Beach Boulevard. Naples member and professional seamstress Loretta Leleux will present a program called "Let Me Save You some Headaches." The meeting starts at

Sewing, see page 4

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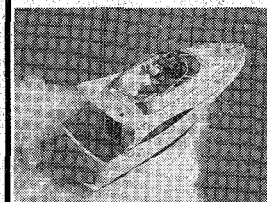
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ISLAND SCENE

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

Sewing, from page 3

12:30 p.m. and ends at 3 p.m.

The April 24 meeting will be "A Day with LaFred" is the program. A Meet-and-Greet will run from 9:30 to 10 a.m. with the program running from 10 to 4 p.m. Bring a Brown Bag Lunch; coffee, iced tea and dessert will be provided.

Fred Bloebaum (a woman with a man's nickname) is a highly regarded sewing instructor from the San Francisco area, where she is a regular instructor at The Sewing Workshop. Fred specializes in fashion-conscious sewing classes focusing on designer techniques, figure flattery, tailoring and special fabrics. Fred is a frequent contributor to Threads magazine and has recently released her own line of patterns, Clothing Designs by LaFred — elegant, classic attire, simple to construct with contemporary lines.

The American Sewing Guild is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of home sewing. Membership is open to all that would like to learn more about sewing. Chapter meetings are held the fourth Saturday of each month. Dues are \$40 per year, and include the chapter newsletter and special discounts from local merchants. For further information, call the Club President, Diane Stramel at 458-2858.

Vacation in your own backyard

The Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau will hold a local promotion to offer residents discount prices

Optimist pancake breakfast - March 28

The annual Optimist Pancake Breakfast is coming up on Sunday morning, March 28, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 — all you can eat for \$6 (unless you're a very small person, in which case you can eat free). Plus, while you're eating this breakfast of champions (from 9 a.m. to 11) you can probably win the Junior Optimists into washing your car for a

modest donation. It all takes place at the Sanibel Community Association on Periwinkle and, as usual, M/SO raffle tickets will be available.

Come out to support Friends of Youth — the Sanibel-Captiva Optimists — the Junior Optimist Club, and all the activities and support they provide to the kids in the hood.

through September for vacationing at home. "Vacation In Your Own Backyard," will be held Saturday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. near the fountain at the Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers.

Among those accommodations participating are: Holiday Inn Sanibel Island; Outrigger Beach Resort; Admiral Lehigh Golf Resort; Lovers Key Beach Club and Resort; Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa, SunStream Hotels and Resorts including DiamondHead Beach Resort, GullWing Beach Resort and Santa Maria Harbour Resort, Hilton Garden Inn; Best Western Airport Inn; Pink Shell Beach Resort and Spa; Staybridge Suites; and Fairfield Inn.

Attractions participating include: Edison and Ford Winter Estates; Tropic Star; SunSplash Family Waterpark, Imaginarium, Fleamasters; and GAEA Guides.

Representatives from these and other businesses will be present to provide information on summer deals. Local resi-

dents can register to win a complimentary two-night stay at each of the participating properties. For more information, call the VCB at 338-3500.

Sunday, March 28

Celebrate Bonita Festival

Celebrate Bonita! 2004, takes place on Sunday, March 28, from 1 to 7 p.m. at Riverside Park on Old 41 at Pennsylvania Avenue in Bonita Springs. There is no admission fee. Festival goers can look forward to an event packed with fun, including national headliner David Clayton-Thomas and Blood, Sweat & Tears, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The event kicks off at 1 p.m. with newly elected mayor Jay Arend, Bonita's first mayor Paul Pass and the Bonita Springs

City Council and Incorporation Committee at the Bandshell stage.

Local performers include the piano and violin duo of Bella and Boris, Tony Pastrana and his New York Latin Jazz Band and jazz artists Jehry and Friends and the Bonita Springs Middle School Concert and Jazz Bands will play throughout the day.

Children's attractions include an enclosed giant tornado slide, train rides, laser tag, bounce house and a chance to see White Unicorn Ponies: adorned with purple saddle blankets and multi-colored jeweled harnesses, the unicorns will provide children with long rides through Riverside Park.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office will be there to fingerprint kids and distribute child identification kits.

A Pet Parade will kick off the Pet/Owner Look-Alike, Pet/Owner Costume, and Stupid Pet Trick Contests. Sign up for all contests begins at 12:30 p.m. Plus, nationally recognized microchips, provided by Lee County Animal Service, will be available for just \$10.

Chili and BBQ Rib Cookoff Contests held this year will be a prelude to participating in the National Cookoff Championships next year. There will be Bonita Springs Historical Society exhibits in the Liles Hotel and lots more! The proceeds of this year's event will benefit the Bonita Assistance Office.

Monday, March 29

SCCF resident orientation

Sanibel and Captiva residents and business people can learn more about the islands through the Resident Environmental Orientation offered by the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. In March, there will be an afternoon session on March 29.

These free, four-hour sessions are open to island residents, property owners and businesses to teach them more about the area's natural systems.

Participants meet at the Foundation's Nature Center for an introduction and then travel by trolley and boat, courtesy of Captiva Cruises, to Pine Island Sound.

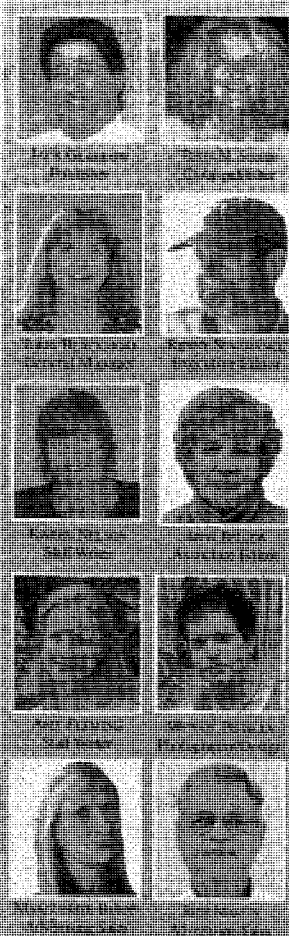
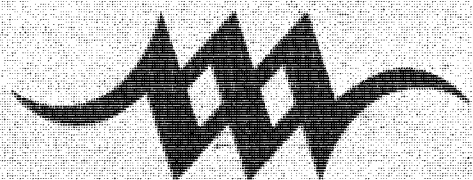
Space is limited and advance registration is required. For more information or to sign up, call 472-2329.

Thanks to Optimist
Celebrity Golf Donors

Individually, two donors to the auction at the Optimist Celebrity Golf Outing on Feb. 21 and 22 were not listed.

The Optimist Club wishes to extend their (belated but heartfelt) gratitude to the

- Black Orchid Art Gallery and to
- Countryside Steakhouse (which was referred to as Countryside Steakhouse).



islander

The Islands' Community Newspaper since 1961

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ISLAND SCENE

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Tuesday, March 30

A naturalist's exploration of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula

"A Naturalist's Exploration of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula" is the topic of the meeting of the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club on Tuesday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. at The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel. Dr. Gary Schmelz of Naples, Florida, will give the presentation.

The program provides a photographic tour of the Kenai Peninsula that includes an overview of the region's beautiful wildflowers, fishing in the Kenai River, an exploration of marine life in coastal tide pools, and fossil collecting along Alaska's rugged shoreline.

Dr. Schmelz was awarded his Ph.D. in marine biology at the University of Delaware in 1970. He is a former director of the Big Cypress Nature Center and a former director of education of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. Dr. Schmelz helped establish the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Nature Center on Key Biscayne.

He has described 26 new species of fossil mollusks from the Chipola Formation. Dr. Schmelz is the author of a children's book, *The Gift*, and recently co-authored a book on common native wildflowers of Collier County. Most of the flowers pictured in the book are also native to Lee County.

At the end of the program, Dr. Schmelz will sell copies of the new book, which is gaining popularity among shell crafters who wish to replicate the plants as part of their artistic creations. Dr. Schmelz will donate 40 percent of the evening's sales of the \$14.95 book to the Shell Museum.

The Shell Club board wants to remind club members and the general public that all meetings of the Shell Club are held at the Museum, unless otherwise noted. Programs are sponsored jointly by the Shell Club and the Museum, and the Museum helps support speaker honoraria and expenses.

There is no admission charge and members of the public are invited to attend. Light refreshments will be offered at the meeting.

The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum is located at 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road on Sanibel Island. For further information call the Museum at 239-395-2233 or 888-679-6450.

Wednesday, March 31

C.R.O.W. Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife will be on Wednesday, March 31 at 1:30 at C.R.O.W., on Sanibel-Captiva Road. All are invited to attend.

Thursday, April 1

Christian Women's Club

The Sanibel-Captiva Christian Women's Club cordially invites all women to their "Spring Fashions" luncheon on Thursday, April 1 at the Sundial Beach Resort on Middle Gulf Drive on Sanibel Island, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The luncheon will feature fashions by Chico's of Captiva Island. Our speaker will be Edna Forsythe. Music will be provided by Leo Wolfe.

Cost of the luncheon is \$15 inclusive. Reservations are required. Call Eva Barbour at 454-6948 or Jean Wilson at 472-2017. Reservations made but not honored must be paid for.

Arthritis Lecture

The Arthritis Foundation and Abbott Labs are hosting an Arthritis Lecture featuring Juan Bustillo, M.D., and a Rheumatologist in Fort Myers. Dr. Bustillo will give an update on rheumatic diseases such as rheumatoid and related topics.

Arthritis affects 70 million Americans and one of every three Floridians. Come and learn a little about arthritis and how to better treat the symptoms.

This event will take place on Thursday, April 1, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium. The hospital is located 2776 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers. Reservations required by March 31. Please call 1-800-741-4008 for reservations or any questions you may have.

Friday, April 2

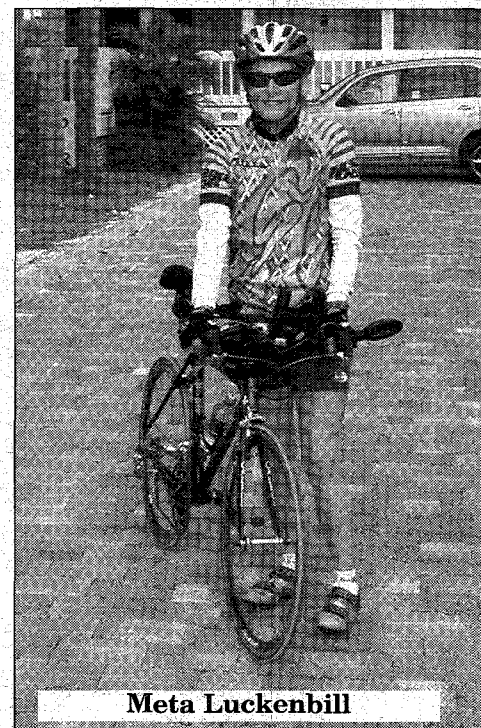
Bike to work day

Wipe the dust and cobwebs off your bike, fill the tires with air, lube the chain, and prepare to cycle to work. This year, Lee County is holding its annual

Bike to Work Day on Friday, April 2, and the Sanibel Bicycle Club would like to encourage the Sanibel community to participate. Bicycling is not only a recreational activity on Sanibel, but also a mode of transportation.

Meta Luckenbill (pictured here), often bikes home to South Fort Myers from her business, the Sanibel Fitness Center, where she works, teaching fitness classes all day. Meta highly recommends biking to work, especially during season, as a way to get off the island and home faster than you can in a car. "When I drive, it takes me an hour and 20 minutes to get home. When I bike, I can make it home in an hour and 5 minutes. Biking is much healthier, as well as more enjoyable. I get a kick out of passing all the cars stuck in traffic from Rabbit Road all the way across the Causeway. I'm going 18 mph and they're going about 5 mph, if they're moving at all. I'm surprised that more people don't see the advantages of biking to work."

So, on Friday, April 2, leave your cars at home and bike to work (including volunteer work), to the shops, to the beach, to run errands, etc. Bike to Work Day is also the local kick-off event for National Public Health Awareness Week (April 5-11). April 2 should be the beginning of a new habit, not just a one-time event. Sanibel is lucky to have a 23-mile shared-use path system, which provides more opportunities for safe commuting by bike than in many communities. Not only does the use of bicycles give relief to the



Meta Luckenbill

amount of motorized traffic, it doesn't contribute to air pollution. Riding a bicycle to get around the island also allows you to enjoy Sanibel's natural environment.

The Sanibel Bicycle Club promotes improved bicycling safety and infrastructure on Sanibel. For more information, visit the Web site, www.sanibelbicycleclub.org.

More Island Scene, see page 6



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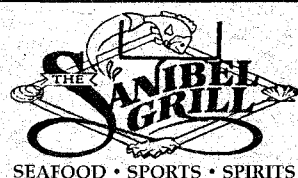
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Local business leaders visit Tallahassee

By David Fischer
Daily Breeze Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE - Officials and business leaders from Lee County spent their first day in Tallahassee in power meetings throughout the capital.

The group, which this year includes about 50 people representing a variety of organizations including Lee County government, the city of Cape Coral and all of the county's chambers of commerce, found a receptive audience among state legislators and officials alike.

Members of the "Lee County Days in Tallahassee" delegation breakfasted with state senators Burt Saunders and Dave Aronberg, and lunched with state representatives Jeff Kottkamp, Carole Green, Dudley J. Goodlette and Speaker Pro Tempore Lindsay Harrington. Members of the group also met with state leaders, including Secretary of State Glenda E. Hood and Speaker of the House Johnnie Bryd.

"The response we got from our representatives is much greater than we've received in the past," said Mike Quaintance, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Cape Coral.

This is the fifth year a local delegation

of business and government leaders has traveled to Tallahassee to stress local issues. In the past, the group has been largely a Cape Coral contingent traveling under the banner "Cape Coral Days in Tallahassee." This year, however, the group has gone as a county-wide coalition. The number of delegates has now more than doubled since the Cape Coral Chamber coordinated the first trip.

"We're very pleased with the turnout," said Lee County Commissioner Bob Janes, who traveled up to the capital Wednesday. "It's great for Lee County."

And it may be great for the region down the road.

"This is a tremendous first step in the process for Lee County," Janes said. "Eventually, we can get people from Charlotte and Collier County and get a strong, effective Southwest Florida coalition." The trip is important, Janes added, because it lets local people meet with state leaders face-to-face.

"You're not necessarily going to get everything you want but you've got to wave your banner," Janes said.

The trauma center was a topic at both the breakfast and lunch sessions. State officials explained there are about a dozen different legislative items working their way through the House or Senate. If one or two get approval, it could mean more money for Lee Memorial Health System's financially strapped regional trauma center.

Sen. Saunders said one funding initiative that appears to have support concerns an increased fine on DUI citations. "There's tremendous support for that," he said. "Nobody likes drunk drivers."

Another measure that may be a go is one that would give county governments the ability to bring a quarter of a cent sales tax referendum before local voters to pay for trauma care.

Local leaders also may come home from the three-day trip with some ammunition on an issue of particular importance to the city of Cape Coral. A handful of city leaders met with the secretary of state and discussed local elections, specifically the separation of municipal elections from the general elections schedule. Former Lee County Supervisor of Elections Philinda Young had moved municipal elections off the fall schedule,

Tallahassee, see page 19

Correction

In last week's Islander, three questions were asked of the candidates for the Chamber of Commerce board. Although it's too late for balloting, we wanted to correct Liz Fowler's answer to her third question; we inadvertently repeated the question and left out her answer. Following are both question and answer:

Q: What are the biggest problems facing the community, and how would you, as a chamber member, deal with them?

A: This time of year especially, the biggest issue facing our community is traffic congestion. Adding to the issue are the problems with our causeway. Both of these issues affect our residents and businesses. As a chamber board member, I would support actions that the Chamber can take to assist the city with improving traffic flow and expedite a solution between the city and county regarding the causeway.

ISLAND SCENE

Seagrass wading trip

Did you know that the shallow waters between Sanibel and Fort Myers are home to a wide variety of fascinating sea life? The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program are sponsoring two Seagrass Wading Trips: on Friday, April 2 at 9 a.m. and on Wednesday, April 14 at 9 a.m.

This estuarine environment, where the fresh water of the Caloosahatchee River meets the salt water of the Gulf of Mexico, is one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth. Here the seagrass beds act as a nursery and a feeding ground for many species of fish and other marine life.

Come explore the wonders living below the surface of San Carlos Bay with a naturalist from the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. You will not only see your favorite estuarine creatures up close, but you will also

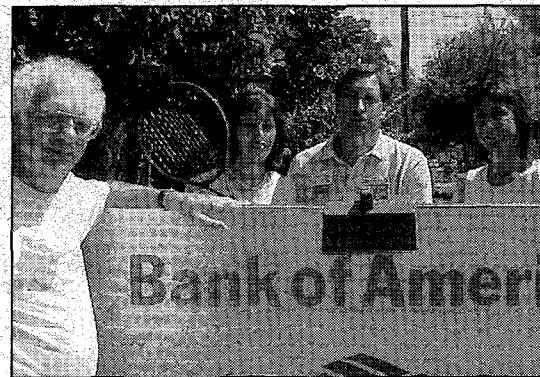
learn about the delicate ecology of seagrass habitats and what is being done to find out more about and protect these valuable nurseries of the sea.

This is a great opportunity for people of all ages to explore the world that lies below the surface of an estuary. This program is being brought to you by a partnership between the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

Full directions will be given upon reservation since the location is subject to change due to weather or other uncontrollable conditions.

The trip is free to children and adults and space is limited to 16. Reservations are required; please call 472-2329 or 395-4617.

You need to bring old clothes and/or bathing suit, closed-toe water shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and a towel.



(From left:) SCCF Tennis Tournament Chair Warren Schwab, Sponsors Debbie Latona and David Lowden of Bank of America, and Sponsor Mary Irving of Lifeline Designs

Last Chance for Love Next Weekend

It's your last chance for love, or ideally a better score, at next weekend's 12th Annual Tennis Tournament benefiting the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. One of our islands' premier tennis events will take place at the Dunes Golf and Tennis Club on April 3 and 4, preceded by a terrific Fifties-themed cocktail party and auction on April 2. Many thanks to Bank of America and South Seas Resorts for once again sponsoring this event.

There are only a few remaining tournament spots, so registrations should be called in quickly. 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 Resorts, 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 also get in on the action. 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 treasured artist 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/candle holders

Match Sponsor — \$500 — large bowl

Set Sponsor — \$250 — Vinciens vase

Game Sponsor — \$125 — coffee mug

What more can one ask for? First-rate competition, a wonderful cocktail party, fun-filled auction items, sumptuous breakfasts and lunches, good friends and a worthy cause!

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 wildlife habitat on and around Sanibel and Captiva. For more information please call Marti Bryant at the Conservation Foundation at 472-2329.

CEC Spring Festival at Periwinkle Place

The 10th Annual Children's Educational Center of the Islands Spring Festival at Periwinkle Place gets underway at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 3 with an Egg hunt by age groups. The cost is \$10 per child for unlimited fun. There will be a raffle for an Easter basket for a boy and one for a girl, as well as a silent auction for adults. Activities will include a Daddy dunk tank, face paint, giant slide, bounce house, arts and crafts, games and contests and the festivities last until noon. Kids can also have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny for a \$5 fee. Extra parking will be available thanks to the Sanibel Congregational Church across the street.



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ISLAND SCENE

FOR KIDS

Take me to the river

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation will be offering an environmental education program for kids entitled *Take Me to the River*.

Kids will have the opportunity to learn about the fascinating aspects of wetlands by exploring and investigating Sanibel's interior wetlands. This interpretive program will be geared for ages 5-12 and will take place on Wednesday, April 7 and April 14 at 9:30 a.m.

An adult must accompany kids, so kids, parents and grandparents, please come to the Foundation's Nature Center and *Take Me to the River*. Space is limited so reservations are required. The program is free for kids and \$3/adult. Call the Foundation at 472-2329 for additional information and reservations.

April pool school

It's not too late for individuals to enroll in the April 19-30 Pool School being offered by the Lee County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Registration is open to all individuals. Instruction will be provided in life-guard training and for water safety instructors. CPR/AED for the professional rescuer challenge is also available. Pre-registration must be completed by Monday, April 12.

The two-week intensive training program is intended to provide a "pool" (no pun intended) of certified life-guards and water safety instructors from which area businesses can fill job vacancies. Classes will be held evenings and Saturdays following a written exam and pre-course testing to determine swimming proficiency and class eligibility on Monday, April 19. The testing will be held at several local swimming pools.

Specific requirements for the various classes, length of each class, required fees, registration procedures, and class locations and dates may be obtained by contacting Diane Austin, American Red Cross, 239-278-3401, or log on to arclcc.org.

Graduation ceremonies and a job fair will be held on Saturday, May 1, at 10 a.m. at the Fort Myers Aquatic Center, located on the corner of DeLeon and Matthews Dr., Fort Myers. Certificates of completion will be presented at this time.

MOAA meeting

The Sanibel/Captiva Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will meet Tuesday, April 13 at The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club on Sanibel. The meeting will start at noon with cocktails and social gathering, followed by lunch, \$12.50 per person, and then a presentation by Jim Burgess, Lee County Mosquito Control District. Jim will discuss the methods and operations of one of the most advanced mosquito control programs in the country. All current and former military personnel and spouses are welcome. Membership is open to any military officer. Reservations are required and must be made NLT Friday, April 9 by calling Dewey Tate at 239-395-3904.

April Guild Meeting

The St. Isabel Women's Guild is holding its last meeting of the season on Tuesday, April 13. It will be a spring luncheon held at the Beachview Steakhouse & Seafood Restaurant at noon. Reservations are necessary by April 6, and can be made by calling Kay Liptak at 395-8839. The luncheon is \$15, payable at the door. Your reservation must be honored or call to cancel by April 9. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend this final meeting and bring their friends.

Island Scene, see page 16

SHELL SCHOCKED

The day trippers

By Art Stevens

A lot of the problems Sanibel has with its broken causeway can be laid at the doors of day trippers: those mainland visitors who storm the causeway each day to spend some sunny hours on Sanibel beaches.

These day trippers have gained so much weight in the last few years that our poor causeway shudders from stress each day and has gotten a hernia. We are talking about metric tons, not 28-inch waists.

In the meantime our causeway sags from the sheer tonnage and is at a loss to figure out why people have gotten so heavy.

While waiting for the new bridge to be built, there are some remedial steps we can take now to prevent further damage. We, the citizens of Sanibel, must come up with severe measures to prevent our vehicles from entering Davey Jones' locker.

We must borrow from the wise measures that have been taken to contain the passage of overweight trucks. A weight station must be added to the existing one that weighs trucks. This new weight station would weigh passenger cars and their contents and place a maximum weight on each.

As a case in point, a typical passenger car weighs two thousand pounds. An allocation of an additional five hun-

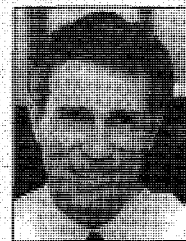
dred pounds would be made for passengers and their contents. If a passenger car exceeds this limit, the passengers in that car would exercise the following options: passengers would be removed until the total weight achieves the legal limit.

The removed passengers could either walk back to Fort Myers, thus allowing the remaining passengers and contents of the car to drive through. Or they could wait in a special shelter at the side of the causeway until that passenger car completes its rounds in Sanibel and prepares to exit the causeway on its way back to Fort Myers.

However, there's another important consideration. As each passenger car prepares to leave Sanibel it would be weighed again. One lunch or dinner at McT's, the Hungry Heron or Cheeburger Cheeburger would put the car over the limit again. Passengers would have to leave the car - or purchases from island stores would have to be confiscated until the car's weight is reduced sufficiently.

Those passengers left behind would be placed in a fasting shelter in Sanibel until their weight is such that the causeway won't buckle. Then and only then would they be allowed to leave.

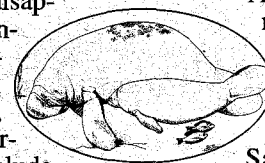
I urge all prospective day trippers to go on diets immediately. Otherwise don't even think about crossing our causeway.



Art Stevens

Put a manatee in your Easter basket

Searching for a new way to delight your children on Easter morning? A manatee adoption from Save the Manatee Club (SMC) is an Easter gift that will last long after the chocolate eggs and jelly beans have disappeared. For \$25, you'll receive a photo of a manatee, the manatee's biography, an adoption certificate, and a membership handbook with more information on manatees. In addition, from now until April 30, each new membership/adoption purchased at \$35 or more will include a manatee adoption packet along with a free sugar cookie mix and manatee-shaped cookie cutter, a coloring book, and a "manatee" colored crayon.



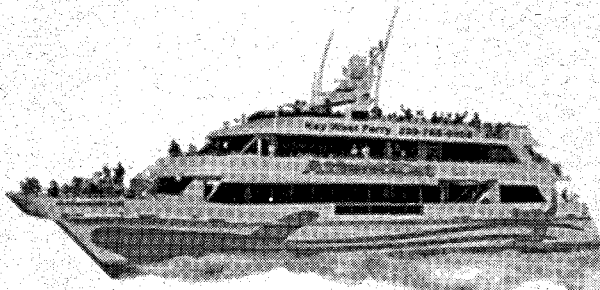
Adopting a manatee is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to learn about this fascinating, endangered species and help ensure its survival. Proceeds from SMC's Adopt-A-Manatee program go toward conservation and education programs to protect manatees and their habitat.

As children eagerly follow the activities of "their" manatee, they learn a great deal about the life cycle of a manatee and about manatee conservation efforts.

For more information about manatees or the Adopt-A-Manatee program, contact the Save the Manatee Club, 500 N. Mainland Avenue, Mainland, FL 32751 or call 1-800-432-JOIN (5646). You can visit the SMC web page and adopt a manatee on the internet at www.savethemanatee.org.

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Begin your preparation for showing your home by cleaning the windows, curtains and light fixtures thoroughly. Open the drapes and blinds to let the sunshine in. Even on a bright day it helps to turn on some lights, especially floor and table lamps in dark corners. If you are using shades or heavy drapes to eliminate a less-than-perfect view, you may want to consider replacing them with translucent curtains in a light color.

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>.

SERVICE CLUBS

Kiwanis: Cholesterol and Water Management

submitted by Bob Wimbush

Due to the Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner and San-Cap Review and a couple of meetings I missed, you haven't heard the latest about speakers Dr. Ed LaMotta and Steve Boutelle.

Dr. Ed LaMotta made his annual pilgrimage to Kiwanis a couple of weeks ago and remained on message: Blood fats carried by Lipoproteins come in many different shapes and sizes. Some are good, and some are bad, and the bad ones can kill you. The variable is how fast and how good LaMotta has become at detecting them.

Not that cholesterol is all bad. That's why the body creates it. It keeps you warm. It is also a major component of the membranes of the nervous system, spinal

cord, and the brain, and is a vital building block of sex hormones... which could lead anyone assessing the average girth at our breakfasts to brand Kiwanians a group of intelligent, sensitive, perennially sweaty porn stars. Fortunately for The Dunes, who provides our high-cholesterol breakfasts, the most important cause of elevated numbers of lipoproteins is heredity, not diet. The three-year-old son of one of our members has never breakfasted with the club but his cholesterol is 380. It runs in the family.

Fortunately, although LaMotta's core message hasn't advanced much, the science of identifying and treating lipoprotein problems has, and LaMotta (perhaps wishing to be a surgeon?) remains on the cutting edge. Over 50% of people who develop

heart disease have normal cholesterol levels. Lipoproteins, the vehicle that carries cholesterol into the artery wall, are better indicators for determining the risk of heart disease, but until recently the technology to measure them did not exist.

For serious information and an update on technology, methods of detection, and the predictive value of particles, consult LaMotta at HealthPark of the Islands. You might also learn more about the NMR LipoProfile at www.liposcience.com and actually appear intelligent when you go to see him.

Kiwanis also heard from Steve Boutelle, Lee County's Natural Resources Management/Marine Services Marine Engineering Manager. "If you can get a boat through it," he's involved. He's responsible for 826 square miles of inshore water (not counting Cape Coral's canals) and 47 miles of beaches.

Relax... he's involved on the maintenance side. He doesn't do permits or regulate, so there's no reason to form a Save Our Boutelle committee. He does, however, handle navigational markers — only the Coast Guard has more — that serve Lee County's 50,000 registered boats, and one must suspect he's been busy installing, removing, reinstalling, removing, reinstalling manatee signs depending on the latest judicial/regulatory whim.

On manatees — the feds can get involved if they "could protect one manatee," — he opines that the feds don't want the heat and they don't want the court fights; so stay tuned. But, despair not — there will still be public hearings "for those who like to go and yell." He declined to rationalize the arguments for and/or against docks, but opines "it will



Mike Robison welcomes new members Bill Hay and Pete Bender

get worse before it gets better."

His unit has removed 106 decrepit vessels from our waterways since 2000, and he may be the only person who wants the current causeway — to build a reef. He is responsible for 19 active reef sites in Lee County.

Steve projects a great attitude. He is currently involved with 17 miles of critically eroded beaches and is starting this week on a Bonita project. And, of course, Blind Pass. He's happy that there's "pretty consistent support to do it the right way this time." The goal is to "restore the health and integrity of the system. Let's not fight about whose fault it is — let's just get it open."

Then there's seaweed.

It's easy ascribe and blame Lake O mismanagement for the seaweed problems, but no reliable science validates any of the many opinions. Everyone involved agrees that the run-off is a bad thing, but the bottom line is that the east side of the state beat us to the punch with their lawsuits. Southwest Florida must stay active in water management if they really want to save our bay. (Perhaps Sanibel should form an RSOB — Really Save Our Bay committee?). Good speaker, lots of information. Invite Steve to address your group: 479-8128.

Kiwanis breakfasts every Wednesday at 7:30 at the Dunes. LaMotta's ambulance will be waiting at the curb.



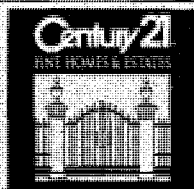
Left: Eric Pfeifer presents Steve Brown a check for the oncology unit at Children's Hospital. Last year, due to a lack of beds the unit had to turn away three kids who were in trouble with their chemo. The nine-bed addition would have accommodated them easily. It will serve five counties. Over 90% of child leukemia is curable, according to Brown.



Boutelle



Thanks to J.B. Novelli Century 21
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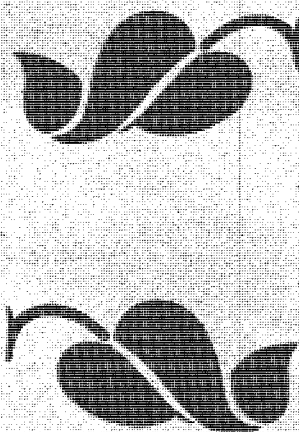
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TO YOUR HEALTH

Holistic Health Notebook: Your healthy heart

by Carol Simontacchi
Special to the Islander

Putting the medical paradigm aside, science has done a good job researching many heart-protective nutrients. No need for guesswork, anymore. Follow the scientific literature, and you'll follow a golden road to heart health.

For example, an article published in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) reported on a study investigating a group of people who characteristically have exceptional longevity and lower incidence of age-related disease. They found that individuals with exceptional longevity had larger HDL and LDL particle sizes. Small LDL particles apparently contribute to arteriosclerosis by attacking the arterial wall. An excessive number of LDL particles circulating in the blood promotes movement into the subendothelial space and formation of plaques.

An article in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (AJCN) reported that increasing amounts of dietary trans-fat intake in the diet led to a significant reduction in size of LDL cholesterol particles. Trans-fats are formed during the hydrogenation of vegetable oils, and are found in deep fried foods, some pastries, margarine, and other "junk foods" (even some peanut butters).

So how do we reduce the number of small LDL particles in our blood stream? Obviously **avoid eating trans-fats**. Dietary intake of fish oil has been reported to increase LDL particle size. A 2000 AJCN study stated that docosahexaenoic acid or DHA (one of the fatty acids in fish oil) increases LDL particle size, and EPA (another fatty acid from fish oil) with DHA also reduces blood levels of triglycerides.

The **B complex vitamin niacin** shifts LDL particles from the small dense particles to large benign particles.

The inositol hexaniacinate form of niacin has also been shown to decrease total cholesterol and improve the ratio of HDL:LDL cholesterol. Also known as the "flush-free" niacin, hexaniacinate does not damage the liver at the

dosage levels required to confer benefit to the heart.

Magnesium supplementation is sometimes overlooked in heart condition patients. A study of 187 men and women (mean age 63) who took either a placebo or 365 mg. of magnesium daily over a 6-month period showed that magnesium significantly increased exercise duration time compared with the placebo group. Benefits were in exercise tolerance, reduced exercise-induced chest pain, and quality of life.

Magnesium is an important electrolyte mineral that helps regulate the heart rhythm along with calcium and potassium. Up to 65% of Americans are deficient in this important mineral, but diabetics in particular are at risk for magnesium deficiency.

Because magnesium is so critically important, I recommend that the calcium supplement be taken at bedtime, and the magnesium supplement be taken with the morning meal. The Krebs cycle metabolite forms of magnesium are highly preferred over simple magnesium oxide, which is primarily laxative.

Let's put it all together: Fish oil is highly protective of the heart, in that it increases LDL particle size, and reduces total cholesterol and triglyceride levels. (Did we also mention that fish oil is anti-inflammatory, reducing C-reactive protein, another marker for heart disease?) Inositol hexaniacinate also helps normalize cholesterol levels. Magnesium helps regulate heart rhythm, increases exercise duration time, reduces exercise-induced chest pain, and improves the quality of life.

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

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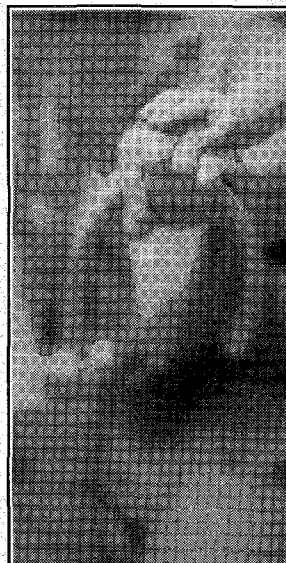
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Fit 'n Trim: M is for Meal Planning

by Claudia Burns
Special to the Islander

The first thing folks want to know when they start a diet is what they can eat.

Some plans count calories or "points." Others cut out whole categories of comestibles, such as carbohydrates, caffeine, alcohol, salt, sugar, fat, and/or fruit. Still others severely restrict your fare, such as the infamous rice diet. Then there is the Sports Illustrated program, which stipulates specific combinations of food. Recently, we have Atkins and South Beach — both of which rely on protein and fat, and exclude all else for the first few weeks.

When you adhere to any diet, you're bound to lose weight — at first. But ask yourself if this plan will be healthy long-term, and if you'll keep the weight off once you stop dieting.

I've dabbled in many a diet, and have finally come up with a plan that is healthy, as well as easy to follow. After researching a number of popular approaches, I combined facets of several regimens in order to manage my weight without giving up ALL of my favorite foods. I call it "Fit'n'Trim" because it emphasizes long-term health, rather than just shedding pounds for some special occasion, such as a wedding, school reunion, or "big 0" birthday.

Fit'n'Trim guidelines recommend con-

suming 40% protein, 30% fat, and 30% complex carbohydrates for every meal or snack, as well as eating grains and fruit only occasionally and avoiding starchy vegetables and sugar altogether. If you're watching your cholesterol, make the protein either lean or vegetable protein, the fat healthy, and the complex carbs nonstarchy.

A Fit'n'Trim breakfast might include scrambled eggs (or egg substitute) with sausage (or sausage substitute) and maybe a piece of 100% whole grain toast with a heart-healthy spread. If you prefer cereal, choose a high-protein, low-carbohydrate, high-fiber variety. At a restaurant, order an omelette loaded with nonstarchy vegetables and the cheese of your choice — but ask them to hold the potatoes and bread.

Good lunch choices include salads, and soups that comply with the 40% protein, 30% fat, 30% complex carbs formula. If you must have a sandwich, opt for bread with at least 4 grams of fiber per slice and try to sneak in some veggies. When lunching out, order a salad with protein, or eat half a quesadilla and take the rest home for a bonus meal.

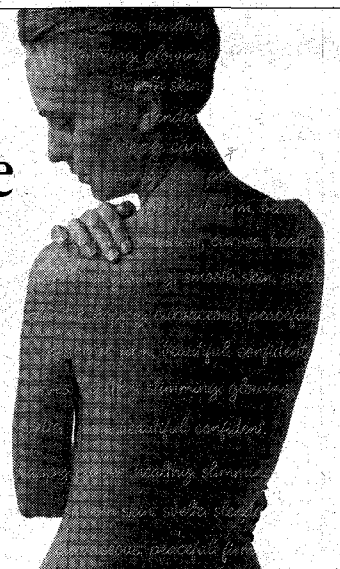
Dinner could be 6 to 8 ounces of protein or a serving of legumes, one to two

Fit 'n Trim, see page 17

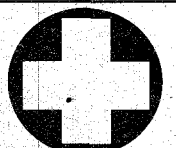
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ENVIRONMENT

Kentucky osprey recovery

At the International Osprey Foundation's annual meeting on Sunday, March 28, environmentalist and young students will tell the amazing Kentucky Osprey recovery story.

Ed Ray, founder and director of Kentucky Environmental Education Projects (KEEP) Inc. will be the featured speaker. With him will be students in grades three to five from Caldwell County Elementary, sharing their Kentucky osprey recovery story, which turned into an award-winning project for the youngsters.

For 50 years, Lake Barkley had not a single osprey. Ray will describe "the role of the students in helping to provide for our growing population, including the live cams" used to monitor the progress of an osprey family.

Ray usually travels with his guitar, which he uses to accompany himself singing songs that teach about wildlife. "The students and I will do at least one osprey song together", he promises.

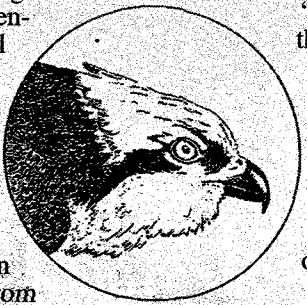
May through October, Ray conducts daily eco-cruises on Lake Barkley including an annual osprey nesting survey.

Raptors have figured largely in Ray's life. While chief naturalist at Land Between The Lakes, Ray was involved with reintroduction of bald eagles and ospreys through very successful hacking

projects. He also participated in aerial eagle surveys and worked very closely with live raptors and the public at the LBL nature center.

"Presently, I am very proud that through KEEP, I am successfully bringing agencies, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, elementary and vocational students, community organizations, private business and the public together to help our growing osprey population".

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way. Everyone is welcome to hear this heartwarming story. Admission for TIOF members is free; a \$3 donation is asked of non-members.



This is the season for chicks to fall out of nests

The Southwest Florida Wildlife Rehab Center at the Conservancy in Naples receives many calls throughout the nesting season from anxious residents who find young ospreys on the ground and are not sure what to do.

Rebecca LaBlanc, rehab center specialist, outlined how the public can help. First call immediately and tell them whether you are reporting an injured bird or a healthy baby. "One way you can tell if

Osprey, see page 20

FISHING & SHELLING

The Red Plague and Circle Hooks

by Capt. Mike Fuery

Someone called it red lettuce. Another said it looked like red slime on a stick. You might be cursing the stuff as you look for shells. It's called red drift algae. No one seems to be sure of why it is covering so many of our beaches. Same goes for how long it will stay with us.

It makes it very difficult to look for shells. Some people have been trying to rummage through and hunt for things, but at times it is several inches thick and the only shells which can be found are those which wash up against it. I get questions about it all the time.

There is one good thing: it's harmless. The drift algae is not at all related to red tide, of which we've gotten more than our fair share over the past few years. That is a microscopic algae which so concentrates in the water that it takes the oxygen out and in the process kills tons of fish and even some living shells.

The red drift variety is more like a plant. Red tide is really more sawdust-colored when it's concentrated enough. Red tide particles break up as the waves break on the beach, releasing a smell which is sort of like dead fish. Often, in bad cases, there will be hundreds of dead fish decaying on the sand and, combined with the odor from the breaking up of the red tide particles, the smell will drive even the most devout sheller off the beach.

State scientists and a private marine laboratory have been looking into the red tide, but the red drift stuff is a new event, at least for this part of the state. Some beaches seem to be hit more than others. Where I travel, in the northern islands, well north of Sanibel, the beaches are only occasionally washed with this algae.

The ends of the islands seem to hold the most stuff. The southern side of Sanibel also seems to get more than its share of the weed. The city has been reluctant to clean up the beaches, going for the "It occurred naturally, it will leave naturally," or something like that. Fort Myers Beach, just south of Sanibel went ahead and got crews busy getting it off the sand, but it's an expensive job that never seems to come to an end.

The odd thing is that we really don't exactly know what has caused it or if there is a way to stop it. I've heard some beach-goers complain that just walking the beach is a task, trying not to step on the stuff. I guess the one-two punch would be a time when both red tide and red drift algae came ashore at the same time. Don't even think about that.

Good shelling this week.

Fishing News

There has been an interesting change in hooks in the past few years, all hinging on two things when fishing. One is an effortless hook-up with fish and the other is to prevent fish from swallowing the hook into the stomach — an almost always fatal event.

The circle hook is bent to curve almost

to where the point and the ring touch. Some hook makers form their products so there is more of a gap.

We first started using them in Boca Grand Pass for those huge tarpon, when the hook was paired with a break-away jib. What anglers were finding was that hardly ever did the hook go into the stomach, rather it lodged in the outer jaw. This was very helpful because we could release the big silver fish relatively unharmed after a photo or two.

The commonly used J-shaped hooks, especially used with dead bait, often ended up in the tarpon's insides. Since nearly every tarpon is released these days for conservation purposes, letting a "gut hooked" fish go sort of defeats the purpose as the internal injuries are almost inevitably fatal.

The deep water jiggers of the pass popularized the circle hook and today it is spilling over from huge, thick hooks to smaller, lighter ones we can use for all sorts of fish.

Some anglers are combining a plastic jerk bait body with a circle hook in size 1/0 and casting over grass flats to sea trout. In addition to being a somewhat weedless hook, the important thing is that it hooks the lip a lot more often, thus allowing the trout to be easily released in good health.

I can't think of any fish which is more easily gut hooked than the trout. They seem to be bent on inhaling the bait. They swallow the whole thing on a strike. For a long time, guides have had to follow the law and release gut hooked trout when the fish was undersized, only to see it slowly drop to the bottom. Even cutting the leader and leaving the hook in doesn't seem to keep the trout alive.

The circle hook is not too easy to find, although some tackle shops carry the big game sizes in 6/0 or better. I have several saltwater fishing catalogues which are showing a surge of circle hooks. Offshore Angler, for example, has wide gap hooks for 1/0 size — \$1.99 for six. Some of the better Japanese makers are much higher than that, but are sharper and stay that way longer. Figure \$5 to \$10 dollars for better made hooks.

But there is a secret to circle hooks: don't set the hook. You'll simply pull the it away from the fish if you try and jerk back hard when you feel the strike. With a circle hook, when you feel the strike, simply start reeling. It's a difficult lesson for those of us who are of "the yank back so hard you pull their teeth out" school of hook setting.

Years ago it was popular to use a hook which reminds me somewhat of the modern circle hook, and it worked very well on our sea trout. It is called the Kahle hook and has been a work horse for many anglers. Those are a little easier to find in stores, but give the circle hook a chance and you will give the fish you release a better chance, too.

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



Capt. Mike Fuery

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Touring from a kayak

Story and photos by Liz Bender

I was quite afraid of kayaks until I met the Houston men at Adventure Sea Kayaks. I was quite determined, in fact, not to get in one, thinking of those dramatic whitewater rapids and capsizing rolls I'd seen on TV. Canoes, I could handle. Large boats, no problem. But kayaks in the open ocean? No Way.

Then I watched the ease with which Brian Houston guided a tour to the shore, with passengers both fairly old and fairly young. I listened to his son, John, describe with enthusiasm the family business in which he was raised, and the island and its creatures that he knows so well.

Before I knew it, I'd been charmed into actually wanting to jump in. Brian described the motion of the paddle to me by telling me to move as if a beachball

was between it and my chest. A few adjustments were made to the interior of the vessel to suit my height, I put on the life-jacket, and John and I shoved off for a mini eco-tour. (Brian and John lead eco-tours and Brian also teaches sea kayaking skills.)

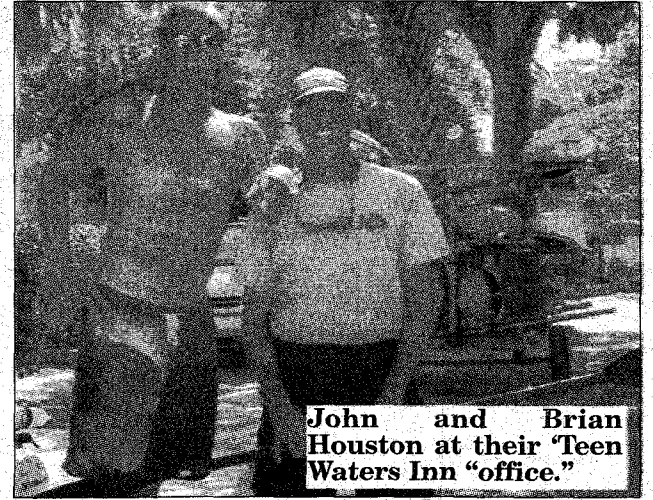
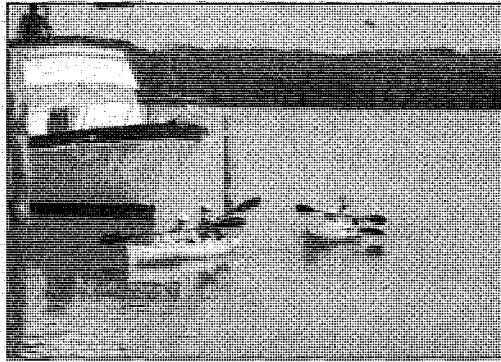
We crept along Roosevelt channel, where John pointed out the mangroves and described the environmental function of each type (red, white and black) as well as the buttonwood trees. Then he scooped out this amazing mollusk cluster; it looked like a large green honeycomb. After carefully opening it, we found little crabs, live shells, and sea stars. (He then

returned the cluster to the water.) We heard the warning call of a mother osprey from her nest, and then watched the papa chase away an eagle.

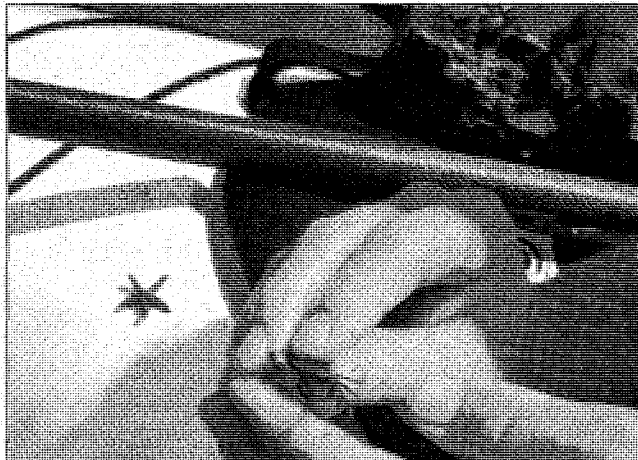
It wasn't at all the "tipsy" ride I'd imagined, and I returned absolutely exhilarated by the short journey.

Brian has been paddling local waters for over 20 years, conducting tours professionally

since 1988, and John has also been conducting tours, on his own and with his dad, for several years. Both have seen "a lot of neat things on a regular basis," notes Brian, and they "love to share them with people."



John and Brian Houston at their "Teen Waters Inn" office.



GREAT ISLAND PICK UP

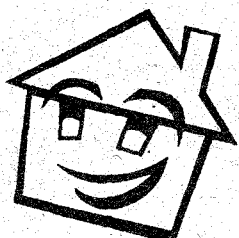
The Great Island Pick Up is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 at 8 a.m. Sponsors for the pick up this year are Bank of America, Keep Lee County Beautiful, Bailey's General Store and Bailey's Hardware, and the City of Sanibel.

There are three meeting points for volunteers: the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's Nature Center on Sanibel-Captiva Road, at McCarthy's Marina on Captiva, or at the south side of the main causeway island near the restrooms. If you want to help on the causeway islands, please contact the site coordinator, David Lowden, at 472-2635. The site coordi-

nator for Captiva is Sam Landry and he will be in the parking lot of McCarthy's Marina the morning of the cleanup.

Volunteers will be assigned either a road or a beach zone and teams will receive bottles of water and garbage bags. After cleaning assigned areas, everyone is invited back to the Nature Center on Sanibel-Captiva Road for refreshments and a chance to visit with fellow volunteers. Please wear hats, gloves, and sunscreen for your protection.

Join us to make the islands a better place for both wildlife and people. For more information, please call SCCF at 472-2329.



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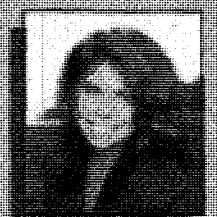
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C.R.O.W.'s newly painted van

C.R.O.W.'s newly designed van was formally introduced at CROW'S "Walk on the Wild Side" event on January 30 at J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. The design incorporates colorful artwork created by Ray Gallo, a local

Anita Pinder, C.R.O.W. director of operations, remarked that when the van is on the road, it attracts much attention. "It is quite eye-catching. The van's drivers report that people comment on it all the time."



Chip Carter, President of Island Designs Signs, said, "C.R.O.W. is such a worthwhile organization that we were pleased to contribute our services. The nice thing about it is that it also was fun to do."

Island Designs Signs has offices at 2238 Hemingway Dr., Fort Myers, Florida, 33919. The company may be contacted at 239-395-2222 or

www.islanddesignscreative.com. C.R.O.W.'s facilities are located on Sanibel Island at San-Cap Road approximately opposite "Ding" Darling Refuge. The website is www.crowclinic.org.

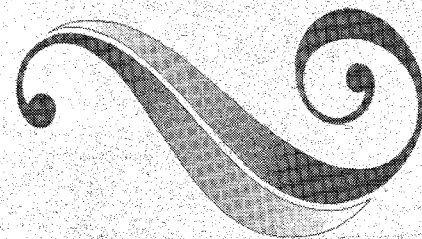
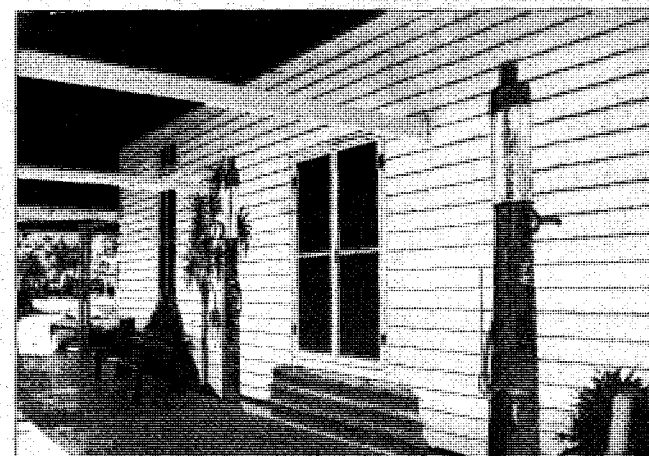
artist originally from Chicago. Its cartoon-style art depicts a number of injured creatures of the wild with bandaged limbs and walking on crutches. Island Designs Signs Creative adapted the art for use on the van, along with C.R.O.W. identification.

Old meets new at Bailey's

Visitors to Bailey's on Tuesday, March 23 were treated to a surprise: watching an outside corner of the store being transformed into the old wooden Bailey's General Store. The imaginative mural — complete with palm trees and old-time gas pumps — is the work of Island Designs Signs and the work was due to be completed by Wednesday.

v

-KN



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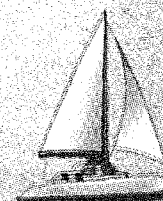
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Dinner 5:00 PM

Take out Available

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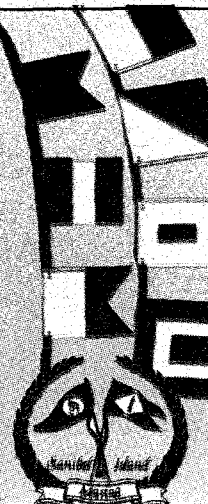


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Sphinx moth caterpillar

At an informal Ethnobotany class at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation on March 23, Dee Serage displayed the extremely well-camouflaged Sphinx moth caterpillar. The pond apple hosts the larval stage of these giant moths. The caterpillar is the tapered green "strip" under the leaf on the right, hanging parallel to the leaf.

- KN

CECI Spring Festival

The Annual Spring Festival at Periwinkle Place of the Children's Education Center of the Islands will be on Saturday, April 3. (See story on page 6.)

The Children's Spring Festival is a fundraiser that bene-



fits the Education Center's scholarship fund and general operating expenses. The children (seen in these photos) are eagerly anticipating your participation, and have been busy with the preparations.

Captiva Alternative



- Completed 4 bedroom
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- Historic 1925 home
- Views of the river
- Wood floors & white picket fence
- Detached guest house

\$489,000 in Ft Myers (104472)

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Look No Further



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

\$649,900 (104326)

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Captiva Village

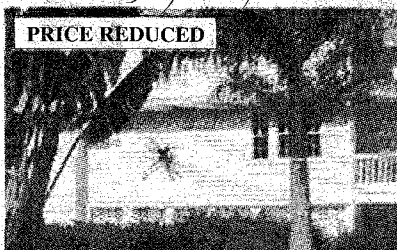


- Only 300 yards to the beach
- Exquisite 5 bedroom, 5 bath home w/pool & spa
- Office, decks, huge screened porch
- \$165,000 in rentals in 2003, beautifully remodeled

\$2,345,000 (104260)

Karen Bell • 472-7800 x 270

Gulf Ridge

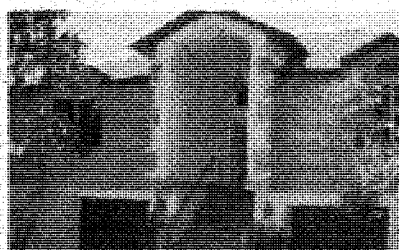


- New 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, built in 2002
- Opens up to beautiful pool w/waterfall
- Eat-in kitchen, office, loft & formal dining
- Beach access, clubhouse, community pool

\$999,000 (104088)

Linda Gornick • 472-5187 x 261

Walk to Bowman's Beach

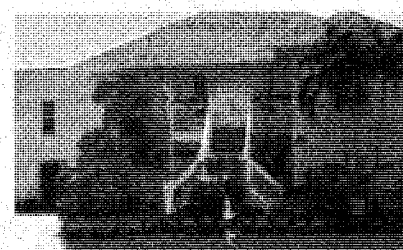


- 4 bedroom, 3 bath & vaulted ceilings
- Gourmet kitchen w/granite & stainless steel
- Custom home build in 2002 w/room for a pool
- Large screened lanai, hardwood floors

\$675,000 (103797)

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Custom Home In The Dunes



- Impeccable 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath w/many custom features
- Wide plank high gloss oak flooring, hand laid tile
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- 50 KW propane powered Kohler generator

\$799,000 (103759)

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Ground Floor Walkout



- 2 bedroom, 2 bath w/screened lanai
- Kitchen has been all redone
- Very nicely furnished
- Pool and tennis

\$509,000 (104341)

Lynda Traverso • 472-5187 x 226

Excellent Rental



- 2 bedroom, 2 bath at Sundial
- Nicely decorated
- Just steps to pool & beach
- Fully furnished

\$669,000 (104493)

Robin Humphrey • 472-5187 x 218

Rare Gulf Front Pointe Santo

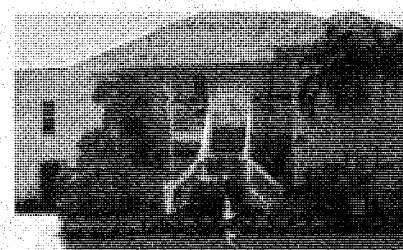


- Third floor 3 bedroom, 2 bath
- Sweeping Gulf front views
- Excellent rental income
- Fully furnished

\$1,250,000 (104578)

David Schuldenfrei • 472-5187 x 227

Lovely Loggerhead Condo

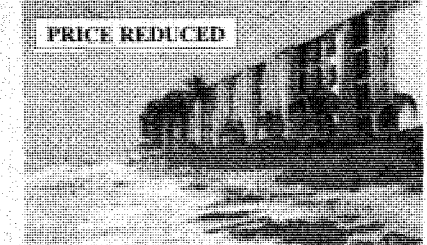


- Wide Gulf views
- Totally updated 2 bedroom, 2 bath
- Attractively furnished, fully equipped
- Quiet, convenient top floor location

\$829,000 (104541)

Ada Shissler • 472-5187 x 254

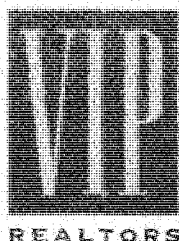
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- Sundial Beach Resort
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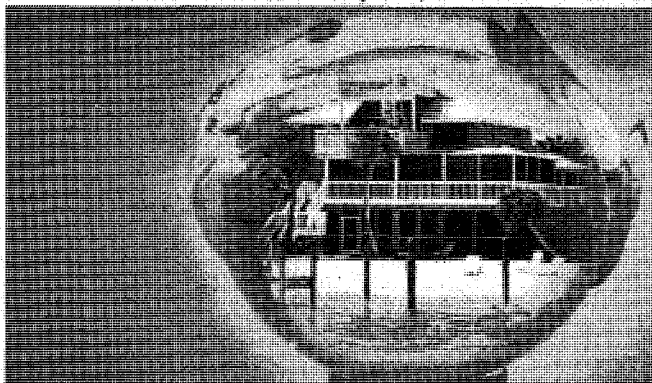


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The team at Sanibel Air Conditioning provides unbeatable service

by **Nancy Santeusano**
Special to The Islander

President Bryan Hayes of Sanibel Air Conditioning, Inc. stresses that the mission of this company, established in 1988 by his father Dan Hayes and joined in 1998 by Todd Hayes, has as its mission "to provide our customers with quality reliable service, being there when you need us and remembering our customers' names." They limit their service area to Sanibel and Captiva exclusively and maintain a much higher ratio of technician to customers than larger companies covering multiple counties.

To accomplish their optimum expectations and to give the best to their customers, Sanibel Air Conditioning has developed an outstanding service team which Bryan calls "Carol and the Guys" but Carol Schapiro who is one of the most highly efficient and customer friendly office managers you will ever meet, calls "Carol and the Men". As

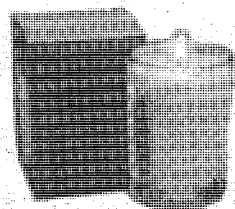
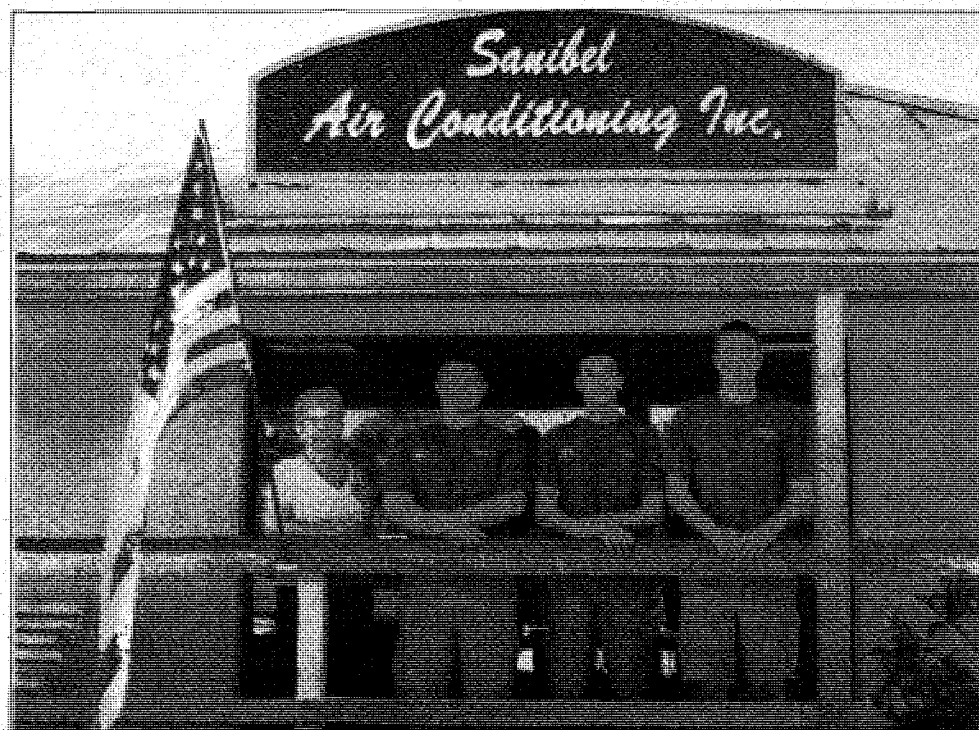
Hayes reiterates, "You always hear about the poor work ethic in Florida. On our service team we have three young men who have been with us a long time, do a great job for the customers and are always striving for the best in the quality of their work." Customers appreciate the courtesy and businesslike attitude of Mike Merchant, Chris Brightman and most recent team member Matt McDonald. This is the kind of team that makes a difference and, along with the three principals, establishes customers for life.

The team members follow clear guidelines and begin each job — no matter how large or how small — by arriv-

The Sanibel Air Conditioning team (from left): Office Manager Carol Schapiro, Technician & Installer Chris Brightman, Technician & Installer Matt Macdonald and Install Manager & Technician Mike Merchant

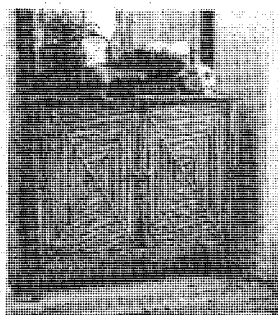
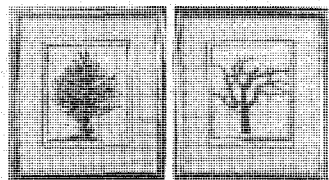
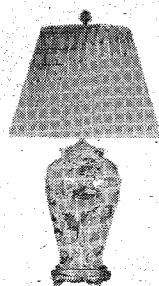
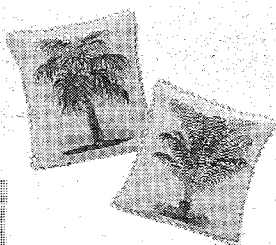
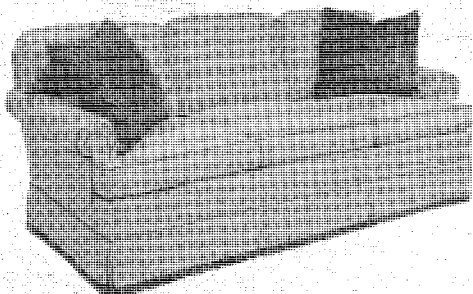
ing on time and first meeting with the customer to explain what they are going to do. They instruct the customer about special areas or rooms to which they will

need access and always ask permission to move to another area of the house. In short, they do what they say they are going to do, in the time they say they are

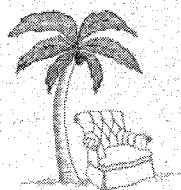


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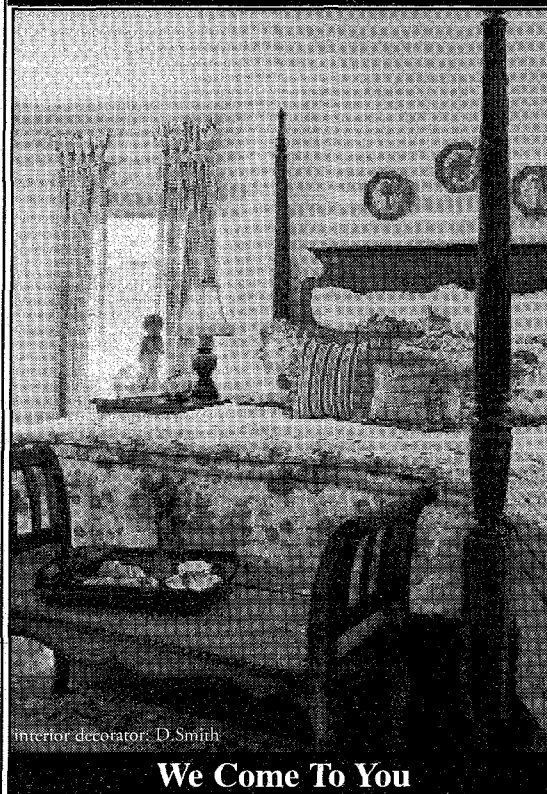
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going to do it, and for the price they quoted. Hayes points out that a large percentage of the jobs are one-day replacements. "We try to leave no one without air-conditioning overnight. During the busy season, it is not uncommon for our installers to be on a job into the evening. In houses with two units, we do one part of the house first and the other part on the second day rather than ripping out everything at once — which would make it more convenient for the installers, but which leaves the customers without air-conditioning."

Todd Hayes is implementing "cross training" from repair to a/c checks to service calls and installations. "Our goal is to have all our guys able to do everything. Then there's more flexibility and better provision for the services our customers need," explains Hayes. "Our goal is SERVICE WHEN YOU NEED IT and, with cross training, we are fulfilling this goal." The men are certified according to EPA standards in refrigeration and are receiving advanced HVAC training for constant updating of the newest in equipment and techniques. Quality is always first.

Be cautious in responding to off-island air-conditioning "specials," where the telephone caller tells you that their company is going to be in your area and give you the opportunity to take part in their "special." Often, these service providers may offer low-cost service but they

receive commissions for selling products or "improving" your system with something you don't need. These "specials" are used to provide access to your home in order to sell you all kinds of add-ons and extras, and their low price seldom ends at the original price they quoted. The policy of Sanibel Air Conditioning, Inc. is to do exactly what they say at the price they quote. Hayes points out, "We have been in the air-conditioning business for over fifteen years here on the island, with

a combined experience of over fifty years." Another recent trend he cites is the growing number of off-island companies who no longer find it cost effective to come over the bridge: they can service many more calls in their own geographical area in the length of time it takes to come to the islands.

Routine air-conditioner preventive maintenance can be equated with what Sanibel Air Conditioning, Inc. calls "peace of mind maintenance." Regular maintenance can reduce your energy bill, prolong the life of your equipment, prevent damage and save money on repairs. Team members Mike, Chris or Matt perform this service by checking your ductwork for leakage, checking for cleanliness to prevent problems with microorganism growth, cleaning the condensate to prevent leaking water in your garage or even your living room, checking your thermostat which often begins to lose its accuracy over the years. The problem

with an inaccurate thermostat is not only its lack of precision but it can cause your air-conditioner to run for a longer length of time and become more expensive. No one wants that!

Sanibel Air Conditioning, Inc. receives many calls requesting a price over the phone for a major air conditioning project but, as Hayes reiterates, "We do not give a price over the phone." You can purchase top-of-the-line equipment but if it's not properly installed, you will have paid top price for top-rated equipment that will not perform to the proper level of expectancy. In coastal areas, air-conditioning equipment is exposed to a very harsh environment and inferior equipment just doesn't hold up. "If you call to talk with a contractor about some major air-conditioning work and he quotes you a price over the phone, that's your signal to find another contractor, no matter how attractive the price may seem. All reputable contractors are willing to come out and see you at no charge." The average life expectancy of air-conditioning equipment in Florida is 8-12 years and the decision you make now becomes an investment in comfort and longevity," explains Hayes.

For an island-based air-conditioning service with hallmarks of customer service, reliability and reputation, call on Sanibel Air Conditioning, Inc.

Garden For Wildlife

(NAPSI)-Gardeners are always looking for creative ways to make their yards enticing. Landscapes that help restore the natural balance and provide all the right elements for wildlife to thrive can deliver both beauty and function.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has teamed up with book publisher Creative Homeowner to publish the most comprehensive guide to date on gardening for wildlife. It even shows how to have your property officially certified by NWF as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat™ site.

Each chapter of Attracting Birds, Butterflies and Other Backyard Wildlife is chock full of practical how-to information and colorful photographs to make your yard a wildlife refuge and a welcoming retreat for its owner.

"If each of us who cares about leaving a wildlife legacy to the next generation implemented one or two ideas in this book, our neighborhoods would be thriving havens for wildlife and a pathway for people to connect with nature and all the wonders it offers," says book author David Mizejewski, manager of NWF's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program.

The 128-page book is available in bookstores, gardening and home stores for \$12.95. It can be ordered on NWF's Web site at www.nwf.org/backyard-wildlifehabitat or by calling 1-800-631-7795, ext. 355.

For more information on landscaping for wildlife on the islands, call or visit the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.



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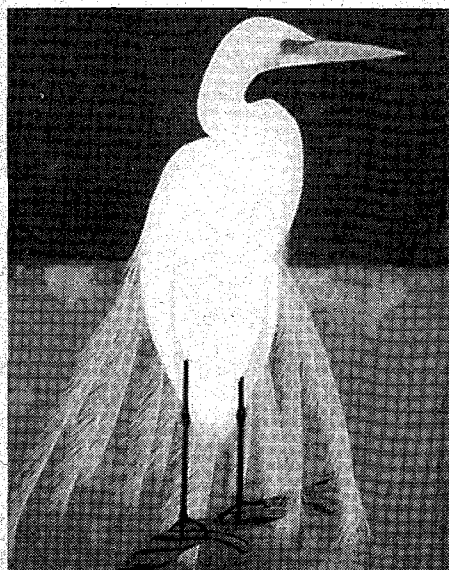
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Your Home Of Distinction

(NAPSI)-If you've been planning-or even just dreaming-of buying a luxury home or second home, there could be good news for you. There are real estate professionals who specialize in fine homes and estates and who can recognize the unique sense of style and taste that a luxury home can represent.

These professionals understand that luxury home buyers are looking for a home reminiscent of their own signature style-and know how to help their customers get the homes they want. One recommendation is to get pre-approved for a mortgage. This process can often be done in under an hour and it accomplishes two important goals.

1. It will tell you how much house you can afford and what your monthly payments would be.
2. It tells the seller that you can afford to buy their home.

By definition, a pre-approved buyer generally has an approved mortgage subject to an appraisal of the property. Many times a buyer can use this pre-approved status as leverage during the negotiation process.

There are many terms you should know when looking for a mortgage for your high-end home. Some options include super jumbo, a really big loan, an Interest Only ARM which lets you pay interest only for the first several years of the loan. If you're self-employed you may want to consider a SELPH loan, which provides the convenience of reduced documentation.

Another tip is to make sure to look at all aspects of the property when comparing homes. Questions to ask include:

- Is the property tax approximately the same?
- Are both houses renovated to the same degree?
- Do they both have the same number of bed- and bathrooms?
- Are both houses located on the same or similar streets?
- Does either house have any encumbrances?

Once you find the home you like, you may need to make an offer for the house. This can be a trying time since both parties have very different goals. It may be better to have a third party, such as a real estate professional, negotiate the offer. If you do have any personal interaction with the homeowner, don't give out any information about your move, your current housing status, financial status or your feelings about their property-positive or negative.

Fortunately, many high-toned homes are listed with the Century 21 Fine Homes and Estates program. Van Davis, CEO and president of Century 21 Real Estate Corporation states, "Century 21 affiliates across the country are successfully uncovering distinctive ways to service the unique real estate needs of upscale home buyers in their respective markets."

To find these agents and to learn how they can help you get the most home for your money, visit www.century21.com.

A successful search for a superior house can start with finding an expert in luxury homes.

ISLAND SCENE

The islands' biggest party — you can almost taste it

The blueprint for the 24th Annual Taste Of The Islands is in the construction stages, spearheaded by Ann Arnoff, chairman. The major fundraiser and beachside bash, which benefits The Clinic For The Rehabilitation of Wildlife, is set for May 16.

Nine restaurants to date are carefully reviewing their recipes to serve the day of the Taste, recipes that will be carefully scrutinized by a panel of experts in the culinary field and YOU! They include The American Legion Post 123, The Dunes Greenside Grille, Ellington's, Gramma Dot's, McT's, Pinocchios, Sanibel Grill, Timbers and The Seafood Factory. Come mid-May, there will be up to eighteen restaurants cooking their specialties as they compete for a total of eight "food category" awards and the prestigious Taste of the Taste — determined by the panel of judges — and The People's Choice — determined by ballots cast by the public that day.

If you are not a restaurant entered in this competitive culinary event, you may participate in a number of ways — you may elect to become an individual sponsor. For a \$500 donation, sponsor perks include admission for four people, four 2004 Taste T-shirts with design by local artist Heather Slabosz,

\$100 in food and beverage tickets, entry to the sponsor tent for shaded seats and a complimentary one-eighth page ad in the official Taste of The Islands event program. Limited corporate sponsorships are sold at \$1,000 and include 10 entry tickets, \$250 in food and beverage tickets, 10 T-shirts, a one-quarter page ad in the event program, seating in the shaded tent and an engraved Taste Of The Island sponsorship plate. (Corporate sponsorships are limited and only five remain). You may also elect to become a volunteer ... OR you may just choose to eat, drink and be merry while enjoying great live music! Don't miss this 24th annual event on Sunday May 16, at Gulfside City Park.

For more information on restaurant and volunteer sign-up, or to become a sponsor, call Anita at C.R.O.W. at 472-3644.

County Commissioner candidates

The April meeting of Lee Republican Women Federated will be held Monday, April 19 at the Hilton Garden Inn. We have invited the candidates running for County Commissioner for District 1, 3, 4, and 5 to speak to us. Sanibel (District 1) is represented by Bob Janes, who is running unopposed.

The public is invited to attend. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 12601 University Drive (corner of Summerlin Road and College Parkway). Reservations for the LRWF luncheon are required by Wednesday, April 10 and include an 11:15 a.m. social hour and 11:45 lunch, business meeting and program. Cost is \$16. Call Carolyn at 849-0966 or Cindy at 415-3290 to make reservations.

SCA Annual Meeting

The Sanibel Community Association's Annual Meeting and Dinner Program will be held in the Association's auditorium on Wednesday, April 28, 2004 beginning at 6 p.m. at 2173 Periwinkle Way. Reports on the operation of SCA for the preceding year will be followed by a presentation by the Sanibel Historical Museum Founding Mothers with Women's Inside View of Sanibel in the Early 1920's.

Please call the office at 472-2155 or stop by to make reservations prior to April 23 if you would like to attend. The cost for the dinner and program is \$11 for members, and \$12 for non-members, with prepayment requested. (Visa/Master Card accepted). Note: If you did not receive an April newsletter, your membership dues have not been paid: individual \$25, family \$40.

Funding for CROW vet intern

Adelaide Cherbonier, one of the founders of the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, donated \$10,400 to the Dr. Phyllis Douglass Fund at the Community Foundation of Sanibel-Captiva. The fund will benefit a veterinary intern program at C.R.O.W.

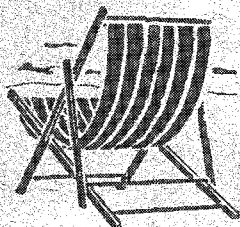
Dr. Paul Douglass established the fund in 2001 in his wife's name and Cherbonier was a long-time friend of the late Douglass and her husband.

Douglas, a veterinarian, has been involved with C.R.O.W. since it started and Cherbonier has been a long-time supporter.

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Osprey, from page 10

they're healthy is if their wings hang down," said LeBlanc. "Young ospreys are not as aggressive as adult birds. They are mostly scared when they fall out of the nests.

Start by covering their heads so they are not frightened. Both the rehab center and C.R.O.W./TIOF — sometimes with the assistance of the Lee County Electric Co-op and their bucket truck — put the young back in the nest. In order to do that there must be at least one other young osprey still in the nest or the parents may not return to care for the rescued baby. If there isn't another baby in the nest, the young osprey is taken back to the center and fed until it is able to fly and eat on its own. Veterinarians evaluate the bird's injuries. Some may need x-rays and surgery. A local alternative would be to take the fledging to C.R.O.W.

To report an injured or young bird that needs help in Collier County, call 239-262-2273; in Lee County call C.R.O.W. 472-3644.

Ospreys around Southwest Florida

On Sanibel, 122 osprey chicks fledged in 2003 — the most in at least 10 years. This represents a real comeback since 1997 and 1998 when only 33 and 52 chicks survived to independence. The decline is thought to be associated with red tide outbreaks in the run-up to the nesting season.

Five volunteer nestwatch groups monitored six nesting areas from one end of the island to the other in 2003, making the rounds every two weeks.

The island had 136 nests categorized as "occupied," which means there was activity on them, though not necessarily any eggs laid. Of those, 81 nests were productive. Here's the breakdown of nests: Natural (in trees) - 64, platform - 49, chimney - 3.

Channel Markers

Stuart Strauss, of Captiva Cruises Osprey Watch, monitors the nests on channel markers in Pine Island Sound. He treats passengers to an eco-experience with ospreys as the stars of the show and he keeps osprey tracking forms in the wheelhouse.

It was great to watch the whole ritual of nesting and chick growth from our vantage point on the Lady Chadwick, he reported in May 2003.

Last year's results:

Marker 45A - 2 chicks fledged

Marker 51 - None

Marker 54 - 3 chicks fledged

Marker 57 - Nest abandoned (high winds, red tide)

Marker 60 - 2 chicks fledged

Marker 63 - Nest abandoned (high winds, red tide)

Useppa 9 - Nest abandoned (high winds, red tide)

For more information on TIOF, call 472-1862.

Fit 'n Trim, from page 9

tablespoons of fat, and as many steamed nonstarchy vegetables as you can handle. Use some of that fat on the veggies, if you wish.

For snack attacks, try celery stuffed with cottage cheese or peanut butter (look for a brand that has no sugar), raw nonstarchy veggies with dip, or a handful of nuts. Soy chips are a healthy alternative to crackers or potato chips, as they are high in protein but low in carbs. Top them with tuna, chicken, or egg salad, or small chunks of cheese, and crunch away.

Using these guidelines, you can create satisfying meals and snacks. Just be sure to limit grains to one serving a day, eat fruit sparingly, and avoid sugar and starchy vegetables. Even your doctor would agree that this is a diet you can live with — for the rest of your life.

Please feel welcome to join us at Fit'n Trim. Weight Management from A to Z, which 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. 472-5133, imfitntrim@msn.com.

Look Who's Flying!

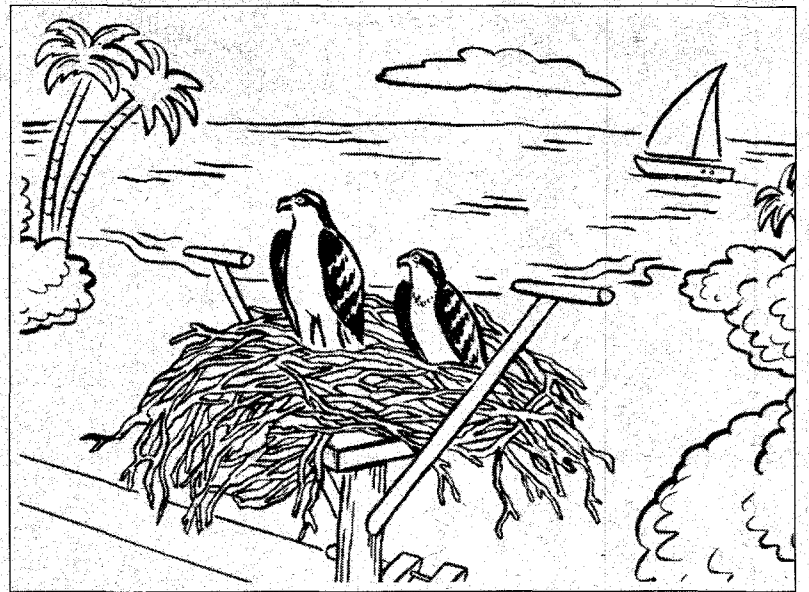
A free coloring book about baby ospreys, by Claudia Burns and Dave Horton, is available at the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, at the Education Center service desk.

Kids can learn all about ospreys: how they build their nests and feed their young and how the youngsters learn to fly.

There's even a quiz at the end and if kids send in their answers, they can get a free osprey sticker.

Look Who's Flying was funded by the West Coast Inland Navigation District and The International Osprey Foundation.

Right: Illustration by Dave Horton from *Look Who's Flying*.



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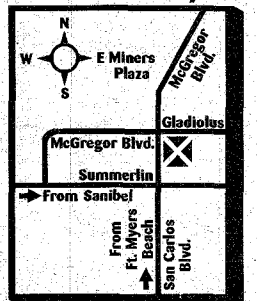
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SCORECARD

Beachview Women's Golf Association

Results: March 17

"Go For the Gold" was the theme of this year's Beachview Women's Golf Association Member-Guest Tournament held on March 17, 2004. Being St. Patrick's Day, the Pro Shop Staff, dressed in green shirts, set the mood. The play for the day was the best ball of the two-some.

Event: Go for the Gold Member-Guest Tournament

18-Hole Score

1st Place
Barbara Quast 52
Barbara Comisar

2nd Place
Cecilia Olsson 53
Karin VanSickle

3rd Place
Mary Jane Proctor 57
Sue Richard

9-Hole Score

1st Place
Maureen McMahon 30
Liz Truax

2nd Place
Ginny Reeves 31
Ginny Green
- score card play off

3rd Place
Mel Deming 32
Carroll Connor

Member-Guest Chairman, Muffie Mallon, and Assistant Chairman, Joan Miller, handed out special events prizes. Winning closest to the pin were Barbara Quast and Sue Richard. Longest drive prizes were won by Judy Ware, Barbara Comisar, Muffie Mallon, and Mary Ann Goodman.

Pots of Gold filled with greenery and flowers decked the tables at the luncheon in the Beachview Restaurant following the Tournament. The Irish Spirit was everywhere.

Congratulations to the winners!



Dunes Women Golfers Association

Dunes women have new champion

A hard fought club championship tournament culminated on March 19, 2004 when the final round of the DWGA Championship and Consolation tournaments took place. Note that Judy Wellons, the new club champion, is celebrating her 12th champion victory at The Dunes; her first was in 1986.

Championship Flight

A Flight
Winner
Judy Wellons
Runner-up
Becky Ciriello
Consolation Winner
Karen Hendricks
Consolation Runner-up
Bonnie Byrne

1st Flight

Winner
Sonja Gans
Runner-up
Grethe Christensen
Consolation Winner
Ginny Grosse
Consolation Runner-up
Pat Sawin

2nd Flight

Winner
Pam Brodersen
Runner-up
Nancy McConnell
Consolation Winner
Betsy Cox
Consolation Runner-up
Toni Warren

3rd Flight

Winner
Rosemary Ryan
Runner-up
May Vernon

SCA Duplicate Bridge

The Sanibel Community Center hosts Duplicate Bridge games every Monday, starting at 7:30 p.m. Fees are \$4 for SCA members and \$5 for non-members. Partners can be provided if necessary.

Monday, March 15: North-South:

First:
Rosemary and Frank Bloom

Second:
Ginny Reeves and Dorothy Suechting

East-West

First:
Alaine and Herman Jass

Second:
Linda and Hanson Robbins tied with Ann and Will Schmid

Dunes Women Golfers Association

Results: March 19

"The Wicked Nine" was The Dunes Women's March 19th game of the day. 18 holes were played, but only the 9 lowest handicap holes counted.

Format: The Wicked Nine

A Flight Score

1st Place
Ann Humphrey 39

2nd Place - tie
Jodi Cothran 42
Carolyn Jones

B Flight

1st Place
Helen Seibold 37

2nd Place - tie
Mary Ann Parmelee 43
Claudia Finzen

C Flight

1st Place - tie
Lil Gailius 39
Sandi Sultar

3rd Place
Carolyn Wood 40

D Flight

1st Place
Carol Brodersen 40

2nd Place
Pat Wentling 42

3rd Place
Barb Bornhorst 46

Chip-ins

Grethe Christensen (2) Helen Seibold
Betsy Cox Jodi Cothran
Barb Bornhorst



Nifty Niners

Results: March 18

Event: 4-Person Scramble

Score
1st Place - tie
Sue Tray 42
Nancy McNeill
Joan Sprinkle
Peggy Hogg

Jeanette McLaughlin
Lois Smith
Pat Coughlin
Mary Condit

3rd Place
Janice McNeal 43
Roberta Rohl
Toni Bracco
Marge Nordstrom

Congratulations to the winners!

Nifty Niners Club Championship

Results: March 11

2 Rounds of Low Net

A Flight Score

1st Place
Gay Nichols 63
Sudden death hole #1

2nd Place
Jan McLaughlin 63

B Flight

1st Place
Corky O'Reilly 55
Sudden death hole #2

2nd Place
Sue Tray 55

C Flight

1st Place
Peggy Hogg 57

2nd Place
Roberta Rohl 62

Congratulations to the winners!

OBITUARIES

Lynn Seidler

Lynn Seidler of Sanibel and Roxbury, Conn., passed away Thursday, March 18, in the Turks and Calcos Islands after a snorkeling holiday with her beloved husband of 45 years, Lee. She was 67 and died of lung cancer.

Lynn was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey and graduated from Lake Erie College. She held a masters in speech therapy from New York University.

Lynn's lifelong passions were traveling and the arts, and her hallmarks were an indomitable spirit and down-to-earth wit and wisdom. In her final months, she visited central Russia on a mission for The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and South Africa on a photographic safari. She attained a height of 18,600 feet on Mount Everest at the age of 61, while suffering from the Multiple Sclerosis she battled for more than a decade.

Lynn was Executive Director of The Shubert Foundation for 18 years, overseeing its grant-giving program which sustains regional and repertory theater across the U. S., and setting in motion the establishment of The Shubert Archives, housing more than a century of theater memorabilia.

Active in politics, she managed Ed Koch's campaign headquarters during the launch of the congressional career that propelled him to the post of Mayor of New York City. She was coordinator of public relations for The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Lynn was an active philanthropist. She sat on the Board of the Multiple Sclerosis Research and Treatment Center at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York. The Seidler Foundation, which she established, supports a range of humanitarian causes. She was particularly proud that she and her husband were able to arrange transportation of and finance open-heart surgery in the U. S. for a child she met on a mission to Cuba in 1997. She sponsored the appearance of the Jerusalem String Quartet at Sanibel Music Festival the week before she died.

She is survived by her father, William Lopatin; her husband, Lee; her daughter, Laurie; and her grandson, Isaac Cinquini.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may

be sent to Multiple Sclerosis Research and Treatment Center, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, Suite 7C, New York, New York, 10019.

James Dillion Ashby

James Ashby, 67, a 35-year resident of Cape Coral and father of Sanibel Police detective Scott Ashby, passed away March 17, 2004 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Born in Highland Park, Mich. on Nov. 21, 1936 to Dillion and Louise Ashby, James attended public schools in the Detroit area, graduating as president of his class from Lincoln Park High School in June, 1954. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1955-'57 and, when he was discharged, returned to Detroit. While trying out for a semi-pro football team, he was recruited by the University of South Dakota and received a full four-year athletic scholarship. After graduation he returned as a graduate assistant, coaching with the varsity staff while continuing work on his Master's.

James was retired from the Lee County School System, where he taught and coached for 28 years. Prior to that he taught and coached high school teams for six years in Nebraska and, after retiring, returned to coach his grandchildren in Pop Warner football. Next to his family, football was his passion — he spent 52 years as a player, high school coach and volunteer coach.

He met and married his wife of 44 years, Ronalee ("Chookie") while they were both students at South Dakota. Besides Chookie, James leaves behind two sons — Scott, and his wife, Ave, and Jeff; a daughter, Stacie Bontrager, and her husband, Bob; and eight grandchildren — Christopher Huffman, Dylan and Hunter Bontrager, Taylor, Kyle, Miranda, Jacob and Josh Ashby; a sister, Mary LaPorte, of Tennessee; and a community of friends.

A celebration of James' life was held Monday, March 22, in the chapel of Coral Ridge Funeral Home, and a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated the next day at St. Andrew's. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hope Hospice, 2430 Diplomat Parkway, Cape Coral 33909.

Tallahassee, from page 6

saying the ballots had become too cumbersome to handle. Her replacement, Bush-appointed Sharon Harrington, has told city officials she will not consider returning municipal elections to the fall ballot — at least not until after this year's presidential election — as Cape Coral officials have requested.

Hood reportedly told the Cape representatives that the trend is to consolidate elections, not divide them. It costs less to have one election rather than two, she said.

"This is probably the single biggest issue to come out of this trip," said Joe Mazurkiewicz, former Cape Coral mayor and a governmental consultant. Quaintance took a similar view. "When you have elections in the spring 'super-voters' are the only ones who come out," he said.

Officials in Lee County, have protested the bump from the fall ballot, which still contains county, state and national races and issues. Cape Coral's first spring primary, for city council, in March of last year, drew a turnout of less than 11 percent; Young had predicted 25-30 percent. The City of Fort Myers' municipal election drew 21 percent of the voters while on Sanibel, 44 percent of the voters went to the polls. The April Cape Coral election, which had two council runoff races and a \$40 million parks bond initiative, was scarcely better: Turnout was about 20 percent. The Cape traditionally has led the county in voter turnout.

Not all of the meetings were productive, however. Officials met with Bryd to discuss Lee County issues, including manatee speed zones, the dock permitting moratorium, and I-75, which local officials maintain is inadequate for the county's population and traffic flow. When Broward County/Fort Lauderdale had a similar population, it had a six-lane state highway serving the area, said Cape Coral City Manager Terry Stewart.

Byrd told the dozen or so attending the 15- to 20-minute meeting that the transportation issue was not under House control. "We've basically put that beyond ourselves," Bryd said.

The Florida Department of Transportation controls how much

money goes to the various parts of the state for transportation needs, he said. Byrd also told those attending that the state has little control over manatee protection and the dock ban, as those issues are now within the purview of the federal government.

Local officials were not happy with the answers - or non-answers - they felt they received. "That was a monumental waste of time; I've never been so insulted by a legislator," said Stewart.

His feelings were echoed by Gilda Suarez, who reported, "I never felt so shunned by an official... I felt his body language was saying, 'I wish these people would just leave.'"

Later, the agenda included local displays in the Capitol Rotunda, committee meetings, and meeting with the lieutenant governor and the governor. Suarez reflected on the meeting with the governor noting, "I think one of the most important parts of our trip was our scheduled meeting with Governor Bush which took place on Thursday around 3 p.m. just before we boarded our buses to come home. We were escorted into the press room and given the impression that our meeting was just going to be a photo session.

"A few minutes later, the Governor came in and we had our picture taken with him. However, we didn't expect how much time he actually spent with us. He asked about our concerns in our areas. He realized we have the fastest growing county in the state and he has definite concerns about certain situations that would affect our businesses — mainly tourist issues such as red tide, red algae and manatees."

On the whole, the delegation regarded the trip as a great success, vowing that they would return next year with double the number of people. Suarez summed it up saying, "It brought us together — all of us from different cities like Sanibel, North Fort Myers, Bonita, Lehigh, Fort Myers Beach and Cape Coral to represent our county. We were all sensitive to each other's needs and problems in our respective cities. I personally felt very proud to be a citizen of Lee County."



Discarded electronics and batteries

Discarded electronics may be hazardous

The devices that make possible e-mail, e-news and e-commerce may end their days as e-hazardous waste.

A just-completed study by University of Florida environmental engineers found that electronic-age gizmos ranging from cell phones to computer mice often release enough lead in laboratory tests to be classified as hazardous waste under federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The findings, presented last month in a draft report to the EPA, which funded the study, could prompt the federal government or individual states to change

the disposal rules for millions of tons of electronic devices that now routinely make their way into household trash landfills, said UF environmental engineering Associate Professor Tim Townsend, lead investigator on the project.

"The bottom line is that when we tested these devices, in many cases they met the EPA definition for regulated hazardous waste," said Townsend, who presented his findings recently at an EPA meeting in Chicago.

Rapid changes in technology make the issue of "e-waste" pressing. Experts estimate that more than two million personal computers became obsolete in

1998 alone, and project more than 60 million personal computers will be retired in 2005, Townsend said.

Sanibel School students collecting batteries

Sixth grade students from the Sanibel School are collecting and properly disposing of expired batteries that would otherwise be thrown away in the trash. Students are concerned about increased levels of mercury in local fish, which is not harmful to the fish but is highly toxic to humans.

Students are calling on the Sanibel community for their help in reaching their goal of collecting 6,000 batteries

— one per Sanibel resident — during the school year. Battery collection points are at: The Sanibel School, Bailey's General Store, Jerry's Foods, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, The Sanibel Public Library, Forever Green Ace Hardware, 7-11 (at 1521 Periwinkle Way), The Bait Box and Macintosh Book Shop. All the batteries collected will be taken to the Lee County Solid Waste Management Center for proper disposal.

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POOL HEATERS - FACTORY DIRECT: Solar, Heat Pump or Gas. Complete do-it-yourself pool heater kits. Phone quotes, installation available in most areas. 1-800-333-9276 ext. 324
www.solardirect.com Lic #CWC 029795, Insured, Dealer inquiries welcome

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PROBLEM ROOFS WANTED!!!
Model Homes Needed! To show
Off our New Lifetime Roof. Call
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Lounger * 5-HP * Shoulder, Back
& Hip Jets * Cedar Cabinet *
Underwater Light * Warranty.
Retail \$4,295. Sacrifice \$1,650.
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Three original
"New Yorker" cartoons,
by the late Carl Rose,
\$50 each or 3 for \$135.00

One dozen Minton Blue pattern
floral Dessert Plates, \$75.00.

11 Lenox Rhodora pattern
Luncheon Plates, \$85.00

Wrought iron glass top
outdoor dining table,
with six chairs, \$100.

472-6548 (Sanibel)
Between 4 and 8 p.m.

WOLFF TANNING BEDS.
AFFORDABLE * CONVENIENT.
Tan At Home. Payments From \$25/
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Today (800) 711-0158

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Kimball petite butterfly grand
piano. Blonde finish, delicate
carved legs. \$800 OBO. (239)
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POWERPRO XTL
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210 LBS. RESISTANCE
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USED 5 TIMES.
PURCHASED NEW
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11/03.
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SALE.
\$1,000. FIRM.
DAYTIME
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POOL TABLE (3pc) 1" States,
K66 Speed Rails, Solid Wood,
Quadruple Beam, Hand Carved
Legs. Cost... \$5K... Sacrifice...
\$1,450. Slot Machine 200
Tokens \$195. (954) 553-5924
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Gun, Knife Civil War Show,
March 27-28 th. Araba Shrine
Temple, & 2010 Hanson St, corner
41 Fort Myers. 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday, 9 am - 3 pm Sunday.
concealed weapons permit
courses. Appraisals, buy, sell
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Slalom Ski O'Brien World Team
Graphite (size 167 cm.). Also
Slalom pair of H.O. Sport Combo.
All for \$150.00 239-671-3313 (Jeff)

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MARCH 28th
1p.m.

BOY SCOUT DRIVE,
FORT MYERS

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MURANO GLASS,
GORHAM, LENOX,
KRISTEN,
SWAROVSKI,
& HAVILAND
COLLECTIBLES.

Lapis Lazuli World Globe
w/semi precious stones
setting on marble stand.
Many pieces of Lladro incl.
a clown circus arena worth
many thousands of dollars.

Kristen musicals,
Gorham crystal, huge
ceramic car & truck
models, old circus
clown cars, glass
statues-manatees, fish
and animals of highest
quality. A Monfort Indian
statue, circus band wagon
signed Ron Lee, Spanish
glassware, a large
carousel horse, over 150
clown statues-no
two alike,
alabaster lions, large
glass cat, ceramic fruit
basket, 10-Murano glass
figurines, Lenox plates &
glassware, huge glass
unicorn, very old set of
Johan Haviland china,
stunning set of Italian
Christmas dishes,
plus the following rare
clown pieces.

The band wagon-1983,
Frosty Precious
Love-1985,
First & Main-1987,
Stepping Out-1982,
Self Portrait-1982,
Rub-a-Dub Tub,
L114 Wishful Thinking,
L333 Heartbroken Hobo,
Whiskers On Bench, and
Catch the Brass Ring.
25 signed prints and
paintings, 4 ft. high
lighted Glass door Curio
Cabinets, inlaid leaded
glass coffee table,
wrought iron tables,
unbelievable casual
dining set w/six chairs,
four small wood curio
cabinets w/matching
mirrors, wicker tables,
3-TVs, signed oils on
canvas by Turley,
collectible clocks,
beautiful electric piano,
a very unusual bedroom
lamp, lighthouses, a
beautiful painting of the
Parthenon in Greece,
huge ceramic angels,
carved wood fish,
potted silk trees,
leather chair with
footstool, 24-inch Lladro
Girl with a Dove,
unusual Bull Riding
painting by
George Cronas.
WORDS CANNOT
DESCRIBE THE BEAUTY
OF THIS RARE
COLLECTION.
SHOWING WILL
START 11 A.M.
IN THE
NEW LUXURIOUS
BOY SCOUT
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Auctioneer JIM TATE
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GARAGE SALES

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE
SATURDAY, MARCH 27
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
460 CASA YBEL ROAD
Home: grandfather clock,
couches, chairs, beds,
washer/dryer, clothes,
toys, cribs, tools.
Office: furniture.
Massage Clinic supplies.
LOTS MORE!

March 27, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm.
Sanibel Community Church's
annual Spring Yard Sale. 1740
Periwinkle Way, Sanibel.

Moving Sale: 9:00 - 2:00 pm on
Saturday, March 27, Belding
Drive (off San-Cap Road). Leather
couch and chair, queen futon
and frame, coffee table, exercise
equipment, bicycle apparatus,
double bed and frame, bar stools,
oak chest, household items and
more.

DOMESTIC AUTO

Wanted Dead or Alive: Title or no title.
Trucks, Cars, Vans. Cash paid for
some. Seven days a week. (239)
633-5080. Ask for Chris or leave
message.

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CHEVROLET CAMARO RS, 1996.
BRAND NEW TIRES, NEW CD.
NEW POWER DOOR LOCKS,
NEWLY PAINTED, EXCELLENT
CONDITION INSIDE & OUT.
CARFAX REPORT AVAILABLE.
\$5,500. OBO. (239) 822-5511

Jag '87 XJSC two seater, coupe,
black/tan, t-top and convertible,
V 12, 70k miles. \$6500. 395-9048.

1998 LEXUS, LS 400
Fully Loaded.
Excellent condition -
inside and out.
Oil changed every 3,000 miles.
132,000 highway miles.
\$12,700
(239) 395-2167

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Jeep '83 Grand Wagoneer, auto,
4 X 4, Cd radio, island car, four
door, brown. \$650. 395-9048.

TRUCKS & VANS

GMC Safari van XLT, 1998
Leather, tan, very clean, 102K,
One owner. \$8500 OBO (239)
995-9972.

RECREATION VEHICLES

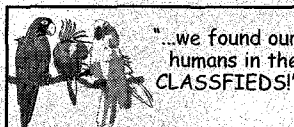
Georgie-Boy, 2000, 35Ft. Class A,
freightliner chassis, Allison 6speed,
300HP Cummins. Kitchen/living
slide, 24K miles. 6 Year, 50,000
mile warranty. Must sell, health!!
\$95,900. (239) 823-0769

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Flats boat 16 ft. hull,
project boat.
\$400 O.B.O.
Call (239) 540-4990
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Glastron, 180GS, 1999, 115HP
Johnson outboard, good condition,
runs great, full canvas. Lift kept, a
steal at \$5850. Call (239) 980-3071

Sea Doo 95 twin speedster jet boat,
seats four, clean, fast, like new
condition with trailer. Needs
steering cable. \$4600. 395-9048.



POWER BOATS

SHAMROCK, 1995,
CENTER CONSOLE,
CUDDY CABIN, T-TOP,
ELECTRONIC BOX,
351 INBOARD,
ENGINE COMPLETELY
OVERHAULED WITH
LESS THAN
50 HOURS.
BOAT LIKE NEW.
ASKING \$33,000.
CALL (239) 574-1364.
WILL CONSIDER TRADE
FOR REAL ESTATE.

Tiara 27' 1987 Open Express, twin
270 horse Crusaders, freshwater
cooled, 930 hours, nice condition.
\$39,500. Call (440) 356-5824.

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Great Day Sailer
21 foot,
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Good shape!!
\$700 OBO
Must Sell!!
Classic!
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Evenings.

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Like new reconditioned BRAVO III
Quicksilver propset, never used,
\$650. Garmin BLUE CHART
Cartridges, current, SW FL, NW
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LOOKING FOR
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(AGRICULTURE)
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FIRST
\$487,000
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A Million. \$\$\$ View S.E. Cape ...
great location. 146' on freshwater
basin ... all assessments paid...
CBS 3 BR/2 BA, 2/car ... 2,349 LA,
cathedral ceilings ... ceramic tile
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\$229,000/Firm ... by appointment
only ... (239) 242-2300 ... realtor/
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Best Bidder Sale.

Beautiful Beach Home.
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3 bedrooms, 2 bath,
Fully furnished.
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Bids start at... \$1,249,500
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Home sold Sun night, 3/28 to
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Ft. Myers, 235 Alameda Ave.,
3br/2ba, pool, dock, boat lift, West
of 175, No bridges to gulf.
\$295,000. Ervin J. Kidd, Jr.,
Licensed Real Estate Broker (239)
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Ft. Myers Huge Home
on direct
gulf access canal
1-block from river,
new dock,
6-bedrooms, 3-baths,
3,370 sq. ft.
Efficiency apartment,
fireplace,
excellent neighborhood,
\$529,900.
(239) 690-0321

Two homes Englewood area:
2/2/2, seawall, no bridges \$319,900
Also 3/2/2 w/family room & office
next to tip, massive water views,
seawall, dock, 10,000 lb. boatlift,
solar pool, \$529,900. \$20K buyer's
credit each if under contract by
4/11/04, can be used as down
money. Also seawalled double
waterfront lot @ \$289,900. All are
direct access, no bridges or locks.
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Cool summer get-away, large chalet
near Boone, No. Carolina, 4br/3ba,
unfurnished, large wooded lot,
\$189,900. (239) 574-2969

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garage, water views, close
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Den
Newly remodeled kitchen
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Smyrna Beach, FL Beachside. 2
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hookups, private pool. \$169,000 -
\$199,000 each. Lease to Purchase
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South Seas Resort
Bayside Villas.
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Two Bedroom/Two Bath
Furnished.
\$797,500
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2br/2ba, completely remodeled,
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PUNTA RASSA -
With beautiful sunsets.
Two Bedrooms, Two Baths.
Screened Lanai
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Low Monthly Maintenance.

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Modular with lanai, 2bedroom, 2full baths, new appliances, new air conditioner. Must see! In small senior park with low lot rent. \$19,900. OBO Call (239) 652-0872

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LAKE BARGAIN \$24,900. Free covered boat slip! Gently sloping lake view parcel w/ nice mix of low rolling meadows & trees. Abuts national forest on 35,000 acre recreational lake in TENN. Paved roads, water, sewer, more. Excellent financing. Call now (800) 704-3154, ext. 483, Sunset Bay, LLC

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LAND - \$500 DOWN, OWNER FINANCING. 1 to 10 Acre Tracts in North Florida, 30 miles north of Gainesville, near Suwanee River. Call for Color Brochure. 1-800-545-3501. Dicks Realty, Lake City, FL.
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Call Gloria

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3 BR/2 BA home in Island Woods. Tennis, community pool. \$1850/month, furnished or unfurnished.
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GOLF - GOLF - GOLF Two Bedrooms, Two Baths PLUS DEN!!! LEXINGTON COUNTRY CLUB Golf Privileges. Annual Lease \$1,100/monthly

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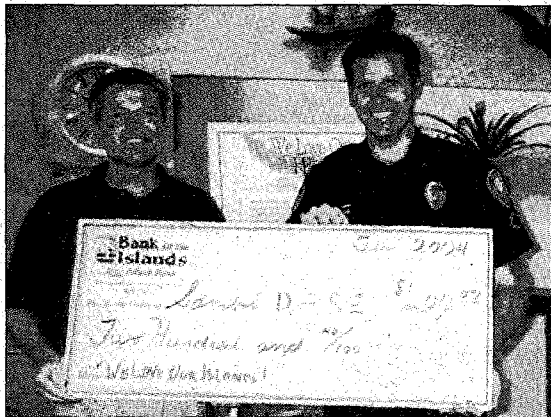
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islander

We Love our Islands benefits three

Nancy Niesel, the most recent winner of the "We Love Our Islands" promotion, sponsored by Bank of the Islands, chose three separate island beneficiaries to split the bank's donation. Nancy, who was spotted with a "We Love Our Islands" decal on her car, won the right to select which local non-profit cause would receive \$900 from the Bank of the Islands.

The Sanibel School's capital campaign, For Kids' Sake, will receive \$200 and St. Isabel's Catholic Church, will receive \$500. The Sanibel D.A.R.E. Program will



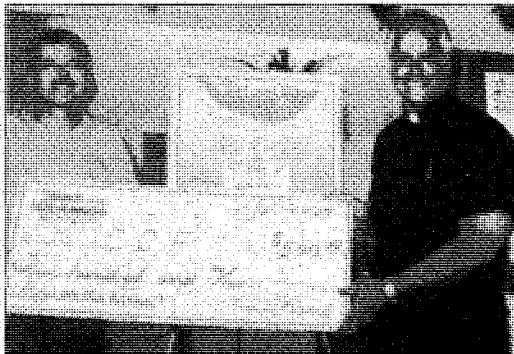
Counterclockwise from above: Rob Lisenbee of Bank of the Islands and Office Schulte, D.A.R.E.; Lisenbee with Father Senk of St. Isabel's Church and Lisenbee with Betsy Ventura, For Kids' Sake.

also receive \$200. With these donations, the "We Love Our Islands" promotion has placed \$9,600 in the hands of 18 worthwhile island causes.

"With such a large amount at her disposal, we are very happy Nancy chose three beneficiaries to receive gifts from the bank," said Bank of the Islands Manager Rob Lisenbee. "This particular winner gave us a three-fold way to tell everyone how much we appreciate being your island bank."

All islanders are invited to stop by the bank at 1699 Periwinkle Way to get a free "We Love Our Islands" decal and details on how you and your favorite charity can become our next lucky winners.

Bank of the Islands, a name synonymous with island community banking since 1974, has been voted "Best Island Bank" for the last five years.



Three Sanibel restaurants honored

Three Sanibel restaurants earned spots on Florida Trend magazine's "500 Best Places to Dine" in Florida: the Mad Hatter, Timbers and Sanibel Steakhouse.

The March edition of the publication honors the state's best restaurants from the Gulf Coast to the Atlantic. Florida Trend's Restaurant Critic, Robert W. Tolf, has been compiling his lists since 1973.

Five other Lee County restaurants were also honored: Ariani Northern Italian Grill in Cape Coral; Prawnbroker in Fort Myers; The Veranda in Fort Myers and Roy's Restaurant in Bonita Springs.

Among Tolf's praises:

The Mad Hatter: "You are in prime location for the nightly sunset ritual and you have such accommodating service and a back room that handles seafood and rack of lamb so well."

The Prawnbroker: "Nothing fancy here but the fresh, fresh fish direct from its market and handled with care by a kitchen that for 20 years has been building a legion of fans."

The Veranda: "Two joined-together turn-of-the-century homes provide a crash course in the history of the town, with fabulous photos of the great ones — Edison, Ford, Firestone — and a courtyard setting with a kitchen providing a wide variety of superb food."

Lee County VCB wins marketing awards

Distinctive tourism marketing of the The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel destination has merited the Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB) several ADDY Awards from the American Advertising Federation of Southwest Florida's 2004 competition, presented

recently in Estero.

The contest honors excellence in a variety of advertising media and cultivates the highest creative standards in the industry. Three industry professionals from outside of the market judged nearly 300 entries.

The VCB earned the coveted Best of Show Award for its new TV commercial campaign What's Right with the World.

The Judges Award was presented to the VCB for My Florida - The New York Times newspaper insert.

A Gold ADDY was awarded for the VCB's Get Out and Getaway Ads from the Sun-Sentinel newspaper. These ads showcased practical, nature-based itineraries, along with responsible eco-tourism messages and helped stimulate visitation from the important Fort Lauderdale tourist feeder market during summer.

In the Consumer Magazine category, the VCB won a Gold ADDY for its consumer magazine ad campaign. The VCB's awards will be entered in the regional ADDY Awards competition.

Outstanding Customer Service Awards nominations sought

The Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB) is seeking nominations for the fourth annual Elaine McLaughlin Outstanding Hospitality Service Awards.

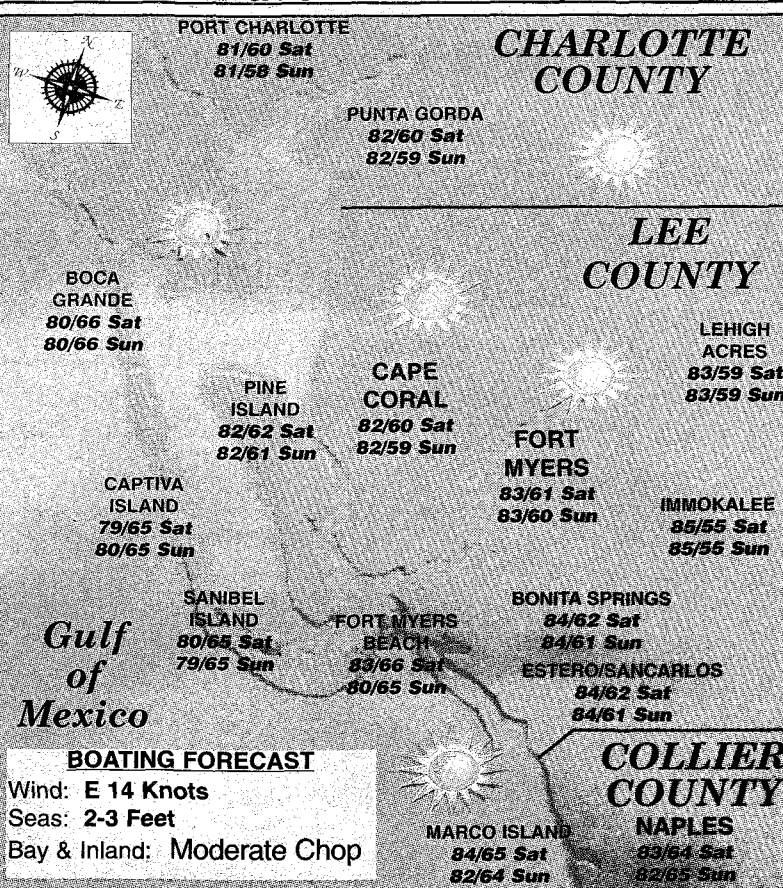
Anyone who experiences exceptional customer service, visitor, co-worker, friend, supervisor, or customer is encouraged to submit a nomination. Nomination forms can be requested by calling VCB Visitor Services at (239) 768-4374, online at www.LeeVCB.com, or email to JDurant@leegov.com. Nomination deadline for the 2004 Awards is September 3.

FORECAST FOR MARCH 27 & 28

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Sunny and warm with some breezy conditions both day and night.		More sunny skies and windy weather.	

WEEKDAY TIDES

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



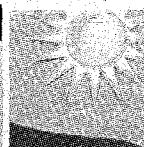
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STATE FORECAST-SATURDAY

CITY	HIGH/LOW
CAPE CORAL	82/60
DAYTONA BEACH	76/60
FT. LAUDERDALE	82/67
FT. MYERS BEACH	81/61
GAINESVILLE	80/55
JACKSONVILLE	78/55
KEY WEST	80/70
KISSIMEE	80/59
MIAMI	82/67
ORLANDO	80/59
PANAMA CITY	78/59
PENSACOLA	72/62
SARASOTA	81/60
ST. PETERSBURG	80/61
TALLAHASSEE	80/50
TAMPA	80/60
VERO BEACH	77/62
WEST PALM BEACH	80/65

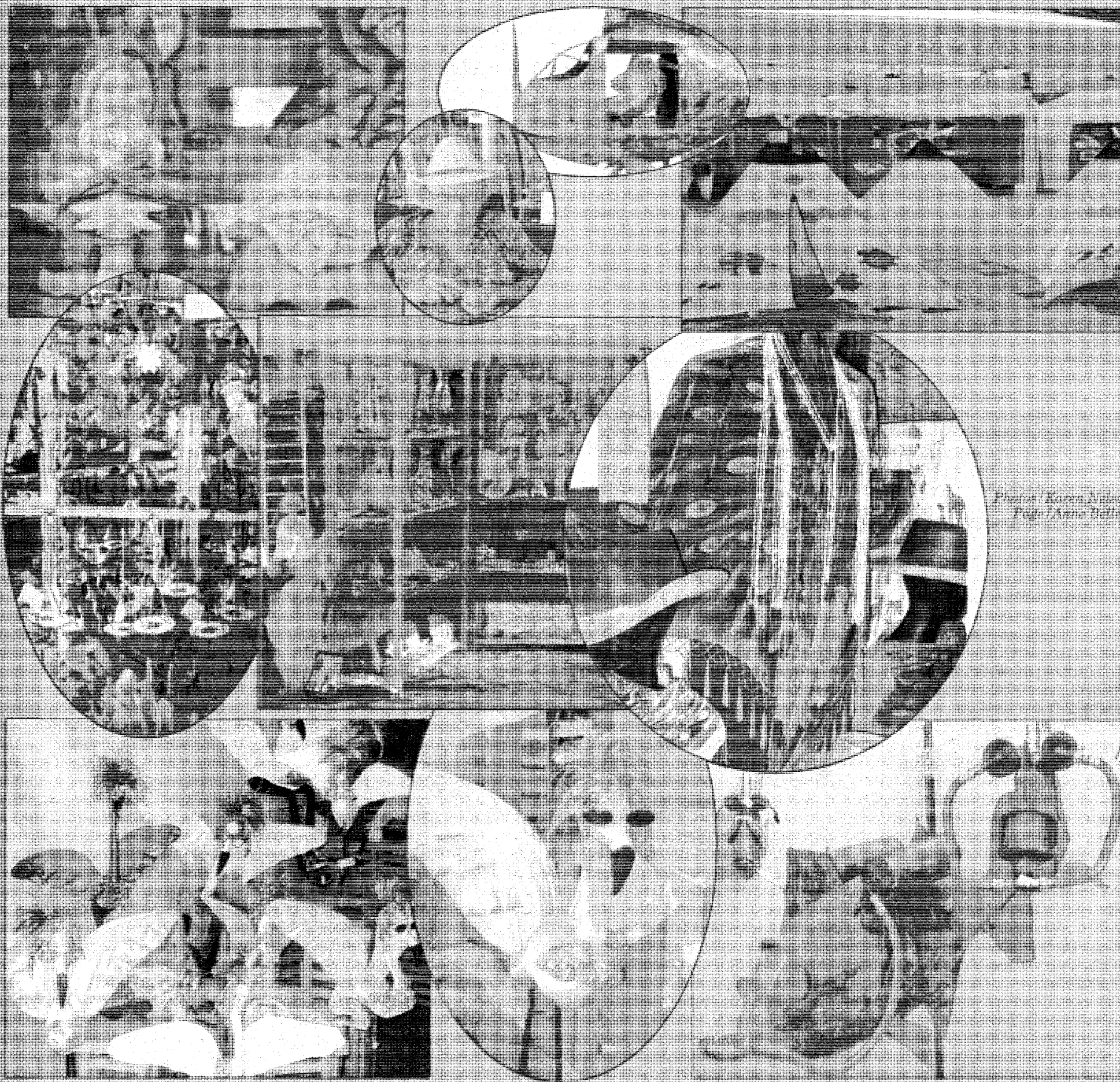


**SATURDAY
SUNRISE**
6:22 AM



**SUNDAY
SUNSET**
6:43 PM

Hi! Ho! Come to the Art Fair!!



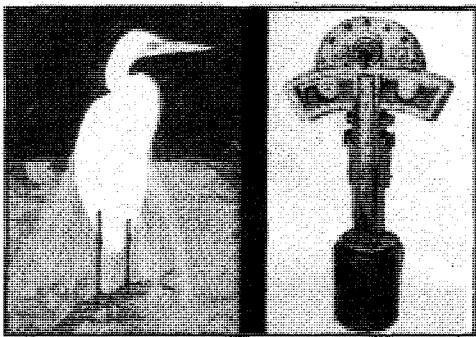
Photos / Karen Nelson
Page / Anne Belleu

POTPOURRI

New works on display

The Matsumoto Gallery in The Village will feature new watercolors and acrylics by owner Ikki Matsumoto and three-dimensional assemblages of wood and found objects by Sanibel artist, Pat St. Cyr. A reception with the artists will take place this afternoon, March 26th, from 3 to 6 p.m. The exhibit will be on display through April 24th.

Matsumoto is well-known around the islands for his whimsical paintings and prints of native wildlife and his posters for the Island Reporter. He is married to talented fiber artist, Polly Matsumoto. St. Cyr has been involved in the art world for many



years as an exhibitor, a teacher, president of Comprehensive Designers, Inc., a member of both the Michigan Council of the Arts and the American Crafts Council, and the wife of world-renowned architect Joe St. Cyr. She retired from 20 years in retailing in 2003 to return to the studio full time "...and loving it!"

The Village is on Periwinkle next to St. Michael & All Angels. For additional information, call 472-2941.

Dana Paul returns to town

The third and final Jazz Alliance concert of the 2004 series presents — actually, brings back — "because of loud, insistent, and repeated popular demand," a stellar headliner from one of southwest Florida's seminal jazz events, Sanibel Jazz on the Green. For 15 years Dana Paul was a featured vocalist with the original Peter Graves' Atlantean Driftwood Band, who headlined many of those Jazz on the Green concerts (1981 to 1995) before Producer Scott Siler moved the event into town as the Jazz Alliance Concert Series on the Great Lawn at the Alliance.

The upcoming April 3rd concert under the stars promises to be a major event, with the award-winning jazz vocalist Paul and The Nantucket Sound making their third Jazz Alliance appearance. First headlining there in 1999, when their CD Dana Paul and The Nantucket Sound Live! was recorded onsite (and has enjoyed heavy airplay as a jazz classic throughout the country ever since), they returned in May 2001 for another sold-out evening. In the meantime, Paul was voted 1999 Readers' Choice for Best Jazz Performer in the New Times of Miami survey and selected as "Best Jazz Artist" in the 2001 Florida Music Awards following his choice as Sun Sentinel's Best Male Vocalist in South Florida in 1996. Paul has opened for Chuck Mangione, Chick Corea and The Yellow Jackets as well as enjoyed sharing vocal riffs with scat soloist, John

Hendricks.

Paul is considered "a great scat singer." Frank Wagner of The Islander, wrote that Paul's "voice is crystal clear, his scat singing is phenomenally expert" and "his main reason for being there is to please you, the audience." Paul's "real bluesy singing with its deep, rich soulful sound" remains with listeners and observers who've commented, "Whether you're listening to Dana's subtle, drop-dead bluesy phrasing and vocal range on a torch ballad, or his break-neck speed lyric and extraordinary vocal percussion soloing on a barn-burner, you know he's right where he belongs. You're just glad you're along for the ride."

Free parking for the April 2nd concert opens at 5:30 p.m. Throughout the evening, great food and beverages will be catered by The Golf Club of Cape Coral. After plenty of time for eating and drinking, getting comfortable and socializing, the music will begin at 7, winding down somewhere around 10.

Concert admission, which supports Alliance for the Arts' overall cultural and educational efforts, is \$15 per person in advance or \$20 at the gate. As those who've turned out previously know full well, this signature End-of-the Season musical and social event gives everyone an unbeatable winning combination: Florida's natural nighttime beauty under a dazzling full moon, good food, great friends, a happy crowd relaxing on their blankets or chairs, and top quality music at a rock bottom prices. For additional information and advance ticketing, call the Alliance at 939-2787.

The Alliance for the Arts campus is at the southeast corner of McGregor and Colonial Boulevards in Fort Myers.

(Paul will also be the featured entertainer Easter weekend — Thursday, April 8th through Saturday, April 10th from 8 to 10 p.m. — at Dolce Vita Restaurant on Sanibel.)

5 Fabulous Females opens

A free public opening reception to celebrate the launch of Alliance for the Arts' new exhibition, 5 Fabulous Females! will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday evening, April 2nd, in the Frizzell Gallery. The title



refers not to TV's hot "Fab 5" makeover guys, but to five prominent, long-time Lee County female artists who've spent years perfecting their talents and assembling impressive collections of works in diverse media.

Listed alphabetically, the first of the five is JoAnne Bedient, an active member of Sanibel's Tower Gallery, who will be presenting examples of her latest "high style" ceramic creations that she calls the "fruits of my labors." She's been experimenting with "something different for this show, the pear shape" which is immediately evident in the "Bartlett colorations" of one pair of ceramic shoes as well as in her very peary female figures.

Jean Dean, one of Captiva's long-time finest art treasures, is listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World. Jean says, "When I make my art I know it is risk-ridden." She admits to frequently asking herself, "How dare I create the dangerous, the jarring, along with the lovely?" Her darling is obviously well thought-of as she's received over 100 awards for her work in all media.

Mary Keogh's works in acrylics, some on canvas and some on watercolor paper. She comments, "I do mostly semi-abstracts. I'll be showing several animals — I've got a large diptych with a giraffe and zebras — and zebras alone. I also have a painting of my brother, Michael, that I'll be featuring."

Pat La Vigne's collages represent her "love for nature." She tries to imbue her works with the sum total of her personality. "I hope to give the viewer a feeling of caring for nature and my vision of it. These collages represent many years of study and doing work that I love." Part of Pat's artistic and production techniques have been perfected in association with her husband, Ralph, a well-respected photographer, who recently was featured in a critically acclaimed one-man show in the Alliance's

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always hilarious

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POTPOURRI, CONT'D

on exhibit

- At Island Cinema: *Lady Killers* (R) w/Tom Hanks and *Scooby Doo 2* (PG). 472-1701
- Clyde Butcher's large format photos of the Everglades. At Phillips Gallery. Through end of March.
- Joyce Howe and Arthur King at the Captiva Civic Center. Second art show of the season, featuring paintings and photography. Runs through March 25th.
- *Edison Phonographs* on display at the Sanibel Public Library. From the collection of Roy and Joan Abrahamson.
- *Little Creatures* — art exhibition at FGCU Arts Complex. Through April 16th.

- *The Stone Speaks* at Aborigines: Art of the First Person in the Village Shops on Periwinkle Way. Meet Salvador Romero, fetish carver of the Cochiti Pueblo on March 26 and 27.

on stage

- *Falling to Pieces* at The Old Schoolhouse Theatre. Moe Arko's tribute to Patsy Cline. Through March 27th 472-6862
- *Carousel* at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Through April 11th. 278-4422
- *Let's Go to the Movies* at the Off Broadway Palm. Through April 25th. 278-4422
- *Still Time* by local playwright Bob Maxeiner.

Another in BIG Arts OnStage series of one-night theatre events. April 2nd, \$15. 395-0900

- *Primavera!* rousing tribute to Louis Prima with vocalists Jim Porcella and Ida Zecco. BIG ARTS March 27th, 8 p.m., \$30 395-0900
- *Amy's View* starring Carol Lawrence produced by Florida Rep @ The Arcade. Through April 11th. 332-4488
- *Dearly Departed* at the SCA Periwinkle Playhouse. Through April 4th. 472-0324
- *Cleveland Duo* at BIG ARTS, featuring James Umble. April 3rd, 8 p.m. \$25. 395-0900
- *Troublestarters*. Tuesday evenings at American Legion Post 123, 7:30 'til close.

Member Gallery.

Coincidentally, current Sanibel resident Elizabeth White, who is getting ready to relocate fulltime to northern climes and is fondly known as Liz by her many adoring fans, also had her own Alliance Member Gallery show in February 2003. She greatly values "the stimuli for creativeness" that comes from having an exhibition on one's horizon: "I have just finished five paintings specifically because this show is coming up. It's just wonderful the five of us are able to show our works at this time — it so advances creating your art!"

During the same April 2nd to 23rd time period that 5 Fabulous Females! is on display, in the Member Gallery an amazingly talented and prolific new artist, Sandy DeGraff, will be showing some of the works she's created since she began painting just four years ago. Nominated as a "New Artist of the Year" in the recent 2004 Angels of the Arts Awards her works have already claimed popular and critical notice. As a new painter — "not a young painter!" she notes — her style has not yet been forced into one definable type or form. Her subjects vary widely, from landscapes to portraits, from animals to posters and beyond. The one element they have in common is the immediately evident gift of great talent.

In short, 5 Fabulous Females! plus 1 New Female equals a truly great art event at the Alliance. Hours are 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 3 on Saturday. For additional information, call the Alliance at 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org.

Clothesline Sale coming up

Over 60 members of the Sanibel-Captiva Art League will sell their art works in the annual Clothesline Sale at the Sanibel Community Center on Sunday, April 4th,



L to R: Rita McLain, Joan Bitzer, Ann Bischoff, Charles Lister, Betty Weise, Dick Smith and Carolyn Johns

from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity to buy great art at a significant savings! Art works will include mixed media, watercolors, oils, acrylics, collages, prints, notepaper, drawings and fabric painting will be displayed by the artists both outside and inside the Community Center. Come early and find a treasure.

Fort Myers: Part I to air

Tonight on WFCU-TV Fort Myers: Part I, another chapter in the station's History of southwest Florida: Untold Stories unfolds at 9 p.m. In this episode you will meet some of the area's pioneer families and hear the untold stories of how the community grew from a simple military fort to community holting the second homes of world-famous citizens, from rural farmland to a town that is flourishing and growing by leaps and bounds.

Craft Guild Market Day

The Southwest Florida Craft Guild will be having its annual Fine Craft Market Day on Saturday, April 10th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sanibel Community Association building and grounds. A raffle during Market Day of items donated by guild mem-

bers and participating artists is the major fundraiser for our scholarship program. Awards are presented to students of fine craft at Edison College and Cypress Center for the Arts at their student exhibits in March and April.

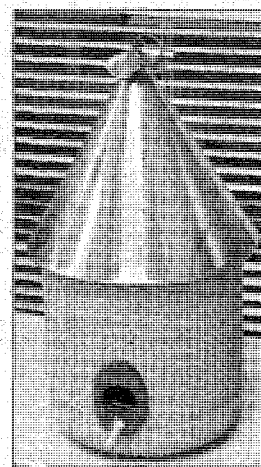
Island Treasure Helen Baller will be one of the featured local artists. A resident of Sanibel for 17 years, she has studied basket weaving since the '80s with three expert instructors — summering on Cape Cod, and workshops by Japan's Keiko Takeda and Faye Junaluska, a Cherokee Indian in N.C. She now teaches Nantucket basketry in her studio and has taught traditional basket classes at BIG Arts for many years. Selling privately and at Seaweed Galleries on Sanibel, Captiva and Anna Maria Island, as well as at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, her baskets are in collections worldwide. A member of the craft guild

since 1987, she continues to share her time and talent. Recently her Nantucket Bird House raised \$1,700 for the intern program at SCCF.

This is an opportunity to see and purchase Helen's exquisite baskets and the wonderful work of other local artists and provides the chance to talk with the craftsmen about their work.

The Southwest Florida Craft Guild's

See Potpourri, page 5



Special Appearance



Cochiti Pueblo carver, Salvador Romero, will make a special appearance in the gallery on Friday & Saturday, March 26 & 27 to show and discuss his fetish carvings. Join us.

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Art of the
First Person



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CURTAIN GOING UP

BIG Arts On Stage premieres new play

April 2nd at 8 p.m., BIG Arts On Stage presents The Company in the premiere reading of Bob Maxeiner's new play, *Still Time*. Tickets for this performance in Phillips Gallery are available at BIG Arts for \$15. The box office is open from 9 to 1 Monday through Saturday, 395-0900.



Torn apart by betrayal and deceit, two young lovers follow separate careers, lives and loves. As they approach their twilight years alone, fate steps in and offers them another chance together. An exciting, contemporary love story of the golden years, *Still Time* features the talents of Marsha Wagner and The Company's newest member, Max Jacobs. Directed by John Bartis and produced by Charlotte Heimann, Maxeiner's touching dialog allows the audience a touching and insightful look into the lives of two complex characters

and their attempts to recapture lost love.

Maxeiner has written the scripts for many of The Company's presentations including the annual Christmas programs and evenings devoted to Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg and others. He has two works of fiction in island bookstores — *Transplant*, a novel, and a collection of short stories entitled *Innocentia*. He has completed five plays, but *Still Time* is his first live production. Bob and his wife, Patricia, have lived in Sanibel since moving from Minneapolis in 1987.

Join The Company and BIG Arts On Stage to see if there is... *Still Time*!

SCA-Periwinkle Playhouse Dinner Theater

Wednesday, March 31st, is a not-to-miss night for Sanibel! It will start with dinner at the Community House at 6 p.m., and be followed by the comedy, *Dearly Departed*,



across the street at the Periwinkle Playhouse at 8. Dinner will include roast pork, pasta with meatballs, salad, roasted potatoes, vegetable, rolls and strawberry shortcake. The cost for dinner and theater production is only \$20 for SCA members and \$25 for non-members.

Written by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones, *Dearly Departed* is the first-ever Periwinkle Players Production. Set in the Baptist backwoods of the Bible Belt, the play, through the Turpin family, proves that living and dying in the South are seldom tidy and always hilarious. It showcases the talents of Leslie Anding, Kristen Donovan, Kelly Parker-Legarreta, Thom Marsh, Fay Carney, Joe Meyers, Lee Meyers, Patricia McHugh, Gary Robinson and John Thomas and runs through April 4, Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 18. Call the box office at 472-0324 or stop by 2200 Periwinkle Way for reservations for dinner and the show.

Blondes & Broadway to open at Holmes House

The Orpheus Players proudly present *Blondes and Broadway* featuring soprano Sheryl Ruppert and pianist, Mary Ann Van Poelvoorde. A grand selection of Broadway favorites will be presented — songs from *Camelot*, *My Fair Lady*, *Carousel*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Showboat*, *West Side Story* and *Cats*.

Ruppert, who possesses a pure, light, lyrical voice, is a classically trained actor

Performances will be held at the Holmes House Restaurant, 2500 Estero Boulevard in Fort Myers Beach. Show dates are Fridays and Saturdays, April 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd, 24th, 30th and May 1st. Tickets for the show only are \$15; for the 6 p.m. dinner of fine Southern cuisine followed by the show at 8, \$35. For more information and reservations, call 463-5519.

Sophie... Off Broadway

The music of Sophie Tucker comes to The Off Broadway Palm Theatre in Fort Myers this Monday, March 29th, for two shows only — a matinee performance at 2 p.m. and an evening show at 8. Tucker is remembered by Charen De Koven, The New Last of The Red Hot Mamas.

De Koven has portrayed the Sophie Tucker character for over 10 years in Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. She will be accompanied by Mary Ann Van Poelvoorde.

Sophie is a return to vaudeville and raucous nostalgia with music from the '20s, '30s and '40s. Songs include "Some of These Days," "Yiddishe Mama," "Dark Town Strutters Ball," "The Man I Love," "A Good Man is Hard to Find" and many more.

Sophie plays one day only, Monday, March 29th, with a matinee and evening performance. Show tickets are \$18 per person and reservations and recommended. Call 574-1408 for more information and reservations. The Off Broadway Palm Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Carousel to benefit Red Cross

A number of tickets for the April 1st performance of *Carousel* at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre will benefit the Lee County chapter of the American Red Cross. Broadway Palm has donated 100 tickets for the regular dinner performance to the Red Cross chapter.

The April 1st event will be the kick-off for the second annual HEROES fund-raising campaign. HEROES is an acronym for Helping Everyday Responders Offer Emergency Services. All monies received from the *Carousel* event will assist the chapter in providing its services to the community.

Carousel plays at the Broadway Palm through April 11. Information about the special tickets being sold by the Red Cross is available by calling 278-3401.



and singer, and has performed locally with the Gulf Coast Opera Company, and at the J. Howard Wood and Cultural Park Theaters, among many others. She was a guest artist for Arts in Healthcare Program, featured on the cover of *Gulf Coast Woman* in June 2002, and named News-Press Artist of the week in November 2003.

Poelvoorde has served as the musical director and accompanist for the Wood and for Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, where she is appearing Monday in the Off-Broadway Palm production of *Sophie* with Charen De Koven.

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.

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POTPOURRI, FROM PAGE 3

19th annual Exhibit of Excellence will be at BIG Arts Phillip's Gallery during the month of April. A reception will be held on Sunday, April 4th, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This is another good opportunity to meet the artists and discuss their work. The gallery is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Writers to hear actress

Gulf Coast Writers Association will meet on Saturday, March 27th, at Beacon Executive Suites from 10 a.m. to noon. As a special feature, Brenda L. Goodwin will present a monolog. Goodwin is an accomplished actor, writer and poet and a GCWA member.

Meetings are open to the public, reservations are not required, and there is no charge for first-time guests. Yearly dues are \$20 with a \$3 monthly fee. This should be a most interesting meeting. Call 489-1673 for more information.

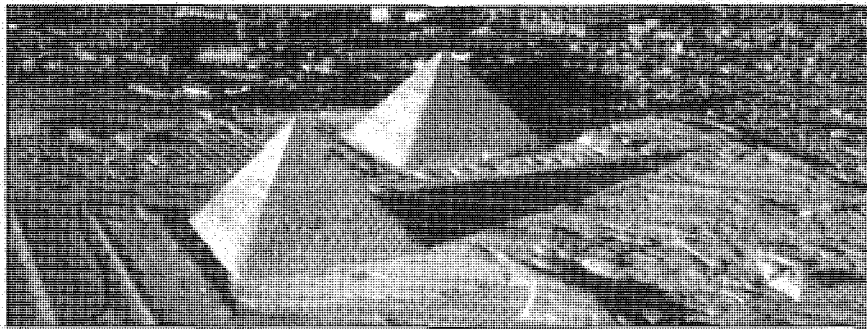
GCWA's Spring Writing Classes start Saturday, April 10th and continue weekly, with the exception of April 24th.

•Maynard Pollard, a creative non-fiction columnist, will teach a non-fiction class from 9 a.m. to 11 on dates indicated.

•Learn to Write Fiction That Sells, lecture and critique, will be presented on the same dates from 12 Noon to p.m. by Betzi Abram, fiction novelist.

Classes meet at Beacon Executive Suites, and the cost for each six-session course is \$60 for members and \$72 for non-

At Edison Fine Arts Gallery



"Pyramids of Giza with Cairo" (1984), 20" 24"

A series of 52 black and white gelatin silver print aerial photographs taken between 1984 and 1993 by Marilyn Bridges — *Egypt: Antiquities from Above* — is on exhibit at the Edison College Gallery of Fine Art through April 18th.

Bridges, one of the world's foremost aerial photographers, has been shown in more than 300 exhibitions worldwide and is included in more than 80 museums and private collections. The author of seven books, she is the recipient of numerous awards — CAPS, NEA, and Fulbright Grants and a Guggenheim Fellowship. In 2003, received the Wings Trust Award.

The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, from 11 to 3, Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

members, and the deadline for registration is March 31st. For additional information, call 472-1393. Prospective students may pre-register by logging on to the association web site www.gulfwriters.org where registration forms are to be found.

Also at this time GCWA is accepting manuscripts for a new venture — a magazine entitled *Our Times*. The deadline for submission is June 1 and all writers are

encouraged to participate. There will be no compensation for accepted articles at this time, but the joy of being published should be an incentive to all those with the love of writing. Again, please see the website www.gulfwriters.org for further information, or call 472-1393.

Beacon Executive Suites is at 8359 Beacon Boulevard in Fort Myers. To get there, take U.S. 41 north to Crystal Drive;

right on Crystal to Beacon Boulevard; left on Beacon to Beacon Executive Suites on the left.

Cypress Lake art exhibit

Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts is presenting an assortment of artwork created by the Senior Class of the Visual Arts Department. Graduating Visual Arts Students will display selections from their portfolio collections.

The public is cordially invited to the opening reception this evening, March 26th, from 5:30 until 7 p.m. The exhibit will be on display in the gallery at 6740 Panther Lane in Fort Myers and will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. through April 2.

For more information, call 481-2233.

Donations encouraged

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation will receive proceeds from donations made at the *After 9/11* exhibit, on display at Harborside through May 6th.

The proceeds benefit the Lee County Emergency Workers Charitable Fund created by a group of concerned citizens as an endowed fund to benefit fire, EMS, police, and other emergency workers.

After 9/11 commemorates the compassion of people all around the world evoked by the horror of 9/11.

For more information, contact the Foundation at 274-5900. —AWB

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Presents



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Broadway Palm DINNER THEATRE

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Market Basket Display with Alfresco Prepared Salads, Anti Pasta Vegetables, Charcuterie Display of Meats, Pates, Imported & Domestic Cheese and Bakery Fresh Breads

Seafood Display with Shrimp, Crab Claws, Oysters on the Half, Smoked Green Lip Mussels, Smoked, Cured Fish and Sushi Maki with Traditional Condiments

Hot

Baked Oyster Ala Mornay

Entrees

Pecan Crusted Halibut with Rainier Cherry Butter
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Chicken Tikka with Curry Basmati Blend
Tenderloin of Beef with Chanterelle Mushrooms and Caramelized Sweet Onion Jus

Accompaniments

Oven Baked Pesto Potato and Bel Paese Casserole
Whipped Sesame Sweet Potatoes
Steamed Asparagus and Baby Carrot with Arroz Butter
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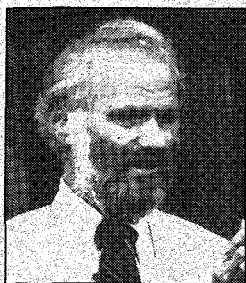
TWEEN WATERS INN

the Old Captiva I-house
Florida's First World Catana

First-ever community theater at Periwinkle Playhouse

This is a rare occasion. They've never really had "community" theater on this stage before. With *Dearly Departed*, we get a good taste of what some gifted amateurs (with the help of a few real pros) can bring to the stage here on the Island. It is the hope of live theater we can all look forward to in the future, if we make an effort to support community theater.

The cast seemed so at home with this "crazy" play, it's clear they were enjoying themselves immensely. There were lots of chances for appropriate hamming it up, going for the guffaw gags, plus an abundance of stage business that the gifted Director, Todd Sherman — the ultimate



Simon

Theater Utility Infielder — has delightfully woven into the play.

We'll all agree, the play is not Arthur Miller; nor is there any hint whatsoever of Edward Albee, either. It's a closer relative to TV's *Mayberry RFD*, with some of the zaniness of *The Foreigner* tossed in.

The plot is familiar. A funeral brings together all the ludicrous elements of a backwoods Baptist, Bible-thumping, dysfunctional family. For example, the widow wants the tombstone to read: MEAN AND SURLY. The son wants it to say, REST IN PEACE, partially because it's one word cheaper to go with his choice.

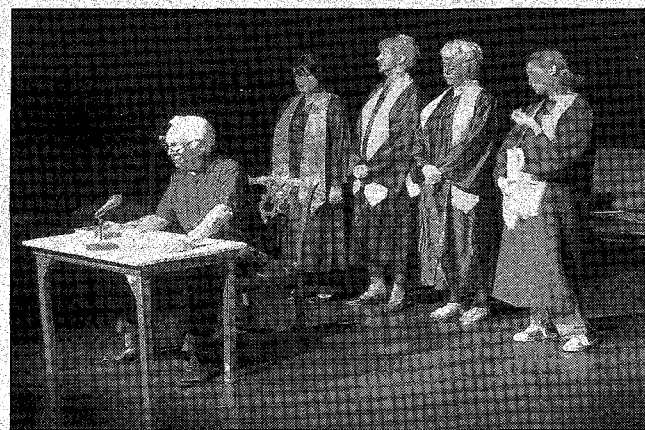
As the evening unfolds, you will not fail to recognize some "nuts" from your own possibly dysfunctional family. No offense, but in this *Dearly Departed* family, no one seems to like anyone else. But the acknowledgment of the implications of that will make you laugh all evening.

There are so many funny events in this view of Trailer Trash in action. One of the relatives was sent to the electric chair and, every time his aunt pays her electric bill, she says "Thanks" ... There is a beauty parlor in town run by a woman with one arm. "To see her

coming at you with the hot rollers in her mouth and a scissors in her one good hand makes you want to cancel your appointment."

I'm not sure youngsters under 13 should see the play. A couple of swear words might make even you want to bring an ear plug, but on the whole, it can be seen as family entertainment. I'm eager for it to find an audience among us islanders and among a fair share of tourists who want to be part of a night of live comedy theater.

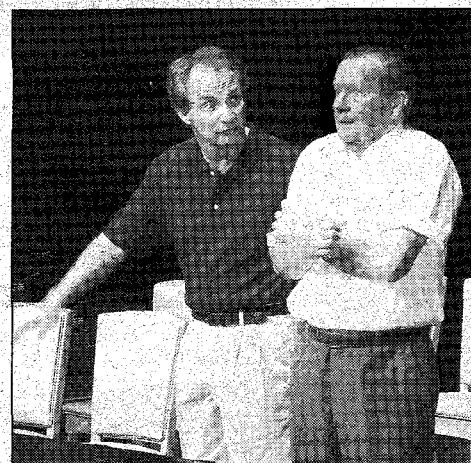
I think the pros who dot the cast add a great deal to the evening. It must be great fun for the amateurs who play alongside



them... To have a chance to work with that star, Kelly Parker, who steals more than one scene during the evening, has to be a thrill.

And what about the amateurs? I want to salute Fay Carney who brings an acid wit and great force to the delivery of some of the best lines in the show. Young Kristen Donovan will get more than her share of laughs. Her endless eating is a sight gag that won't quit.

OK, it's not profound theater. It probably won't get recorded as a classic in Sanibel theater history. But, simply for a fun evening of live theater, come out and support Community Theater on Sanibel at the Periwinkle by being in the audience for *Dearly Departed*. It plays only through April 4th. For tickets or more information, call the box office at 472-0324. Tickets are only \$15 for adults, \$5 for children under 18, and performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3.

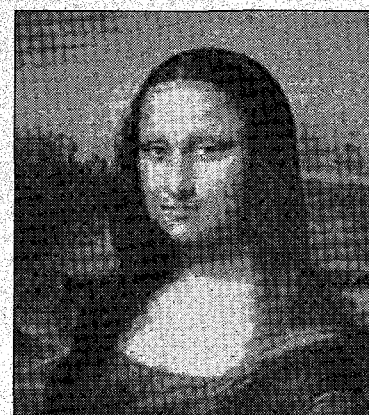


Mona Lisa: Behind the Smile By Joseph Pacheco

After I lost the third one,
I stopped smiling for a long time.
Francesco practically ordered me
to sit for this left-handed painter,
saying it would take my mind off
the babies and teeth I lost so that he
could have more time to devote to his affairs —
affairs is the right word, my husband has
more mistresses than I have teeth.

Leonardo, that's the painter's name,
came up with the idea of the closed smile:
lips slightly open, blurred at the corners,
to make everyone wonder what's behind the
smile ~

"It'll be our little secret," he smiled.



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CENTER STAGE

Carol Lawrence makes Florida Rep debut

David Hare's *Amy's View*, which opened last week, is another Southwest Florida premiere for the Florida Rep. This production is about 16 years in the relationship between a mother and her daughter. Amy the daughter, views life with the idea that if we love unconditionally, love will conquer all obstacles. She also believes that if we love unconditionally, we can all get along instead of hurting each other.

The play moves forward through 16 years chronologically, beginning with Amy (Rachel Buttram) bringing her lover home for her mother Esme's (Carol Lawrence) approval. Mother and daughter have had a warm and loving relationship, but it's a case of distrust and dislike at first sight when Mother meets the young man, Dominic (Greg Longenhagen). Needless to say, this creates a serious strain on the two women's relationship — although fences are eventually mended even though the play ends sadly.

In the ensuing years Amy struggles to mend the rift between the two people she holds dearest. The problem that arises between Esme and Dominic is very clearly stated from their first meeting. Esme is a grand dame and perfectionist of the theatre; Dominic is an ambitious go-getter, a movie critic who feels live theater isn't relevant to his generation. To add insult to injury, Amy reveals she is pregnant, a fact she has not yet divulged to Dominic.

The play is a kind of tapestry with a lot of threads, some of which are incompatible with the others. There are so many plot lines

in the four short acts of this play, that some in the audience (like me) were a tad confused. Esme, a 49-year-old widow, bemoans the fact that there are no real women's parts in the theater... but she hangs on in order to take care of Evelyn (Betty Madonna), her aging mother-in-law, maintain her house and pay her bills. Six years pass and, in Act II, Amy and Dominic are married and have two children. Esme's career has dwindled, as has her fortune, due to bad investment advice from her friend/lover Frank (John Newton). And Evelyn develops Alzheimer's.

Time continues to march on and, in the third act, Esme is reduced to doing TV soaps, Amy and Dominic are divorced, and the final act finds Esme, who has now lost everyone and everything, once again making a life in the theater. Time marches on in four acts — 1979, 1985, 1993, 1995.

Carol Lawrence more than captured the demanding role of Esme. She was the true essence of "a grand dame of the theater" with her expressive face and gestures.



MARSHA WAGNER



Rachel Buttram's Amy, the tragic pawn of passion, torn between mother and husband, was a bit too strident and harsh vocally as well as physically for this seemingly fragile character. It was very difficult to comprehend her emotionally fired dialogue.

Greg Longenhagen is just fine as Dominic, growing from the embodiment of brashness at the top of the play, to the mature husband/son-in-law later on. He showed changes and growth in his character from start to finish, as he handled his role with ease. Betty Madonna as Evelyn came on the scene like a whirlwind, delivered her funny one-liners, and exited just as quickly (like a breath of fresh air). She aged gracefully as the final

stages of Alzheimer's took her wit as well as her wisdom. John Newton as Frank (Esme's steadfast friend and poor financial advisor) played the jovial man beautifully, handling the transitions well. His high, dry humor was a treat to behold. Ryan Gilreath as Toby, a

young actor who appears near the end of the play, gets high marks for blending a mix of a naïve young performer with open eager-to-please actor.

Director Michael Michetti, like Lawrence making his Florida Rep debut, somehow dropped the ball in this production. The much-needed dramatic and comic moments were bogged down and didn't flow along evenly to the hope-filled conclusion. This is an endlessly talky play, the accents so high-pitched and the pace so rapid that the audience became frustrated trying to understand the dialogue. Pacing and even, less strident vocal tones would have helped enormously in understanding and have led to greater enjoyment of *Amy's View*. The Arcade Theatre was well served by Jim Hunter's full, opulent set, the stunningly correct costumes by Jennifer Ables, and excellent mood-changing lighting by Annmarie Duggan.

All in all, the cast and production have what it takes to make this another classy Southwest Florida premiere, this time with a big name, Carol Lawrence. For times and tickets, phone Florida Rep's box office at 332-4488. *Amy's View* plays 'til April 11th.

Then make plans to see *Death Trap* by Ira Levin opening April 23rd and running through May 16th. This marvelous mystery replaces the previously announced *Too Marvelous For Words* which has been postponed.

Remind 'em when you call that Marsha sent you.

Three sponsors for opening night reception

Three familiar corporate names sponsored the opening night for *Amy's View* — Northern Trust, Oswald Trippe & Co. and South Fort Myers Rotary. Left to right: Gary V. Trippe, Oswald Trippe & Co.; Richard E. Riley Northern Trust and Rotary; and Joseph R. Catti, Northern Trust.

Photo / Amy Fleming



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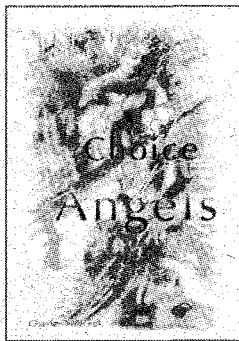
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THE NEXT CHAPTER

One of the terrific things about Sanibel is the fact that so many people who live here lead secret lives. They may look like real estate agents or vitamin store owners or retired ladies doing volunteer work but, **SURPRISE!** they are writing books and — bigger surprise — figuring out a way to be published. This month, I am reviewing three of their books: one based on her life as a faculty wife, one about women and their hearts, and one novel about the hearts of young lovers, struggling to overcome prejudice and misunderstanding between cultures and religions. These local authors are all people who actually wrote the book or books they said they were going to write someday.

Who would guess that Charles Sobczak, mild-mannered realtor, had so many literary words in him? Starting a few years ago, Charles has published three novels and a book of essays. His latest, *A Choice of Angels*, published by Indigo Press, has moved off Sanibel and out of Florida and has tackled a theme which is decidedly difficult. How do two people overcome the differences in their backgrounds and find happiness? When Ayse, a beautiful Turkish girl, and Daniel Harris, a Southern Baptist

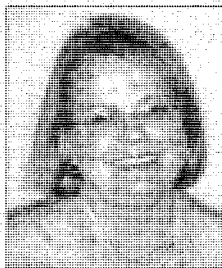


preacher's kid, meet at a small college in Atlanta, they are not looking for love. Both their families had warned them about other religions and, while Daniel had already rebelled against his father's strict interpretation of the Bible and his dislike of anything which did not conform to his own ideology, Ayse accepted her parents' strict rules and her religion's beliefs. Yet, differences and all, they did fall in love and had to find a way to be together in spite of the reactions of their parents. As their parents predicted, they have difficulties, and as any novel reader would hope, they overcome them.

Sobczak has a very thorough understanding of Islam, Turkish culture and of the thinking of a Southern Baptist family. His observations about intolerance and prejudice show how a closed mind leads to a closed heart. Given the current political climate of fear and misunderstanding, it is actually a remarkably brave book, told in very human and personal terms.

A Woman's Guide to a Healthy Heart by Carol Simontacchi and Frances FitzGerald, published by Contemporary Books (McGraw-Hill) is an important book for all women and people who love women to read. Simontacchi, the owner of the Island Nutrition Center, has written a number of books on food, weight and health and nutrition and is a certified clinical nutritionist.

Her book is a clearly written, scientifically based, analysis of why women should



NOLA THEISS

be concerned about their heart health. It goes into great detail about what they can do about it by improving their diet, lifestyle and by "Making Up for the Standard American Diet" with the use of supplements.

The book takes women and their health seriously and looks at all aspects of our lives which can alleviate or multiply our chances of heart disease. There's a good chance that her book will make you want to get off the latest crazy diet and also get off your duff. While the book is suitable for all adult women, post-menopausal women will especially find it helpful. The really great thing is that, after you get inspired to do something about your heart before it does something to you,

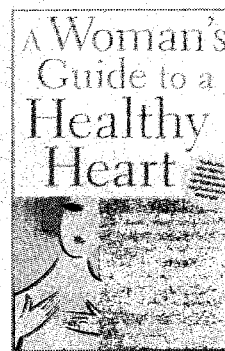
you can go to her store and get a personal consultation and get on the right track right away. I've always felt a little lost in stores like hers, but now I have a local guide as did my daughter during her pregnancy. The book has a great index and can be used as a reference when you hear of some latest, new, improved supplement or health fad. This book has inspired me to make some changes!

The last book is a memoir *In a Man's World: Faculty Wives and Daughters at Phillips Exeter Academy 1781-1981*, by

Connie Brown, and published by iuniverse. Brown spent from 1962 to 1997 as a faculty wife at Phillips Exeter Academy. She experienced the "old" Exeter of an all boys boarding school and saw the introduction of young women to the school. As a faculty wife, she lived in the dormitories with the students, raised her children as part of the academy community, ate most of her meals in the dining hall with the students and participated in the social events of the community. Her book is a history of the academy and a compilation of interviews of faculty wives and daughters over the first 200 years of the institution's existence. She has included many old photographs to illustrate her points. The book is interesting as it reveals how much the world has changed in regard to its attitude toward women and how women are often able to express themselves outside of their proscribed role.

These three books illustrate how an author with something to say can find a way to get his or her book published, through the routes of traditional publishing house (McGraw-Hill), forming one's own company (Indigo Press) or using the many resources of the internet (iuniverse). Where there is a story, there is an audience and, if there is one universal truth about Sanibel, it is that we are all interesting people with stories to tell.

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Business sponsorships help underwrite the costs associated with performing arts presentations, visual art exhibitions, educational programs and programs for island youth. And, a business sponsorship is a great opportunity to get your business in front of approximately 20,000 patrons who attend BIG ARTS events each year.

It was a Dionne Night!



What more can you ask for...? not one, not two, but three superb performances *and* fabulous food in one evening. On Thursday, March 18th, the Sanibel-Captiva/Fort Myers community was treated to an outstanding display of talent provided by Mack Avenue Records and its owner, Gretchen Valade, a Life Member of the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation which benefited from the evening's performances.

First off, there was Ilona Kumpfner, a good-looking blonde with an absolutely outstanding voice (she, incidentally, finished up her local gig at the Bungalow on Friday and Saturday nights). Her voice was radiant, and those who showed up at the Bungalow were in for a treat.

The main attraction, the headliner, Dionne Warwick, was magnificent — don't let anyone tell you the woman has already seen her prime.

Laid back, relaxed, new short haircut (is it gray or blond?) and the most elegant woman's "tuxedo" I've ever seen...

Long, neo-Edwardian-style black jacket with rhinestones-trimmed sleeves layered over a rhinestone shell and a pencil-slim skirt, slit in the back to above the knees, and spike-heeled shoes, also trimmed in "diamonds."

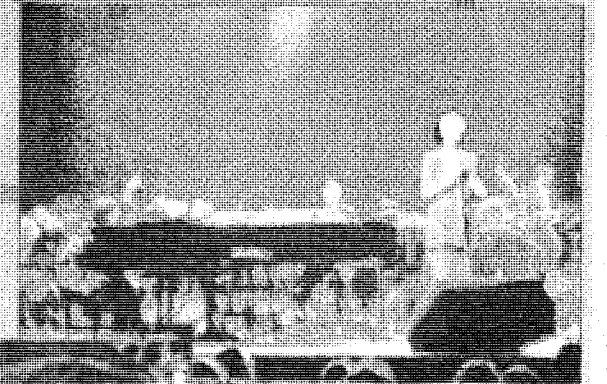
Every time she walked across the stage her positively gorgeous legs were silhouetted against the black background of the skirt.

And her singing was out of this world — no wavers, no quavers, every note on the money.

AND she didn't try to cheat us out of any of our "old favorites" — indeed, encouraged us to sing along if we felt like it, especially on "That's What Friends Are For" and her classic audience participation number, "2-4-6-8" (tunhh! Ten thousand words!)

Really, the only fault with the concert was the usual complaint about Mann Hall's sound system — a sound engineer who does not appear to know how to balance singers' voices with their accompaniment — which, by the way, just sparkled as led by Kathy Rubbleco, a petite, talented dynamo.

But there was more! At the Post Show AfterGlow party, the reggae group Anthem played for SCF members and friends to dance the night away. Even my son, who never dances, was out there (!) ... while I had to take pictures... but only when I had enough hands to manipulate the camera and juggle a plate filled Jayne's Victorian Garden's delightful delicious delicacies!



Photos & Story
Anna Bellow



THE MUSIC SCENE

A "Hip" concert at Schein

On Thursday, March 18, BIG Arts presented an unusual concert of hip and sophisticated music composed and performed by two excellent jazz performers who also are vocalists, lyricists and humorists. Bassist Jay Leonhart and pianist Dave Frishberg displayed their subtle, high-level creativity as they accompanied their own witty songs. The concert, sponsored by Wachovia Bank was presented in Schein Hall to accommodate the large audience. Since the event was advertised as a cabaret evening, perhaps a more intimate arrangement — artists in the middle of the audience, innovative lighting and the piano on the floor — would have been more in keeping with feeling management wanted to



evoke and would have enhanced the presentation.

The first half of the program featured Leonhart who walked on stage with his big double bass and bow and began playing scales. He posed the question, "Is it possible to play the bass and sing at the same time?" then proceeded to answer it with a masterful exhibition of not only singing his own humorous songs but, at the same time, brilliantly and effortlessly producing complex bass lines as only a skilled and talented bassist can do.

His loquacious style of talking and singing to the accompaniment of his bass is most inventive as he relates his memories to rhyme and music. He sings and talks about personal experiences — meeting Leonard Bernstein on an airplane flying to Los Angeles — "Me and Lenny" — or "Dizzy" — his sadness upon seeing the great jazz musician in a restaurant where Dizzy doesn't recognize him, even though they had worked many gigs together. His descriptive vocalizing continued with "Bass Aboard a Plane," describing the problems of boarding an airplane with a bass viol. He quickly segued into "Life In The Middle Ages," then performed a song about having a German shepherd lift his leg on his bass.

He told of his early years playing banjo with his brother, up until the day he heard



HAROLD LIEBERMAN

the legendary bassist, Ray Brown, and was inspired to himself become a jazz bassist. This feat he certainly has accomplished as he has been three times named "Outstanding Bassist in the Recording Industry" by the National Association of Recording Artists, a most prestigious award.

To the accompaniment of his bass vamp, Jay spoke/sang, about his 15 years as the bassist with the late Mel Torme who taught him about "time." "Time"

is the term that is used by jazz musicians in describing bass players who neither rush ahead nor lag behind the beat. "He, or she, has great time" is one of the greatest compliments peers can bestow upon bass players and drummers. However, the "time" that Jay was describing in his song was his apprehension about being on time to accompany Mel Torme at "Blues Alley," a jazz club in Washington, D.C. He had to fly from Laganardia to D.C. and feared he might be late since the plane had had problems taking off. When he finally arrived, he discovered that, not only was he not late, but he was early — no one else was there. His last slice-of-life song before he ended his portion of the program was about playing a gig at the Pierre Hotel in New York City with jazz drummer, Louis Belson. He comically aped a disgruntled patron who preferred a Lester Lanin society beat to the rather "rough around the edges" Belson style and then acted out Belson's wild drum solo response.

Frishberg opened his half of the program by half-singing, half-speaking his composition, "Quality Time" — a mocking commentary on overworked modern couples who relate to each other in between mobile-phone calls and business trips. His "Too Long in L.A." conjured up the terrible traffic and bad drivers that contribute to a negative image of this California city. Dave then allowed his piano skills to shine as he did a Fats Waller type of piano solo.

He performed other humorous songs, among them "Jaws" and "Oklahoma Toad," and a protest song titled "My Country Used To Be" — a critique of wars via "weapons of mass distraction." "The Hopi Way" was complete with a tom-tom beat on what looked like a can or a cup, and his composition, "Eastwood Lane," described a myth-

ical place which had nothing to do with the great American composer of the same name. He sounded like Mister Rogers as he sang and played his song, co-written with Alan Broadbent, "Heart's Desire," in which a parent urges a child to "follow your heart." Then, once again we were treated to a display of his talent for jazz piano with another of his own numbers (this one à la Erroll Garner), "Little Did I Dream."

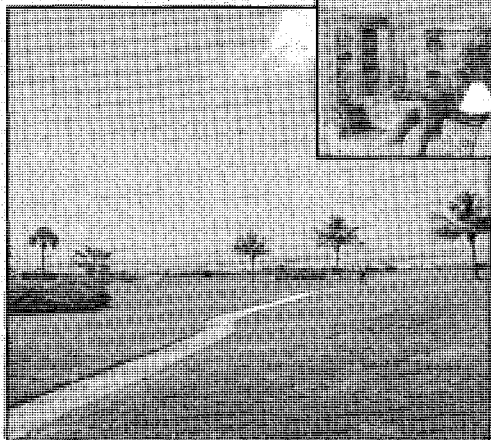
In both sets, a more effective format might have been for the two musicians to alternate and share their segments or, as they did for the concluding number of Frishberg's, "I Want To Be A Sideman," perform together — a welcome change and more effective pacing. As it was, the program was much too long. It was disconcerting to notice clumps of patrons heading for the exits after 10 p.m., although perhaps the faulty air conditioning added to the exodus.

Leonhart and Frishberg are truly professional and outstanding jazz performers who complement each other musically. It would have been a real treat just to let them "stretch-out" and play some piano and bass jazz. In this format, their respective instruments are subservient to their vocal stories and rhymes and their masterful jazz skills would have provided more contrast, balance and completeness to the evening.



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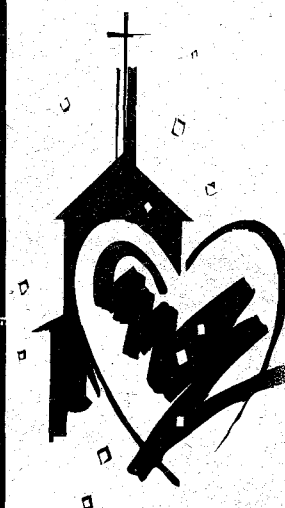
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Wu Han — a pianist of joyful exuberance

The second pianist in Sanibel Music Festival's PianoFest was Wu Han who appeared on Saturday, March 20. Thanks to the generosity of Christine S. Johnson, the many music lovers in attendance heard an extremely talented, virtuoso pianist whose musicianship, technique, charm and personality were awesome. Born in Taiwan, Han began her musical studies at the age of nine and soon progressed to become pianist of choice for the likes of artists such as Jean-Pierre Rampal. She was invited to perform in the United States, and her career quickly blossomed as she appeared not only in prestigious venues in the United States but in those of major cities throughout the world. A winner of the Andrew Wolf Award for pianists, Han has appeared at the Marlboro Music Festival and with the Grammy Award-win-



ning Emerson String Quartet. She is married to the string quartet's cellist, David Finckel and together they have launched Music@Menlo, a chamber music festival in California, and "ArtistLed," an internet-based recording company where her latest recording of an all-Russian disc featuring works by Rachmaninov, Prokofiev and Shostakovich has received BBC Music Magazine's coveted Editor's Choice award.

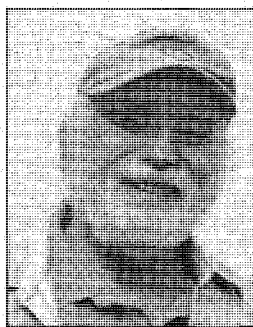
After being introduced by Artistic Director Mary Jaqua, the pianist came out in a flowing red and yellow caftan and warmly spoke about the first selection, Haydn's Sonata in E Flat Major, Hob. XVI: 52 (the "Hob" being the abbreviation for the publisher's name: Hoboken). She spoke in a scholarly manner about how prolific a composer Haydn had been and the many works that he composed, most notably the 51 piano sonatas written in his early years — only three were composed during his last 20 years of his life, of which one was the sonata heard tonight. She also spoke about Haydn's subservient role to the reigning aristocracy who were his employers and how he had to compose frequent new scores whenever ordered to do so by the king. She spoke and demonstrated on the piano the inventive side of Haydn as he wrote the second movement, "Adagio" in a

different key from the first movement — in the late 1700s, a bold compositional device. Han then performed the sonata with a virtuosity that captured every musical nuance possible. Tone, articulation, dynamics and a masterful keyboard command were evident in every classic phrase. And her joyful exuberance was communicated to all. She next spoke about and played Beethoven's Sonata No. 17 in d minor ("Tempest"), Op. 31, No. 2, that was composed in 1802 during Beethoven's "middle period" when he suffered considerable hearing loss. She again used the piano to demonstrate the innovative and revolutionary harmonic shifts in tonality that Beethoven used as well as the ethereal special effect produced by depressing the piano's pedal throughout the lyrical theme in the second movement, "Adagio." She follows Beethoven's markings as closely as possible and clearly captures the composer's romantic emotionalism and passion.

Following intermission, Wan discussed her next work "The Seasons, Op. 37b" by Tchaikovsky. Commissioned by a Russian magazine, the composer agreed to write one composition per month and produced this one to describe the 12 months of the year. Each month is musically connected to the next as the 40-minute work magnificently develops. The 12 sections are "January: At The Fireside," "February: Carnival," "March: Song of the Lark," "April: Snowdrops," "May: Starlit Nights," "June: Barcarolle," "July: Song of the Reapers," "August: Harvest," "September: Hunting," "October: Autumn Song," "November: Troika," and "December: Christmas." All of the pieces are composed with both major and minor scales with the exception of "Troika," which unusually utilizes the pentatonic scale. Han also mentioned that this piece was a "favorite of Rachmaninov."

She concluded the program with a transcription by Rachmaninov of Fritz Kreisler's violin compositions, "Liebesleid" and "Liebesfreud." Presenting the familiar melodies and then embellishing and decorating them in a most complex manner was a virtuosic tour-de-force in every respect for the pianist. Cascades of notes flew through the air like the conclusion of a fireworks display on the 4th of July. Wu Han's fingers were a blur as she exploded in performing this extremely challenging work, demonstrating her brilliance, intensity and command as a truly premier pianist.

A well-deserved standing ovation produced an encore, Scriabin's "Etude No. 3." Wu Han is indeed a complete pianist whose musicality and technical mastery are, in a word, astonishing. Bravo to the Sanibel Music Festival for bringing an artist of this magnitude to our little island.



HAROLD LIEBERMAN

Brown — performed works by Offenbach, Mozart, Hindemith, Mascagni, Puccini, Sorozabel, Gottschalk and Brahms.

Both Zamora and Tupay are graduates of the Juilliard School of Music with master's degrees. Gonzalez is also a graduate of Juilliard and Mulligan has studied voice not only at Juilliard but also at Eastman and Yale. The Brown sisters are the eldest of five children, all of whom studied piano at Juilliard. Deondra and Desirae began piano studies at the age of three and have completed their Master's at Juilliard where they received intensive training in the two-piano genre as well as in instrumental and vocal collaboration.

The program opened with a duet by Zamora and Tupay, accompanied by Desirae Brown of "Belle Nuit, o nuit d'amour" from The Tales of Hoffman by Jacques Offenbach. Aside from a few intonation problems, the familiar melody was well performed. It was followed by Mozart's "Il core dono (The Locket Duet)" from Così fan Tutte. Accompanied by Deondra Brown, Mulligan and Tupay presented a very precise and professional interpretation of this Mozart classic.

Both pianists performed, "Ragtime for four hands" by Paul Hindemith. The work is based on Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in G minor" and, although it did, indeed, veer from the classical style, I heard no semblance to ragtime whatsoever. Again, the sisters played extremely precisely with no faltering and with very effective use of dynamics.

Gonzalez and Zamora sang a duet by Pietro Mascagni titled, "Suzel, buon di! (Cherry Duet)" from L'Amico Fritz. Gonzalez spoke about the plot of the aria and displayed a resonant and most pleasing speaking voice. His tenor voice is equally resonant, full sounding, pleasing and overshadowing a few intonation problems in the soprano's upper tessitura.

The next selection was a duet sung by

The Juilliard Vocal Ensemble in Concert

On Tuesday, March 16, continuing its 18th Anniversary Season, the Sanibel Music Festival's fourth concert featured the Juilliard Vocal Ensemble with duo pianists performing operatic favorites and rarely heard four-hand piano compositions. Sponsored by Mrs. J. Howard Wood — soprano Camille Zamora, mezzo-soprano Alison Tupay, tenor Waldo Gonzalez and baritone Brian Mulligan, together with pianists, Deondra and Desirae

Gonzalez and Mulligan — "In un coupe?" from Puccini's La Boheme. Both tenor and baritone voices have nicely centered and full sounds with richly appointed overtones.

The concert format changed slightly from multiple voices to a single voice with piano accompaniment for most familiar aria, Mozart's "Voi, che sapete" from The Marriage of Figaro featuring mezzo-soprano Tupay. Mulligan next sang Mozart's "Hai gia vinta la causa... Vedro, mentr'io," also from The Marriage of Figaro. Mulligan explained that the part called for the vocalist/actor to be angry, and he was quite effective in communicating this emotion.

Zamora sang another familiar aria from Puccini's only comic opera, Gianni Schicchi, titled, "O mio babbino caro." The first half of the program closed with Gonzalez' rendition of "No Puede Ser" by Pablo Sorozabal.

After intermission, the pianists performed two selections from Danse Cubaine — "Responde moi, Op. 50" and "La gallina, Op. 53" by the celebrated American composer, Louis Moreau Gottschalk. This work was definitely in the ragtime genre with abundant syncopation performed with gusto. The program concluded with the four vocalists and two pianists performing a set of love poems composed by Johannes Brahms titled, Liebeslieder Waltzes, Op. 52.

The audience expressed its appreciation of the evening's program with a standing ovation.

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Members of BIG Arts should make plans now to attend the annual meeting and dinner scheduled for April 1 at 5 p.m. at BIG Arts Center on Dunlop Road. Following the business meeting, there will be libations and a "Florida Favorites Buffet" catered by The Island Cow. At 6:30 The Yard Dogs — Florida's Hottest Cajun Band — will entertain while you dine in Schein Hall. \$25 tickets include dinner and the entertainment. This annual event is a great way to meet new members and reconnect with old friends. Please call 395-0900 to reserve your spot for this evening of business and pleasure!

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Cleveland Duo with James Umble returns

The Cleveland Duo with James Umble will return to Sanibel on Saturday, April 3rd, in celebration of BIG Arts' 25th Anniversary. This will be the final classical concert of the BIG Arts 2003/2004 Season.

The Cleveland Duo was established in 1980 by Stephen Warner, violinist, and his wife, Carolyn Gadiel Warner, pianist. The dynamic duo joined forces with nationally-known saxophonist, James Umble, in 1993. They form an exciting threesome, virtual pioneers in the world of chamber music. They have performed in major chamber music venues, festivals, universities and conservatories of music throughout the U. S., Canada and Mexico and have been heard over the airwaves of both NPR and CBC. Their unique programming combines new music, exclusive transcriptions, and familiar repertoire for any of their six possible combinations ranging from the traditional and familiar classical to folk, ethnic, avant-garde and even jazz. Their BIG Arts program will include works by Bach, Adams, Chambers, Ponty, Ravel, and Eyckenne.

Stephan Warner, a native of Philadelphia was a child prodigy and a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music where he earned a Bachelor's in performance. He has been a member of the Cleveland Orchestra since 1979. Carolyn Gadiel Warner is a native of Canada and began her studies



at the piano at the age of three. She graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto in both piano and violin, earning both Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She has been a member of the Cleveland Orchestra

since 1979 and on the chamber music faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music since 1987.

Critically acclaimed and award winning saxophonist, James Umble, is currently on the faculty at Youngstown State University's Dana School and has also been on the performance faculty of the Brevard Music Center Summer Program in North Carolina. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in performance from Susquehanna University and a Master's from Bowling Green State University. He earned

his doctorate in musical arts from the University of Michigan and took a first prize in saxophone performance from the National Conservatory of Music in Bordeaux, France.

This final Great performers concert takes place on Saturday, April 3rd, in Schein Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at \$25. The concert is generously sponsored by Fifth Third Bank and Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A.

Sing and Sway with Sanibel's Finest

Tuesday, March 30th at 7:30 p.m. the BIG Arts Community Chorus together with the Sanibel Community Band will present their annual Spring Concert at BIG Arts, 900 Dunlop Road. The program will highlight choral renditions by the fun-loving men and women of the chorus, mostly islanders, enjoying their hobby — singing.

Special guest performers again this year will be The Sanibel Community Band. The evening's program will include the traditional audience participation sing-along so come ready to flex your vocal chords and make some beautiful music. Light refreshments will be served after the concert.

Tickets are available from the box office or from chorus and/or band members. Adults are \$5. Children under 12 are free.

The chorus, now in its fifth season, is under the direction of Carl Gnat and sings in a variety of styles including show tunes, novelty songs, old favorites, patriotic songs, classics, romantic, and even a bit of gospel, performing by invitation at local events and community functions. Rehearsals are held weekly from October to May) on Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9, at BIG Arts. There are no auditions and it's all for fun. New members and guests are always welcome.

The Sanibel Community Band has just begun its second



year. Formed in January of 2002, the 25-piece concert band is mainly composed of former high school and college musicians, many of whom have not touched their instruments in up to 50 years! Directed by Don Knowland with Terry Flannery assisting, the band plays a wide variety of music, from traditional marches and patriotic songs to popular concert numbers. Practices are on Monday nights, at 7:30. Everyone is invited to play, even beginners.

For more information about the Spring Sing and Band Concert or for information on joining one of these fun and enriching groups of musicians, please call 395-0900.

PoetryFest 2004

An exciting afternoon awaits Sanibel residents and visitors in early April.

Poets young and old, from Sanibel, Southwest Florida, FGCU and other regions of Florida, will gather at Phillips Gallery on Saturday, April 3rd, from 1 to 4 p.m. to celebrate National Poetry Month. The event is sponsored by Florida Gulf Coast University, BIG ARTS and the Islander.

Inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996,



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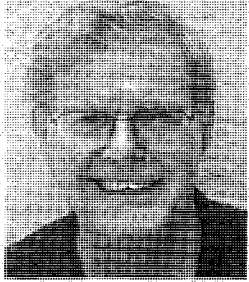
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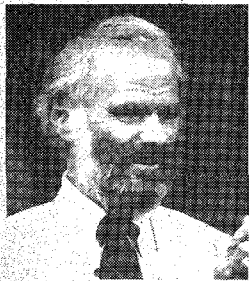
Island Writers present...

National Poetry Month brings together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools, and poets around the country to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Thousands of businesses and non-profit organizations participate through readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events.



Faraone

Sanibel's 3rd Annual PoetryFest will feature nationally celebrated poets Jim Brock, Jill Drumm, Jesse Millner and Enid Shomer. Sanibel poets Laura Barr, Don Brown, Belle Deutscher, Debora Dearborn, Vince Faraone, Barbara Finkelstein, William Highsmith, Tanya Hochschild, Marilyn Koren, Cecie Munkenbeck, Joe Pacheco and Sid Simon will perform their poetry. Poets and members of the public are invited to participate by reading their own work or a favorite poem by other poets.



Simon

A reception sponsored by the *Islander* will follow the readings. Admission is free. For further information, please call Joe Pacheco, 472-1280.

By John F. Jones

Selected members of the four Sanibel-Captiva Island Writers groups gave voices to their written word in BIG Arts Phillips Gallery on March 2nd. An enthusiastic audience of over 100 listened to the performances of 18 local writers whose works encompassed prose, poetry and playwriting.

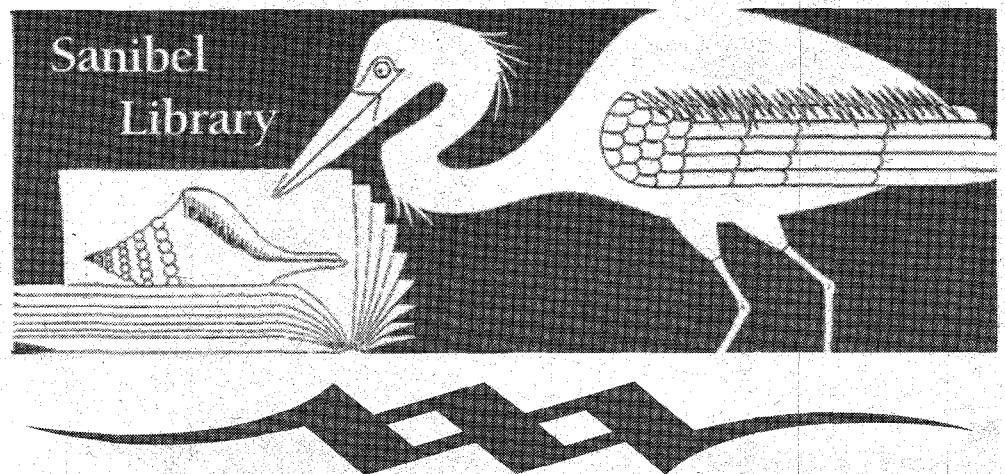
Mike Derechin's fun short story recounted the experience of a boy whose father and uncle took him "shopping" in New York's garment district in search of The Bar Mitzvah Suit. Tanya Hochschild's poems of New England Lobsterman in Squirrel Bay and A Lighthouse Lullaby drew word picture-postcards of life there. Peg McEwen lamented in her short story *Serenity*, At Last that downsizing from cabin cruiser to kayak isn't as simple as it seems. Don Brown, master of the minimal poem, expressed worlds about *Remains*, *Silence*, *Grief* and *How Quickly* in his four selections. Ruth Iyengar described events of her mother's life-and-passing in *Dust in Your Shoes*. Fish Beached and *True Midnight* were poems eloquently crafted by Mary LaVelle. Berdenna Thompson offered a short story, *Daisy*, written to help small children understand how death is natural. Nancy Carlile shared her memoir, *Polish English*, about teaching English to children in Poland, and brought photos of her encounter for all to see at intermission. Laura Barr read *The Hidden Islands* from her book of poetry, *The Minor Poet*. Bill Hallstead read his hilarious memoir about how he, flying his own little aircraft, filled in for the missing troupe that a friend had hired to put on an air show in *A Close One at Clifford*. Winnie Donoghue, reading all the parts, recited her short play *Meeting of*

the Island Writers in which she spoofed the members of her own group.

Following a short intermission, Joe Pacheco performed *Grand Popper Rap* and brought the house to its feet in wild applause. Turned-around ball cap, swaying at the microphone, shocks of white hair waving wildly, Pacheco recalled in modern rap-rhythm and style the big band era, and many of the popular songs and people of the forties and fifties. Eminem, watch out! Hal Iyengar read his myth-story about how men were made to suffer the pains of childbirth in *Indian Myth*. Vince Faraone tickled the audience with two intricately-worded poems *Of All the Girls* and *Soap Opera* that he ascribes, tongue-in-cheek, to being a "dirty old man." Six of the local writers acted in a short play *The Mice Play* by Marcia Rudin

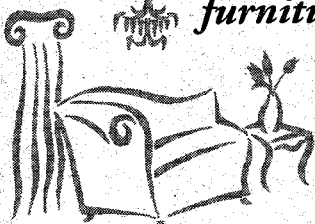
in an encounter between interloping, ne'er-do-well yard workers and the just-returning owner of a pool home. A *Death in My Family*, a memoir by Niravi Payne, tracks her actions and emotions during the assassination and funeral of Martin Luther King. Cecie Munkenbeck "flew" us through three clever poems with flying themes *Aerial Congress in Crisis*, *Concord*, and *Airborne*. The end of the evening brought Peter Hilger, inveterate island bicyclist, to the podium to read his memoir about sneaking into, and being caught *Speeding Through Ding Darling* refuge after hours by an officer who did her duty, despite being a bicyclist herself.

Next fall, at a date not yet determined, the writers will entertain again. Be there!



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playmobil

Lamaze

TOYS AHoy



by Nancy Santeusano
Special to The Islander

Toys Ahoy is a one-of-a-kind shop in Periwinkle Place, owned for the past twenty years by toy expert, Marie Stevens. Manager Ann Morelli and assistant, Cathy Nelson, round out the highly capable team. A colorful Windsock hangs outside the door, inviting you to enter this magical place, filled with old-time favorite toys, exclusives, rare collectibles and new and imaginative toys sure to delight the younger set.

The craft section is particularly popular with youngsters of all ages. Projects range from learning how to quilt to "coin construction" to woodcraft and, of course, model building. Kids never tire of modeling with clay, playing with finger puppets... from Sesame Street to fish, dolphins, dragonflies and a favorite: an "apple with a worm." Amazing Postefix bubbles from Germany turn into colored crystals when they hit the ground in cold Northern temperatures. The Klutz compact craft books — with directions and materials included — make great gifts and Toys Ahoy can direct mail your package for you!

Durable toys for the very young include Woodkins dress-up kids and classic Pound a Peg and wooden blocks. Thomas the Tank fans will love the range of options available for this classic wooden toy set at Toys Ahoy, while Playmobil sets encourage hours of imaginative play.

Kids love the racks and racks of trend-setting jewelry and there's even some pretty neat stuff for boys, too, — and with a price point from \$1.99 to \$8.

Easter is coming up and the timeless and traditional soft bunnies never go out of style. "Lamaze" makes a full baby line of durable and soft toys to fit onto a stroller or car seat, designed to amuse a tiny tot buckled into a seat. Designers are using very soft fabrics that feel wonderful to the touch and even the soft-fabric "My First Purse" comes equipped with flannel cell phone, coin purse and a mini compact.

Keep the kids busy on the beach with "Go Fly a Kite" parafoil pocket kites. Each comes in an easily packable pouch, they're self inflatable and come in several sizes. Favorites include butterflies, boxes and sharks, and there's even a make-your-own model. Windsocks are still very popular; these durable beauties are made in the USA from an excellent colorfast fabric and favorites include a fireman, barbecue Bob, butterflies, golfers and island mermaids.

If there was ever a classic toy, Raggedy Ann and Andy top the list and Morelli believes that every child should have a Raggedy Ann and Andy — Toys Ahoy carries the pair in five different sizes. However, she notes that, "you can't find a Raggedy Ann or Andy book today."

Collectors will find much to delight, from the treasured Cooperstown Collectible Bears and timeless Madame Alexander dolls. French Corolle baby dolls never lose their freshness and have the sweet scent of vanilla for a lifetime!

Beautifully made nesting dolls from Russia are a delight, while military collectors will love the metal British soldiers from World War II. Older boys love the CAT construction die-cast scale model replicas and wind-up replicas of tin toys from the fifties provide sentimental fun.

Now is the time to go and have fun in a world you may not have explored recently. Toys Ahoy is a journey through the toys of yesteryear, perennial favorites and new arrivals that are so clever you think to yourself, why didn't I think of that? Give yourself a gift and recapture some of the magic of childhood at Toys Ahoy in Periwinkle Place.

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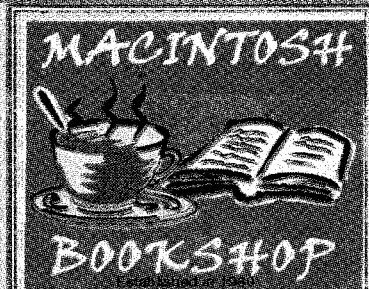
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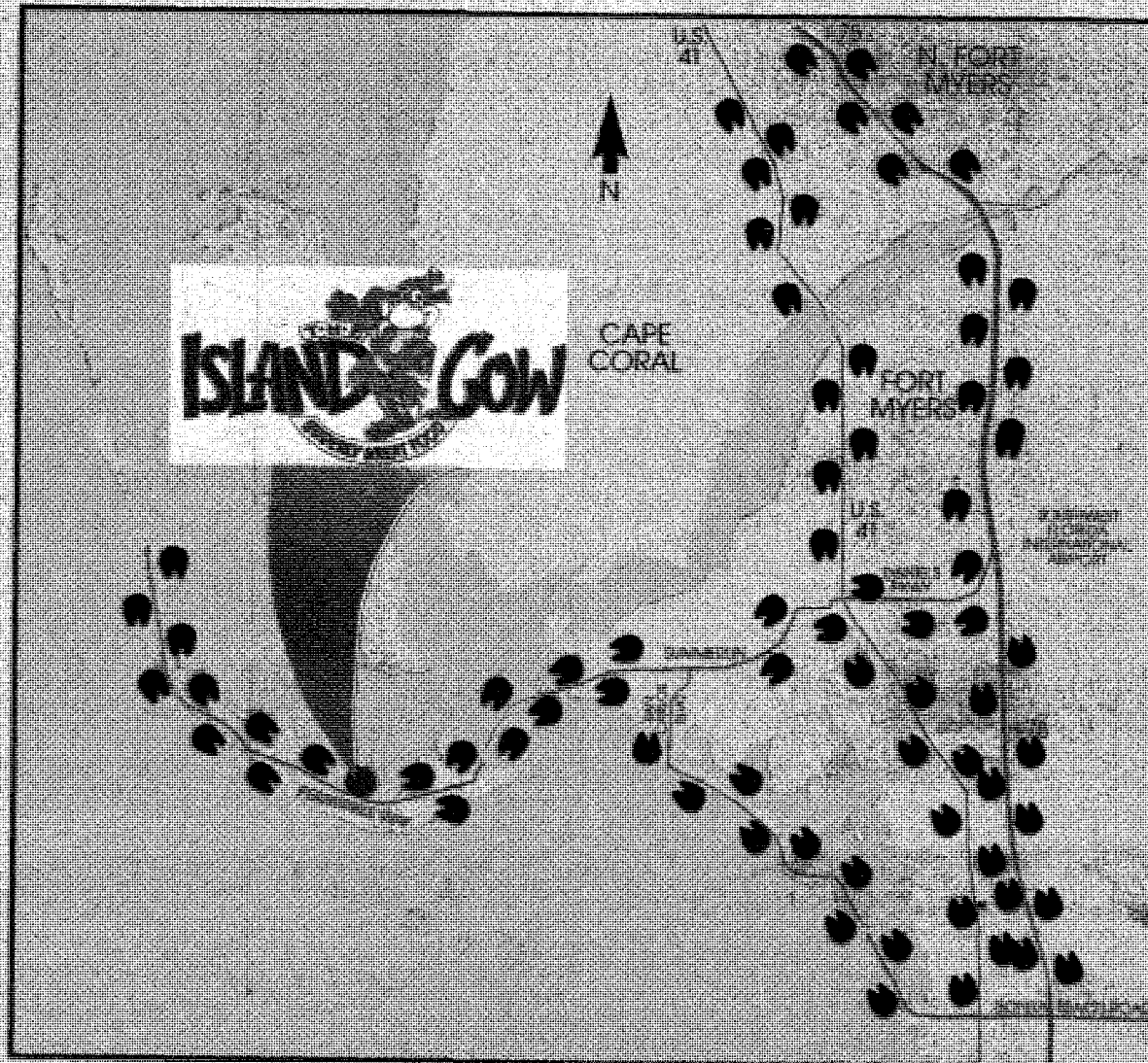
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