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Vol. 43, No. 29

Week of September 10 - 16, 2004

20 Pages



**Island Home
takes a look
at three
couples
doing
commercial
Faux
painting**

See Page 9

OPEN

**See Page 14
for a list of
island
businesses
that are
planning to
be open
by this
weekend ***

*** as of
press time**



Photo by Amy Fleming

Hurricane Frances brushed by Sanibel and Captiva, sending wind and rain but — fortunately — less than original predictions. This photo was taken on Sunday afternoon from Captiva's Turner Beach, looking toward Sanibel.

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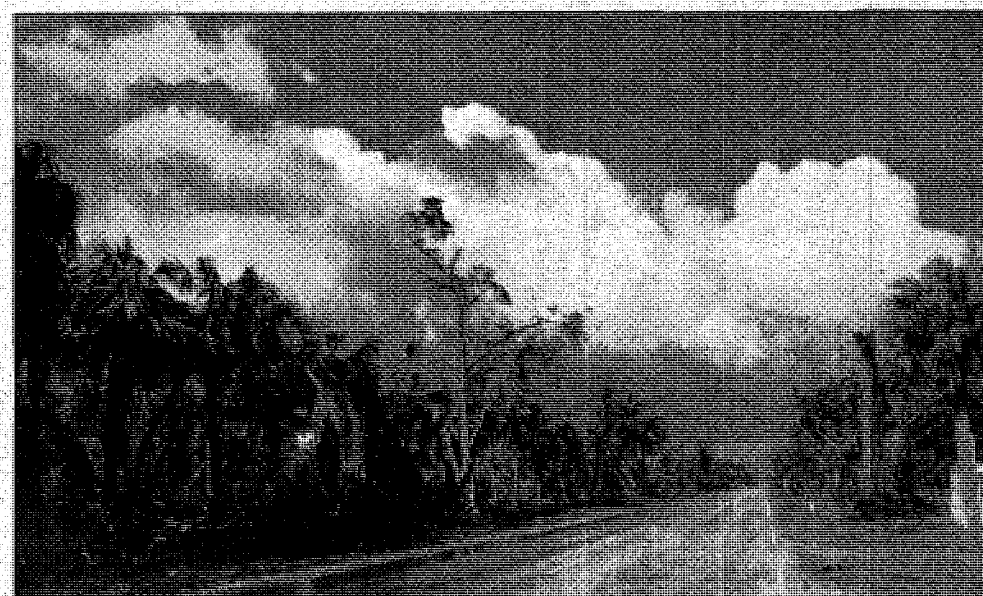
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Photos by Karen Nelson

The first bands of Hurricane Frances passed over Sanibel on Saturday morning. Above: Lighthouse Point viewed from one of the Causeway islands. Below: Periwinkle Way, bearing the scars of Hurricane Charley as the Saturday morning clouds from Hurricane Frances moved away.



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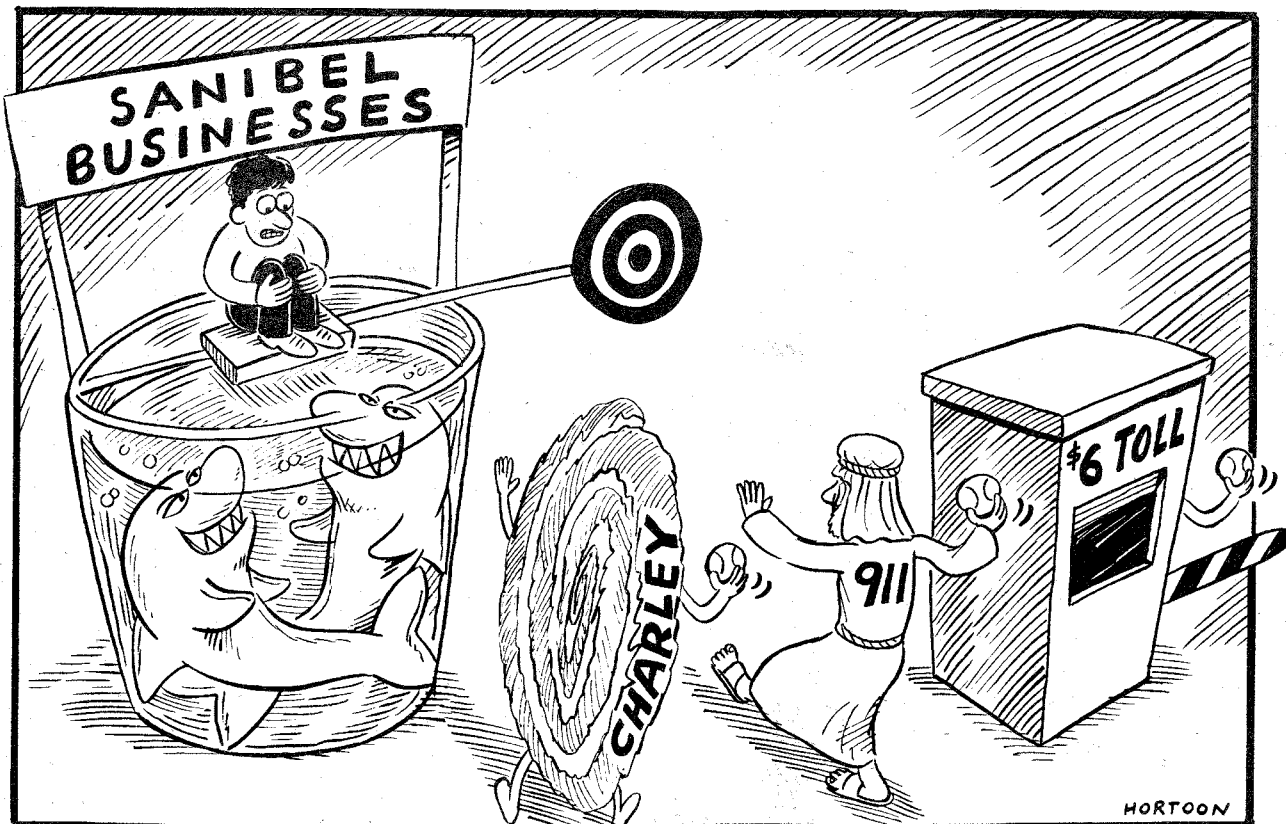
TOO MUCH SUN



Dave Horton



Lee Horton



HORTON

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COMMENTARY

A season of hurricanes

By Karen Nelson
Managing Editor

It's Wednesday morning. Before leaving for work, I turned on the TV and the weather forecast showed Hurricane Ivan projected for a dead hit in this area, give or take 350 miles. Here we go, again.

Latest coordinates, forecast track and cone of opportunity... hurricane forecasting terminology has become part of our daily lingo. I'm afraid to restock the freezer and I've kept my stores of water, batteries and candles on (or near) the kitchen counter.

I'm tired of seeing tree-cutting trucks and tree-carting trucks. I'm tired of dismembered trees. The destruction came from Charley, not from the hundreds of workers steadfastly working to clear the wounded roadsides, and I am grateful that they are here. I know it will look better when everything is cleared, and the replanting can begin. By then, storm-stripped palms, gumbo limbos, sea grapes and strangler figs will be sprouting new growth.

The damage wrought by Charley to the north of us — and Frances to the east of us — is worthy of a feeling of doom. I feel guilty about being so saddened by downed trees, roof damage and missing pool cages. I feel that I need to qualify every moan about lost vegetation with the proviso that we were the lucky ones (as indeed we were). But one of the deep pleasures, for me, of being on Sanibel was that morning drive down

Periwinkle on my way to the Islander office, with the angled shafts of light gilding the soft needles and thick, gnarled trunks of the sentinel pines.

Now, with each foray down Periwinkle, the slashed red stumps catch the eye like sandpaper. The naysayers were proven right: the trees fell — following the worst-case scenario — taking out power lines and rendering roads impassable. Tangled webs of uprooted sand and pavement are testament to their tenuous hold on these barrier islands.

Sanibel is defined by far more than pine trees, but in this season of stress, I claim the right to mourn my loss. We are nest builders, at heart, carefully shaping each part of our world to our own comfort level. Nature has shattered this sense of security, and each drive down Periwinkle reaffirms this. Periwinkle Way will again become a beautiful roadway, but it will be a different kind of beauty. The sentinels have fallen.

One of the businesses near the Islander office carefully boarded up the windows for Charley and Frances. After Frances, with Ivan looming, they only unboarded the door and one window and left the rest of the plywood in place.

Many of us are walking around in a daze, yet we have found a deeper strength. Neighbors have found neighbors. Crews from around the country poured in with ice, water, hot food, roof tarps, equipment, tools and skills to help with the clean-up. FEMA and SERT set up operations quickly. Judie Zimomra and her able

team have done a superlative job of guiding Sanibel along the road to recovery.

Yet... even as I write this, a new breed of monster machine (photo on page 19) is clamping, cutting and picking up the pines on Tarpon Bay Road, laying them aside like so much kindling.

The enemy isn't Charley and it isn't the City of Sanibel, aggressively stepping in to eradicate "the Australian pine nemesis." The enemy is our belief that we can prevail against the hard-earned wisdom of nature.

In photos of the islands before the invasion of Australian pines and pepperberry, the terrain is flat and scrubby; old-timers say that you could see from the Gulf to the bay. This lush tropical paradise that we have created in a harsh, barrier island environment is an illusion, an achievement of will and the assumptions that water is unlimited and the forces of nature can be controlled.

As we have so humbly learned, water is precious and hurricanes bow to no man. I will be so relieved when this season of hurricanes ends.

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OBITUARY

Juanita Platner

Juanita Stubbs Platner, 75, of Kingfield, died Sunday, August 29, 2004 at St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston surrounded by members of her family.



Juanita Platner

She was born at her home on Church Street in Brownville, Maine on August 29, 1929, a daughter of the late Flora Ladd and Roland Stubbs, Sr. She graduated from Weymouth High School in Massachusetts in 1947 and was employed for many years at the Granite Trust Bank in Quincy, Massachusetts.

In 1963 she married Nelford J. Platner, Jr. who survives her. They have lived in Kingfield and wintered on Sanibel since that time. "Neet" was actively involved in her communities, both North and South, and will be very much missed by everyone who knew her.

Her Kingfield flower gardens brought much pleasure to all who saw them. A long time volunteer at the Kingfield Historical Society, Neet served many years as hostess, president, and archivist, and helped to arrange a large variety of Kingfield Days displays.

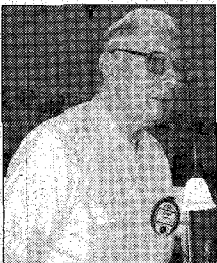
A strong supporter of her Florida church activities, Neet earned a reputation

SERVICE CLUBS

Kiwanis: Need Help? Call 211...

Submitted by Bob Wimbush

Even name storms bring good news! Kiwanian Roger Gunnerfeldt's Tuesday morning Bible study group has cancelled its meetings temporarily, so he has been able to rejoin us



The Rev. Roger Gunnerfeldt

as an excellent cook. For years she collected seashells on Sanibel beaches and arranged them artistically into a variety of unique gifts.

She is survived by four sisters: Martha Sabans, Lettie Gibb, Violet Arbus and Bonnie Butterfield; one brother: Roland Stubbs, Jr.; three stepchildren and four step grandchildren.

Donations in her memory may be sent to the Kingfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 238, Kingfield, ME. 04947.

day forced him to choose between the two, and although we hate to wish another group ill or hypothesize that Roger has given up on us, it sure is good to have Roger back. Privately some offered a prayer for bad weather.

And speaking of good works, our speaker last week was Clifford W. Smith, president of the United Way of Lee County. Cliff, mercifully, broke with tradition and did not show his generic video about the many strengths and needs of the United Way — although Charley and Frances have magnified both. He chose, instead, his personal favorite, Suggestions on How to Live a Happy and Rewarding Life, a series of sayings to live by.

I particularly liked "Make it a habit to do nice things for people who will never find out." Although we had to read it ourselves, the screens moved slowly, and it was short enough that only about three members



Above: Kiwanians had a good turnout at an undisclosed location to hear United Way president, Cliff Smith (right), who noted that storm hardships will be with us for months.

complained that their lips were so tired they couldn't finish. It was perfect for this group and for the occasion.

Cliff's real purpose in coming was to be sure we knew to call 211 twenty-four hours a day for information and referral to health and social services. Many Kiwanians didn't know that one call to 211 would link them up with the entire United Way support network. United Way operators took over 60,000 calls during the past week from people who need and offer storm related services. He predicts storm-related hardships will continue for months.

The club also honored outgoing club president, Don

Czech — who was recently installed as

Lt. Governor for the 15 clubs in Lee County —

by presenting him with the bilious but coveted bright orange Kiwanis Blazer. It was resolved we will fine him if he ever wears it to one of our meetings.



Don Czech's orange jacket makes its first — and last — Sanibel club appearance.

The Islands' Community Newspaper since 1961

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Sanibel and Hurricane Charley

Native trees vs. Hurricane Charley

By Anne Bellew
Staff Writer

Many people have been asking about the high number of native trees (in addition to Australian Pines) that were toppled by Hurricane Charley.

"Yes, it does seem unusual," commented Beth DeGrauwe, manager of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's Native Plant Nursery, "but, if you'll look closely, almost all of the sea grapes and strangler figs are, essentially, top heavy. Plus sea grapes have those beautiful broad leaves.

"Typically, because they can survive in low-lying areas, that's where they are planted. That, in turn, means that their roots are never encouraged to grow deep enough because there is water available just a short distance down. They don't need to develop a tap root to find water or use as an anchor.

"But one of the things I found most interesting was the varying levels of compression we suffered during the weather system. You can see on the graph that, at one point, the barometric pressure all of a sudden tanked, then shot right back up, resulting in scattered cells of wind shear strong enough to create sinkholes and push trees deeper into the ground. I came across the sinkholes in a yard I was inspecting on West Gulf Drive. This didn't happen, fortunately, but these isolated pockets are actually strong enough to force a person down into the ground. And

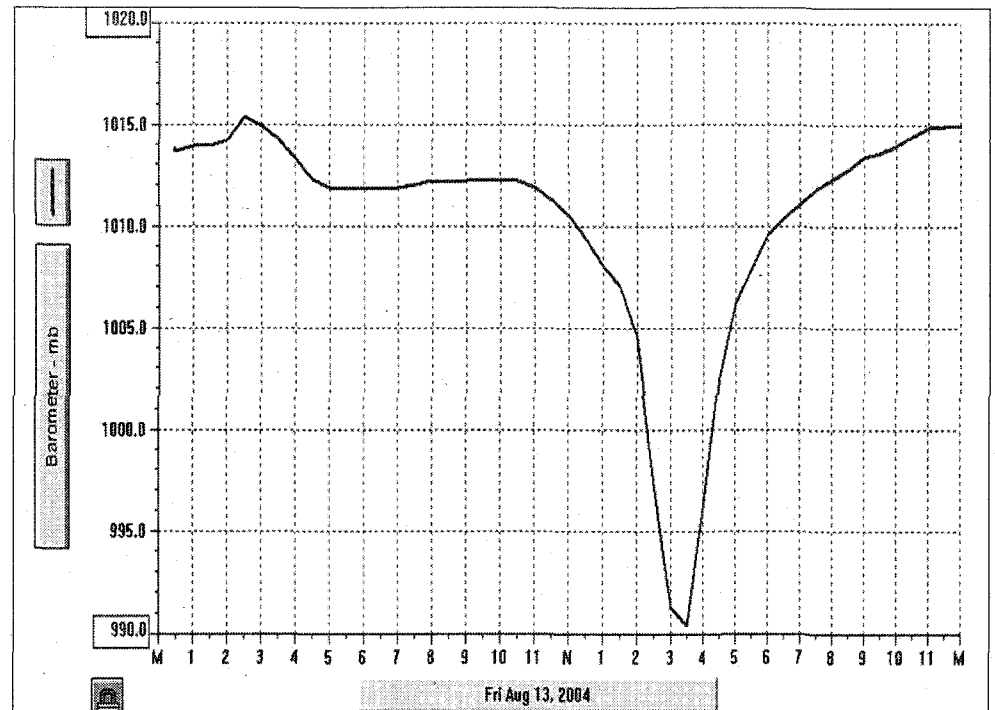
there were a lot of tornadoes right around the wall, too."

"I was on the Damage Assessment Team," said Rob Loflin, City of Sanibel Environmental Resource director, "and by the end of the first day, it was obvious to all the teams that the homes with dense native vegetation (or a combination of dense native and exotic) up to 30 feet tall were the least damaged. Those houses that were relatively open and unvegetated — particularly along golf courses — or had tall exotics suffered much more severe damage than those surrounded by five-to-30-foot tall vegetation. But the tall, well-filled-out native trees — the black olives, strangler figs, live oaks and banyans — were also pretty badly hit."

"Our green spaces took a lot of wind," DeGrauwe added, "absorbing some of that wind and lifting the pressure up and over — so those houses, as Rob said, with the five-to-30-foot buffer did not lose near as many roofs.

"And the mangroves did what mangroves do best — bent to the wind, lost their leaves, but protected the island. They won't die."

"As for the Australian pines... Yes, the centers of some of the gigantic ones were rotten," Loflin said, "but the engineers assure me that they were still very strong — the way an iron pipe is strong. The wind load to the top was just too much for their shallow roots and the high water table... trees that tall go down, or they



A.J. Martignetti/SCCF Marine Lab

Graph of barometric pressure during Hurricane Charley.

twist and shatter 30 to 40 feet up. And some of the remaining ones are so fragilely "tethered" that ground vibration, even your typical afternoon thunder shower, can send them down, one at a time."

"The nursery did great," DeGrauwe continued, "a couple of trees down, but the shade house is intact — screens blown out is all.

"We didn't have a storm surge but the

winds and/or tornadoes were strong enough to blow water from the gulf through unimpeded places — Buttonwood Lane, for example, had water all the way along the street, and I'm sure there were other places that fared much the same" ...Lighthouse Beach, Nerita Street, and other locations.

(Ed: See Page 7 for a photo of Buttonwood Lane flooded by Charley.)



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Surviving Charley

Surviving Charley

By Doris & Bill Burks

Wednesday, Aug 11 - Arrived home from a two week trip to Boston and Burlington - first hint of hurricane was from the bus driver to pick up car at Economy Parking - he had been told not to report for work Friday! All we wanted was a quick dinner & to bed.

Thursday, Aug. 12 - Bill went & played his usual tennis at 8:00 & I went to Bailey's for food. Some of the people Bill played with were going back north that day & two people had not put their storm shutters up. As usual the day before a hurricane, it was beautiful weather & a category 1 storm heading to Tampa. We decided we would stay even though mandatory evacuation had been enacted - mandatory, not understood by anyone. Winds were to be between 60 & 100 miles an hour & we were well supplied with batteries, water, radio, land line telephone, food & wine.

Friday, Aug. 13 - Wonderful night's sleep - awoke at 8 a.m. - turned on T-V, not much change, still a number 1, 60 miles off Sanibel, headed for Tampa.

Called several motels but no room at the inns. At this point we had to stay so called our neighbor, John Morley. He & Sheila were staying. Bestons, our neighbors across the street, called from Connecticut and said to go to their house - they have storm shutters, we do not. At 1:00 our power was turned off. All of a sudden we had gone from a category 1 to a category 4!!! and was headed for Sanibel. We couldn't believe it.

At 2:15 we decided it was time to go to Bestons. Dressed in our foul weather gear from sailing we carried radio, phone, purse, jewelry, and flashlights to our port in the storm. We started out in the computer room but realized that was in the direction of the storm and moved to the master bath in the front of the house, me in the shower and Bill on the side of the tub.

We tracked the storm (we had good radio reception). First it was headed for Punta Rassa (that would have taken out the causeway), then the lighthouse, then Blind Pass and finally Captiva. At exactly 3:00 the eye passed us over 100 miles

an hour, and the first of Beston's roof peeled off, then more, then the chimney went & finally the pool cage. The noise was terrible and we could see shapes of things flying past the windows. Of course the water started coming through the ceiling. We started finding containers for it and started moving furniture.

Then we called our kids: Robin was hysterical and had passed her hysteria on to Alyson. Steve was almost as bad because he had heard about the 18-ft. storm surge that was to follow but — thank heaven — didn't materialize. Thank goodness we had an old land phone that worked even though there wasn't any electric.

At 4:00 Bill convinced me that he could go to our house to see how it fared and he came back with the good news that we had some soffits missing from the cupola and five wind screens blown out of the pool cage. But while he was gone there was more destruction at Bestons, the porch ceiling crashed down. We had two trees blown over in the back but everyone had a lot of that.

We went back home about 4:30; walked a portion of the neighborhood and talked to the Morleys. Most of the pool cages were blown away, just ours and one other was left standing, and there was much roof and siding damage.

Ate tuna fish sandwiches by candlelight and went to bed early. It was a hot night. We had no power or water or flush johns; had to haul water from the pool to flush johns.

Saturday, Aug. 14 - Moved downstairs to boil water for coffee on the grill and ate cereal. Then went around the neighborhood taking pictures. Decided to see how far we could get by car — not far! Tried both directions on West Gulf and then Rabbit Road but there were wires and trees down everywhere.

Tried and tried to get our neighbor, Brian, to do something about Beston's roof but he couldn't get any tarps. He had come back to the island by boat and had hitched to his house. At 5:00 we heard from Morleys that Bailey's was open so we took off to get ice and water. Met many people that had stayed on the island. We were told to write down the prices of whatever we needed & then paid cash at the counter. Bailey's generator had also failed. Found out that neighbors, the

Liptaks, and Clo Whitney and her husband had stayed on the island. Every time we had the chance we jumped in the pool to keep cool. Decided to grill up as much food as we could so we had salmon for dinner. Also decided to sleep downstairs, much cooler than upstairs. Forgot to mention that we were able to get to Bailey's because the wires had been removed from the streets. To bed early with no lights.

Sunday, Aug. 15 - Good night's sleep - jumped in the pool, coffee and cold breakfast. Decided to check on the boat, never thinking it would be there but it was! Pumped water out and then decided to check out friends' homes. We could not get down the side streets since only the main roads had been cleared. We did get to check on Blind Pass Condos and could report back to several people. Then we rode down to Blind Pass bridge but were turned back by the National Guard, carrying rifles. Back down to Bailey's where a truck was giving out free ice & water. This became our daily trip, twice a day until power came on at our house on Wed, Aug. 18.

Mon, Tues, Wed - 16, 17, 18 - Our days followed the same pattern. Get up, jump in the pool and boil water for coffee. Our kids called us Thurston and Lovey, of *Gilligan's Island*. By Monday, we were throwing out all the food and clearing out Beston's refrigerator. With power back on, we felt much better but power did not come on across the street for eight more days. On Tuesday, Claudia Burns called and said she would come back to the island on Wednesday and what could she bring? I said, a newspaper. We were having the paper read to us by our daughter, Robin, in Akron from her computer. Claudia arrived with newspaper and ate her lunch at our pool. She was faithful, bringing the paper every day until our first delivery. With electricity on, we moved upstairs.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun., 19, 20, 21, 22 - Our water came on Thursday and we had to boil it. Bestons, with son David, arrived Thursday afternoon. Many tears were shed when EMB saw her house. We had them move in with us and they would work on their house during the day. Kennedy Construction finally tarped their house on Friday and that was a big day.

On Sunday, we went to church (Congregational). There were about 30 people, no power and a shortened service due to the heat.

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., 23, 24, 25, 26 - Life seemed fairly normal in our house (with no TV or computer) but when we left it, life was not normal. There were piles and piles and piles of everything along the road: trees, roofing, carpeting, refrigerators, furniture and things you couldn't identify. Driving was hazardous because of work trucks and debris and closed roads. I played tennis on Wednesday at Lexington (off the island) and that was a treat. Electricity came on across the street and we finally got cable on the 26. We were able to check on friends' houses and we were allowed to drive to Captiva but they wouldn't let us enter South Seas. Bestons ate dinner with us and spent their first night at home.

Friday we decided to go to Miami for two days. Things looked better when we returned on Sunday but there is much more to be done.

Today it is Thursday, Sept 2 and we are awaiting word on what to do about Hurricane Frances.

Captiva Post Office opens

Captiva Postmaster Mark Lewis is happy to announce that power has been restored and postal operations resumed on Wednesday, Sept. 8 at the Captiva Post Office.

Mark had set up a temporary location for mail pick-up and stamp sales at the Hampton Inn & Suites on Summerlin Road on August 18.



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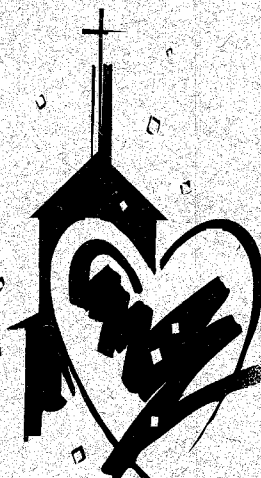
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ENVIRONMENT

Ding Days headliner: BIG ARTS presents one-woman show

The nationally known environmentalist and author of *The Everglades: River of Grass*, will come to life in *Marjory Stoneman Douglas: Champion of the Everglades*, a one-act, one-woman play presented by BIG ARTS on Oct. 14, as headliner for Sanibel Island's Ding Darling Days, Oct. 10-16. A Sanibel School environmental play kicks off the evening.

The Douglas portrayal is set in 1985, when the heroine was 95 years old. Virtually blind and hearing-impaired for more than a decade, she continues to lecture, lobby, woo, wheedle, and harangue on behalf of Florida's waterways and wild places. Douglas, portrayed by the play's author, Joan Wolfberg, may have lost her sight, but she refuses to surrender her vision of the Everglades as she continues her battle to



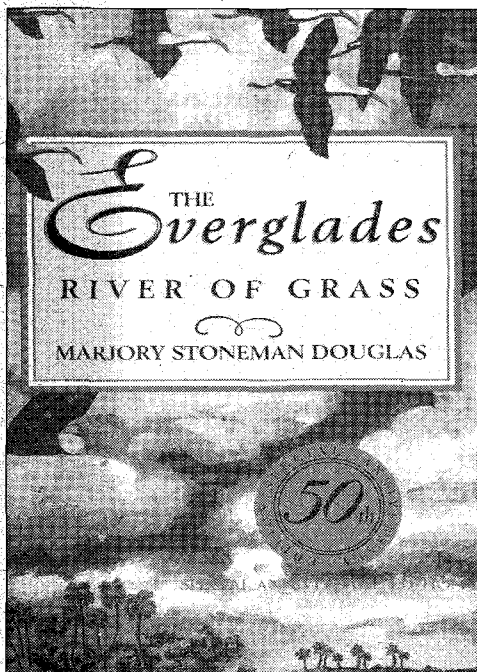
The late, great Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

save South Florida's waters.

Wolfberg, a Chautauqua scholar with the Florida Humanities Council, boasts an impressive performance background with theatrical credits including Burt Reynold's Dinner Theatre, Royal Palm Dinner Theatre, and The Actors Repertory Company in Florida, plus regional and dinner theaters throughout the Southwest.

Students from The Sanibel School present the opening act for this evening of environmental drama with a tribute to the legacy of Jay "Ding" Darling, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Schein Hall. Their *A Wild Day* play follows the Lopez family on a visit to J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Tickets for the evening are \$12, available at the Ding Darling Bookstore (239-472-1100, ext. 241) or BIG ARTS.

The Ninth Annual Ding Darling Days features a week long schedule of events at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge and venues throughout Sanibel Island. For more information, log on to www.dingdarlingdays.com.



Photos courtesy of Pineapple Press
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Photo by Wil Compton

The photo above of a flooded Buttonwood Lane was taken during Hurricane Charley. Compton notes that there was about 10" of water over Periwinkle at the height of the storm.

Speaking on Arthritis

The Arthritis Foundation is hosting an Arthritis Lecture featuring Cindy Higbea, Lupus Educator and Tai Chi Instructor, from Fort Myers. Mrs. Higbea will speak on the updates of Lupus and Tai Chi and Arthritis.

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 Tuesday, September 21, from 2 - 3:30 p.m. at Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium. The hospital is located at 2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers. Reservations required by September 20. Please call 800-741-4008, ext 224 for reservations or any questions you may have.

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Thoughts on the Causeway toll increase

Letter to the Editor

The new Sanibel Causeway tolls recently approved by Lee County Commissioners will raise most fees 100%, from \$3 to \$6 cash for a single car crossing, for example. But, the toll for a single car discounted transponder crossing will increase from \$.50 to \$3 per trip. That's a whopping 600% hike! 600% seems excessive, inequitable and way too far out of line with the other rate increases.

Is it punitive? Is this disproportionate 600% rate increase commissioners' way of punishing islanders? If so, they are punishing not only islanders, but also a lot of hard-working professionals, technicians and other laborers throughout Lee County and everywhere else who drive onto and off the islands Monday to Friday to make their daily bread. They all will now have weekly commutes raised 600% from \$2.50 to \$15! (That's on top of the new 400-500% fee increases for annual or semi-annual prepaid transponder crossings!)

These rates of increase are unfair! They seem prejudicial and even illegally discriminatory and need to be resisted by every legal recourse available before November 1, when the new rates are to take effect. Perhaps a temporary injunction prior to a class action suit is required?

At the Thursday evening Board of Commissioners

meeting where the new tolls were adopted, with no public comment allowed, commissioners were quoted as saying "there is no other way to pay for the replacement causeway." That is obviously not true. There are countless other fare structures that would be fair and equitable to all, making the increases democratically the same: perhaps raising all tolls 150% to \$7.50 for cash crossings and \$1.25 for transponder crossings, etc.

Please, Commissioners, correct these discriminatory rate increases ASAP. If not, I encourage all Lee County voters to vote against all County Commissioners running for reelection November 2.

"There is no other way."

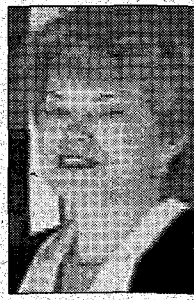
Monty Montgomery
Sanibel

Local Guardian Honored

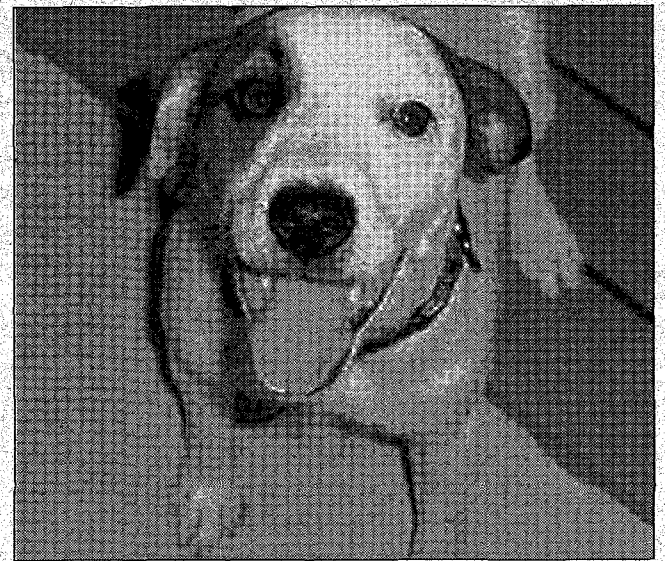
Lynda Leonard-Boyce of the Southwest Chapter of the Florida State Guardianship Association was presented with the "Distinguished Guardian of the Year Award" at the 17th annual conference of the FSGA in Naples.

Nominees for this award must demonstrate effective advocacy for incapacitated people; those who nominated her stated that "she is always willing to go the extra mile and the elderly she works with are often in great distress. Lynda has made many of the elderly feel better and they have a better quality of life as a result."

As the mean age of Florida's population continues to increase, it is important that we encourage and recognize those members of our community who strive to assist those in greatest need. Members of the Florida State Guardianship Community are key partners in protecting the rights of all people in need, and those members who set exemplary examples in guardianship are to be cherished.



Leonard-Boyce



Pet of the Week

Meet Sprint! He is a 2 year-old, tri-colored, Jack Russell Terrier mix. Sprint is friendly, spunky and ready for a new home. To adopt Sprint call Lee County Animal Services at 432-2083 and ask about ID# 234051.

The shelter is located in Six Mile Commercial Park off Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. (between US 41 and Metro Pkwy.). Adoption hours are 10 am to 4:30 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 10 am to 7 pm on Tuesday; and 10 am to 2:30 pm on Saturday. The shelter is closed on Sunday. Pictures of pets available for adoption can be viewed online at www.leelostpets.com.

Grandparent's Day at Sanibel Community Church

Sunday, September 12th is Grandparent's Day. Dr. Ed VanderHey, Associate Pastor (and grandfather) will be preaching at all three services at Sanibel Community Church.

Traditional services are at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., with a contemporary service including Praise Band at 9 a.m. Word Surfers Children's Church takes place during the 9 a.m. service for children through fifth grade.

Sanibel Community Church is located at 1740 Periwinkle Way next to Jerry's Market. Feel free to come dressed casually. For more information call 472-2684. Dr. Daryl Donovan serves as Senior Pastor.



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

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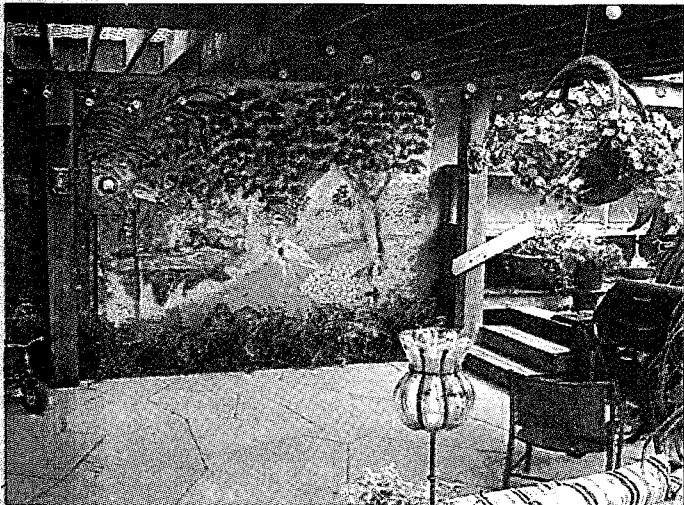
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Creative couples enhance island homes

By Laura Nickerson
Staff Writer

Sanibel and Captiva have always been home to those with creative minds and spirits. Artists and artisans the world over have come here to create, or just relax in the sun. Sometimes they come as couples, or meet their creative soul mate here. A

a family vacation, the Goulds took advantage of a once in a lifetime opportunity to fulfill their dream of living full time on Sanibel. They purchased Green Earth Landscaping, and the home that came with it, from Steve and Liz Scott who had owned the business and property for 28 years.



Jim, who understands the need for using a base of native plants wherever possible, while also appreciating exotics, went right to work at what comes most natural, designing beautiful and personalized outdoor spaces. Lisa felt her way in this new community through her art, joining BIG ARTS, and eventually teaching ceramics at their children's summer art program.

The Goulds began creating together

few have actually expanded their creative horizons by combining their own talents with those of their mate to create new art forms or enhance original concepts. Such is the case with the couples in this story, who have discovered that creating jointly can be more fun and more productive than creating alone.

Jim and Lisa Gould of Green Earth Landscape, located at 3889 SanCap Road, moved to Sanibel from Atlanta, Georgia just three years ago. Jim, who has been a landscaper for twenty years, had vacationed on Sanibel for as long as he can remember. His wife Lisa taught art to kindergartners through twelfth graders, and was once commissioned by her school to paint a 500-foot continuous mural all around the school. She is very proud of that endeavor, and the idea of mural painting stayed with her. In 2001, while here on

through one of those synergistic moments when a client of Jim's was looking for something unusual and vertical to accent an area of her garden. A mural was suggested, and naturally Jim thought immediately of Lisa, who then designed a large scene of wildlife in a tropical jungle, which meshed seamlessly with Jim's landscape design. The client was delighted, and so were the Goulds, who say they want to do many more joint projects.

Creating indoor murals as well as outdoor paintings, in conjunction with Jim's landscaping business, is reflective of the "mostly outside" Sanibel lifestyle, and gives their company a bit of a creative edge.

Jim now specializes in tree work, ponds, and in meeting the design and planting needs of islanders. Lisa has done

Couples, see page 10



Two of Lisa Gould's murals, left and above.

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Couples, from page 11



Trompe l'oeil from Laura Ball: Above left: two parrots painted on the wall above a parrot sculpture; Above right: Bananas on the wall (the mirror is reflecting a different wall with a real vase of flowers on a table).

another outdoor mural to mask a concrete wall at their own home; a scene complete with pond and tropical foliage to rival the property itself, which includes numerous plantings of gumbo limbo, bougainvillea and foxtail palms, all favorites of the couple. In the future, the Goulds plan on expanding to include a retail plant shop on their grounds, but ongoing projects such as Jim's consultation and installation schedule are keeping that on hold for awhile.

Lisa says, "Everyone can expect more joint projects from us now that our youngest child has started school. I haven't had enough time to take on any more until now." The Goulds are struggling with no roof since Hurricane Charley, so time will still be a factor for them in the coming weeks, but Jim is already back to work with Green Earth Landscaping projects.

Charley and Laura Ball, better known to islanders as Barefoot Charley, house-painter, and Laura, the nice lady at the Post Office, are another Sanibel couple



Charley and Laura Ball of Barefoot Charley.

who, since beginning their life together on the island, have "simply fallen into" some creative projects together. Charley Ball came to Sanibel Island by a circuitous route, from Massachusetts, via New Mexico then Boca Raton, Florida where he was an electronics technician. In 1978 he began visiting Sanibel for personal getaways, becoming more familiar with the island and its residents with each visit. In 1998, Charley made his move, and became a resident himself, finding work as a house painter, and making his mark here on Sanibel. Admittedly once a bit of a wild child, Charley's openness, giving nature, and charisma won him many friends and probably more than a few dates, but he never met his match until he met a young woman then named Laura Barbetta.

Laura grew up in Bayside, New York, moving south in 1995 to Fort Myers. She found a job as a postal employee, but Laura was also an artist, having attended the prestigious High School of Art and Design in Manhattan, specializing in advertising and illustration. She entered many craft shows in New York with her basketry work, but upon moving to Florida, found that the market for crafts was vastly different in the South at that time. She returned to painting briefly, but says that "life being what it is, I had to let my art go for awhile. It wasn't until I met Charley," Laura continued, "that I got back into it. He really encouraged me to do something with my talent."

Charley and Laura met, went out a while, and on New Year's Eve 2002, had a fantasy Sanibel beach wedding that it seemed most folks on the island either knew about or celebrated. It was afterwards that Laura got really serious about her art. She went to school to learn decorative finishing techniques and became proficient at trompe l'oeil or "fool the eye" and other faux painting techniques including marbleizing, verdigris, leather, stone, and distressed metal, as well as the more widely seen sponging, ragging, tissue and glaze, and others. She is now fully qualified to paint in any of the above techniques on almost any surface.

As with the Goulds, Laura and Charley began combining talents when Charley, who by this time had built up quite a business painting homes, was asked for something a little more unique by a client. Charley consulted with Laura and they came up with a multicolor technique that changed the client's walls from plain aqua to an ethereal pink, blue, purple powderpuff soft blend that appears

Couples, continued right

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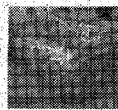
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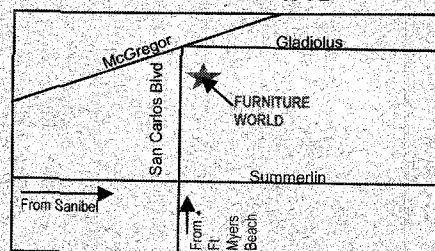
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Above: Teri Causey and Lou Garofalo; Above right: detail of a barstool and a game table.

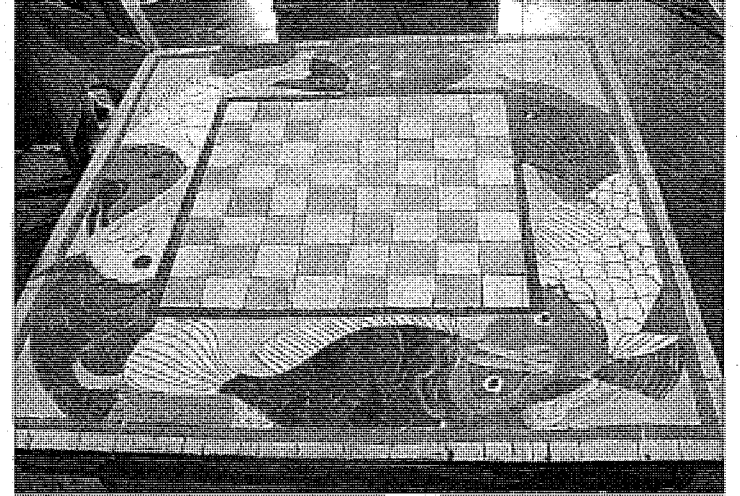
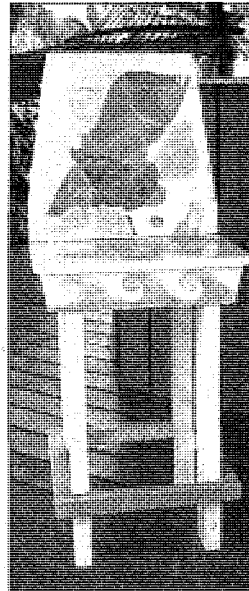
lit from within. Another customer got trompe l'oeil parrots under an actual parrot sculpture. Still another wound up with huge red urns of banana trees, fronted by a high mirror, on stark white walls.

Charley and Laura won't actually choose color for clients but they will suggest possibilities. Their own home is a study in the beauty of color contrasts, with great slashes of periwinkle, aqua, and a gorgeous coral called raspberry blush juxtaposed one against the other, while a wall of windows bathes everything

in tropical sunlight, creating color mixes otherwise unseen.

The Balls really believe in giving back to the community that so embraced them and also to others in need. Charley is a sponsor for CROW's Taste of the Islands, and is on call for picking up wildlife in distress. They also donate to, and Charley has done pick ups and deliveries for Brightest Horizons Child Development Center in Harlem Heights, South Fort Myers. "We are both just so grateful to be calling a beautiful island like Sanibel home," said Laura, and Charley agreed. "Although we have to work really hard to keep living here, it's always really worth it," he said. "This is a one of a kind lifestyle and you meet such great people. It's a real home."

Charley and Laura will be working



together on a repaint of the Hungry Heron which will

include a huge painted seascape in their design. Charley said, "I like the techniques that Laura is doing so much that I am having her teach some of them to me, so that we can work together even more creatively for more clients in the future." You can see their work at Hungry Heron this coming season.

ferred on various design possibilities. Next it's Teri's turn, as the raw wood pieces go through the multi-stage metamorphosis that gives each item its unique color and style, with hand-painted fish, mermaids, tiki huts, palm trees, and other tropical or nautical symbols. The figures are drawn,

Couples, see page 13

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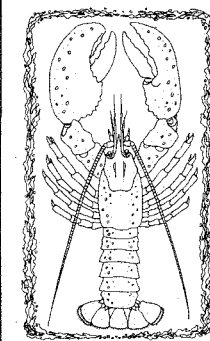
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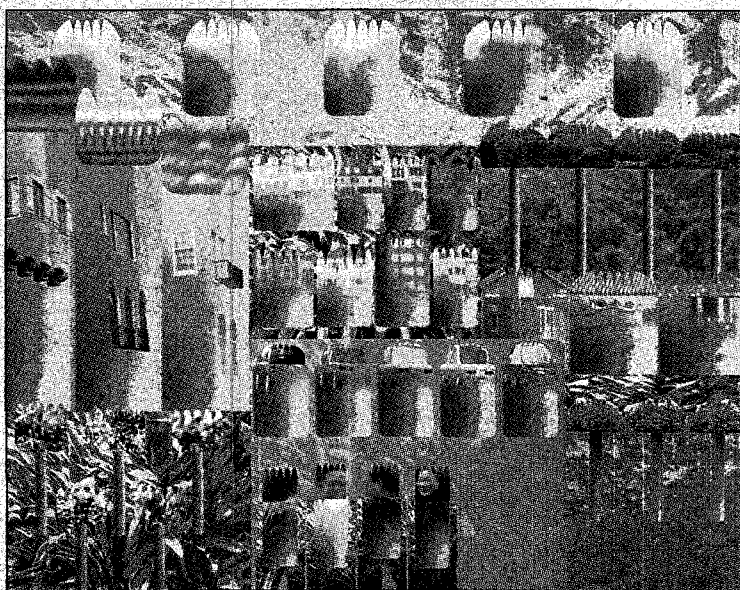
Dimensions exhibit opens at Alliance

Artworks by two meticulous artists, Les Barta from Incline Village, Nevada, and Alicia Schmidt of Cape Coral, are showcased in "a creative pairing" for the newest fine art exhibition on view in the Alliance for the Arts William R. Frizzell Gallery. The show is called *Dimensions* and launches with a free public opening reception from 5 - 7 p.m. on Friday, September 10, and then runs through Thursday, September 30.

Although the individual works of Barta and Schmidt are very different in approach, composition, style and technique from each other, both artists' creations incorporate and emphasize spatial relationships (ranging from very definite to subliminal and even somewhat surreal) that give viewers a firm sense of the underlying draftsperson-like measurement and placement of objects and components that went into the works. Thus, Barta and Schmidt's common focus upon artistic dimensions prompted their pairing and generated the practical and sensible name for their joint exhibition.

Barta's work (primarily computer photoconstructions) is highly stylized and ultra-representational, with each detailed form and object clearly and easily recognizable. With Barta, a castle is a castle, a bridge is a bridge and sailboats are sailboats. Without any doubt! Frequently, he repeats his major objects, placing them here, there and all about a work, as though they were multiple-cutouts. As Barta says, "Every structure in a setting could be seen as a metaphor for every other structure. The component parts of all the metaphors become interchangeable according to the logic of their metaphorical algebra. In effect, we can become the designers of our own reality. It doesn't really matter how we describe the design or how 'true reality' looks."

Often, the initial impact of a Barta composition is a pleasingly light, amusing and entertaining feeling, even when he is



Above: "San Francisco Flower" by Les Barta; Below left: "Monet's Garden, Water Lily" by Alicia Schmidt

portraying views of power plant smokestacks or barges under a truncated Golden Gate Bridge. The underlying strength of his structures and his firm artistic control clearly come through, though, creating a fascinating interplay for viewers somewhere between definitely-anchored and happily-floating.

On the other hand, Schmidt's abstractions are spare, with carefully composed and placed elements. They are readily accessible and easily appreciated, despite the fact they portray no specific definable "objects per se" and, therefore, are open to individual interpretation. Her subjects are represented by their barest essentials, with no wasted forms or excess information. In each of her oil paintings, the specific details of her objects and the range of colors she uses are very limited. Just what's needed and no more! Clearly that's in keeping with the purposeful artistic approach she reports in her Artist's Statement — a commonly required "professional art world" document that can easily run into multiple typed pages — but not with Schmidt! In its entirety, her Artist's Statement is just one sentence long: "I interpret by simplifying a subject to its core essence."

That is clearly evident in her recent 20 by 30-inches work, "Monet's Garden, Water Lily" in which only four "blocks" of color are used: a thin, wide deep blue curved base for water, a thin vertical of dark green for a stem, a big central panel of vibrant pink in the middle as the flower, and a small horizontal patch of

yellow for frothy stamens. Visually, the resultant dramatic painting rivals her Artist's Statement for concentrating the greatest amount of message into the least amount of medium!

Together, the constructions of Barta and the oils of Schmidt make a perfect exhibit pairing, united by a mutual

The Fat Lady Sings...Again, and she will sing on!

by Laura Nickerson
Staff Writer

Carol Provonsha starred in August in her own one woman show, *The Fat Lady Sings...Again* at Florida Repertory Theatre in the Arcade Theatre building in downtown Fort Myers. Needless to say, it is extremely difficult to singlehandedly keep an audience satisfied for a two-hour performance of anything; Carol had them laughing, near tears, attempting to sing along, madly applauding after both musical impersonation numbers and monologues, and otherwise fully engaged for the entire show. She then received a rousing standing ovation, which was well deserved.

Her voice is towering, soaring to heights that occasionally made the room vibrate, yet she is just as capable of the subtlety and nuance that framed some very poignant moments. She moved easily through keys and styles from gutsy, down and dirty blues, to the folk rock of the Sixties, to slurring bar singer, to bold American musical comedy, to pure jazz, and even scat.

As for all those big ladies Carol emulates, they would be proud indeed, for this was no mere imitation. Carol literally became Kate Smith and Nell Carter; she oozed Sophie Tucker and Mae West, infamous lines and more infamous body language included. Suddenly, Mama Cass stood on stage, with her massive double chins and other parts of her anatomy swinging freely, as the audience howled. Then it was Liza, only recently promoted to Fat Lady status, and somehow Liza was inside Carol, with her larger than life abstract movements, arms and legs stretched high and wide, fingers open, reaching madly in a typical Liza gesture. Carol's Peggy Lee was controlled, sexy, and ever so cool; her Ella Fitzgerald had true to life phrasing and great scat singing, which the audience loved.

In counterpoint to the musical numbers ran the saga of Carol's own struggle with growing up as an overweight female in mid 20th century America, presented through several hilarious monologues, such as "the ABC's of Fat," and descriptions of her very unusual family.

She speaks with comedic honesty concerning a youthful bout with drugs and



Carol Provonsha

alcohol, fully acknowledging her own addictive personality, and we sense her triumphant catharsis, as her talent and love for the performing arts helped her to find a way out of her personal maze. At her line, "I've been sober for 25 years and I don't care if I weigh 400 pounds, at least I haven't had to pick up a drink," the audience cheered wildly. Yet this was no personal sob story.

This dynamic performer was able to draw on all of her own experiences, and blend them professionally with song and comedy that was always quickly paced, moved the audience through a broad range of feelings, and simultaneously showcased her talent — which includes writing the show, as well as performing it.

Far more than just a musical review of fat lady singers, there is some real depth here, and as with the best of clowns, the things that eventually make us laugh (and sing) the loudest are those that once were our deepest wounds and fears, now turned outward, and therefore losing their ability to hurt us any longer.

I would love to encourage you to see this wonderful show; unfortunately the entire first week of its run was lost to Hurricane Charley, and the last performance was Sunday, August 29, at 2 p.m. However, from what I've seen of Carol Provonsha I feel confident encouraging you to see anything upcoming with her name attached to it. Carol will be performing in Philadelphia for a while, in *Menopause, The Musical*, but look for her to return to Florida Rep, possibly in the spring.

Florida Rep's next production will be *Biloxi Blues*, opening September 14.

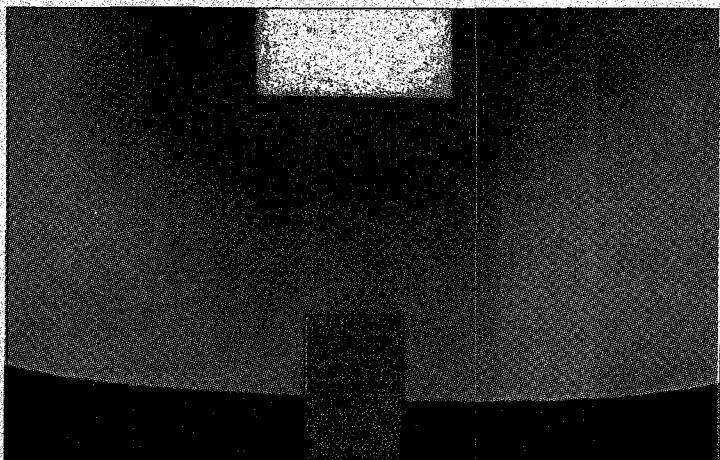
Dimensions, continued from left

love of effective dimension utilization, but espousing different values. He's more detailed, multi-colored and multi-imaged; she's more single-minded essence with a firmly controlled palette selection.

Also on exhibit in the Alliance Member Gallery during the same September 10 to 30 timeframe are the abstract acrylics of Sharyn Dahn. She is another Cape Coral artist, but one lucky enough to summer in Massachusetts. Her typical subjects are both Florida palm trees and northern sailboats and water scenes — think unfurled sails in the wind and exhilarating regattas, etc. Working in an intuitive and experimental style, Dahn

uses layers of colors and shapes to create beautiful designs that have been shown in national exhibitions around the country.

Members of the general public are cordially invited to attend the free September 10 opening reception for *Dimensions* (and Dahn's works). After that, they are welcome to visit the galleries on the Alliance campus, located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard, just south of the Midpoint Bridge overpass from 9 - 5 Monday to Friday and 10 - 3 Saturday, though September 30. Call (239) 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org for additional information.



ARTS & LEISURE

Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues* at Florida Rep

"*Biloxi Blues* is a glorious burst of Americana, the best play of the year and a dazzling lyrical leap forward in the already astonishing career of Neil Simon."

—Dennis Cunningham, WCBS-TV

"Neil Simon has done the seemingly impossible: he has topped Neil Simon. *Biloxi Blues* is an uproarious, deeply affecting, extraordinary comedy hit-with-a-heart."

—Gene Shalit, NBC-TV/TODAY

Florida Repertory Theatre, Southwest Florida's Premiere Professional Theatre, closes its Neil Simon summer season with the 1985 Tony Award-winning play *Biloxi Blues*, onstage from September 10 - October 3.

Eugene Morris Jerome returns to



Aimee Turner

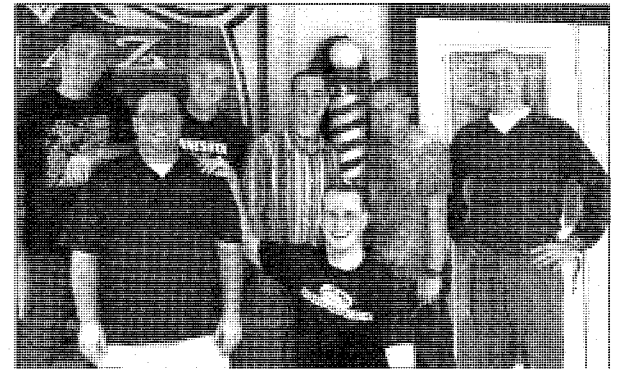
Florida Rep after stumbling through adolescence in 2002-2003's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. In *Biloxi Blues*, the second installment in Neil Simon's semi-autobiographical trilogy, World War II is in full swing and Pvt. Jerome has been shipped to Mississippi for basic training. In dispatches from his journals, he reports on the ragtag collection of fellows who make up his regiment and introduces his energetic (read "near-psychotic") drill sergeant. With the blend of hilarity and poignancy that is Simon's trademark, *Biloxi Blues* ushers Eugene into adulthood and deeper into audience's hearts. Florida Repertory Theatre Producing Artistic Director, Robert Cacioppo directs and Blakeley Slaybough, who led the cast of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, returns to play an older — and gradually wiser — Eugene.

Biloxi Blues was the twenty-first play by Neil Simon to reach the Broadway stage in twenty-four years. Not only was it a Tony Award-winning Broadway hit, but also made a hugely successful film directed by Mike Nichols and starring Matthew Broderick (who also created the role onstage), Christopher Walken and Penelope Ann Miller.

Though *Biloxi Blues* features historically accurate Army uniforms and nostalgic old tunes from the 1940s, the play is not simply a good-humored reminiscence. Cacioppo comments: "It's Simon's ability

infuse drama with humor that makes *Biloxi Blues* such an engaging and popular American play. The characters in *Biloxi Blues* are young men — teenagers for the most part, who have joined up or been drafted to defend a country they've never been outside of. All these young soldiers are suddenly forced to see death as a real possibility. That's what gives the play its depth, beyond just another coming-of-age story."

The cast of nine, led by local favorite Slaybough (*Over the Tavern; Brighton Beach Memoirs*), also includes Florida Rep favorites Jim Van Valen (*Moon Over the Brewery; The Foreigner; Brighton Beach Memoirs*), Zolan Henderson (*The Foreigner; All My Sons; Fools*), and Jason Scott Quinn (*Fools*), as well as six time Broadway veteran Aimee Turner (*Cats; The Will Rogers*



Biloxi, see page 14

The cast of *Biloxi Blues* before and after The Haircut.

Couples, from page 11

then the process varies according to the look Teri is trying to achieve. She colors, glazes and sands as many times as it takes to get a specific result. Finally, when she is satisfied with the look, each piece returns to Lou's hands for final sanding, distressing and wax or varnish finishing. The resulting furniture is strong, impervious to most wear and weather, and strikingly whimsical, with charming primitive shapes reminiscent of the earliest American farm furnishings, and wonderful tropical colors and motifs that speak volumes about island style.

Teri and Lou have been making one of a kind art furniture for ten years. Prior to that Lou was already a carpenter, and Teri was applying her creativity to a completely different medium, jewelry making. "I wanted to go bigger," she said, when asked why the switch from jewelry to furniture, "so I began painting on old furniture, but it was difficult, because people wanted pieces that weren't always avail-

able." That's when Lou got involved. Little by little they perfected their style, and made a name for themselves. They have both been producing furniture full time since 1996. Teri says, "Our arrangement is perfect because we don't overlap duties. While Lou works on one piece, I am working on another. It gives us a lot of quality time later." Lou concurs, "We get to do things together, and take more vacations as a family because our work load is so evenly divided, yet centered on the same projects. I don't know if we would enjoy it as much if we had to work on the same piece at the same time."

The couple's furniture designs, including cabinets, bookshelves, trunks, barstools, garden benches, and chairs and tables of all sizes and shapes are available in Lee County only at the Seaweed Galleries on Sanibel and Captiva, and at the Crossed Palms Gallery of Bokeelia, Pine Island. Farther afield they sell in Naples and on Boca Grande.

Florida Rep announces 2004-2005 Season auditions

Florida Repertory Theatre, Southwest Florida's Premiere Professional Theatre, located in downtown Fort Myers, Florida, will hold open auditions on Saturday, September 18 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the theatre on Bay Street, between Jackson and Hendry Streets to cast its 2004-2005 Season:

A Christmas Survival Guide
November 26 - December 19

Golf with Alan Shepard
January 7 - January 30

Mornings at Seven
February 11 - March 6

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife
March 18 - April 10

The Boys Next Door
April 22 - May 15

The Sugar Bean Sisters
May 27 - June 19

Actors and actress who appear to be 60 or older are especially encouraged to attend. Please send picture and resume only if you are available to attend the auditions in Fort Myers. Callbacks will be on Monday, September 20.

Prepare two contrasting, contemporary monologues, not more than one minute each. Singers may additionally prepare two contrasting songs, not more than 32 bars each. A pianist will not be provided. Bring CD or taped accompaniment.

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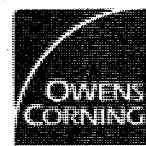
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CENTER STAGE

A new play, *Siddhartha*, at the Berkshire Playhouse

My next voyage out of my yogic retreat was to the Berkshire Theatre Festival to see the world premier of a play based on Hermann Hesse's novel *Siddhartha*. The novel, a Jungian fantasy, was adapted into play form as well as directed by Eric Hill, who did a brilliant job on both counts. His adaptation flows easily from page to stage, with the language and action blending into an easily understandable as well as enjoyable experience for the audience.

Hill's direction also scores high marks — the use of stage, picturization, climaxes and actions flow from start to finish — especially when one considers that the play is about Hesse's religious, philosophical journey ignited by the intoxication of artistic pursuit... a Jungian internal trip of self-discovery.

The writer's intention is to create a treatise on exploring the relevance of self to the self... a philosophical journey in search of truth through experience, then taking that translation into the realm of artistic creation, with art as the end result.

Hill delivers his own message loud and clear through what he emphasizes in Hesse's novel. For instance, in Hesse's generation, his words were an awakening call against following the mindless path of violence. His was a singular voice in Germany calling for the individual German to stand up to the mindless bullying of the herd that served as a prelude to the horrors of 20th century German history.

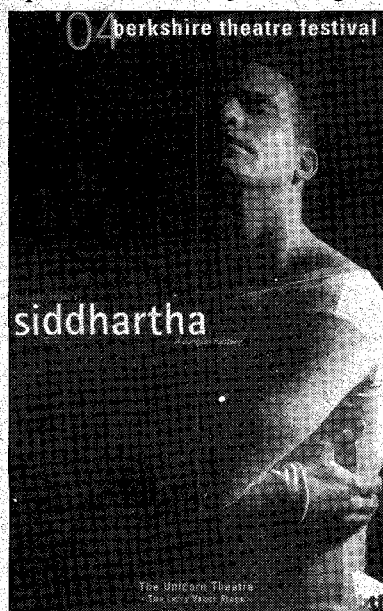
Hill says much the same to America — that we should question "a call from God" for military action as a sign of patriotic leadership. Hill states specifically that his drive to adapt *Siddhartha* for the stage came from a sadness at the realization that the single most precious commodity in America is the philosophical life... The spirit of independent religious experience is being seriously challenged by a deliberate and willful attempt to drag all things into the dark abyss of blind faith. Hill, in this production, hurls a challenge for greater condemnation of our President and leaders of government and, in my estimation, is far more effective than Michael Moore's box office blockbuster *Fahrenheit 9/11*... Hesse's novel is far more subtle and convincing: he never uses an over-the-top, sledge-hammer approach to make a point. It will be interesting to see where this play goes from here.

The acting ensemble, comprised mostly of college drama majors and graduates, played stylishly as well as effortlessly. As a director, Hill pulled these young actors into a fine ensemble cast. The simple, but effective scenic design by Yashi Tanokura and costume design by Marya Djordjevic were in total agreement with the director's vision and concept.

This was one of these theatre surprises that I've almost come to expect and so enjoy in this wonderful area of the Berkshires where theatre and music rule in the summer.



Marsha Wagner



Biloxi, from page 13

Follies; My Favorite Year) as Rowena, the prostitute with a heart of gold that the boys visit.

Additionally, Biloxi Blues marks the Florida Rep debuts of actors Mike Breen, Nicholas Hamel, Jonathan Weber and Anna Browning.

The play contains adult situations, parental discretion advised.

Neil Simon's *Biloxi Blues* plays at Florida Repertory Theatre from September 10 - October 3. Show times are

Wednesdays - Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 - \$32, with group and student discounts available. To reserve tickets call Florida Rep's Box Office at (239) 332-4488 or Toll Free at (877) 787-8053. Visit Florida Rep on the web at www.floridarep.org.

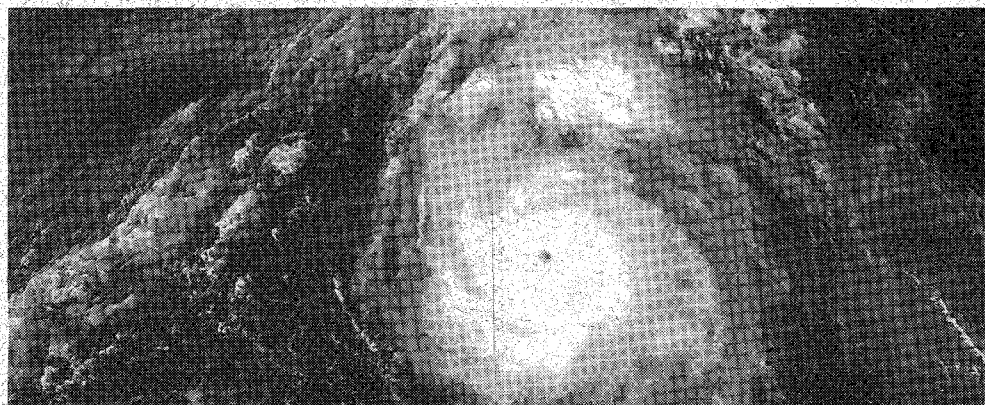
Florida Repertory Theatre is located in the historic Arcade Theatre in downtown Fort Myers on Bay Street between Jackson and Hendry Streets.

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- The Bean of Sanibel, open 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. Their usual menu. 395-1919.
- Biddles Restaurant and Piano Bar, open 12 noon - 9 p.m. Tues. - Sat. and 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sunday for brunch. Closed Mondays Located off island, just two miles from the Causeway. 433-4449.
- Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar and Grille, open 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. but kitchen closes at 4:30 p.m. Currently serving cold canned soft drinks, full menu of appetizers and sandwiches, and about four full dinner choices daily. 472-8311.
- East End Deli, open 12 noon - 3 p.m. A valiant effort, only able to serve beans and rice, with chips and cold drinks right now, until they can get generator. 472-9622.
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- Hungry Heron plans to re-open Thurs. or Fri. and is hoping to keep regular hours if curfew is lifted. Call for further information. 395-2300.
- Huxter's Deli, open daily from 6:30 a.m. - about 7 p.m. 472-6988.
- Jerry's Restaurant is open 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.. 472-9300.
- Jerry's of Sanibel, the market, has all departments open from 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. 472-9300.
- Johnny's Pizza and Restaurant, open 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. They are back, with their usual menu. Call 472-1023 or 472 3010.
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- Lighthouse Cafe, opens Friday. 472-0303
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Open, see page 19



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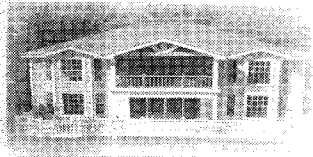
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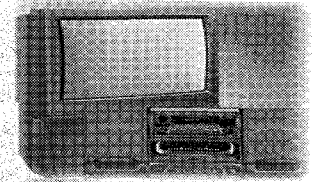

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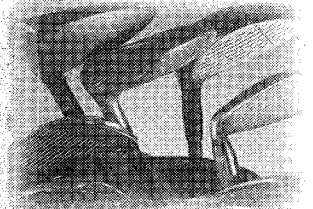
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BUY TIMESHARE REALES! Save 60-80% off Retail Best Resorts & Seasons Call for Free Catalog! 1- 800-496-5294 www.holidaygroup.com Ask About Our "Red, White & Blue Sale"

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VACATION RENTALS

Atrium. Lovely 2 Br/2 Ba condo on the Gulf. All amenities. Two week minimum. Owner, (313) 886-4757.

Charley relief. Rent my home while you repair yours. Beautifully furnished Gulf Shores/Gulf Pines area. Available 9/04. Reasonable rent from owner. (405) 321-1151 or (405) 210-2341. Leave message.

DIRECT OCEANFRONT. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean from the living room, dining room, kitchen and master bedroom of this beautifully decorated, 2BR/2BA, second- floor vacation condo. Elegantly furnished and fully appointed; just bring your suitcase. One-month minimum rental. Call Troy at Triangle Realty Rentals and mention code "Getaway". 386- 547-9739 or 800-358-2943

SEASONAL RENTALS

SEASONAL RENTALS!!! ALL AREAS! Near beach, golf, riverfront - and more, brand new!!! Condos, carriage homes, single family, package discounts available!!! www.rentswfl.com Golf In Paradise Realty (239) 348-2236.

APARTMENTS & DUPLEXES FOR RENT

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Sanibel
Newer 3 BR/2 BA
unfurnished duplex
on Rabbit Road.
\$1600/month
Call
(319) 624-2618

ANNUAL RENTALS

2 BR/2 BA condo with views of Sanibel River and golf course. Across the street from beach. \$1320/month.

3 BR/2 BA home with gorgeous lake views. Close to shopping, dining and Periwinkle. \$1800/month.

Call Jamie at RE/MAX of the Islands. 472-5050

Exclusive Sanibel neighborhood. Lovely 3/2 private home, short or long term, available 9/04. Reasonable from owner. (310) 902-5878. Leave message.

Sanibel
Newer 3 BR/2 BA
unfurnished duplex
on Rabbit Road.
\$1600/month
Call
(319) 624-2618

HOMES FOR RENT

2 BR/2 BA fully furnished on Sanibel near bridge. 849 Beach Rd. Available until January. \$1200/month. Bring your toothbrush. (239) 940-3722.

HOMES FOR RENT

Furnished 1 Br home, spacious with den area and large lanai. Excellent condition. Super location. 1 or 2 adults only. Pampered pets ok. (239) 472-0440 or 936-6054.

GOV'T HOMES! \$0 Down! Bank Reps & Foreclosures! No Credit OK! \$0/ Low Down! Call for Listings! 1- 800- 987-6647 Ext. 8682

Iona area. Charming 2 BR/1.5 BA private home. Perfect for one or two people, small pet ok, non-smoking. Includes landscaping. Immediate availability. \$875/month plus utilities. First and last security deposit. (239) 395-4545.

NO RENT! \$0 Down! No Credit OK! Government Foreclosed Homes! \$0/ Low Down! Call for Listings! 1-800- 987-6647 Ext. 8681

Portofino Gated Community. 3 bedroom/2 bathroom and a 2 bedroom/2 bath. New with pool. Rent or purchase. Shamrock Realty. Call (239) 540-7077.

SENIOR RENTAL UNITS Riverfront, 1 bdrm., 1 bath, Withlacoochee River, \$395 month, 1 month free with 1 year lease, 10 miles to Brooksville, 7 miles to Bushnell, Fishing Dock, Boat Ramp, Clubhouse, Beautiful Wooded Setting, Friendly Neighbors, (813) 766-5408 Tim, Manager.

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

Mobile Homes for Rent Weekly rent. Children welcome. Includes water, garbage, pest control, lawn care. Quiet, safe. 7760 Bogart, N. Ft. Myers (239) 543-5828.

CAPE CORAL HOMES

OPEN HOUSE!
1127 NE 19th Terrace,
This Sunday,
Noon-4:00pm.
3X lot on Lake, Dock,
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Vacant-
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Call Karen: 229-8319
or Bruce: 691-3103
Sellstate Alliance
Realty, Inc.

CONTRACTORS

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

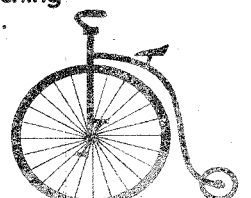
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(941) 358-0087

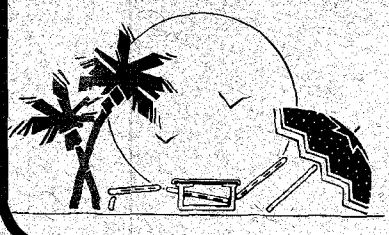
TREE SERVICE

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Blue Skies and Shell Covered Beaches...

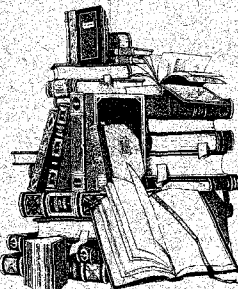
Relax in Style on Sanibel and Captiva





When you feed an alligator you are training it to approach humans and are creating a life threatening situation... especially for our children. Feeding alligators is a criminal act punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.

City of Sanibel Ordinance 75-29
Florida State Statute 372.667
Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 27.51



Sanibel Library


"You Are Always Welcome" An Island Within an Island

To escape the hustle and bustle of the big city, you might try an hour or two at the Sanibel Library. It's a quiet place filled with natural light. It's both comfortable and stimulating. Take a few minutes to catch up. You're sure to find this your home away for home. Your are always welcome. For more information, call 472-2483

I'd like to thank the wonderful volunteers who fed my two elderly pussycats during Hurricane Charley.

Thank-you from the bottom of my heart.

*JoAnne Wigglesworth
Island Woods*



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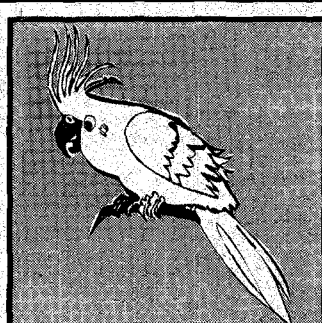
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Open, from page 14

0770.

- The Normandie at the West Wind Inn is open from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 472-1541.
- Sanibel Cafe, 472-5323.
- Santiva General Store, 472-5556.
- Schnapper's Hots, open 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily. 472-8686
- 7-11, both locations open 24/7.
- Subway, 472-1155.
- Sunset Grill is open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. serving limited breakfast all day, and a limited version of the Lazy Flamingo lunch menu. 472-2333.

Shops and Businesses**Listed alphabetically:**

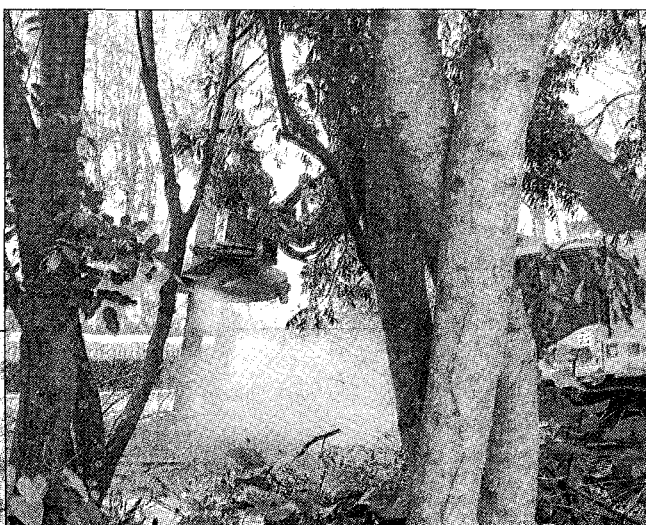
- Adventure Sea Kayak will begin kayak tours once Tween Waters Inn Marina re-opens. 437-0956.
- Amy's Something Special, 472-4421
- Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, 395-2233
- Bank of America, 2450 Periwinkle (472-2800) and 1037 Periwinkle (472-5575).
- Bank of the Islands, 472-7211
- Jack Barone, personal trainer, 472-0436
- Barrier Island Pharmacy, 472-8866.
- Barrier Island Title, open Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 472-3688.
- Beach House, open on Sanibel, 472-2676
- Beach Floor & Decor Island Style Interiors, 395-2525
- Beachview Golf & Tennis Club open on their regular schedule. 472-2626 (golf); 472-9099 (tennis). The restaurant remains closed for now.
- Beverly Hills Hair Design 395-3116.
- BIG ARTS 395-0900
- Blue Skies Body Works by appointment only 472-0116
- Captiva Cruises is planning to start up in October. Check on-line at www.cap-tivacruises.com or call 472-5300.
- Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry 472-2876
- Charlene Black, LMT, 472-1571
- Chico's 472-0202
- Children's Education Center 472-4538
- Comfort By Design 395-0666
- Coral Veterinary Clinic 472-8387
- Cricket Shop 395-2277
- CROW, open for patients only; no programs given at this time 472-3644
- Decorating Den, 472-6551
- Eckerd Drugs, 472-1719
- Essentials will open on 9/14. 472-7770
- Eye Centers of Florida 395-1999
- Fisher, Dr. Robert 472-6032
- Flower Shop of the Islands 472-3707
- Footloose (472-4717) on Sanibel
- Friday's Jewelers 472-1454
- Fulk, Dr. Bill 395-2005
- Goumas Chocolates, 472-9444
- Grog Shop 472-4886
- H2O Outfitters (472-8890) on Sanibel
- Hairs What's Hot 472-2468
- Harry Ruby Salon 395-0910
- Healy, Brian LMT
- HealthPark of the Islands 395-1414
- Island Cleaners 395-0055
- Island Dental 395-1211
- Island Nutrition 472-4499
- Interiors by Decorating Den 472-6551
- Island Garage 472-4318
- Island Gifts 472-4318
- Island Graphics 472-4437
- Island Locksmith 472-2394
- Island Winds Coiffures 472-2591
- Jensen's Twin Palm Marina will open on Monday. 472-5800
- MacIntosh Book Shop 472-1447
- Michelle's Video 472-7222
- Needful Things, 472-5400
- New Moon Sailing will be taking sail-

ing charters once Tween Waters Inn Marina re-opens. 392-1782

- Pak "N" Ship, 395-1220
- Peach Republic, 472-8444
- Peaches Plus, 395-0722
- Physical Therapy of Sanibel 395-1097
- Plus Perfect, 472-08110
- Qwik Pack & Ship 472-0288
- Rembos, Dr. Alan 472-4445
- Rosie's Island Market & Deli 472-6656
- Sanibel Art & Frame 395-1350
- Sanibel Barber Shop 472-5626
- Sanibel Beauty Salon 472-1111
- Sanibel Captiva Community Bank 472-6100
- San-Cap Medical Center 472-0700
- SCCF. They have cleared a path to the observation tower and should be opening soon but a date has not yet been set. 472-2329
- Sanibel Captiva Trust Co. 472-8300
- Sanibel Chiropractic 472-0900
- Sanibel Day Spa, 395-2220
- Sanibel Fitness has new hours. 395-2639.
- Sanibel Goldsmith 472-8677
- Sanibel Home Furnishings 472-5552
- Sanibel Print & Graphics is open at their new off-island location on MacGregor Boulevard. 472-4592
- Sanibel Seashell Industries 472-1603
- Sanibel Servicercenter 472-2125
- Sanibel Shell Station 472-2012
- Sanibel Spirits 472-8668
- Sanibel Surf Shop, 472-8185
- Sanibel Taxi 472-4160
- Sea Shell Company,
- She Sells Sea Shells. Both stores will be open beginning on Friday. 472-6991
- Shell Net will open on Tuesday. 472-1702
- Showcase Shells 472-1971
- Sporty Seahorse 472-1858
- T-Shirt Hut 472-1415
- Three Crafty Ladies, 472-2893
- Tower Gallery 472-4557
- Toys Ahoy 472-4800
- Tuttle's Seahorse Shell Shop 472-0707
- Weddings by the Sea 472-8712
- Weeds & Things 472-2112
- Winds. 395-0091
- Write Stuff 472-8289
- Tarpon Bay Explorers, open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for rentals, gift shop and tours. 472-8900.

If your business has been overlooked in this listing, we apologize. Please call 472-5185 and let us know that you're open for business.

Australian pines being cut down by the Post Office last Wednesday. The equipment can be seen below; the front "arm" grasps the tree; the blade at the bottom of the arm slices through the trunk (photo right) and the arm then picks up the tree and moves it aside.



Tree removal continues on the islands.

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Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery



BRAD and COLBI CONGRESS of



SANIBEL BEACH PLACE, 20351 SUMMERLIN ROAD, 337-2723

ISLAND SCENE

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

On Exhibit

- "DIMENSIONS" BY LES BARTA AND ALICIA SCHMIDT at the Alliance for the Arts 10091 McGregor Blvd. Opening reception September 10, show runs through September 30. Call (239) 939-2787.
- ERNESTO MASIS "LOVE LETTERS TO GOD" Southwest Florida Museum of History, 2300 Peck St. Fort Myers. Through September 10. 332-5955.
- SAN-CAP ART LEAGUE at BIG Arts, Summer Show throughout the summer season. More than 150 members present their latest work.
- SANIBEL LIBRARY San-Cap Art League members show.
- ARTS FOR ACT AUCTION TO BE RESCHEDULED, new date to be announced. Featured artist is Judy Smith. Tickets on sale, \$75 advance, \$85 at the door. Tables available, call (239) 939-2553.
- CAPE CORAL ARTS STUDIO presents "Aquarium Exhibit" with the theme of life beneath the waves, either real or imaginary. Opening reception

4533 Coronado Pkwy, Cape Coral, Sept 10, 5 - 7 p.m. Show runs through the end of the month. Call 574-0802

On Stage

- ALWAYS PATSY CLINE at the Broadway Palm Aug. 19 - Oct. 2. 278-4422.
- BILOXI BLUES at the Florida Rep. opening Sept. 14, historic Arcade on First Street, Fort Myers. Aug. 13-29. 332-4488

Through the Month

- SANIBEL REC CENTER CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC until further notice.
- SANIBEL LIBRARY OPEN Children's programs will resume Monday, September 13.
- THE CARPENTERS SHOP at the Sanibel Community Church. Mon-Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sunday 9 - noon.
- SUPPORT GROUP FOR EARLY STAGE ALZHEIMERS, forming for September meetings. Participants interviewed prior to first session. 437-3007.
- TARPON BAY EXPLORERS is offer-

ing naturalist led tours on the Tarpon Bay portion of the 'Ding' Darling National Wildlife Refuge for birders, naturalists, and curious people who enjoy being on the water and learning from an experienced naturalist. Call for reservations for all activities. 472-8900
Guided trail tour by canoe and kayak at 10:30 a.m. daily. 472-8900.

Sunset Paddles tour (2-1/2 hours) Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 5:30 p.m.
Sealife and Nature cruise on the 26 passenger pontoon boat departs at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., tour is approx. 90 minutes.

Everglades Day Tour all day Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, meet at 8 a.m., return around 6:30 p.m. 472-0101.

Touch Tank Exploration at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Program approx. 1/2 hour.

Evening cruise at 6 p.m. These tours also include a visit to the touch tank. Tour is approx. 2 hours.

Breakfast cruise 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. 90 min., includes coffee, juice, and pastry. Also includes visit to the touch tank. Kayak/canoe rentals

daily 8 a.m. — 6 p.m., last rental goes out at 4 p.m. Motorized 20' pontoons available for rental, holds 8 people. 472-8900

- SITTING ON THE DOCK OF THE BAY: Free lunchtime talks beginning at 12:30 p.m. Mon.- Fri. on the observation deck overlooking the most beautiful setting on Sanibel and last about half an hour.

Topics include Calusa Cafe, manatees, dolphins, sharks, turtles, and alligators. Tarpon Bay Explorers is located at the north end of Tarpon Bay Rd. 472-8900. Call for reservations for all activities. 472-8900

- ADVENTURES IN PARADISE: Cruises; dolphin watch, sunset cruises and more on board power catamarans. 472-8443.

- OPEN AUDITIONS AT FLORIDA REPERTORY THEATRE on Saturday, September 18 from 10am to 6pm at the theatre on Bay Street, between Jackson and Hendry Streets. Florida Rep will be casting its 2004-2005 Season. Actors and actress who appear to be 60 or older are especially encouraged to attend.

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