

**Untold  
Stories -  
After the  
Ferry  
premieres  
Sunday**  
**See Page 5**

# Sanibel *islander*

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**BREEZE**  
NEWSPAPER

Free Newspaper

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 42

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10 - 16, 2004

SINCE 1961

40 PAGES



**SCCP's  
Bortone  
on the  
ecological  
impact of  
hurricanes**  
**See Page 14**



**Santa Run  
on Sanibel**  
**See Page 7**



Photo by Laura Nickerson

**Santa stopped by Bailey's on Luminary night. More Luminary pictures on Pages 20-21.**

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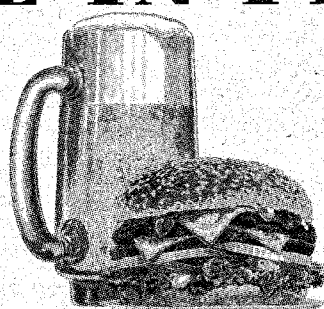


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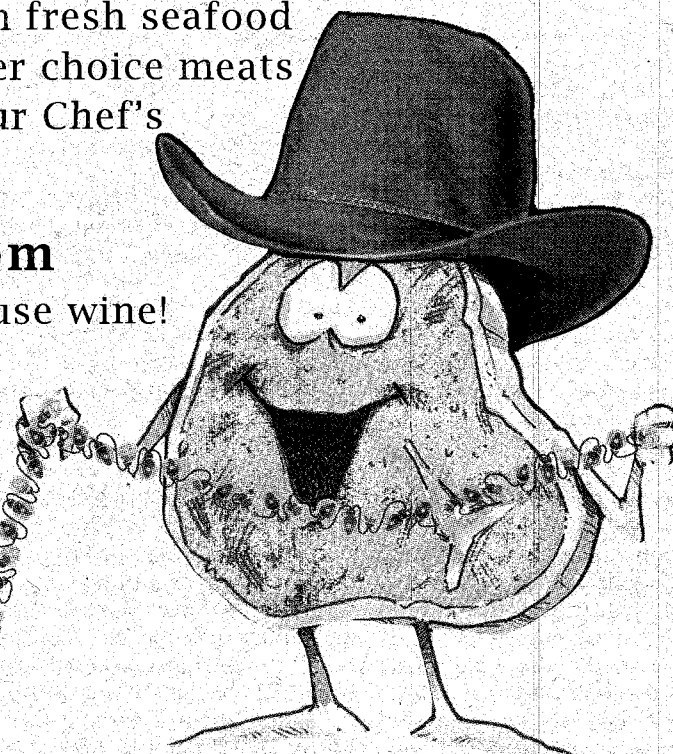
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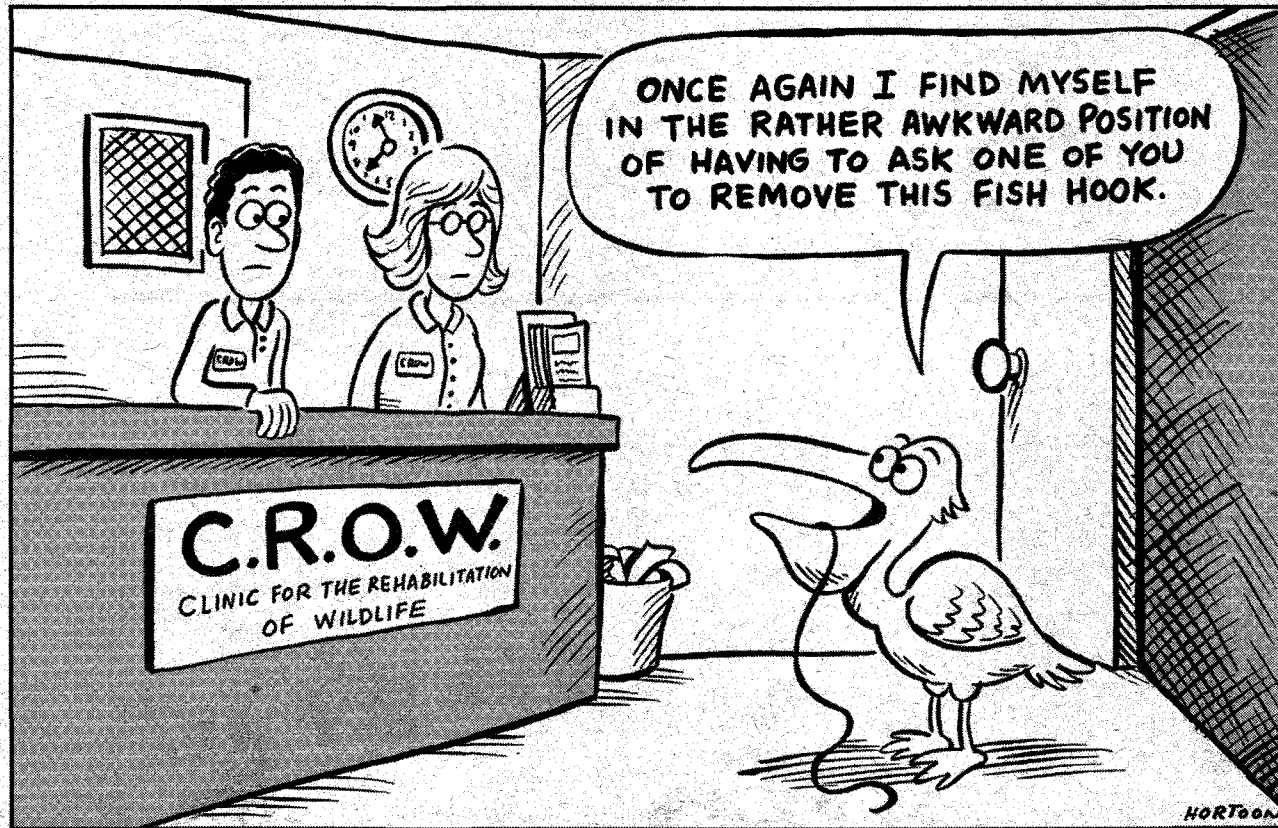
## TOO MUCH SUN



Dave Horton



Lee Horton



## THE METASTATIC LIFE

*"The whole of what we know is a system of compensations. Each suffering is rewarded; each sacrifice is made up; every debt is paid."*

...Ralph Waldo Emerson

My sister Carrie, who has been here for almost a month, is leaving on Monday. She has spent every day of the week except Sundays over at my parent's house, cooking, cleaning, shopping and doing whatever else needs to be done. Her time here has been a godsend but it leaves me feeling very worried about how things will work when she goes back to Virginia.

My biggest handicap these days is pain. I have to take pain medication every six hours. Even with the meds, my pain is never really gone. It has been suggested that I have Fibromyalgia which is an autoimmune disorder that can be brought on by too much stress to the body. Chemo is definitely a stressor. After this last round, I noticed that my pain went way up. While there is no way to know with any certainty if it is from the cancer, my doctor believes — as do I — that it is not.

When you spend almost a decade receiving chemotherapies, radiation and hormone blockers, the side effects really mount up. And so I am unable to do what I used to do. It takes everything I have just to keep up with my house. Cooking meals can be a nightmare. And, of course, whenever you are taking regular pain medications, your body builds up a tolerance making it necessary to increase the dose and that means I am often napping during the day. Add all of this together and you can see why I am concerned about how Mom and Dad will get along after Carrie leaves.

Mom's ovarian cancer doesn't seem to be responding in a dramatic way to the Taxotere that she takes every three weeks. On the other hand, the chemo seems to be taking its toll with side effects including fatigue and stomach problems as well as



LISA PIEROT

bone pain and general flu like symptoms. While it is very difficult to see her suffering, I find there is little I can do to help because my body is suffering, too.

It just doesn't seem right that a mother and daughter should both be battling stage IV cancers at the same time. There are days when I do almost nothing at all because of the pain in my legs and back. My hands are stiff. Activities like swimming feel wonderful while I am doing them but the stiffness that results almost immediately afterward make me hesitant to continue with them.

I know it sounds like I am whining. I am. Last night after taking my pain meds and finding no relief at all, I found myself tossing and turning in bed next to my sister. It is times like these when I feel the most helpless, when I can feel my world shrinking, when my will to go on is not as strong as I want it to be.

The truth is that, for me, the price I have paid for such a long survival time is a broken body. I want desperately to feel good again but I have long given up hope that I will ever be free of pain.

And so I have adjusted my lifestyle. I shop for Christmas in hour increments. I plan my days around my medication schedule. I have stopped going out to restaurants except on rare occasions. I seem to be most content in my home which has become like a world in itself.

With Christmas around the corner, and Emily and I going to Virginia for the two weeks she has off for the holidays, I am wondering how I will fare. I already know I can't keep up with my sister. I need to be sure that I don't feel guilty about that. It can be a real issue for me. I really do want to be active but I know my limitations. Everyone, including members of my own

family have trouble understanding this. Only people in chronic pain write to me with total understanding and support. For this I am grateful.

Lisa Pierot, see page 5

## A new look

While regular readers of the Sanibel-Captiva Islander might have already noticed the paper's new flag, they should know that our mission to provide strong, accurate local coverage has not changed.

"From a news perspective, we'll stay on course. We'll stay with our mission," Breeze Newspapers publisher Jack Glarrow said. "Only the look is different."

The Islander is only one of a dozen Breeze Newspapers to get a new look. Other newspapers getting a face lift include the Island Reporter, Captiva Current, the Cape Coral Daily Breeze, the Fort Myers Beach Bulletin, the Fort Myers Beach Observer, the Gasparilla Gazette, the Lee County Shopper, the Lehigh Acres Citizen, the North Fort Myers Neighbor, the Pine Island Eagle and the South Lee Messenger.

The flags on all of the papers now will share a similar style. Glarrow said the purpose of the similar design is to help readers identify other members of the Breeze Newspapers family as they travel throughout Lee County. The Breeze Newspapers logo can be found on bottom-right corner of all the flags.

Glarrow stressed the fact that all of the individual newspapers will continue to generate their own stories, focusing on local issues.

The staff of the Islander is interested in finding out what readers think about the new look. Readers can send comments to [news@breezenewspapers.com](mailto:news@breezenewspapers.com).

## Beachview Golf & Tennis Club

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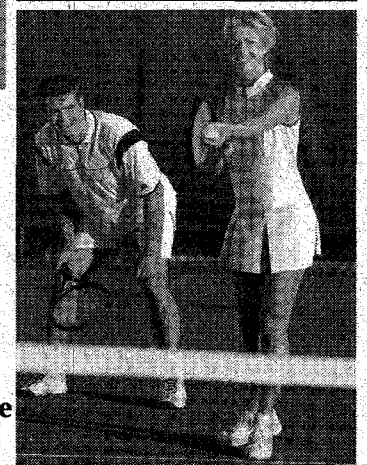
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## Untold Stories' Sanibel: After the Ferry premieres this Sunday at SCA

An island premiere of *Sanibel: After the Ferry*, part of WGCU's *Untold Stories of Southwest Florida*, will be held from 3 - 5 p.m. on December 12 at the Sanibel Community Association. The public is invited to this free event and refreshments will be served. Shown will be *Sanibel: Civil War to Pre-Causeway*; the premiere of *Sanibel: After the Ferry* and a video created by Sanibel School student Tyler Cruickshank, *The Birth of a City*.

*Sanibel: After the Ferry* revisits the island community of Sanibel as controversy surrounds the building of a new causeway. This is a time of prosperity and development as citizens elect their first mayor, Porter Goss. The program examines the historical significance of conservation and preservation as well as the community's growing commitment to the arts. After examining the challenges that face the Island, it ends where it began - with talk of

a new causeway, once again, stirring deep emotions. The first television airing will be at 9 p.m., on December 24.

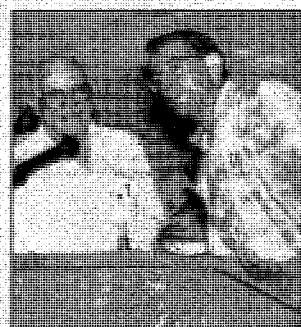
*Untold Stories of Southwest Florida* is locally produced by WGCU Public Media, and presented on WGCU-TV/3. December's focus will be on Sanibel Island.

*Sanibel: Civil War to Pre-Causeway* is the first program in the Sanibel series. From the days of Civil War, the history and growth of Sanibel Island have been shepherded by families who triumphed over tragedy. Also a look at the history of the Island's landmark, the Sanibel Lighthouse, and what it takes to maintain it. This previously broadcast show will re-air at 9:30 p.m. on December 24.

The premiere will be held at the Community House, which has been a part of Sanibel history for 76 years. The

part of the building was built by volunteers in 1927-1928.

Below are some photos from the SCA archives: Left: Alice Kylo painting the mural on the wall behind the stage in 1983; middle top: The December 1974 ribbon cutting ceremony, with members of the first Sanibel City Council on the steps of the Community House; middle bottom: The Community House in 1976; right top: SCA board members Henry Syzmant, Wanda Slayton and Mili Backus in April 1988; right bottom: Francis and Sam Bailey speaking at a Chamber Breakfast with the Baileys in May 1991; Right below: Wrapping up the January 1988 Shell Count, San-Cap Shell Club members Georgette Laforet (far right) and Alice Anders (center) use a magnifying glass to help them identify smaller specimens.




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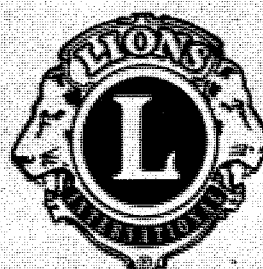
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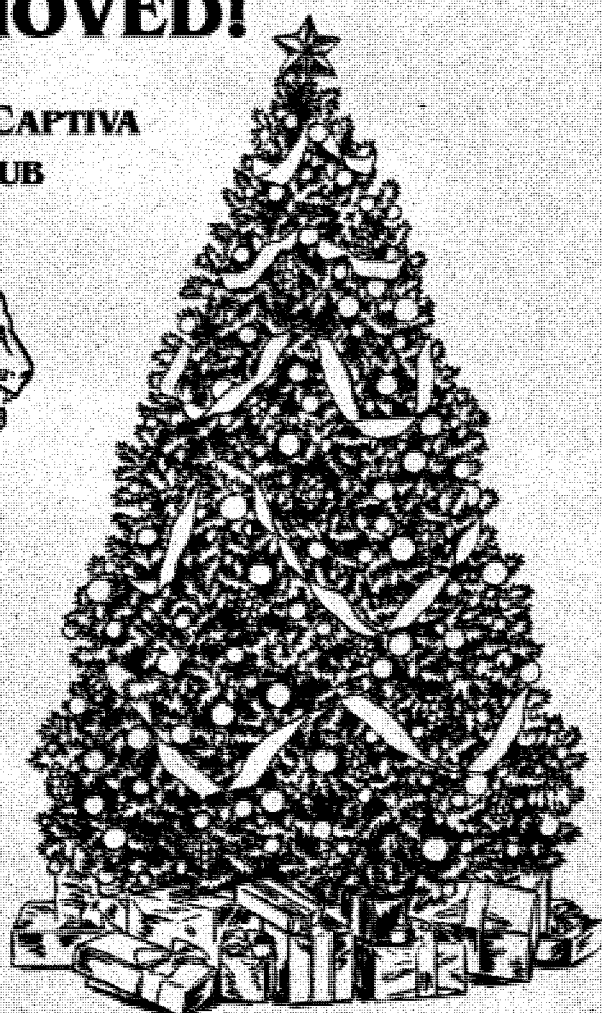
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## Untold Stories Executive Producer Koltinsky on the project

"My life has been really enhanced in working with the people on this project on this island," says Sam Koltinsky, who is the executive producer for the *Untold Stories of Southwest Florida* series. "My hope is that the show reflects the passions of so many that are concerned with preservation and conservation, not only in the sense of wildlife and protection for animals but also in terms of preservation of our historical buildings. It's been a really special project for me."

Filming *After the Ferry* was a particular challenge because he was trying to capture people over time and he was filming within a month after Hurricane Charley. He did not want to capture the island the way it looked at the time; it dated the project and it was not really representative. It was "a challenge to capture the island in a way reflective of the island looking forward."

Koltinsky noted his gratitude for the assistance of many people. "Betty Anholt was extremely helpful and was the historical consultant for both videos. The staff at the Sanibel Public Library... The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation helped provide wonderful images and J.N. 'Ding' Darling provided some really special treasures. The Community House — it was wonderful to go back and look at old brochures... The Shell Museum... Charlie McCullough opened his collection again to me; his work adds a special flavor to the project... The Sanibel Historical Village & Museum."

Among those who were interviewed for *After the Ferry* are Francis and Sam Bailey, John Veenschoten, Betty Anholt, Mary Bell, Mozella Jordan, Robin Krivanek, Deborah LaGorce, Polly Matsumoto, Dr. José Leal, Erick Lindblad, Rob Jess. "It was so nice to be able to talk to people and experience their passion for what they believe in and their work," noted Koltinsky. Of Charles LeBuff, Koltinsky says, "He has had his hand in a lot of different areas of conservation; the island has been privileged to have him as a resident..."

"One thing I learned while working on this, is that the history of Sanibel started with a passion for preservation and it continues today, although there have been challenges."

He began working on *After the Ferry* when he started working on Part 1; the research was ongoing and continual. His Production Assistant, Scott Laxar "worked with the images and helped to put the script together; he had a hand in the creation." Koltinsky composed the music and noted that it "was very easy to compose" for this project, which became a very special one for him.

-KN

## A snap back to the past

By William duPont  
7th Grade Reporter, Sanibel School

On December 12, 2004, there will be an event called Island Premiere of Sanibel Films. This event will be held from 3 - 5 p.m. and one of the films shown will be *Birth of a City* by The Sanibel School's very own Tyler Cruickshank.

Tyler made a video back in 6th grade and the documentary won many awards in school competitions for individual documentary: First Place in the Lee County Social Studies Fair, Second Place in the State History Day Fair Competition and he went on from there to National Competition.

The story of this documentary takes you back to the early days of Sanibel, from when settlers discovered it to when Sanibel was electing its first mayor, Porter Goss who is now Director of the CIA.



File photo  
Tyler Cruickshank speaking at the Nov. 4 celebration of Sanibel 30th anniversary.

The video is packed full of information, taking you through the struggles of building a city and electing the first mayor. This breathtaking project was created in 2002-2003 so it doesn't record the events of the recent mishaps, most notably Hurricane Charley.

Also being shown at this event are two WGPU documentaries: *Sanibel: After the Ferry*; and *Sanibel: Civil War to Pre-Causeway*. Taken together, the two videos take you through the beginnings of the island to when they were just building the causeway and on to recovery after the recent losses in the hurricanes.

Also there will be a look at Sanibel's special landmark, the Sanibel Lighthouse, and many other areas on the island. Each video is 30 minutes long and both will be aired on WGPU on December 24 beginning at 9 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m.

In conclusion if you have nothing going on Sunday, you should stop by the Community House to watch the Island Premiere of *Sanibel: After the Ferry* and the showing of the earlier, *Sanibel: Civil War to Pre-Causeway*. Both have interviews with many historical figures (including some that you might not have even thought of!), all people who helped make Sanibel what it is today. Finally, this is a great opportunity to learn something new about the Island. And you will have the chance to see a dazzling video by a local Sanibel student, who was just 12 when this video was created.

## Chamber Box Lunch

The next Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce Box Lunch will be held on Tuesday, December 14.

At the lunch, Chelle Koster Walton will be presented with the Meeker Awards and attendees will be able to preview the Chamber's 2005 Visitor Guide.

The lunch will be held at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. A holiday lunch buffet will be served.

Cost is \$10 with advance reservations for members and guests; \$14 at the door. Please fax your reservation to the Chamber at 472-1070 or register online at: <http://www.sanibel-captiva.biz/events/boxlunch.html>

Deadline for reservations is 5 p.m. on Friday, December 10. Cancellations must be 24 hours prior to the event for refund.



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### Kiwanis: Target-rich environment

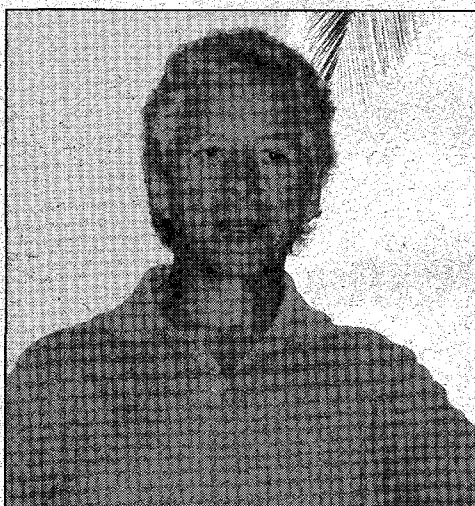
*Submitted by Bob Wimbush*

Even the Kiwanians, not always known for perceptive insight, couldn't understand why — if a life saving surgery is so effective that Canadian Government research shows it pays for itself in reduced health costs after about three year —, American insurance companies that now cover it will cease to do so next year.

Well, according to Dr. Harvey Sugarman, a bariatric surgeon who pioneered and has performed over 3,000 of these surgeries before he was fortunate enough to take possession of Steve Greenstein's house two days before Charley, "they're trying to block access" despite the fact that this surgery "is the only thing that works for this category of patients," the nation's sickest. Why are insurance companies denying coverage when this surgery "will either get rid of or greatly reduce" co-morbidities like headaches, heart attacks, women growing beards, stroke, diabetes, kidney and liver malfunction, degenerative diseases, menstrual problems, cancer of the uterus, breast cancer, leg swelling, damage to hips, knees, ankles, feet, sleep apnea and a whole lot of other ailments I couldn't copy fast enough to write down?

Well, the surgery must be dangerous, lead to more complications, one might argue. And one would quickly learn that its 1% mortality rate is lower than that for joint replacement and arterial bypass, and it might reduce the need for either. "Pregnancy, [however,] is one of the complications of this surgery."

The surgical results are almost immediately evident, he said, gazing appraisingly



**Dr. Sugarman assesses the crowd.**

over the Kiwanians and identifying several that could qualify. He related how one patient went from taking 100 units of insulin at the time of surgery to none... three months later. Another gave him a Rolex - thanks for the difference the surgery had made in his life.

Today, the surgery is often covered by Medicare and by many private carriers, but Dr. Sugarman fears that, if private insurers can skate out of paying, that Medicare may not be far behind. As president of the American Society for Bariatric Surgery and editor of their journal known as SOARD, one of his missions is to define the disease in terms of relief for its multiple co-morbidities. He would like to create standards that can be used to pressure the private insurers.

**Sugarman, see page 9**

### Zonta learns about trafficking

When you think of someone who is on the front line in the battle against modern day slavery or human trafficking, you might not conjure up images of someone like Anna Rodriguez, but once you hear her speak, you know she's been there. A roomful of Zontians and special guests heard Anna speak last Wednesday morning, as she gave evidence to the fact that human trafficking is happening in our own backyard.

Rodriguez retired from the Collier County Sheriff's office after ten years as a victim advocate to work full time on human trafficking. This fall, she launched the Immigrant Rights Advocacy Center, consulting with local law enforcement and the Department of Justice. Her goal is to set up centers around the state to identify and assist victims. For now, she wants to raise awareness of trafficking in our area.

Rodriguez told of cases where she found men, women and children brought into slavery in the agricultural business, domestic situations, the hospitality industry, and the sex trade. Usually through fear and intimidation, the traffickers have a hold on these people's lives and most victims think there is no way for them to escape. They are convinced they owe money, or their families are in danger or the victims themselves are in trouble, plus the traffickers hold their identification papers. Often, too, they do not speak English and do not know where to look for help.

One case Anna pursued aggressively brought her to the attention of President George W. Bush and the Attorney General. This case was part of the inspiration for the T-Visa designed only for victims of trafficking. It was a case of a husband and wife right here in Southwest Florida who thought they owned a young woman named Maria. She worked for them picking tomatoes and was not given any money. In addition, the husband raped her. It was only through Anna's persistence that Maria was freed from this situation. Maria is now happily married with two children. Anna and Maria were invited to the White House for the bill-signing ceremony for the legislation that created the T-Visa. Anna's courage and compas-

sion in rescuing victims of human trafficking was recognized by the President this summer at the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking held in Tampa.

Zontians also learned statistics about human trafficking: Every ten minutes; a person is brought into this country as a slave. Children represent 50% of trafficked persons. It is now the #2 crime in America, behind drug smuggling. By next year, they expect it to be #1. The problem to date is that modern day slavery has not gotten the attention of law enforcement and average citizens. And that, Anna says, works to the advantage of the traffickers. If Anna has her way, it won't be as seemingly invisible in the future.

Anna will be teaching a class, "Human Trafficking in Florida," through the Renaissance Academy of FGCU on the island Thursday evenings in February. Call 239.590.1095 for more information. Members of Zonta will also be attending Human Rights and Struggle for Fair Food conference on Martin Luther King weekend sponsored by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida.(657.8311 for information) The Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva has begun an educational process which includes research into local and global trafficking issues and inviting leaders of local organizations which work in the area of human trafficking to speak to club members. The preliminary information and strategy regarding anti-trafficking in Lee County and the region is on the web at [www.zontasancap.com](http://www.zontasancap.com).

Additional information about the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is available at [www.zontasancap.com](http://www.zontasancap.com) or by calling Ginger Parker on 466-5100.



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### Pluck a star, Provide a gift, Show up to wrap it.

*Submitted by Bob Wimbush*

Soon star-studded Friends Who Care Christmas trees will appear at the post office, the city's planning and development office, the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank, the Senior Center, and the Dunes. And once again islanders will steal the ornaments. But Christmas is a magical season and the purloined stars- each describing an island person who might otherwise receive no gifts this season - will soon reappear attached to a brand new unwrapped gift suitable for a person described on the star. YES, THEY NEED VOLUNTEERS, so show up with scissors in hand at the Community Association for a wrap session at 9:00 on December 17 to sort the gifts (so as not to repeat from previous years), wrap, and bundle them for delivery by a Kiwanis Santa on the evening of December 23rd.



**Incoming Kiwanis president Joel Soobitsky presents a check for hurricane relief to Kiwanian Tom Louwers, spokesperson for the otherwise anonymous Friends Who Care. Proceeds will be used to help islanders with continuing hurts from the storms.**



## Kiwanis believes in Santa Claus

By Bob Wimbush

'Twas two nights before Christmas  
And like every year  
Kiwanians were nestled  
Into Santa gear.

With sleighs full of toys  
They tour the town  
Delivering gifts  
Both upstairs and down.

Some gifts are bundled,  
Come from Friends Who Care  
And others from families,  
Who with children would share.

We've delivered to dogs  
And kids of all ages  
And that's all of the poem  
I can write for these pages.

For over 30 years, Kiwanis Santas have delivered gifts to good little girls, boys, grandparents, visitors, pets, neighbors, and even Rotarians — if you can ever find a

good one — on December 23. Last year's Santas made over 140 stops on Sanibel and Captiva. Why? For fun... Ours and yours.

If you would like a Kiwanis Santa to deliver presents to your friends or family on Sanibel or Captiva, first mark your calendar — that's the evening of December 23 — and plan to be home that evening (yes, it happens). Buy and wrap and label the presents. If there are multiple kids, please have a gift for each. Santa gets teary when a kid is overlooked (also happens). Keeping each delivery address separate, bag your wrapped, labeled gifts in protective plastic bags. Then label each bag with a precise address, driving directions and a phone number. Multiple bags require multiple labels. Simple is good.

If one of your wife's relatives is out on good behavior (or did well in school or has stopped wetting the bed) and you want Santa to acknowledge it, attach a note on the outside. Print! Big! Remember, these are not labor eschewing geniuses like Rotary or Lions or Zonta. You're dealing with Kiwanians: Grown men that still believe in Santa Claus.

Drop your labeled bags at The Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank during bankers' hours and prior to 3:30 on December 23. Or, if they're big gifts, like bikes or a Lexus or a pony that will overwhelm Santa's sleigh, tell Santa where to find them on arrival. If you want Santa to bounce your kids around on his lap, please disarm the little bast... er ah, darlings first. Santa doesn't always handle pain graciously. And... nothing in Santa's code prevents him and his elves from accepting goodies.



Above: Kiwanis Santa teams. Above right: Kiwanis Santa Mick Gurley suiting up.

## Lions Christmas trees



Photo by Karen Nelson

Lion Joe Sloboda, Bill Sadd and Lion Rene Affourtit with fresh fraser firs from North Carolina.

The Lions Club is selling Christmas trees again this year, but — with the temporary relocation of the Sanibel Fire & Rescue District and all of the heavy equipment that has been carting vegetation debris across their traditional Tarpon Bay Road location — they have moved to the four-way stop at Causeway Road and Periwinkle. Notes Lion Bill Sadd, "J.B. Novelli was very kind to let us use this and we're very thankful to them."

They have some very large trees for those with high ceilings (several are at least 12 feet) and they received a new shipment of fresh trees from North Carolina on Sunday. There are a few small Scotch pines but most of the trees are the classic fraser fir and they "haven't opened a bad one yet."

They'll be selling the trees "until we're sold out, or Christmas Eve, whichever comes first." Hours are Monday - Saturday from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., but last Sunday, "everyone came at 4 and we didn't go home til 5."

-KN

## Lisa Pierot, from page 3

I guess sometimes you just have to let go and know that what you can't do, others will do in your place. This has always been hard for me but it's now harder to keep up, so I think I will accept my limitations. I will try to embrace them and alter my lifestyle to bring as much joy and comfort as I can. This will involve overcoming my biggest obstacle, which is myself, but what's one more obstacle on this journey of mine? If I can do all that I have so far, this should be a breeze.

Until next week...

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## Native American-style flute book author signing at Sanibel Island Bookshop

By Karen Nelson  
Managing Editor

If you're going down Periwinkle Way this Sunday afternoon and think you're imagining the haunting music emanating from the Sanibel Island Bookshop, you're not. Fort Myers resident and author Henry Herman will be playing one of his 20 Native American-style flutes at the shop, where he will also be signing his new book, *Enjoying the Native American-Style Flute*.

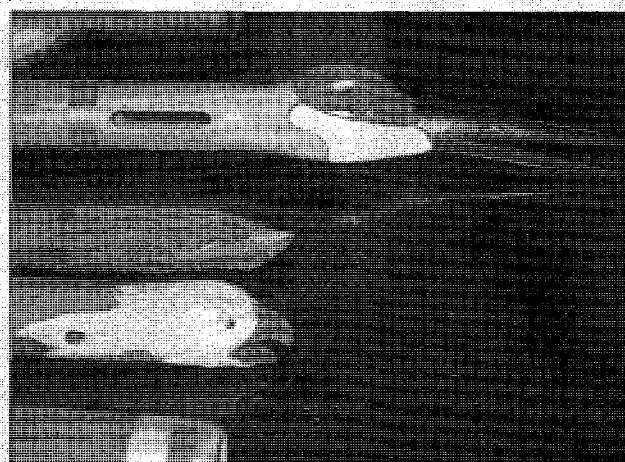
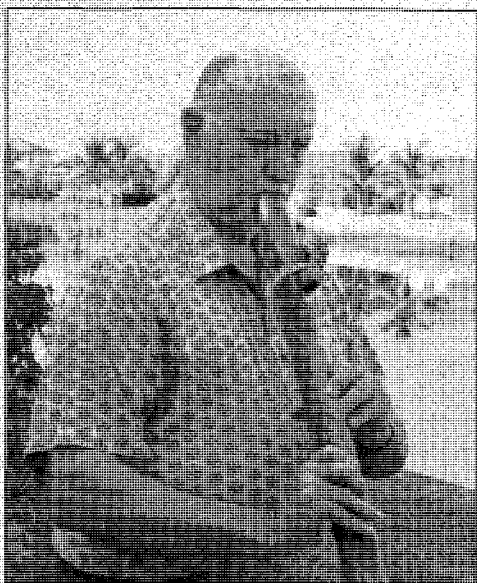
He began playing the flute about three years ago for stress relief. At that time, there was not a lot of ready information

about the instrument. He was first attracted to South American pan flutes but he couldn't find much information on them. While looking on-line, his eye was caught by the traditional Native American-style flutes.

He found a dealer in Oregon that he felt comfortable with and his wife bought him two flutes: a cane flute and a molded plastic flute. His collection has grown to include 20 flutes, including two that he has made: one from PVC pipe and one of eastern cedar. He differentiates between Native American flutes and Native American-style flutes because there are Native Americans making flutes by hand, while many of the flutes on the market are machine grouted and sanded.

The earliest known Native American flute was made of bone and dates to 300 AD; it was found in the Southwestern Plains. However, it is believed that Native Americans had flutes long before that. The earliest known flute in the world is a 45,000-year-old Neandertal flute; there were flutes thousands of years ago in China and native cultures all over the world had flutes.

Herman believes that Native Americans in the southeastern U.S. had flutes but that they faded out. Today's Seminole Indians do not have flutes; he hypothesizes that they may have been making flutes out of cypress and that the toxins in the wood (most insects won't eat cypress) may have caused throat damage



Above: Henry Herman playing one of his Native American-style flutes. Below left: Several Native American-style flutes showing the mouthpieces and a carved-eagle block; block carvings can be quite elaborate. Below right: The air coming out of the end of the flute can be directed through holes, so that the flute maker has the option of also carving the end of the flute. Each wood has its own distinctive sound.

## Local Author Festival

Sanibel Island Bookshop is hosting a Local Author Festival on Sunday from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Authors will be reading from their books and signing copies. The schedule of appearances is:

11:00 Wally Kam  
11:30 Charlie Sobczak  
12:00 Bob Maxeiner  
12:30 Tanya Hochschild  
1:00 Charles LeBuff  
1:30 John Mills

2:00 Joe Pacheco  
2:30 Connie Brown  
3:00 Christine Kling & Henry Herman  
3:30 Norm Zeigler  
4:00 Bill Hallstead  
4:30 James Kasserman

For more info call 472-5223. Sanibel Island Bookshop is at 1571 Periwinkle Way, across from Dixie Beach Boulevard.

which engendered a taboo.

Native American-style flutes as we know them now have two air chambers and the earliest known two-chamber flute in the U.S. dates to 1830. It is believed that the two-chamber design was influenced by the recorder, which was first brought to the U.S. in 1633; recorders were very popular in the early 1800s. Native Americans did a lot of experimenting with flute design, creating flutes with zero to eight holes, varying the positions of the holes and varying the sound mechanism.

In a two-chamber flute, the air comes out of the first hole, flows down a covered flue (a groove connecting the two holes) and meets the far edge of the second hole — the splitting edge. Part of the air goes up, and part is directed down into the second hole and through the body of the flute. Native Americans added a piece of wood, called the block, which is tied on, and this

block caps the grooved flue; in the earliest flutes, the flue was covered by hand.

He wrote *Enjoying the Native American-Style Flute* because, it is not always easy for beginners to find information. "A lot of people bought a flute, or want to buy one but they don't know where to go. The book gives them some direction, not only about learning to play" but also about the

Photos by Karen Nelson

flute in general. There are lists of flute suppliers and internet sites, basic information, four-color photos and even some notated songs to get started.

Newcomers to the instrument "can play the first day" because the instrument can be very intuitive. For those who don't read music, there are several methods of notation available. To truly master the instrument, one must learn to control finger movement and breath; practicing scales is crucial to true mastery. One Native American flute player that Herman spoke to recommended "practicing scales for three months before doing anything else."

Prices range from \$40 to \$3,000 and a good flute runs between \$250-\$300. There is a great deal of creativity in flute design. The wooden blocks are often carved, as is the body of the flute itself.

The flute itself does not actually have to be open-ended, as long as there is a properly placed hole, so that some flute makers carve the ends of their flutes.

Herman teaches biology at Edison College and he enjoys research. "I like to document things." He has just completed a history of the Native American-style flute (he's currently looking for a publisher) and he is working on several new books: one on the trading habits of Native Americans, a book on the Native American-style flute for kids, a book about learning to Play the Native American-style flute and a book on making cane flutes. Another project he's planning is to do a study of the Native American flutes of Florida. He notes that many Florida museums have ocarinas, ceramic animal-shaped flutes, but that a systematic study of them has not been done.

Florida is one of the "busiest flute places in the U.S." Players form flute circles to learn about playing and also to learn about Native American culture, philosophy and conservation. Herman travels up to Fort Walton Beach to play; there are flute circles in Sarasota and Venice (the Venice group is for beginners) but he would like to start a local group. "Flute circles are spreading like wildfire in the U.S." He knows that there are local Native American-style flute players and has heard of some on Pine Island and Naples but he doesn't know who they are. He has done some solo performing, locally.

At the annual Musical Echoes flute convention, he was one of the finalists in the playing competition. This three-day show, held in Fort Walton Beach in April, includes flute-making competitions and workshops. There is also a flute convention held at Withlacoochee State Park every year.

Like many people attracted to Native American culture, Herman feels deeply about conservation. He is by profession a biologist and "all my life, I've been constantly harping to students about treating our earth properly."

He gives lessons and can be reached by e-mail at henryh1935@aol.com

"I play every day, it soothes my nerves," he explains. While he "got into it for stress relief," he discovered that playing the Native American-style flute is "far more than just a flute, much more. It's a way of life."

Two of his flutes were made by someone who goes out every morning and sits by a river to play. Herman goes to Lakes Park. He was told that playing the flute was about "finding a medicine place, a place that you feel comfortable with the surroundings and nature and just play there."

## DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



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We are located in Olde Sanibel Shoppes at the intersection of Tarpon Bay and Periwinkle Way. There is additional parking and ramp access around back. Of course, pets are always welcome!



## Sugarman, from page 6

Another of his projects is the Society's creation of centers of excellence: places one can go that have the highest standards of performance, experience and training. He expects 300 centers of excellence will embrace about 700 surgeons by next June.

So why won't insurance companies be covering this surgery any longer, especially with an estimated three-year payout? Because companies switch insurance carriers about that often. Having the surgery may improve your life, and dramatically reduce your medical expenses, but because of switching, "insurance companies aren't motivated to cover a surgery because some other company will get the benefit."

Makes it easy for this writer to conclude that health insurance has nothing to do with health care or what's good for patients. It's all about money. Profits accrue when services, paid for in advance by policyholders, can be denied. But insurance does provide an incredible cash flow, none of which is seen by the patient. Why else do

you suppose every politician, regardless of party, wants us to have it? Perhaps the insurance companies and the politicians they serve deserve to get fatter and fatter (see comorbidities, above).

For those who haven't figured it out, Bariatric comes from the Greek word Barus, heavy. Dr. Sugarman has surgically resized or bypassed over 3,000 stomachs. Most of the patient class is at least 100 pounds overweight and their body mass index exceeds 35. Some run into the 50's and 60's. Normal (yours and mine) is 22. Calculate yours by going to the website [www.asbs.org](http://www.asbs.org). See what SOARD stands for while you're there.

Ironically, Kiwanis may, itself, be fattening (but to others, it's merely disgusting)—as anyone joining Kiwanis for breakfast at the Dunes on Tuesdays will attest.

*Don't forget to call The Fort Myers Beach Kiwanis Thrift Store at 454-8090 to pick up discarded but usable furniture and other items.*

## OBITUARY

### Joan J. Condon

Joan J. "Mam" Condon, age 78, died Saturday, December 4, 2004 in Fort Myers. With her Irish accent, stories of her past and love for children, Joan was a familiar sight around Sanibel, her residence for many years. Mam is survived by her daughter, Mary Bondurant, and son in law, Fred of Sanibel; sons Martin, of St. Petersburg and Patrick of Hawley, Pa. Grandmam is also survived by her grandchildren John and Bonnie Bondurant, and Todd Condon. Joan was preceded in death by husband, Ralph.

Burial is in Burnsville, MN on Saturday, December 11.

Friends are invited to a memorial and celebration of her life Tuesday, December 14, 5:30 p.m., at the Sanibel Congregational Church, 2050 Periwinkle Way.

Donations to her memory may be made to Hope Hospice, 9470 Health Park Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33908.

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### Incredible Gulf Views



- Open floor plan, 3 bedroom, 2 bath
- 125 ft to waters of the Gulf
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Carolyn Musgrave 472-5187 x 243

### Sundial East



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- 4 bedroom, 3 bath with room for a pool
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- Custom home built in 2002

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Eric Pfeifer 472-5187 x 259

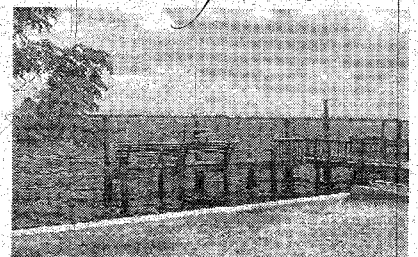
### Pine Cove



- Beautifully furnished & decorated
- Gorgeous direct Gulf views
- 3 bedroom, 2 bath, convenient location
- Weekly rentals

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Ada Shissler 472-5187 x 254

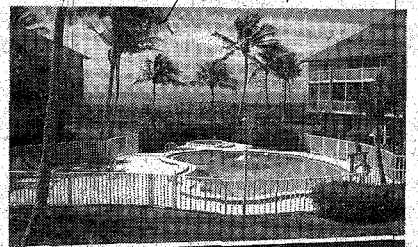
### Wonderful View



- 120 feet on the River
- New seawall
- 72 foot dock in place
- Excellent for redevelopment

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Robin Humphrey 472-5187 x 218

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- 3 bedroom, 3 bath Gulf front complex
- Beautiful remodeled kitchen
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## IN MY OPINION

### The Chanukah Spirit

Sundown, Tuesday, December 7, began the eight-day Jewish celebration of Chanukah. It is a holiday instituted in Judaism almost two centuries before the birth of Jesus and the emergence of Christianity.

This year's coincidental beginning of Chanukah on December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, highlights the message underlying the Jewish holiday. It is an occasion that places emphasis on peace over war and tolerance over fanaticism, or religious exclusivity.

The celebration recalls the desecration of the ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem by the Syrians about the year 165 B.C.E. The Syrians placed idols in the Jewish house of worship. Idols were forbidden and statues to either animals or humans, who symbolized the gods, were prohibited.

The God of Israel was known though justice, the practice of love toward fellow human beings, especially the stranger, and the care of the vulnerable, like the widow and the orphaned. Israel's God had no form, could not be seen, and was beyond human comprehension.



Rabbi Murray Saltzman

A family of priests, now known as the Maccabees, rebelled against the Syrian desecration of the Temple. They waged guerilla warfare against the tyrannical Syrians, the world's greatest power at that time. The Syrians used the desecration of the Temple as the vehicle to abolish the religion of ancient Israel.

But Chanukah does not celebrate the victory over Syria. The holiday focuses on God's miracle. A small cruse of oil that burned in the Temple as a symbol of God's enlightening presence remained

aglow for eight days despite the fact that there was only sufficient oil to last one day. Chanukah is observed with the exchange of gifts and joyous family gathering as the Chanukiah (Chanukah candelabra) is kindled at sundown for eight days in remembrance of the cruse of oil and God's presence in history.

The Jewish tradition abolished the theme of the war. The Books of Maccabees that describe the victory were kept out of the Biblical canon. The theme of the holiday is the spirit of tolerance that unites all humanity in peace and dignity.

### 90th birthday for Evelyn Spencer



This week, one of our long-time residents of Sanibel celebrated her 90th birthday on Dec. 8.

Evelyn Spencer and her husband, Gene, have spent their life together here on Sanibel since the building of their first home in 1975.

Gene gave his lovely bride (married on September 11, 1940) a wonderful party, which was held at the Sanibel Community Church on December 9. There, many of their friends and family came together to help celebrate her life and this very special day. This was a day to honor her and to show our deep love for her.

Happy Birthday, Evelyn!

### Holidays in Music and in Story

Storytellers at the December 16 meeting of the Tamiami Tale Tellers (TTT) will be mixing and matching stories and music to fit the holiday season. The group will meet Thursday night, December 16, from 7 - 9 pm at the Grand Court, 8351 College Parkway in Fort Myers.

"The music plus story theme opens many options to tellers," according to Bert MacCarry, of Sanibel, spokesperson for TTT. "Tellers may trace the story-history of songs that are sung or played by instruments during this season of holidays, sec-

ular or religious. Or storytellers may find a story first and find appropriate music to expand or enhance the tale. The holiday stories could be associated with any one of the seasonal events observed by any cultural group during the month of December."

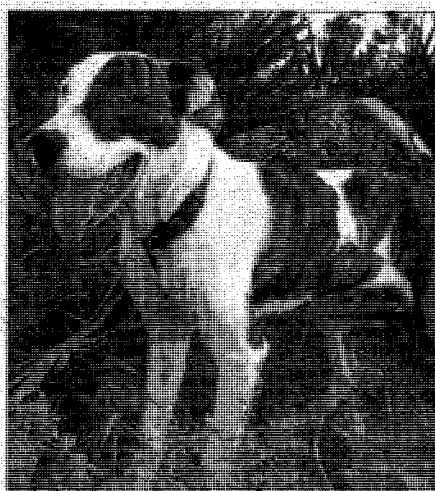
TTT meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, and are free and open to the public for ages 5 - 95. Both tellers and listeners are welcome. For more information, call 472-1781.

### Pet of the Week

Alex is a one-year-old Pit Bull mix who came into the shelter as a stray. He has a white coat with brindle colored patches. He is handsome and sweet. He is a loving boy in need of a loving home. To adopt Alex, call Lee County Animal Services at 432-2083 and ask about ID# 249927.

The shelter is located in Six Mile Commercial Park on Six Mile Cypress Parkway (between US41 and Metro Parkway). Adoption hours are 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The Shelter is closed on Sundays.

Pictures of pets available for adoption can be viewed on line at [www.leelostpets.com](http://www.leelostpets.com)

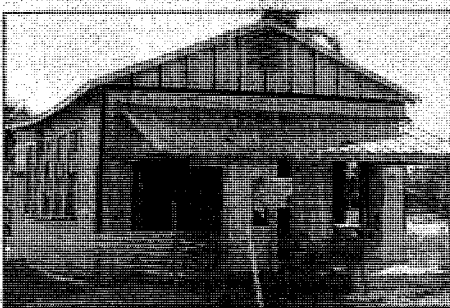


### Awaiting relocation



Photos by Karen Nelson

Views of the Old Schoolhouse, after removal of the additions that will not be moved to the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum. The photos were taken on Sunday, Dec. 5; the building is scheduled to be moved on Dec. 29 or Dec. 30.



## Attention Boaters!

Sanibel Captiva Sail & Power Squadron's  
**Boating Course**  
**Starts Saturday, Jan. 8, 2005**  
**9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Sanibel School**

4 class sessions, Educational Cruise & exam

Learn:

*Boat handling	*Seamanship
*Use of marine radio	*Basic piloting
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Take an educational cruise on local waters  
 Take part in live demonstrations on  
**February 5, Sanibel Safe Boating Day**

Pre-registration required—Class size limited  
 Call Jim Strothers at 395-1856



## Legion Auxiliary launches Spinoza

By Elaine Stacy

As members of Sanibel-Captiva Islands American Legion Auxiliary Unit 123, Heather Silbar Rice, Janice Ulrich, Rachel Kirkland and I attended the Department of Florida Mid-Winter Conference in Orlando last November. We wanted to become more involved in the many programs sponsored by the American Legion Family and although all programs are extremely worthwhile, we all came back with a sincere commitment to the Spinoza Bear Program.

We were told a story about three young children, the youngest being about 18 months old and the oldest three years, who had been abused beyond all imagination. They were discovered filthy, malnourished, emotionally and physically scarred and they were placed with a caring couple that had volunteered to act as foster parents after losing their youngest grown child to a horrific accident. The children were unreachable, even in the loving family environment they were now provided.

Months went by. The concerned foster parents continued caring for the kids, feeling they were making a little progress to secure their trust, although communication was minimal. Counselors were called upon but nothing seemed to bring the children out of the world to which they had retreated.

The couple decided to move to Florida, where an Auxiliary Unit heard of the family's distress and donated a Spinoza Bear to each of the children. Spinoza is a 17-inch tall, three-pound, very huggable teddy bear that — with the aid of an internal tape recorder and speaker system — has a lot of fun songs to sing and comforting things to say. Spinoza's voice is soothing; he plays relaxation games, tells fun and engaging stories and encourages the abused and traumatized to talk about their feelings.

Rachel Owa, a mother and special education teacher from Minnesota, had a dream about a little brown bear sitting in a circle with children. The children looked sickly and sad. The bear sang songs and told stories in different languages and the children appeared to be happier.

While on a business trip with her husband in England, Rachel found a teddy bear resembling her vision and learned that the bear was made locally. She found and met with maker Vera Small at home, asking if she could make her 1000 bears. When Vera said she couldn't, Rachel asked if she could buy the rights to the design but Vera answered, "No, it's mine and it came to me in a dream." Just then, Vera's phone rang. Vera burst into tears upon the news that her father had just passed away. Vera composed herself, turned to Rachel and said, "You can have the bear. Use it for eternity." Rachel returned to Minnesota and, with friend Sherry Goodman, began to execute her plan, naming Spinoza after Amsterdam-born philosopher Baruch Spinoza.

At this point in the Orlando presentation, a middle-aged couple with three tow-headed children came walking down the aisle. The youngest, a toddler, appeared to be just a little shy. The oldest, a little girl reminiscent of Madeline, walked with confidence even among a crowd of strangers. The middle child smiled and waved. The group, including the Auxiliary members responsible for placing Spinoza bears with the children, gathered at the front of the room. Then, down the aisle strolled a bigger-than-life Spinoza. The children let go of held-hands and ran to hug and hold hands with Spinoza.

The kids looked happy, healthy and well adjusted. Their foster parents had plans in the works for adoption. Not a dry eye was to be found; Spinoza's effect on the afflicted is nothing short of miraculous.

"I have you for my friend and you my friend have me. It's so nice just being here together." - Spinoza

With other projects already in progress, Unit 123 decided to delay any major efforts regarding Spinoza but we have raised enough money to purchase one: Spinoza bears cost approximately \$150 each. It's a beginning.

Over the next year you will see notices of functions sponsored by the Sanibel-Captiva Islands American Legion Post, Sons and Auxiliary, where we will be raising funds to sponsor Spinoza bears along with several

### City holiday hours and refuse collection

- Sanibel City Hall offices will be closed in observance of Christmas on Friday, December 24 and will re-open Monday, December 27.
- Sanibel City Hall offices will be closed in observance of New Year's on Friday, December 31, 2004 and will resume regular operating hours on Monday, January 3, 2005.
- All garbage, recycling and vegetation waste collection by Florida Recycling Services (FRS) will be on the regular waste collection schedule.
- All City of Sanibel Recreation facilities (Civic Center, Museum and Recreation Center), will be closed December 24 & 25 in observance of Christmas and again on December 31, 2004 & January 1, 2005, in observance of the New Year's Holiday. All recreation facilities will follow regular operating hours on December 26, 2004, and will resume regular operating hours on January 2, 2005.

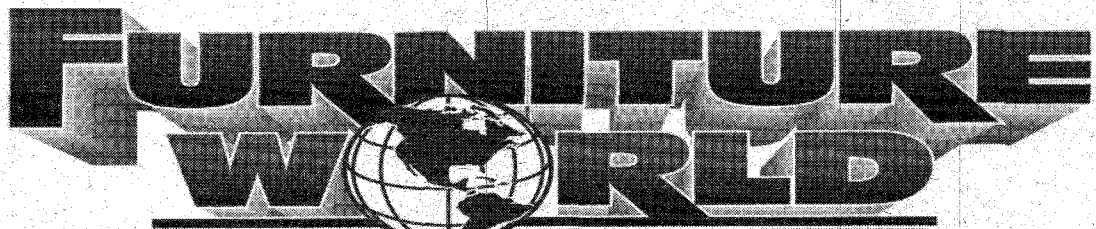
For questions regarding the holiday schedule, please contact Sanibel City Hall at 472-3700.

### Spinoza, from below left

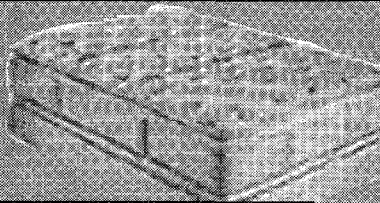
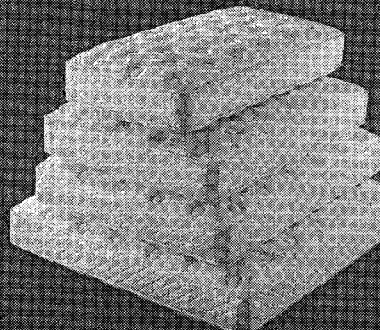
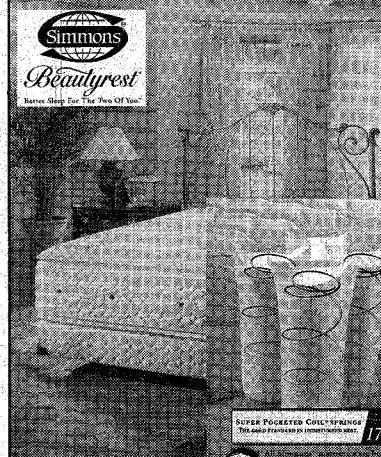
other deserving programs.

We have requested that the bears that we purchase be donated to the children in need at the Fort Myers Ronald McDonald House but if you know of a child that could benefit from Spinoza please let us know. If you are inter-

ested in helping out, call 472-9979 or our Spinoza Bear Committee Chairman, Marlene Skubal or send your check or money order to the American Legion Auxiliary, P.O. Box 66, Sanibel, Florida 33957.




# MATTRESS BLOWOUT

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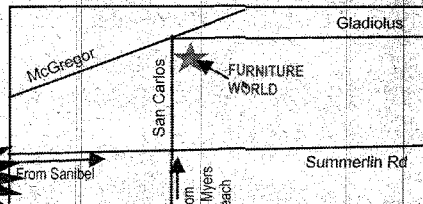
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# Sanibel School group writes to legislators

By Laura Nickerson  
Staff Writer

Students from the Sanibel School fifth grade are so strongly committed to joining the effort now underway to replant the Periwinkle corridor, that they have responded to City Manager Judie Zimomra's public plea for islanders to write to their state legislators by December 8. The group, who have dubbed themselves Sanibel's PRIDE, plan to be an integral part of the replanting effort from inception to completion. PRIDE stands for: Sanibel's Restoration Is the Duty of Everyone, and the kids have definitely got a head start.

The group is one of several in the Community Problem Solvers program coached by fifth grade teachers Ann Godsea and Monica DeBarr along with Dr. Trish Herman, a professor at Barry University.

PRIDE members learned of Zimomra's request last week when Wendy Erier, manager of Tarpon Bay Explorers and spokesperson for the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce in its role as a member of the recently formed Periwinkle Partnership, visited a PRIDE meeting. She informed the group of the City's latest news regarding replanting and showed

them the letter encouraging islanders to write or e-mail their legislators, in the hope of swaying available post-hurricane state funds in the direction of the islands. Funds are needed for two projects, one being the replanting effort, the other pertaining to the condition of island beaches.

The students in PRIDE not only wrote letters to their chosen legislators, they had previously attended a City Council meeting to pledge their commitment to help replant. Lia Lia Williams, a grandmother of one group member, and a landscape architect, showed the group how to draw landscaping plans that they will be able to present to the city or to the public forum when the time is right.

PRIDE is looking to form an alliance with Periwinkle Partnership, which formed in October to mesh the strengths and talents of three Sanibel organizations concerned with replanting. The Chamber of Commerce, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, and the Sanibel Beautification Committee are the partnership members and their mission includes fundraising, education and awareness, and acting as a liaison between the City and the public to address all replanting concerns.

The students asked Erier to attend their

meeting to express their concerns regarding the bike path, which they feel should be marked with brighter plantings. One choice they made was for the native Florida passion vine species, which is covered in brilliant red blossoms most of the year, and is also a host plant for the zebra long-wing butterfly. A trip to SCCF is scheduled soon to further study native plants.

PRIDE is hoping to do its own planting in a designated area, and has some fundraising plans already in place for purchasing plants, discussing ideas like car washes, candy drives, and raffles.



Photo by Laura Nickerson

Teachers Monica DeBarr and Ann Godsea and guest speaker Wendy Erier at last week's Sanibel's PRIDE meeting.

PRIDE members are Shion Kremer, Kari Fowler, Marin Williams, Conner Stone, Terry Earle, Nicole Horton, Samia Islam, Savannah DeBarr, and Corrina Nedelle.

Dec. 1, 2004

Dear Mrs. & Mr.

We are community problem solving students from the Sanibel School. On Friday August 13, 2004, Sanibel Island was hit by Hurricane Charley. Due to Charley's forceful winds, people could not drive their cars or ride their bikes down Periwinkle Way because of all the Australian Pines that littered the road way. It took an entire week for work crews from J.N. Ding Darling NWR, and other national refuges to cut and clear the trees on Periwinkle Way.

Now that many of the Australian Pines have been cleared and their stumps removed, we can start replanting Periwinkle Way. Our group's name is Sanibel's P.R.I.D.E. We think that even kids should help make Periwinkle Way look its best. We have already asked Sanibel's City Council if we can help and they said "Yes!" We're also

doing research on native plants to southwest Florida and talking to community members about our ideas. We want to plant native plants that will beautify and provide shade along periwinkle.

Most visitors to Sanibel must travel on Periwinkle way by car or bike to enjoy our local shops, restaurants, wildlife. Planting native plants will do 2 things. 1, it will encourage visitors to come to Sanibel to enjoy its natural charm & beauty & also will help our environment & wildlife! Sanibel's P.R.I.D.E. hopes that you will support us with our project. Thank you

Sincerely, Sanibel's P.R.I.D.E.,

Nicole Horton Shion Kremer  
Conner Stone Terry Earle  
Kari Fowler Corrina Nedelle  
Savannah DeBarr Marin Williams  
Samia Islam Sameer Islam  
Mrs. Monica DeBarr & Mrs. Anne Godsea

Read



## TO YOUR HEALTH

### Holistic Health Notebook: How does your brain work?

Perhaps that is a rhetorical question. If you can read this column, your brain works pretty well, I'd say.



**Carol Simontacchi**

But we all want to proceed into our senior years with all our marbles intact, so to speak, and fortunately, there is so much we can do to improve mental functioning, even if we notice a little deterioration here and there. Here are some wonderful nutrients that are specifically helpful to the brain:

#### Phosphatidylcholine

In the golden years of the health food industry, people ate lecithin on the basis that it improves mental clarity, and their claims were not wrong. The major constituent of lecithin is a phospholipid (fatty acid) called phosphatidylcholine (PC), a precursor to acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter that is important to memory and cognition.

In a clinical trial, a single dose of twenty-five grams improved explicit memory ninety minutes later. PC is used for treating anxiety, manic-depressive illness, memory loss, Alzheimer's disease, and preventing aging.

#### Phosphatidylserine...

...is a fatty acid cousin of PC and is similarly excellent for the brain. People use PS for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, age-related decline in mental function, improving cognitive function in young people, ADHD,

and depression.

#### Acetyl-L-Carnitine

Many people are aware of L-carnitine as a fatty-acid shuttle that helps increase cellular energy, assist with weight loss, and improve heart health. L-carnitine's cousin, acetyl-L-carnitine (ALC) works primarily in the brain. According to Dr. Ward Dean of Vitamin Research Laboratories, recent research has elevated ALC to a premier brain nutrient that enhances cognition and protects nerve cells from damage incited by the aging process.

We know that acetylcholine enhances memory; ALC promotes the activity of this important neurotransmitter.

ALC is being studied in connection to Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other diseases related to dopamine release. Dosages range from 500 to 2500 mg/daily, while younger persons would probably want to take 500 - 100 mg/daily.

#### DMAE

DMAE is a naturally occurring nutrient found in such 'brain' foods as anchovies and sardines. It stimulates the production of choline, which in turn allows the brain to optimize production of acetylcholine. A mild brain stimulant, DMAE has been used in connection with learning disorders and autism.

According to research dating back to 1958, DMAE accelerates mental processing, improves concentration span, abolishes "foginess," decreases irritability and

over-activity, and may even improve IQ.

#### Other Important Nutrients

We must not forget that the "simpler" nutrients like vitamin B complex, vitamins C and E, minerals magnesium and zinc, and many others are equally important. B complex vitamins activate enzymes. Vitamins C and E provide antioxidant benefits. Many neural enzymes are magnesium or zinc dependent.

Antioxidants are a special class of nutrients that are critically important to preserving the structural integrity of the brain. Remember that 75% of the dry weight of the brain is fat, and fat is easily oxidized (becomes rancid) in the presence of oxygen. Plant foods contain thousands of phytochemicals that act as antioxidants (AO). Unfortunately, we often do not eat the five to seven servings of vegetables that are needed to provide adequate AO protection. For this reason, I encourage everyone to enjoy the benefits of the "red and green pills" (Juice Plus+) that contain the vibrant essence of seventeen fruits and vegetables.

The one thing I noticed when I started taking Juice Plus+ is increased ability to focus and concentrate. Primary research indicates that antioxidant supplements can, indeed, increase blood levels of antioxidants significantly, reducing the risk of free radical damage that can harm the delicate tissue of the brain.

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

### Aquatic Exercise: Noodlin' around

**By Jane Ranieri  
Special to the Islander**

The purchase of a noodle is a small price to pay for the amount of physical fitness rewards gained by incorporating it into an aquatic workout. Even if the noodle is the only piece of equipment available - and providing you can borrow it from the kids - all components of a complete workout can be achieved: cardiovascular (aerobic) training, resistance training and flexibility.

For example, during the aerobic phase of your workout, you can straddle the noodle and "ride it" in the deep end of the pool in a jogging or cross-country ski motion.

In the shallow end, since the noodle is buoyant, you can generate additional intensity and resistance by keeping the noodle under the water as much as possible and pushing it toward the pool bottom. (It is always important to keep your abdominals and core muscles tight for better stability when working with the noodle.)

Other ways to work with the noodle include putting it under both legs as if sitting on a swing, putting it under the arms so that you can work the lower body and putting it around the back for abdominals crunches. The noodle can also be used while doing balance, stretching and flexibility exercises, too. One word of caution though: the

noodle is not a life-saving device.

So, if you are looking for an inexpensive, fun way to enhance your aquatic workout - one that teaches balance and stability - try incorporating the noodle into your workout. Be creative and have fun with it!

Who says noodlin' around in the pool is just for kids?

*Jane Ranieri is an Aquatic Personal Trainer on Sanibel and will work one-on-one or with small groups. Please call her at 395-3574 for more details regarding a program designed specifically for you.*

### Three at the Senior Center

#### Good Riddance Party

The end of hurricane season was celebrated at the Island Senior Center on November 30. A festive Pot Luck Dinner was followed by a night of dancing. The Fred Astaire Studio of Fort Myers provided two talented ballroom dancers that entertained before dinner with demonstration of swing dancing.

Following dinner, everyone was encouraged to come to the dance floor where Gigi and Ben gave lessons in the foxtrot. The members had so much fun that they are planning to take some group lessons together after the first of the year. Good exercise and fun; a winning combination. The Center phone number is 472-5743.

#### Seniors Christmas Dinner Train

Island Seniors Center has planned a special Holiday Event. Dinner on the Seminole Gulf Train. The event is scheduled Tuesday, December 21, departing from Fort Myers and includes a cruise of Punta Gorda Isles, viewing

holiday decorations and lights. Dinner is a five course meal with a variety of choices. The entire cost including gratuity is \$50 per person. Final deadline for registering and payment is Monday, December 13.

This is one of the many fun activities of the Island Seniors. Island Seniors is part of the Recreation Department of the City of Sanibel. If you are not a member, this would be a good time to meet some of the

**Seniors, see page 17**

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Presented by  
**Margie Davison**

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Your Realtor can show you how these savings will apply in your situation. You may be pleasantly surprised when you compare the tax savings you will receive as a result of owning your home, and you will build up equity as your home appreciates in value! Also, first-time buyers will see expanded rules for Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and 401(k) plans, allowing penalty-free withdrawals to purchase a home in the Taxpayer Relief Act passed in 1997. consult your tax advisor for your particular circumstance.

*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 e-mail her at Margie@MargieDavison.com.*



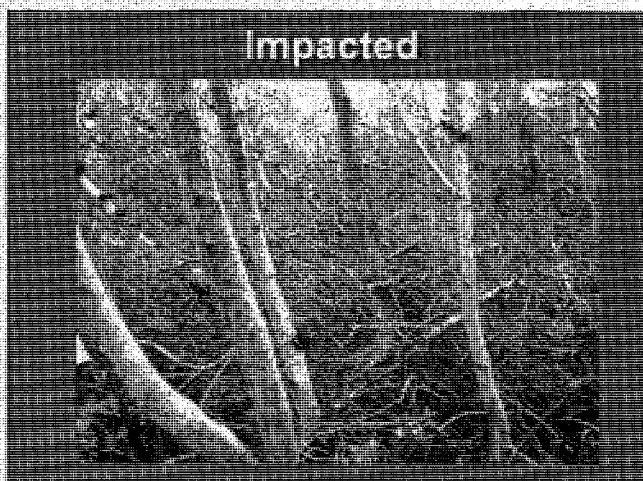
# Measuring the ecological impact of hurricanes

By Karen Nelson  
Managing Editor

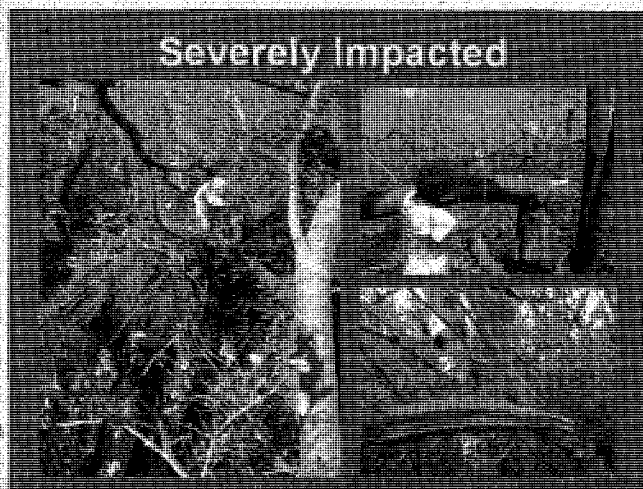
Steve Bortone, Director of the Marine Lab of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, spoke to a capacity crowd at the November 30 meeting of the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club on "The Ecological Impact of Hurricanes." This story is based on notes from that presentation as well as a conversation with Bortone held the following Friday.



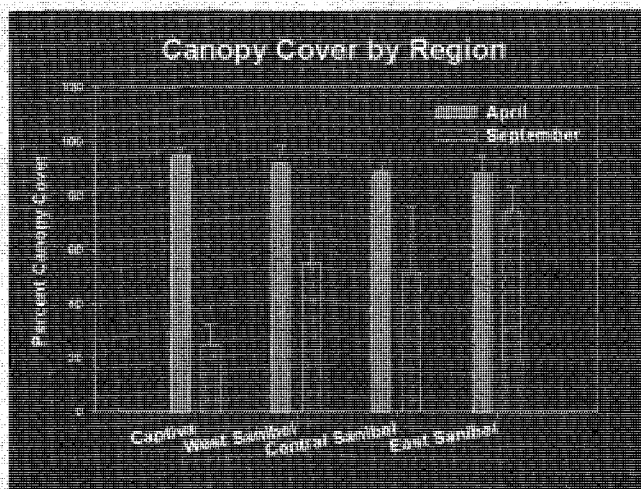
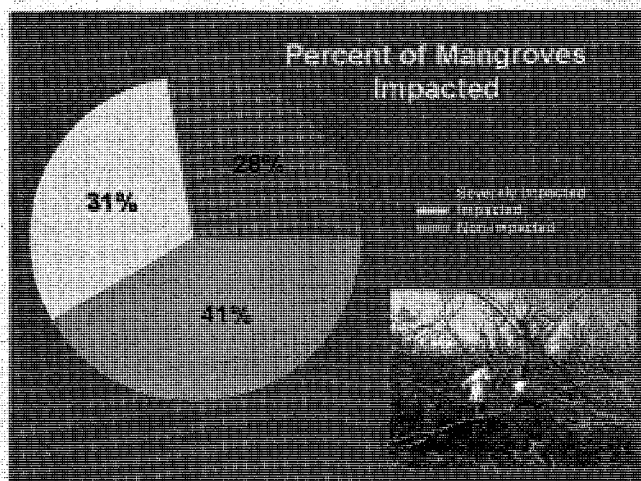
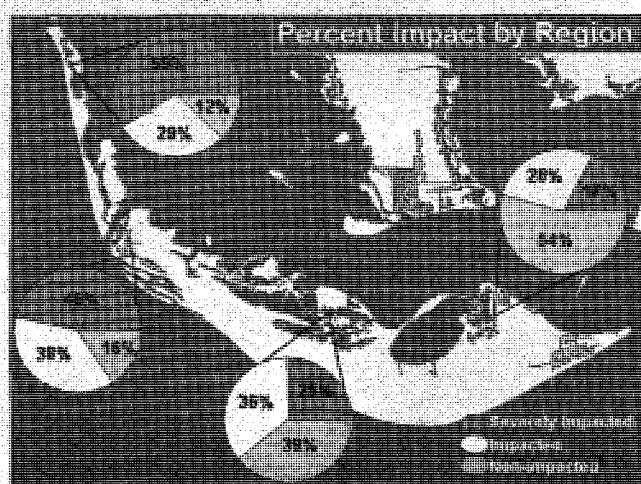
Non-Impacted



Impacted



Severely Impacted



## Mangroves

Mangroves "provide a structural feature to the estuary, like an artificial reef. The root system provides hiding places for both predatory fish and those being hunted and there is stuff living on the roots like oysters, crabs." Bortone noted that it's not yet proven that mangroves actually provide nutrients, although much has been written about the hypothesized nutritious soup.

Before the hurricanes, the Marine Lab had established eight sites for a long-term study of mangroves: there are two at Tarpon Bay, two at "Ding" Darling, two at Blind Pass and two at South Seas on Captiva. Among things being studied are the number of seedlings and the percent canopy.

Post Hurricane Charley, they surveyed their eight study sites and classified the degree of mangrove damage into three categories: 41% were Non-impacted; 31% were Impacted; and 28% were Severely impacted.

Red, white and black mangroves were impacted to the same degree; in general, the larger the tree, the more severe the damage. Areas with lower canopies suffered less damage and seedlings remained pretty constant.

It can be seen in photos that some of the trees have actually been twisted by the hurricane. Oftentimes, this twisting cannot be seen, but the tree has been severely damaged and will not survive.

Bortone anticipates that it will be five years before we know if the red mangroves will come back but he expects rookeries to recover in a year; for now, there is no shade and less food available to nesting birds. When talking about wildlife adjusting to the changes brought about by Hurricane Charley, he noted that it's the "same for us. Periwinkle now has no trees, it feels like a different system." For the animals living off these systems, the impact is greater.

As an example of how long it takes for mangrove systems to show evidence of damage, Bortone talked about a huge condo development on Naples' Clam Pass, where the mangroves appeared to just suddenly die after 10 years. There have been numerous studies as to the cause and possible remedies but the consensus is that the sand surrounding the mangroves has been crushed and compacted, in part from the construction work but primarily from the weight of the buildings themselves. The natural water flow to the mangroves has been cut off in two ways: some was cut off by the buildings but water also flows interstitially between grains of sand; that flow is cut off with compacted sand. "It took 10 years for the mangroves to die," noted Bortone. "They hung on for that long. These systems don't respond right away. They are still seeing effects from Hurricane

Bortone, continued right

Far left: Photos showing the three categories of impact. Left: Graphs quantifying damage to mangroves by Hurricane Charley. Top: Percent in each category shown by the eight study sites. Middle: Overall percentage by category. Bottom: Percent of mangrove tree canopy cover in April and September 2004.

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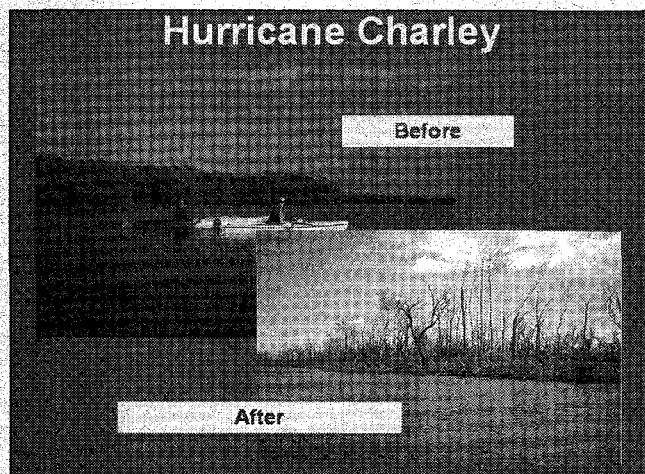
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## Hurricane Charley



Photos/graphics by Jaime Greenawalt & Eric Milbrandt  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

Andrew."

As further explanation of the phenomenon of compacted soil, Bortone gave the example of old two-track rutted roads through wooded areas that no longer see any traffic; nothing can grow in that compacted soil.

"We don't understand the true long-term impact of hurricanes. Over the next few years, we will probably see long-term damage to parts of the system."

### Lake Okeechobee releases

He began by explaining the dynamics of estuaries. "We have one of the few manipulated estuaries," he noted, referring to the release of fresh water from Lake Okeechobee. "Lake Okeechobee is capped at 18 feet; at 20 feet it breaches and people are killed." Some of the water is released into the Everglades; the bulk of it is released through the St. Lucie and the Caloosahatchee Rivers and "we get more than our fair share. The St. Lucie system collapses when they receive too much... St. Lucie is a very small system, about the size of Tarpon Bay" so that the slightest change has a greater impact. They were having major problems, the "fish were breaking out in lesions and sores." Additionally, they have a more active lobby.

Fresh water releases through the Franklin Lock are normally at 300-600 cu.ft./second; they have been releasing 10,000 cu.ft./second. The post-hurricane releases have "impacted the system" and some sloughing of sea grasses has been observed in the estuary.

The dark water that is in the estuary now is partly from the Okeechobee releases and partly from rainwater runoff. Fresh water is naturally brown because of the tannic acid but it becomes darker because of the higher concentration of sediments and the fact that the water is moving too quickly for suspended materials to settle out, as they normally would.

The South Florida Water Management District started releasing water from the Lake in 1997. In 2000, they released a huge volume of water, turning the estuary into a "freshwater pond" and then they stopped entirely, which created excessively high salinity. They are now trying to mimic the pattern of natural storms by pulsing

(alternating) the releases according to release schedules that are triggered when levels in the Lake get too high. However, Bortone says that, while they are pulsing their releases, they are still releasing too much water.

Alternatives that have been considered were increasing the size of Okeechobee, but Bortone joked that the estimated costs were so high that "it would be cheaper buying Perrier to water the fields." The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) currently incorporates plans for above-ground water storage and deep well injection — Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR). Bortone has concerns about ASR. "We don't know if we can recover the water and we don't know if we're causing damage. We need to know more about what we're doing."

The better (though not perfect) alternative is above-ground water storage but "nothing is free. You destroy habitat in the process," although much of that habitat is farmers' fields. "Knowing human nature, these will be fishing lakes and as soon as the level drops, there will be a clamor to stop the releases. On paper, it looks good."

Okeechobee levels are kept higher than they would be to preserve recreational bass fishing. "Okeechobee used to be the Bass Capital of the World." SFWMD has said that they are speeding up the timing on the above-ground water storage and they should be on-line with that in two-to-three years.

Much of the recent CERP focus has been on the Southern Golden Gate Estates. That part of the program does not directly impact the islands but it's "important that people understand that we are part of the Everglades solution. What happens in Everglades restoration does impact us here because the Caloosahatchee is part of the system and that directly affects us."

Bortone said that overall, our estuary is basically healthy, very clean, very good. There are good grass beds and good fishing, although we are stressing it with all of the fresh water.

Charlotte Harbor, however, has been experiencing some severe problems, probably due to the phosphates coming into the system, and there is a dead zone in the middle of the harbor. However, the problems in Charlotte Harbor do not affect us because it appears that the water in Pine Island Sound basically operates as two separate systems, with Redfish Pass as the dividing line.

One unrecognized benefit of the Okeechobee releases may be that they are helping to flush the system. "Estuaries flush very well; it's literally like a toilet. The retention time is very small, very short. The water goes out quickly." Possibly, the Okeechobee releases are balancing the negative effects of area development by flushing out harmful elements that are being released into the estuary.

### Core Research Program

The Core Research Program of the Marine Lab is focusing on five areas:

- *Bay scallops.* They are now quite rare and disappeared around the time the Causeway was built. They are looking at the system and hoping to restore them.

- *Sea grass beds.* Some of the lushest sea grass beds in the U.S. are here.
- *Micro-organisms in the substrate.* Dr. Eric Milbrandt at the Marine Lab can now study these through DNA analysis. This provides a more accurate identification than the classic "grab a sample in a bucket" and look at it method.
- *Juvenile fish.* These are good indicators of sea grass health.
- *Spotted seatrout.* These fish spend their entire life in the estuary and their otolith, or earstone, reveals growth rings, much like tree rings. The size of the rings can be read as an indicator of estuarine health.

### Sea grass beds

The Marine Lab has studied aerial photographs taken in 1945, 1982 and then 1998, 1999 and 2004, and no decline can be seen in the photos but that may be due to variation in techniques. "It's not conclusive that we're losing sea grass beds. We won't see it right away, we will only see it gradually." There has been some decrease in cover and some decline in the number of species since 1998.

The Marine Lab now has GPS units so that locations can be accurately tracked. A critical indicator of sea grass health is the depth at which the sea grass grows, which is a function of water clarity. For this area, two meters is pretty deep; most of the sea grass is at one to one-and-a-half meters. "When we see the deep edge getting shallower, at the same place" that indicates a change. Different species have different sensitivities, so the changes need to be studied over several years.

"We need to come up with better sentinels or indicators," Bortone noted. When sea grasses do die off, replanting attempts have not been successful. The sea grass beds in Naples Bay have been lost and they have not been able to replant them. The Marine Lab will be doing a small dredging project in Tarpon Bay as a replanting study, hypothesizing that one of the factors causing replanting failure is that the bacteria in the sediment that surrounds the seedlings is also a necessary part in transplanting seedlings.

### Passes and system dynamics

"Passes are kept open by water going out of the Sound," Bortone explained, not by water coming in. There is only so much water that goes out of the Sound on a regular basis, so that when a new pass opens (like the opening of Redfish Pass in the 1920s), there is less water to flow through other passes (like Blind Pass). "The dynamics of these systems are incredible."

### Impact on fish

In terms of migratory fishes, the "fishing in the area has been fantastic, with lots of redfish and snook... We don't know the long-term effects. There is anecdotal evidence that offshore species came into the estuary with the hurricane."

Bortone, see Page 16



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# SCCF December Program Schedule

## Buck Key Kayaking Adventures

When: Tuesday, Dec. 21, at 9:30 a.m.  
Where: Begins at Captiva Kayak Company on Captiva.  
Fee: \$35/person; reservations required; call 472-2329.

A naturalist will lead a kayak trip in and around Buck Key and discuss the importance of the estuary. Participants will learn about the ecology and cultural history of the area. No experience necessary.

## Butterfly House Tours

When: Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.  
Where: Butterfly House  
Fee: \$1 donation

A guide will teach you about the life cycle and behavior of butterflies. The house is also open to visitors without a guide.

## Cultural History of Florida's Native Plants

When: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
Where: Ethnobotany garden at SCCF Nature Center.  
Fee: Free to members and children; \$3 for nonmembers.

Take a guided tour and learn how native plants were used by Calusa Indians in the past and how Seminole and Caribbean cultures today still rely on them.

## Dirt Time: Animal Tracking

When: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 28 and 29 (for children accompanied by

adults).

Where: Nature Center auditorium and trails.

Fee: \$5/adult, free for children and volunteers. Reservations required; call Melissa, 472-2329.

Learn how to read animal tracks: what kind of animal left them, which way it was going, and what it was doing. Taught by John Halsell, an outdoor educator from Oregon.

## Dolphin & Wildlife Cruises

When: 3:00-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.  
Where: Pine Island Sound; leaves from McCarthy's Marina on Captiva.  
Fee: \$20/adult, \$12.50/children. Reservations, call 472-5300.

Narrated by Conservation Foundation docents, Captiva Cruises' trips are excellent opportunities to view wildlife in Pine Island Sound.

## Life Along Our Trails

When: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:00 a.m.  
Where: Programs begin in Nature Center, proceed to trails.

Fee: Free to members; \$3 for nonmembers.

A docent will guide you along Center Tract trails and discuss the interior wetland habitat, natural and cultural history, land management, and preservation.

## Lessons from the Eye of Charley Cruises

When: 1:00-3:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.  
Where: Pine Island Sound; leaves from McCarthy's Marina on Captiva.  
Fee: \$25. Reservations required, call 472-5300.

SCCF and Captiva Cruises are partnering on a program that offers a look at the science of hurricanes and their effects as participants cruise aboard the Lady Chadwick through Roosevelt Channel to Redfish Pass. An optional \$5 contribution will help revegetate Foundation preserves.

## Shoreline Discovery

When: Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.  
Where: Meet at the Nature Center for a trip to a local beach.  
Fee: Free to members and children, \$5 for nonmembers plus beach parking fee, approximately \$2.

Learn about the animals that live along and use our shores, the life cycles of the sea turtles that nest there, and the natural forces that shape the barrier islands of Sanibel and Captiva. Shoreline Discovery walks will explore the fascinating marine creatures that live in this highly dynamic ecosystem. Programs begin in SCCF's Nature Center around the marine touch tank, and then proceed to Gulfside City Park for a beach walk.

## Take Me to the River

When: Wednesday, Dec. 22, Tuesday, Dec. 28, and Wednesday, Jan. 5, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Nature Center and trails.

Fee: \$5.00/adults; kids free (must be accompanied by an adult). Reservations required.

A program for children ages 5 to 12 to learn about the importance and the fascinating aspects of wetlands by exploring and investigating Sanibel's interior wetlands.

## Tour de Preserves

When: Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Where: Meet in the Nature Center parking lot.  
Fee: \$10 for members (includes lunch); \$35 for non-members (includes lunch and individual membership).

Bike tour to SCCF preserves. Learn about the preservation of interior freshwater wetlands and the Sanibel River corridor, which provide upland and wetland habitat for a diversity of wildlife. Call Melissa for details and reservations, 472-2329.

## Watershed Adventure: Fakahatchee

When: Dec. 14 and 18. Reservations required, call 472-2329.  
Where: Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve.  
Fee: To be announced.

Volunteer naturalist John Elting will lead a swamp walk into the Fakahatchee Strand in Collier County, home to a remarkable number of plant species, including the elusive ghost orchid.

## Bortone, from page 15

Mote Marine Lab noted that the dolphins in the Sound disappeared for a few days. Mote also made an interesting discovery regarding sharks: Mote has 20 acoustic detectors in Pine Island Sound, tracking tagged sharks and producing a generalized record of their movement in the bay. Several hours before the hurricane, there is no record of shark movement. Either the sharks moved out of the area (but the indicators do not show this movement) or the sharks sat out the storm on the bottom.

## Better tracking of hurricane impact

In October of 2003, the Marine Lab held an "Estuary Indicators workshop," out of which has come a 568-page scholarly monograph, *Estuarine Indicators*,

edited by Bortone, which has just been published by CRC Press. Next year's workshop will be about hurricanes and Bortone wants the group to determine "what should we have been measuring in advance. The next conference focus will be on what we need to do to prepare for assessing hurricanes. One hurricane can make changes that are normally made over a hundred years, in a few hours. They rework the system, throwing stuff down streams and cutting passes..."

"I've been directly hit by 10 hurricanes. It's the same thing every time and I'm getting a little tired of it. We need to find out: what are the minimal things that every lab should be studying in order to measure the impact. I think we can do better."

## Christmas Bird Count volunteers needed

San-Cap Audubon will conduct its annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, Dec. 18. The results of the local count will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in the

105th National Christmas Bird Count. anyone wishing to participate in this year's Sanibel-Captiva CBC may obtain additional information by calling 395-1878

## Audubon outing on December 11

The next Sanibel-Captiva Audubon birding outing will take place on Saturday, December 11 (tomorrow) at Bunche Beach, across the Causeway approx. 2.5 miles; right on John Morris Road to end. Meet at 8 a.m. Be sure to

wear shoes that can get wet.

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

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## McCarthy's Marina and dock re-open

After three months of renovation, historic McCarthy's Marina on Captiva Island is re-opening. The marina building dates back to the early 1900s, when Pops Randall and his wife lived there and ran the Captiva ferry dock on the property. It was the lifeline to the island of Captiva.

Later in the '40s, '50s and early '60s (before the causeway was built in 1963), the property was a legendary gathering place, known as Andy's. Andy Rosse and his wife, Dessi, ran the dock and waterfront saloon, which hosted locals as well as more famous Americans, such as Ding Darling and Adlai Stevenson.

Paul McCarthy, the present owner, acquired the property from Andy's children. The property suffered extensive damage after Hurricane Charley. After three months of hard work by the Captiva Cruises crew with acting "foreman," Captain John Salus of Sanibel, the historic marina building and dock have reclaimed

their former glory. The marina building has now survived the hurricanes of 1921, 1924, 1926, Hurricane Donna in 1960, the no-name storm of 1986, and Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jean of 2004.

On Thursday, Dec. 9, from 4 - 8 p.m., McCarthy's Marina will host its grand re-opening in tribute to the legendary heritage of Pops Randall and Andy Rosse featuring local Captiva favorites such as Queenie's Homemade Ice Cream and resident band The Troublemakers. Additional food and drinks will be available as well as dolphin and sunset cruises.

Don't miss the festivities at McCarthy's Marina located on the bay-side of Andy Rosse Lane on Captiva. In the tradition of the Captiva Ferry Dock, Captiva Cruises is now leaving from McCarthy's Marina to explore the islands of Cabbage Key, Useppa and Cayo Costa State Park. Please call 472-5300 for additional information.

## Matzaluna celebrates ten years of great food

In honor of their tenth anniversary Matzaluna will offer ten dinners priced at \$10 for ten days, starting December 10. Choices include, but are not limited to Linguini with white or red clam sauce, Penne Saluto, Chicken Parmesan, Eggplant Parmesan, Lasagna Bolognese, Chicken Marsala, Calamari Marinara, Pork Marsala or Tilapia Piccata\*.

All specials include a choice of soup or salad and fresh baked bread (served with roasted garlic and olive oil). To help you

celebrate try our famous "Matzarita for two". A giant margarita served in a 46 oz. glass which will also be available for \$10.

Matzaluna is located at 1200 Periwinkle Way. Dinner is served daily from 5 pm to 9 pm. Call ahead seating is available.

\*These specials are not valid with any other discounts or coupons and are for dining in only. Call 472-1998 for more information.

## Walk in the footsteps of the Calusa

The Randell Research Center at Pineland will officially inaugurate its new interpretive public walking trail, called the Calusa Heritage Trail, on Friday, December 10, during a ceremony to take place at 10 a.m. at the site's main gate at 13810 Waterfront Drive in Pineland.

The Calusa Heritage Trail is a new self-guided walking trail that will lead visitors among the prehistoric Calusa mounds at the Pineland archaeological site. The trail, which has been in development since 2001, features museum-quality interpretive signs, paved walkways, observation platforms, a boardwalk, and a footbridge over the 1,000-year-old Pine Island Canal. The Calusa Heritage Trail will supplement other new visitor facilities surrounding the Randell Research Center teaching pavilion complex, which includes a parking area, picnic grounds, restrooms, and an activity deck.

Major funding for the Calusa Heritage Trail has been made possible by a Special Category Grant from the Florida

Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, and through in-kind services and the efforts of many volunteers.

The Randell Research Center is a program of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. The Randell Research Center's mission is to learn and teach the archaeology, history, and ecology of Southwest Florida.

Directions: From Exit 143 on Interstate 75, follow Pine Island Road (Hwy. 78) west through Matlacha to its end at Stringfellow Rd. Turn right and go 3.1 miles to intersection of Pineland Rd. on left. Turn left and go 1.2 miles (go past the RRC headquarters next to Pineland Post Office) to end of Pineland Road at waterfront. Continue right along Waterfront Drive 0.2 miles, just past Tarpon Lodge to Randell Research Center sign and gate on right. Overflow parking at Tarpon Lodge.

*Ed note: From Sanibel, allow a little over one hour to reach Randell.*

## Seniors, from page 13

members and enjoy one of the many programs offered. The Center is located at the corner of Palm Ridge Road and Library Way. For information about membership and activities, call 472-5743.

### E-Mail Class at Senior Center

Island Seniors are offering a one day E-mail workshop on Wednesday,

December 15, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. This is a "hands-on" class and will be taught by Patty Waters, who frequently teaches PC classes at the Senior Center. The cost is \$25 for Island Seniors members and \$35 for non-members. The class is limited to six students so sign up soon. Come by the Center at Palm Ridge Road and Library Way to register. Payment is due at registration.

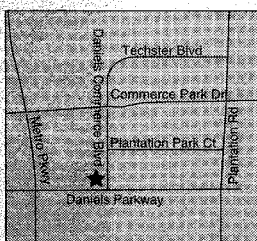
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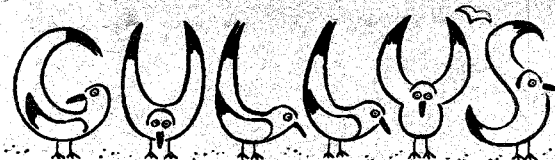
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## London evangelical to preach here this weekend

The Rev. Canon Michael Saward of London is Guest Preacher this weekend for all services at Saint Michael and All Angels Church at 2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. Services are at 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday.

Michael Saward is retired Canon Residentiary at Saint Paul's Cathedral, London. He was Visiting Theologian at Saint Michael's several years ago. He and his wife Jackie will return for a visit with us for the week. He also preaches at the Episcopal Cathedral in Miami and else-

where in Florida on this tour.

Canon Saward is a prolific author and hymn writer. Books include *These are the Facts*, and *A Faint Streak of Humility*.

Hymn texts include *A babe was born on Christmas morn*. All-creating heavenly giver, And though our tongues are earth-bound clay, Baptised in water, sealed by the Spirit, Christmas for God's holy people. A listing (with text) can be found at [www.jubilate.co.uk](http://www.jubilate.co.uk)

For more information, please call 472-2173, ext. 5.

## Sign up now for the Safe Boating Course

There's still time to sign up for the Public Safe Boating course offered by the Sanibel Captiva Sail & Power Squadron. The course begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 8 at the Sanibel School. It consists of four classroom sessions, plus an educational cruise, participation in live demonstrations at Sanibel Safe Boating Day (February 5), and an exam. Class size is limited. To pre-register, call Jim Strothers at 395-1856 today.

This is an introductory course that teaches the basics of safe boating. Included are the "rules of the road", making sure your boat is properly equipped, some basic

navigational instruction, use of a marine radio, basic weather, engine troubleshooting, and basic piloting.

An important feature of the course is the educational cruise. Students take a cruise of the local area lasting approximately two hours. They learn what the different markers mean as well as what the same area looks like after dark.

On Sanibel Safe Boating Day (February 5) students will participate in live demonstrations presented by the Sanibel Marine Patrol, the Sanibel Fire Department and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Upon completion of the course, students are offered membership in the Power Squadron, which will allow them to take many more advanced courses to improve their boating knowledge and skills. Advanced Power Squadron courses being offered include engine maintenance; marine electronics; weather; cruise planning; sailing; seamanship;

piloting; advanced piloting; navigation and skipper saver. For more information about advanced courses, contact Jim Bradford at 768-5476.

Chartered in 1975 with 50 members, today the Sanibel Captiva Sail & Power Squadron has 400 members. The United States Power Squadron is the oldest organization in the U.S. dedicated to safe boating. It has over 450 squadrons with over 60,000 members.

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## Sanibel Sixth Graders Take Power Squadron's Safe Boating Class

Eighteen sixth graders at the Sanibel School are taking a boating safety course using the U. S. Power Squadron's Boat Smart textbook. Assistant Principal Nancy McDole and volunteers from the Sanibel Captiva Sail & Power Squadron began teaching the classes on October 18 to review the basic elements of safe boating.

The Boat Smart exam will be given to the students in two parts, as mid term and final exams. This is the second session of sixth grade students taking a Power Squadron safe boating course and the Sanibel School requested the class.

During a discussion of smart and safe boating, all of the class had one or more stories to relate about some extreme boating situation that they or someone they knew had experienced. (Happily no one in the stories was seriously hurt), but the students clearly understood how quickly a situation on the water can become unsafe.

Students will also participate in the many activities scheduled for Sanibel Safe Boating Day on February 5, 2005 including live fire extinguisher drills, man over-

board drills and a throwable device toss.

Covered topics include fueling, weather forecasts, local hazards, loading gear and passengers properly, getting underway, your boat's wake, turning, backing, waves, docking and tying up and knots and hitches. Sanibel and state of Florida "rules of the road", water sport safety, boating courtesy, distress signals, navigation rules, aids to navigation, required boating equipment, adverse conditions and emergencies.

On December 6, students participated in an emergency shutdown and radio drill using a simulated boat console designed by Jim Strothers. The U. S. Coast Guard assisted in the emergency shutdown session.

Volunteers from the Sanibel Captiva Sail & Power Squadron assisting in the class include Jim Strothers, who arranged the class schedule, Mary-Paige Abbott, Joanne Heroy-Giller, Bob Allen, Dale McGinley, Yvonne Neal, Mike Neal and John Carney.


## Sanibel Sixth Graders Compete in U. S. Power Squadron's Youth Poster Contest

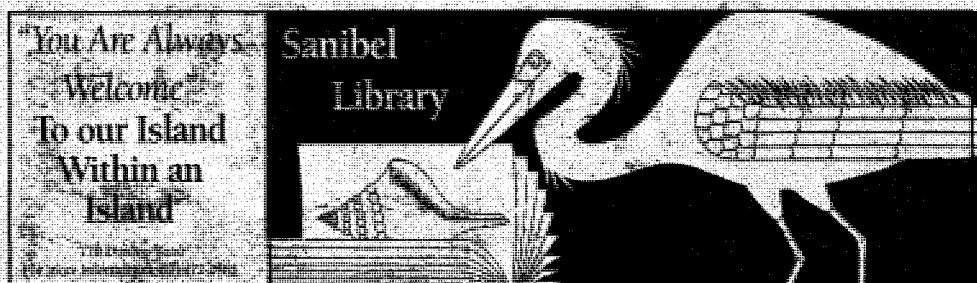
The theme of the 2004-2005 U. S. Power Squadron's 8th annual youth poster contest is "Be Water Smart - Boat Safety". Safe boating class students are entering the contest. January 7, 2005 is the deadline for entries.

Three winners of the poster contest (to be judged by Sanibel Captiva Sail &

Power Squadron members) will receive U. S. Savings Bonds. As a special prize, the winners and one of their parents will be hosted to ride on a Fort Myers Beach Coast Guard cutter at the end of February.

Contact Joanne Heroy-Giller at 590-0735 for more information about the poster contest.

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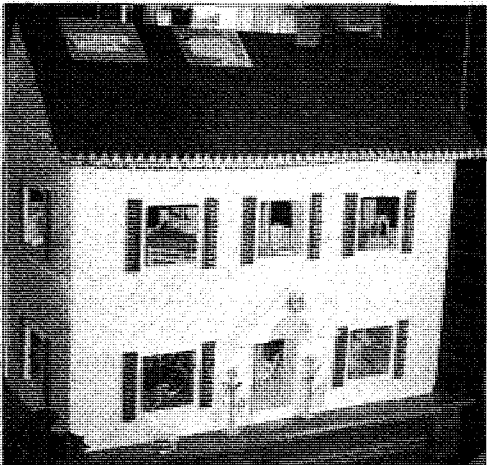
## Christmas at the Historical Museum

### 1936 dollhouse draws a crowd at Historical Museum

A two-story, three-foot long doll house is the buzz at this year's Holiday Antique Toy show at the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum. The house, replete with vintage 1930s toy furniture, was built by Raymond Clinton for his daughter, Mary Ann Wasson. Clinton, uncle of former President Bill Clinton, enjoyed working with wood and made the house for Mary

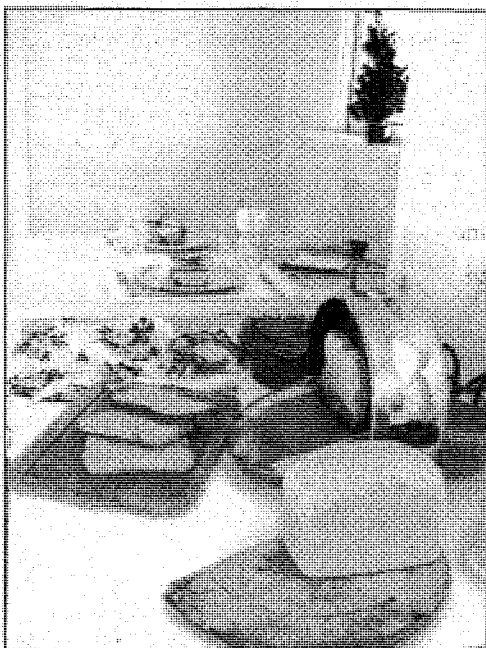
Ann in 1935. The doll house was passed down from generation to generation and has now been donated to the museum to be enjoyed by new groups of children.

The Antique Toy Show runs from December 1 - January 8 at the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum located at 950 Dunlop Road. The Village is open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. from Wednesday to Saturday. Donation is \$5. For more information, please call 472-4648.

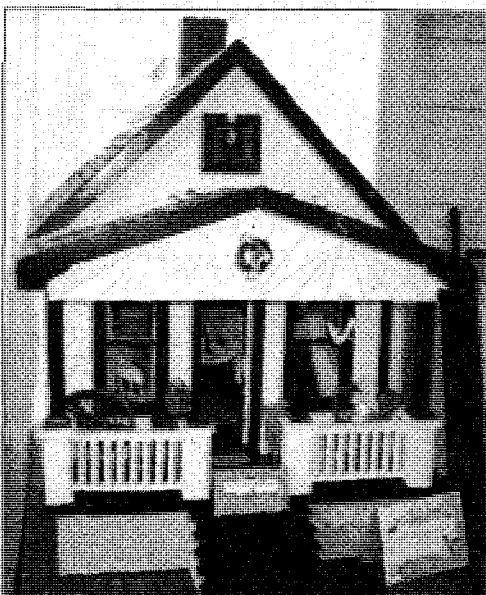


Throughout the Village, the exhibits are themed "Christmas wasn't depressing on Sanibel during the Depression." Displays are evocative of simpler times.

In the Morning Glories cottage (always a favorite): classic Blue Willow child-size china tops a table and wicker chair set under the tree in the den. In the kitchen, Christmas morning breakfast awaits at the built-in table.



In the Rutland House, (left) 1930s-era toys are under the paper-chain decorated tree; Below: a second dollhouse.



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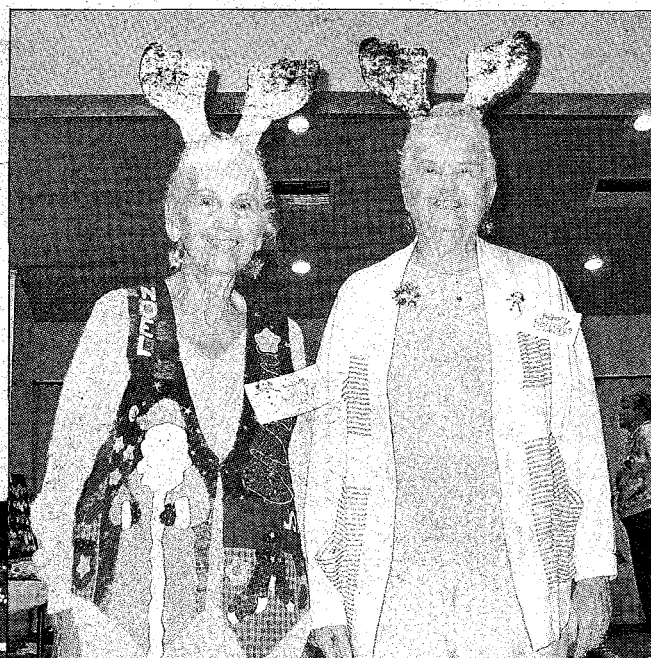
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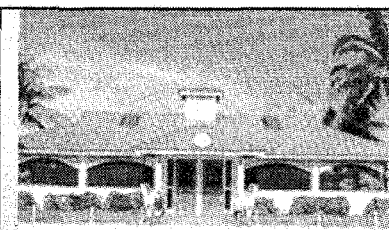


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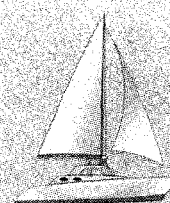
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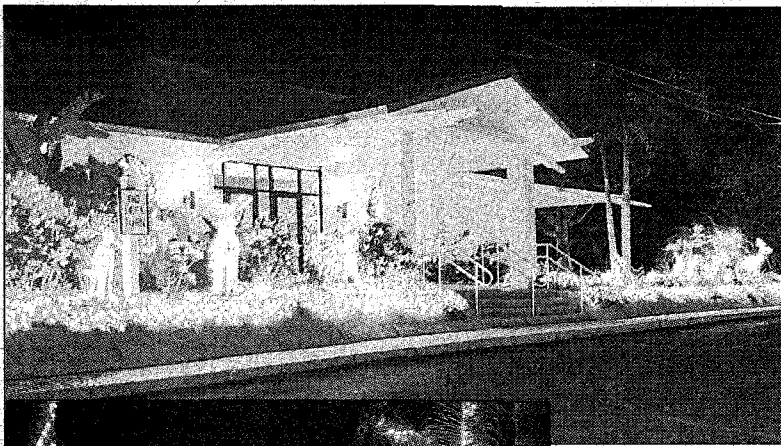
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Photos by Karen Nelson & Laura Nickerson

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Santa, Terri Bryan and Michelle Mahaney relaxing by Island Cow; Danny Morgan and friend performing at Jerry's; Reindeers Fredda Koorhan and Ruth Mattingly at the Community House; Mrs. and Mrs. Claus: Betty and Clair Gardner; Peace on Earth at Tuttle's; Trolley stop at Sanibel Community Church; Traders and (center) Sanibel Community Church.



This page, clockwise from top left: Bank of the Islands; a Sanibel snowman at Forever Green Shops; Olde Sanibel; Schoolhouse Theatre pals Victor Legarreta, Mike Baer and Peter Riopelle; Heart of the Islands; Steve McDougall performing at the Sanibel Company and (center) Laney Fay and Elise Fay, with friend Emily Eldh. Below: She Sells Sea Shells



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## CROW says "thank you" for Holly Ball success

On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and most importantly the injured and orphaned wildlife that can't speak for themselves, The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) would like to say thank you to the individuals and companies that made the 2004 Holly Ball such a success.

On December 4, more than 160 friends of CROW attended the Holly Ball, held at the Community Center in Sanibel, raising much needed support to continue the work in caring for our wildlife friends.

"We would like to express special thanks to Al Hanser

and his team at The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company which served as our sponsor. They have been very generous and helped make the Holly Ball even more of a success," said CROW President, Ann Moran. "Most importantly, the Holly Ball Committee, or as we like to call them, the



Holly Belles, organized a fabulous and festive event which people look forward to attending each year to ring in the holidays."

These special people are Sara Berendt; Jean Black; Jan Brodbeck; Lena Brown; Jo Fernandez; Ginny Fleming and Patty Sprinkle. They are

amazing in their commitment to making Sanibel a wonderful place to live, and we at CROW are very lucky to have their support behind our efforts and the care of our wildlife."

Moran also said "CROW relies exclusively on private donations to operate, and its events such as the Holly Ball and others, that bring in the necessary support for CROW."

The number of CROW patients continues to increase, and financial contributions are very important. Gifts can be mailed to CROW at PO Box 150; Sanibel, FL 33957. For more information about CROW, contact Birgit Vertesch, director of development directly at 239.395.5357 or 239.472.3644.



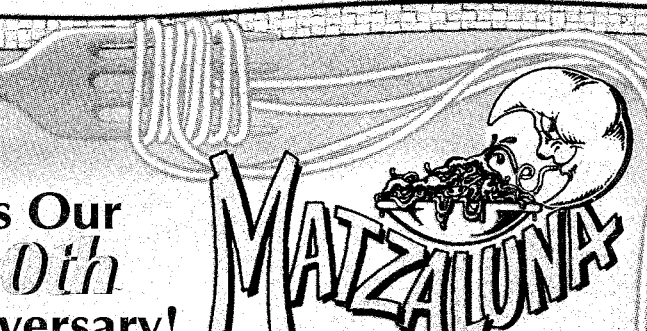
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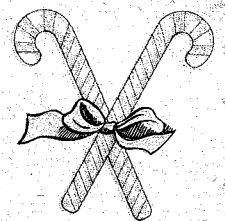
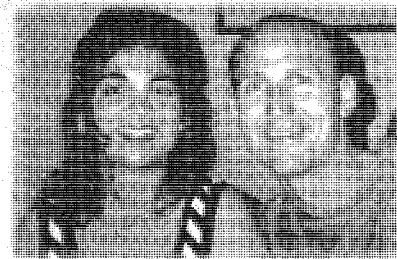
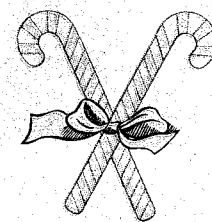
**Choices will include, (but not be limited to) Linguini with white or red clam sauce, Penne-Saluto, Chicken Parmesan, Lasagna Bolognese, Chicken Marsala, Calamari Marinara, Pork Marsala or Tilapia Piccata. \***

**All specials include a choice of soup or salad and fresh baked bread (served with roasted garlic and olive oil).**

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So, during this holiday season, remember, Whatever precious gift you give, be sure it's from the heart.

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## CENTER STAGE

### Deck the halls! Jingle those bells!



**Marsha Wagner**

I'm here to report that Broadway Palm's *Holly Jolly Christmas Revue* is really swell. The fresh-faced, talented cast of this production is the real star of this Ho!Ho!Ho! holiday show, along with gifted Writer/Director Paul Gregory Nelson. Nelson really understands the revue format and has put together an altogether first rate original Christmas revue. He cleverly strings together seasonal tunes and mixes them with a story line loosely based on hit Broadway musicals — a sort of *Christmas Chorus Line* meets *42nd Street* at Radio City Music Hall. The result is a fast-paced, colorful, funny and spirited two hours of entertainment — perfect for putting audiences in a festive frame of mind. Add to that eye-popping, colorful apparel by the costume team of Jim Conti, Marylu Hubbard & Jo Alexon, the sprightly razzmatazz choreography by Lauren Loercher and you've got a sure-fire recipe for a Holiday Punch that appeals to everyone.

The opening musical medley features the entire cast (all 26 of 'em!) singing Yuletide favorites, while performing a rousing, razzle-dazzle tap number à la *42nd Street* — Loercher at her best. Nelson introduces the *Christmas Chorus Line* element by having an elf director auditioning performers for a Santa Claus Revue. The dancers trying to land the chorus jobs are asked to bare their souls, by sharing Christmas reminiscences. This inventive format serves to string together the numerous musical selections for this show.

"Reindeer Games" opens the proceedings, with Santa's sleigh-totin' reindeer taking five by hoofing a tap number while goofing off on the roof. We meet "Dwayne, the Reindeer," a chubby fella who can't quite cut the leaps over the rooftops. Then there's "Leroy, the Red-Necked Reindeer," who jingles bells with rebel yells



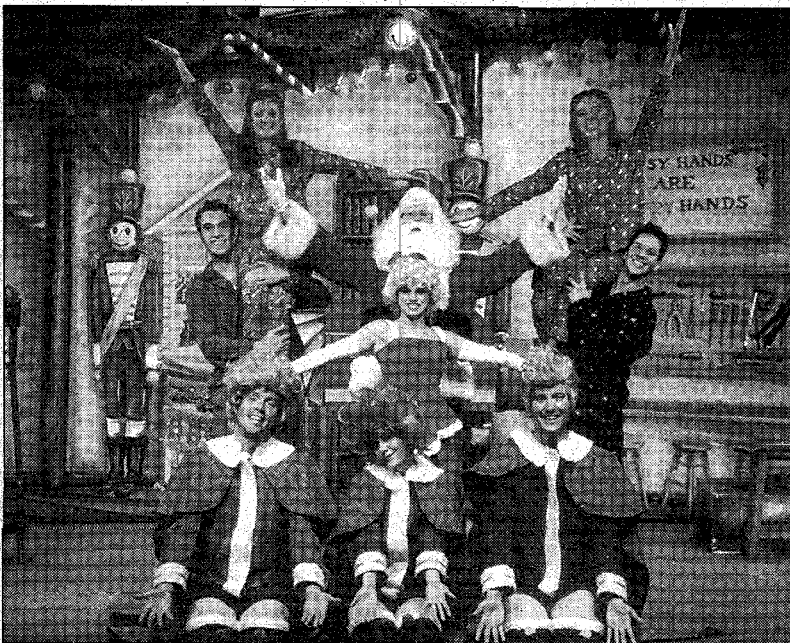
while delivering his toys to good old boys.

The "Christmas is Love" segment is a tender, sweetly sung salute to our service men and women away from home, both past and present. "Shopping Days" is right on, centering on how we go rushing about in frantic, frenzied, traffic-filled days 'til we wind up in a shopping daze. Scenic Designer Kristian Perry's recreation of the manger scene, for "The True Meaning of Christmas" is every bit as effective on a small scale, as is The Radio City Music Hall's Nativity Scene, on their grand stage. This section, which included the Three Kings, shepherds and townspeople singing Christmas carols, served as a moving traditional ending for the First Act.

"Snow Play," which opened Act II was a scene straight out of a winter wonderland, and included a snowman and snow falling from The Broadway Palm's snow machine. (Served as a "brrrr" reminder of why I chose to live in Florida.) "Good Olde St. Nick" took place in Santa's high tech, computerized workshop and featured a sexy version of Mrs. Claus vamping the big guy with "Santa Baby," as a trio of comic elves served as fitness trainers for the Big Nick, after "Santa Got Stuck in the Chimney." One of the high points of Act II was an unpredictable version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," played strictly for laughs, in which we got the real poop on the Partridge in the Pear Tree. The finale pulled out all the stops for Santa's *Holly Jolly Christmas Revue* — "We Need a Little Christmas" followed by a reprise of the title tune and segueing into "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." ...which they certainly did, receiving a deservedly enthusiastic standing ovation from the Happy Holiday audience. Broadway Palm's *Holly Jolly Christmas Revue* is indeed the plus-perfect holiday entertainment for the whole family, because it is, in fact, a jolly good show — ideal for getting into the Christmas Spirit.

Take my suggestion — phone 278-4422 today as this terrific show is bound to sell out completely. It only plays till Dec. 25th.

Don't forget, when you call, remind 'em Marsha sent you.



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## A Kids Conspiracy farewell from Shawn Holiday

After careful consideration, I've decided to cancel this season's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Casting was a problem and frankly it's been a struggle to get people to our shows. I was excited about performing at my church—and hope to do again in the future—but we had less than two weeks and still hadn't gotten through a rehearsal with a full cast. There are no other public performances scheduled.

Since stumbling into this abyss six years ago, it became an amazing project and I'm thankful for the many people I've met. There are incredible youngsters out there and society will benefit from their wisdom, insight, creativity, compassion and joy. What I will miss most was the process. It was nothing I invented, but I learned how to facilitate the transformation of strangers and words into a living idea that entertained and inspired. With a quality show as our goal, we managed to create lasting memories and foster skills that will serve people well regardless of the future. And I got to give long speeches to a captive audience.

The good news is we're still presenting *Don Quixote de la Mancha* in area schools this winter and spring. Several of my more committed (i.e., naive) actors insist on producing their own shows and I've offered to help. And if you want to do something about cultural pursuits for children, then I encourage you to contact your area art league or agency and find out what YOU can do. Form your own acting troupe, start doing puppet shows, dance on the sidewalks. And PATRONIZE local artists and events. If you like something, act like it.

I'll still be teaching classes at the Alliance and doing my ADULT comedy. And who knows? The painful memories fade faster than the good ones so that my judgement may again be distracted by the bright lights.

Always remember, nothing is too wonderful to be true.

*So long and thanks for all the fish!*  
Shawn

BTW, In other news, the Young Artists Awards is donating thousands of dollars in savings bonds during their competition on Feb. 28 at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Those excelling in voice, music, drama and dance are encouraged to participate. Anyone interested MUST audition on Jan 15 or 22. Pre-registration is required. For more information, check out: [www.YoungArtistsAwards.org](http://www.YoungArtistsAwards.org); e-mail [YoungArtists2005@aol.com](mailto:YoungArtists2005@aol.com); or call 239-574-9321.

AAAAaaannnd there is an amazing show called Cuttings being presented by Theatre Conspiracy. It's from a new playwright, Thomas Atkinson, who created one of the best scripts I've seen. The first ten minutes will amuse then startle you. It's an intelligent piece with some macabre allegories that today's nihilistic teens will love. Tickets are \$16 and students at only \$5. There's two weekends left. Check out [www.theatreconspiracy.org](http://www.theatreconspiracy.org) or call 936-3239.



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## The Nutcracker returns to Sanibel



On Saturday, December 18, Schein Hall at the BIG ARTS on Sanibel will be a-glitter with *The Sugar Plum Fairy*, the dancing sweets, and waltzing flowers! Yes, it's *Nutcracker* time again, and the world's best-loved holiday ballet is returning to Sanibel by popular demand for the fourth consecutive year.

Gulfshore Ballet and BIG ARTS are co-sponsoring this very special holiday program as a community event. There will be both a Matinee and Evening performance to give more people the opportunity to attend. The matinee performance at 4 p.m. will be an all-student performance. The evening performance at 7:00 p.m. will feature New York City Ballet guest dancers Ashley Bouder and Jock Soto in the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier. Both performances will be introduced by Steve Greenstein, executive director of the Sanibel-Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce. The evening per-

formance will be followed by a complimentary "Nutcracker Sweets" reception on the veranda.

*The Nutcracker* is an event to be enjoyed by the entire family and is a wonderful way to begin the holiday weekend. Ticket prices for the matinee performance are only \$10 for adults, and this performance is FREE for all children and students. Tickets for the evening performance and "Nutcracker Sweets" reception are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and children. We expect both performances to sell out early, so families are urged to reserve their tickets now by calling the BIG ARTS box office at 395-0900.

Gulfshore Ballet is a nonprofit educational institution providing classical ballet training and education to children in Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties. The School is located at 2155 Andrea Lane in Fort Myers.

For information, call 590-6191.

## Cindy-Lee sizzles in *The Blonde Songbook*

By Laura Nickerson  
Staff Writer

There's a formidable new talent around town, and it belongs to someone who's been right under our noses for several years. Cindy-Lee Overton may be better known to local theater buffs as the general manager of the J. Howard Wood Theatre a few years back, or as marketing director for Florida Repertory Theatre — a position she held for the last two years — and recently resigned, but if her riveting performance in her own one-woman show, *The Blonde Songbook*, on Tuesday, Nov. 23, at the Science of Mind Church in Cape Coral was any indication, big things can be expected from Cindy-Lee.

*The Blonde Songbook* is a musical comedy montage celebrating the lifestyles and work of some of Hollywood's most beloved blonde bombshells. Performed in a cabaret style, with a fine, four-piece, breezy band which handles the transitions from swing, to torchy ballad, and everything in between with enjoyable ease, *The Blonde Songbook* really rocks.

Cindy-Lee's petite but curvaceous frame and Harlowesque-waved locks form the perfect frame on which to hang her series of vamping persona clips that are strung between musical numbers.

From scorching sex symbols like Mae West, Marlene Dietrich, Marilyn Monroe, and Jean Harlow to some "cooler" blondes like Doris Day, Rosemary Clooney, Mary Martin, and Angela Lansbury, Cindy-Lee charismatically brings into play some famous lines and lesser known facts about each star before launching into a song with a campy line or two in the style of the original.

All that would be enough to make a fun show; but it pales beside what happens next: Each time Cindy-Lee begins to sing a song in earnest, in her own style, to her own arrangements, magic blossoms on the stage.

The well-executed dancing, aptly delivered one-liners, and general cavorting in no way prepares the audience for the amazing qualities of Cindy-Lee's voice.

She teases, aches, cries, then soars in



tones that range from sexy throaty whippers to low, well-modulated moans, to crystal clear, bell-like chimes of pure unadulterated joy.

One high point, borrowed from *Mame*, was the beautiful and poignant "If He Walked Into My Life," which Cindy-Lee dedicated to the brother who she raised, and which brought several in the audience to tears. Betty Hutton's "Rumble, Rumble, Rumble" was an energetic frenzy. During "Laziest Gal in Town," Cindy-Lee actually winds up singing soulfully while in a seductively prone position on the stage floor.

"I Wish You Love," made famous by Marlene Dietrich, was the stunning finale.

*The Blonde Songbook* represents Cindy-Lee's return to the stage after a two-year hiatus. The show was conceived, written, and arranged by Cindy-Lee and long-time accompanist, Regan Ryzuk, with contributions from the comedy and dance team of Honey and Buddy. It was first performed Off Broadway in New York, then rewritten and brought back again. It was presented at the Wood Theatre on Sanibel in 2002.

The show will be performed in New Port Richie this month, but islanders will get a closer opportunity to see it when *The Blonde Songbook* comes to "Tween Waters Inn on December 28 for a special holiday performance. Don't miss it!

## William Burden and Carol Chickering at BIG ARTS

It will be a wonderful night for island opera buffs when William Burden and Carol Chickering take the stage at BIG ARTS, Tuesday, December 21, 2004 at 8:00 p.m. This double billing of William Burden, tenor and Carol Chickering, soprano, promises an evening of glorious proportions. The program will include arias and duets from Verdi, Lehar and Sondheim.

William Burden has won an outstanding reputation in a wide-ranging repertoire throughout Europe and North America. He has recently debuted at the Metropolitan Opera, Opera de Nice, the Glimmerglass Opera and Opera de Lausanne as well as the Opera companies

of Philadelphia, Minnesota, the New York City as well as other acclaimed Opera companies in the United States and Europe. His performances in various roles attest to the diverse talent of this outstanding tenor. William Burden's concert repertoire ranges from the major oratorios of Bach, Mozart and Handel to contemporary works of Britten, Bernstein and Tippett among others. "Burden showed effortlessly and beautifully modulated lines, with a fluent stage presence," Opera Now.

Carol Burden earned her M.A. in Music from the Juilliard School. Shortly thereafter she apprenticed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago and since then has sung both opera and concerts throughout the

U.S. and Europe. Ms. Chickering was a regional prizewinner in the 1991 Metropolitan Opera competition, and a winner of the 1994 Liederkranz competition. Ms. Chickering is "a sensational discovery...with gleaming tone, wondrous agility and dramatic power," The Chicago Tribune.

The concert is generously sponsored by BIG ARTS' Angels and The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company. Tickets available at \$31, BIG ARTS,

(239) 395-0900, 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel.





## Bank to sponsor "Urban Cowboy" benefit for Gulfshore Ballet

Gulfshore Ballet, Southwest Florida's only non-profit classical ballet school, is pleased to announce Bank of the Islands is the Corporate Sponsor of "Urban Cowboy - A Boot Kickin' Island Fun-Raiser" scheduled for Friday evening, January 21 at the Sanibel Community House.

"Most people don't know that Melinda Roy, one of the ballet school's founders, is also a Tony-nominated Broadway choreographer," said Bank of the Islands President Robbie Roepstorff. "She choreographed the musical *Urban Cowboy*, and is able to bring the show's stars to Sanibel for a real down-home, fun event."

"This is going to be an evening for eating barbeque and kicking your heels up," said Co-chair Phil Johnson. "We'll have a deejay, Melinda will be teaching line dancing, and most importantly, the stars of the Broadway cast are performing the show's hit numbers."

Co-chair Nanelle Wehmann joined Johnson in also thanking Brenda and Marty Harrity of Doc Ford's for graciously donating the bar for the event.

Priced at only \$50, tickets can be purchased by calling Nanelle Wehmann at 395-2774.



Above: Wehmann, Roepstorff, Roy and Johnson plan *Urban Cowboy* fun-raiser; Right: The *Urban Cowboy* company.



## Beachview Women's Golf Association

**Results: Wednesday, Nov. 24**

*A small group of women golfers put aside their Thanksgiving preparations to golf on Nov. 24.*

**Event: Low Gross, Low Net, Low Putts**

18-hole	Score
<b>Low Gross</b>	
Jill Bugby	103
<b>Low Net</b>	
Jill Bugby	76
<b>Low Putts</b>	
Barbara McGuffin	32
<b>9-hole</b>	
<b>Low Gross</b>	
Barb Mulka	57
<b>Low Net</b>	
Barb Mulka	39
<b>Low Putts</b>	
Barb Mulka	18

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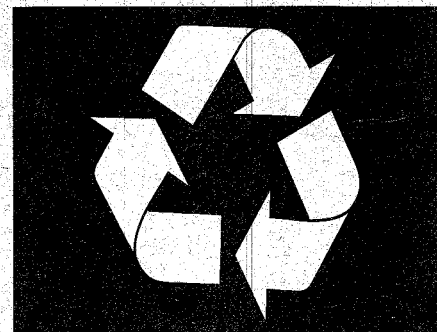
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## THE NEXT CHAPTER

Holidays are a family time and the three books I am reviewing this month are all about families, especially about the women in families. The authors prove that all families are dysfunctional, but they are dysfunctional in unique ways. Anyone who has ever lived in a family already knows that, but that makes the uniqueness of each family even more interesting.

I have also been told that I neglected another women mystery series in my mystery review column, that of Stephanie Plum by Janet Evanovich. Evanovich began her series with *One for the Money* and her most recent novel is *Ten Big Ones*, all published by St. Martin's Press. This has her lagging behind Sue Grafton who is already up to R in the alphabet, but since I hadn't read any of the Plum novels and have read all of the Grafton novels, it gives me something to work on while I wait for the next alphabet mystery. These novels are more comic than the Grafton, but she has a more dangerous job, that of a bounty hunter, but little is taken seriously - shades of Carl Hiassen and Donald Westlake.

But back to the family novels: *The Law of Bound Hearts* by Anne LeClaire, published by Ballantine Books, is about two sisters who grew up close in spirit, but opposite in personality. Libby, the older sister, was the rebellious child and Sam, the good girl. They have been estranged for six years because of an unforgivable act by Sam who is now in dire need of a kidney. When Sam contacts Libby, Libby is not interested in jump-starting their relationship, but her new love encourages her to unbury her feelings. This sounds like it might make for a maudlin story, but instead LeClaire concentrates on the binds that tie the sisters together that become unraveled, but not undone. LeClaire has written two other novels *Leaving Eden* and *Entering Normal* that deal with similar themes and she has a real knack for writing about ordinary women and getting under their skin and the readers.

*Within Arm's Reach* by Ann Napolitano, published by Shaye Areheart Books is written through six different points of view, focusing on three generations of women in one family. Catharine is the matriarch, mother of 9 children, two of whom were stillborn and one who died as a baby. In this book, she is approaching the end of her life, but is still very



Nola Theiss

involved in her children and grandchildren's lives. Like her Irish father before her, she also has vivid "sightings" of the past and sometimes the future. Her daughter, Kelly, is the mother of two grown daughters and is facing a crisis in her marriage and is feeling somewhat estranged from her mother, siblings and daughters, even though they are all living around her and are "within arm's reach". The two sisters, Lila and Gracie, are temporarily sharing a house owned by their grandmother and are close to her, but not to each other or their mother. It takes an unexpected pregnancies to bring all of them together. The author makes each of the main characters, Catharine, Kelly, Lila and Gracie unique in a related way, as if they are all parts of a cubist painting of one woman, seen through the distorted lens of time.

While the first two books are written about our time, the last book, *The Real Minerva*, written by Mary Sharratt, published by Houghton Mifflin Company, takes place in a flashback to 1923 in the small town of Minerva, Minnesota. Penny is the 15-year-old daughter of a housekeeper for a family of four girls whose mother is in a coma. When she discovers her mother is sleeping with the father of the family, she leaves to work for a strange woman who has escaped her wealthy but violent husband in Chicago to have her baby on her own. The novel is about sacrifices made by mothers for daughters, whether by birth or "adopted", and how women must find their own place and their own families. The three main characters are very well-developed as are their relationships where things are not what they seem on the surface at all.

Books about families with female main characters can often be clichéd because we think we already know everything about families as we all have one. Novels have to have a plot and medical emergencies, pregnancies and affairs are so often the crisis. So when you find a book that deals with these issues without giving the reader the feeling of "been there, read that", it's worth reading. I found these three novels remarkably fresh in their approach and also because the characters were not very likeable in that they were all flawed and difficult to live with, which may remind readers of their own family members, or even themselves.

## Overeaters Anonymous

Overeaters Anonymous (OA), a support group for compulsive overeaters, meets on the island each Monday from 4 - 5 p.m. at Sanibel Community Church.

OA is a fellowship of men and women from all walks of life who meet in order and help solve a common problem. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop eating compulsively.

Rather than endorsing specific diets or calorie-counting methods, OA follows the 12 step program of recovery to offer support in dealing both the physical and emotional symptoms of compulsive overeating. Any medically approved plan for

weight loss is acceptable.

Because it deals with inner change, OA is considered spiritual, but it has no religious requirement, affiliation or orientation. There are no dues or fees for membership but a small donation helps cover expenses of the meeting room.

For more information about OA meetings on the island, call Esther at 395-2544. OA meets on Mondays from 4 - 5 p.m. in Room 105 of the Family Life Building at the Sanibel Community Church, 1740 Periwinkle Way, next to Jerry's Shopping Center.

## POETIC LICENSE

### Sore Loser Blues

I wake up each morning but can't turn on the news,  
I wake up each morning, but won't turn on the news  
My coffee's cold and bitter with the sore loser blues.

Start to write a poem, but I can't find my muse,  
Start to write a poem, but just can't find my muse,  
She's run away and left me with the sore loser blues.

Called up Liberty Travel for a one-way Canada cruise,  
Called up Liberty Travel - one-way Canada cruise,  
They told me they're booked solid with the sore loser blues.

So I kept my Kerry sign, in case we didn't really lose,  
Yes, I kept my Kerry sign, just in case we didn't lose,  
But don't know where to put it with these sore loser blues.

Maybe I'll jump into the mainstream and drown my liberal views,  
Maybe I'll swim up that mainstream and drown these liberal views,  
It'll be easier to be narrow with the sore loser blues.

I called up the White House, congratulated Karen Hughes,  
I e-mailed the White House, congratulated Karen Hughes,  
She was happy to hear from someone with the sore loser blues.

Our nation's still divided, so pick a side to choose,  
Our nation's split in two, so pick a side to choose,  
It's either freeloading Red states or the sore loser Blues.

In 2008, a candidate to fill Bill Clinton's shoes,  
A Hillary-Barack slate to fill Bill Clinton's shoes,  
Ain't no better way to lose the sore loser blues.



Joseph Pacheco

## Christmas Open Mic at the Bean

The Sanibel Spoken Word will continue on Friday, December 17 between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m., with a Christmas Open Mic reading at The Bean on Sanibel. Writers, residents and visitors to the islands are invited to read and listen to original and favorite selections of poetry and prose.

Open Mic readings are informal. The only requirements are that performers sign the Reader's List and limit their reading time to five minutes. If you choose not to read, you are welcome to listen. For further information, please call Joseph Pacheco, 472-1280 or the Bean, 395-1919.

## Beachview Men's Golf Association

It took Jack Tukey a while to get going, but when he found his groove, it was awesome. Tukey scorched the Beachview golf course for a blazing 64 on Saturday, Nov. 13, to win the A Flight title in the Fall Classic, the first "major" of the year for the Beachview Men's Golf Association. The 64 was a 10-stroke improvement over Tukey's 74 in the Tuesday, Nov. 9, half of the 26-hole event.

And the friendly Illinoisan needed it all to battle down long-hitting Barry Humphries and Gus Young. Humphries finished 72-68 before losing a scorecard playoff to Tukey. Young put together steady scores of 68-71 to lose by one stroke and settle for third.

Tom Ware, who sent hundreds of sportsmen off the great adventures in the spectacular Ely, Minnesota area as a canoe outfitter, won the B Flight handily, putting a Saturday 67 next to his Tuesday 69. That gave him a five-shot win over Dave Bugby, who posted 72-68. Rene Lohser, a Switzerland native, captured third place with 76-69.

In the Gold Flight, it was a case of experience being served. Rudy Salzman and Bob Myers battled down to the wire before Salzman won by a single stroke.

The amazing fact is that the dynamic duo get a discount when they buy candles (180!) for their birthday cakes. Salzman, from Wausau, Wisconsin, banged out a nifty 63-64 set while Myers, the pork king of Indiana, shot 62-66. Al Krause, a mere youngster in this company, was third with 66-64.

### Tuesday Memory Test

You could call in a memory test... the Tuesday, Nov. 16 event for the Beachview Men's Golf Association.

The tournament was labeled as a Variable Best Ball and the trick was to remember how many scores to put down on each hole. On par threes, a team entered three best scores. Par fours needed two best balls, while only one best score counted on par fives. Can onboard computers in carts be far behind?

The threesome of Don Hummel, Brad Norpell and Al Krause made a runaway of the tournament after all that high match work, putting together 51 strokes. That was 17 under the adjusted par of 68.

And it was far ahead of the runner-up team of Bjorn Olsson, Rene Lohser,

**Beachview, see right**



## Shell Point Christmas Joy concert

The Village Church at Shell Point Retirement Community invites you to take part in the 2004-2005 Season of Praise, where each concert and guest artist was chosen to offer a unique worship experience and inspirational message to fill your heart with joy.

Christmas Joy with Diane Bish  
Saturday, December 11 at 2 p.m.  
Sunday, December 12 at 6 p.m.

Renowned organ virtuoso and host of The Joy of Music television series, Diane Bish will play a concert of Christmas favorites for solo organ and perform with The Village Church Choir for other songs of the season. This concert will highlight the church's new 4-manual, 79-stop Renaissance Allen Organ.

Upcoming January Season of Praise Concerts will feature Tim Zimmerman & The King's Brass; international pianist Hunley Brown; A God & Country Celebration with The Barbary Coast Dixieland Band and Two Tenors - A Concert in White Tie and Jeans, featuring Barry Craft and John Hobson. A \$5 donation to The Village Church is suggested for each concert ticket. Tickets are available at the church office during business hours; call the Village Church office at 454-2147 for more info.



## Herman named asst. V.P. at Sanibel Captiva Trust

The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company is pleased to announce that Betsey M. Herman has been named to the position of assistant vice president.

"Betsey is a frontline ambassador in our company," said Sanibel Captiva Trust Company chairman and CEO Al Hanser. "She is a real asset in effective client relations."

Herman has over 20 years' experience working in the business and healthcare fields. In Baltimore, Maryland, Herman worked as a medical secretary for the Department of OB-GYN at The Union Memorial Hospital and later as office manager for Drs. Haws, Morris, Dudley, & Spencer-Strong, PA. Always interested in real estate, she gained sales experience selling homes for Long and Foster Realty and also as a loan officer at Home Security Mortgage. She then accepted a position in the real estate title business at Priority Title Services and eventually became a settlement officer. After moving to Captiva in 2000, she was assistant manager at Chico's and The Beach House. Herman now lives in Fort Myers.



Betsy Herman

## Santa Claus at SunTrust

SunTrust Bank on Sanibel invites all island children to come and see Santa Claus on Tuesday, Dec. 14 from 2 - 4 p.m.. He'll be visiting the SunTrust Bank at 2408 Periwinkle Way and children from age 0 to 110 are welcome!

## Beachview, from left

Ralph Suechting and John Moores. Their 57 nudged past the team of Ken Steele, Bob Myers and Jack Tukey by a stroke.

Put four hot golfers together in an event where only two scores count on each hole and what do you get? The answer was 40-under par when the Beachview Men's Golf Association played a four-person, 2-best ball on Nov. 20.

There certainly were no turkeys on the

scorecard of the winning team of Don Hummel, Rene Lohser, Bob Myers and Pat McGuffin, but there had to be some eagles scattered around the card.

Ken Steele, Al Krause, Dan Keys and George Osterfeld finished second with a minus-35. They nipped Itan Sheft, Bob Ritchlin, David Bugby and Tom McKenny, all course-side neighbors, by one shot.

## New Year's Eve at BIG ARTS

The planning is underway for a "Club BIG" ARTS New Year's Dance Party.

The party starts at 9 p.m. in Schein Hall. Come celebrate the ending of a very eventful filled 2004 and the arrival of the new year, 2005. Dance to the fabulous Vince Evans Quartet, featuring Evans on bass, Ron Beaver on piano, Jim Blakemore on drums and Sal Sprazzo on trumpet. Vince Evans was for many years house musician at the Ritz Carlton in Naples and led the house band at Ellington's when it first opened on

Sanibel.

A decadent dessert bar will be awaiting you with set-ups provided for the party. Come have fun with your friends and family (adults only). Dance the night away while socializing with your friends. At Midnight, "Club Big" will provide a Champagne toast, party hats, noise makers, balloons, and an atmosphere of celebration. Tickets are available at just \$40 per person. Come join the fun at "Club Big." Call BIG ARTS at 395-0900.

## Holiday family fun at BIG ARTS

Save the date and join the fun! Get in the holiday mood with BIG ARTS' popular favorite, light music and family concert, Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. The Chorus, conducted by Carol Gnat, and The Band, under the direction of Don Knowland, will present a program of hol-

iday music, popular marches, and a sing-a-long.

Refreshments will be offered following the concert. Tickets are available for \$5, children, 12 and under, free of charge. Call BIG ARTS, 900 Dunlop Road, 395-0900.

## New Year's Eve at Broadway Palm

Ring in the New Year at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre with the all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza, 42nd Street on December 31. The hit musical includes the songs Lullaby of Broadway, We're in the Money, I Only Have Eyes For You, Shuffle Off to Buffalo and more.

The New Year's Eve menu consists of chef carved Rib of Beef with Au Jus and Horseradish Sauce, Macadamia Nut Crusted Grouper With Mango Cream Sauce, Pork Tenderloin Roasted In Corn Husks, Chef Greg's Broadway Chicken Breast, Perme Pasta with basil, tomatoes and pine nuts, Twice Baked Potatoes, Mushroom Paella, Creamed Artichokes, Chef's Mix of Asparagus, Carrots and Brussel Sprouts, Peel & Eat Shrimp,

Seafood Salad and Holiday Desserts and Ice Cream.

After the performance of 42nd Street, there's a late night cabaret. Each guest at Broadway Palm receives champagne, noisemakers and hats for the official countdown. After midnight coffee and cookies will be served in the lobby.

Toast the New Year with 42nd Street at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. The New Year's Eve package is \$100 per person for dinner and the show. Tickets are limited. For reservations and more information, call 239.278.4422, visit the website at [www.BroadwayPalm.com](http://www.BroadwayPalm.com) or tickets can be purchased at the theatre box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

## Democratic Club cocktail party

The Democratic Club of the Islands will have a cocktail party to celebrate the end of the election season and the hurricane season. It will be at the Seafood Factory, 2499 Periwinkle Way (corner of Periwinkle Way and Tarpon Bay Rd.) on Wednesday, December 15, from 6 to 8PM. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served along with soft drinks, tea and coffee. Reservations are required. For information and reservations, call Shirley Bleiberg at 472-3016, or Charlotte Kowitch at 395-7637.



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## Reporter's Notebook: Art Basel Miami

By Amy Fleming  
Managing Editor,  
Captiva Current

Art Basel Miami was last weekend, drawing arts mavens from all over the world, including our little corner of Florida. Being arts enthusiasts ourselves, my husband Jim and I, and Seaweed Gallery's artist Christina Wyatt all piled into the car and headed over Alligator Alley to see what was new in the world of modern art.

Art Basel Miami takes its name from the annual international art show in Switzerland, and like its namesake, features more than a hundred leading galleries from New York, Japan, Mexico, France, Germany, and a host of other countries.

We pulled into the parking lot of the Miami Beach Convention Center, plopped down our twenty bucks per ticket, and spent the rest of the afternoon wandering through a virtual United Nations of artists and art dealers. Art Basel is essentially a trade show for galleries, with an enormous section of the convention center divided up into a maze of mini-galleries.

My conclusions were pretty much what I had gleaned from years of subscribing to Art in America - that modern art is growing increasingly conceptual, and more and more artists are foregoing the traditional oil on canvas imagery in favor of industrial materials. I don't say this as a complaint, personally, I'm fascinated by new materials and potential art applications.

It all started with Marcel Duchamp and his ready-mades back in 1917, when he hung a urinal on the wall with his signature on the base and declared it to be art. The relevant questions then became "What is art?" and "Is painting dead?" Decades later, Andy Warhol revived the discussion with his Brillo boxes and Campbell's Soup cans. This trend toward the mass-produced continues today, not so much in imagery, as in processes. Take photography for example. For a long time, the black and white gelatin silver print, shot and developed by the artist, was the industry standard. Now, it is being replaced by Duratrans, a commercial process used most visibly in the food courts of shopping malls, as menu boards. A color photographic image is made into a transparency, which is then attached to a light box and lit from behind. The effect is an image that literally glows. Sometimes it adds to the content, sometimes it doesn't.

Interestingly enough, Tom Wolfe, author of *The Painted Word*, *Bonfire of the Vanities*, was on C-Span Saturday evening talking about the demise of painting. He noted that art today purposefully distances the artist from the finished work. For example, the attachment of pigmented ice to a gallery wall. The ice is allowed to melt onto a canvas, with that canvas serving as the finished



work of art, with no sign of the hand of the artist visible anywhere.

Well, there certainly was some of that in Miami- slices of cheese slowly melting into a bowl of water, a mattress painted orange, with the orange paint dripping down the wall. Wolfe, however, was equally dismissive of installation art, a relatively new form that I personally like, and largely under-represented at Art Basel, due to the small spaces allotted each gallery.

Christina found a beautiful installation, *Home Sweet Home*, by El Salvadoran artist Ronald Moran. She said it really drew her in, moved by the quietness and softness of the piece. Given the huge visual overload of Art Basel, it had to have been something, to be able to pull viewers away from the almost carnival atmosphere surrounding it.

*Home Sweet Home* is about the growing domestic violence in Central America, and is represented here by an attempt to reduce the impact of potentially lethal objects. A kitchen, supposed to be the heart of a home, not the scene of abuse, is softened by being wrapped in white cotton batting. Ordinary objects that can be used as weapons, such as a chair, a belt, a dish, are also wrapped carefully in cotton, intended to temper the ability of abusers to use such objects to hurt. According to the artist's statement, it is a scene of faith and hope that homes can return to being places of sanctuary and comfort.

What is art? That lively and interesting conversation is still going on. For some, it's wet cheese. Is painting dead? No, but for now, it's fading to the background in favor of industrial processes.

Art Basel Miami is held the first weekend of December, and is followed by Art Miami in January, for a preview of Miami galleries.

## BIG/small Buy It off the Wall Exhibit

BIG ARTS' BIG/small BUY It off the Wall exhibit opened on December 6 in Phillips Gallery at BIG ARTS Center.

This non-juried show is open to all island and near-island artists, and will appeal to a wide spectrum of artists, collectors, and holiday shoppers. Each piece will be no larger than 10" X 14" and each time something sells it will be replaced by a new work until the show closes on December 29. Although this is a non-juried show, BIG ARTS Visual Arts Committee maintains very high quality standards and reserves the right to accept only appropriate work. Consequently, shoppers are sure to find something to please the most discriminating art lover on their gift list!

Come enjoy the fun and excitement of BIG ARTS' constantly changing art show! For more information, please call 395.0900.



## Sheila Tardosky One Woman Show

Local artist Sheila Tardosky will have a one woman show of her art works for the month of December at the Congregational Church on Sanibel in the Fellowship Hall.



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## Fifth Sense: Touchable art at the Alliance

The Lee County Alliance for the Arts opened their new December exhibition: "Fifth Sense," earlier this month and it runs through December 17. The show originated more than two years ago as a concept by Louise Senneff, executive director of the Alliance, when she wrote a grant application requesting underwriting funds from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation for "an exhibition geared toward sensory-impaired persons, which will not only meet that population's needs, but also provide an educational experience for the general public, local school students, and attract non-traditional arts patrons."

Senneff's grant was approved and the local non-profit civic organization, Visually Impaired Persons, Inc., agreed to be a partial sponsor, along with Gecko Custom Lab & Photography. With that support in place, logistical planning for the show began and "Fifth Sense" gathered artworks that can be "enjoyed through all the senses. Guides will be used to assist sensory-impaired patrons in experiencing the art in the show. Visitors who are not sensory-impaired will be able to experience the exhibit while blindfolded with the assistance of the guides as well, if they

wish." That way, sighted and other non-sensory-impaired individuals will be able to "sense" and experience the works of art through their somewhat altered, alternate "perspectives."

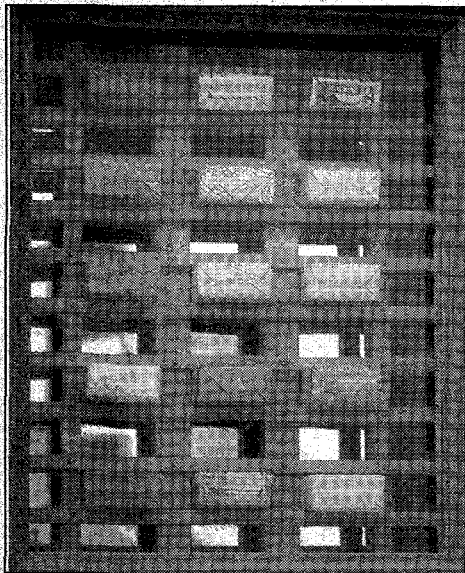
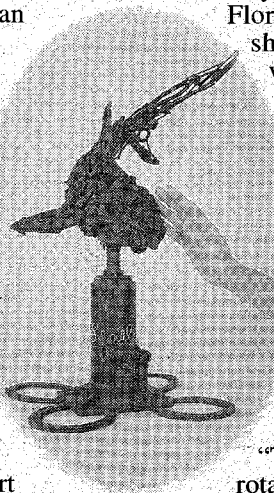
The artworks were judged by a panel of three individuals, including one visually impaired person and they were submitted by both local and other-area Florida artists. Many pieces in the show are three-dimensional works, which will be relatively "readable" by visitors' touch and feel. These include William Robb's "Applause Box", a wood construction containing little boxes that sounds like an audience clapping when it is shaken, and a series of special metal sculpture works on loan from private collections created by renowned local sculptor, Dan Swails. One of Swails' metal fabrications, "The Shark," uses horseshoes, a rotating car jack stand, and hundreds of nuts and bolts, etc.

There are also a number of two-dimensional works in "Fifth Sense" like paintings which incorporate texture and depth. One of these is a mixed media "Sea-Weed" beach scene painted (and assembled) by Maxine McCarty so that actual sand, sea oats, seashells, coconut tree and coconuts in the painting can be touched, felt, sensed and "seen by viewers".

In addition, "Fifth Sense" features a retrospective of abstract acrylic paintings sub-titled "A Journey" by Eunice Ison, the celebrated 93-year-old sight-and-hearing-impaired Fort Myers artist who has been painting for the past four decades, since the last of her four children finished college. Ison believes, "My painting is what keeps me alive. I live to create and I create to live." Her works are an enduring magnificent visual testament to the triumph of human creativity.

Concurrently on view in the Alliance's Member Gallery are paintings by Shirley Vikander, a North Fort Myers resident artist, whose works range from portraits

"Applause Box" by William Robb; "Sea Weed" by Maxine McCarthy and "The Shark" by Dan Swails



## Call for crafters

The Southwest Florida Craft Guild has issued a **call for artists for the Fine Craft Market Day** on Sanibel, to be held at the Community House at 2173 Periwinkle on Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Guild sponsors the event to promote member sales and invites area fine craft artists

to join them for this juried sale.

The event is the major scholarship fundraiser for area students of fine craft at Cypress Center for the Arts; the art program at the Sanibel School will also benefit. Entry deadline is February 14. For info, call Jerry Churchill at 472-3876.

## Myra Roberts at Arts for ACT

Sanibel artist Myra Roberts will have an exhibit, "Greetings from Florida" at the Arts for ACT Gallery at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. The opening reception will be on Friday, Dec. 3 from 7 - 10 p.m., and the show will continue until Jan. 5.

Captiva's RedFish BluFish will cater the opening reception, along with Thai Silk Café, located on First Street.

Roberts is an award-winning artist who has been featured in numerous group exhibitions and solo shows. As an accomplished portrait artist, her commissioned paintings capture the unique personality of her subjects. Painting endangered wildlife is one of her passions. A love of historical images, in particular post-World

War II Florida, provides a continual source of inspiration.

She works as a full time studio artist on Sanibel and her work is represented by the Seaweed Gallery on Sanibel and Captiva, as well as at the Arts for ACT Gallery.

Roberts describes her work as nostalgic. "I want people to have fun with my art, just like I'm having fun with my ever-changing styles and venues."

Proceeds help benefit Abuse Counseling and Treatment, a non-profit agency established to provide shelter, 24-hour hotline, counseling and education to victims of domestic violence and their families. For more info about ACT, contact Claudia at 939.2553.

## Fifth, continued from left below

to landscapes, seascapes, and abstractions.

Both "Fifth Sense" and all of Vikander's works are on view free of charge to the public through December 17 on Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Alliance galleries are located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard at Colonial, just south of the Midpoint Bridge overpass. Contact 939-2787 or exhibitions@artinlee.org for any additional information.

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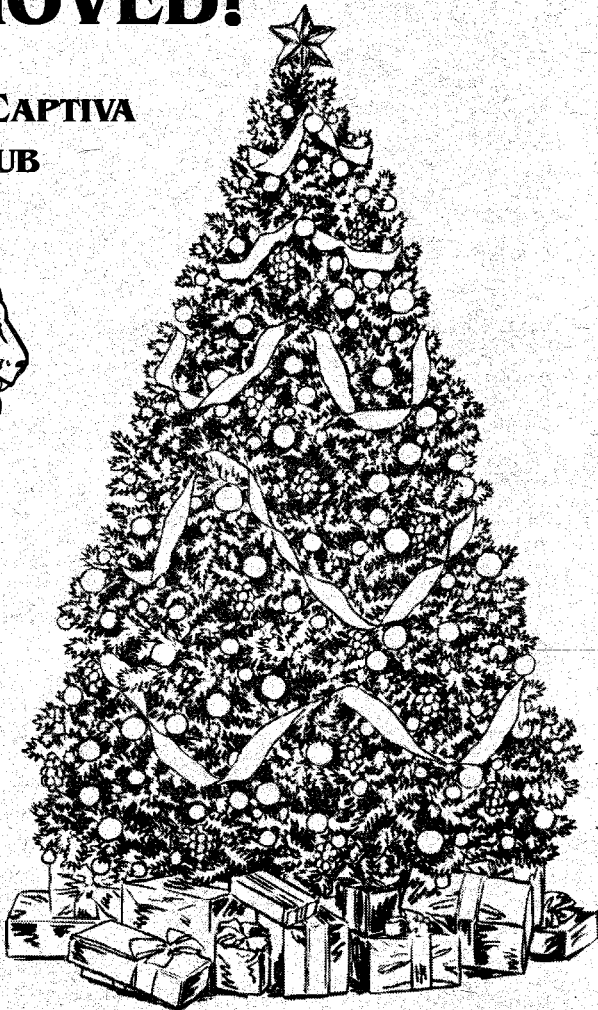
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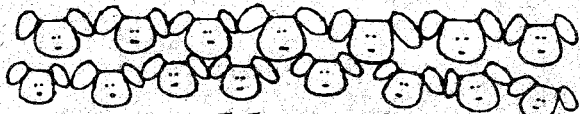
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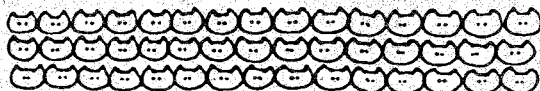
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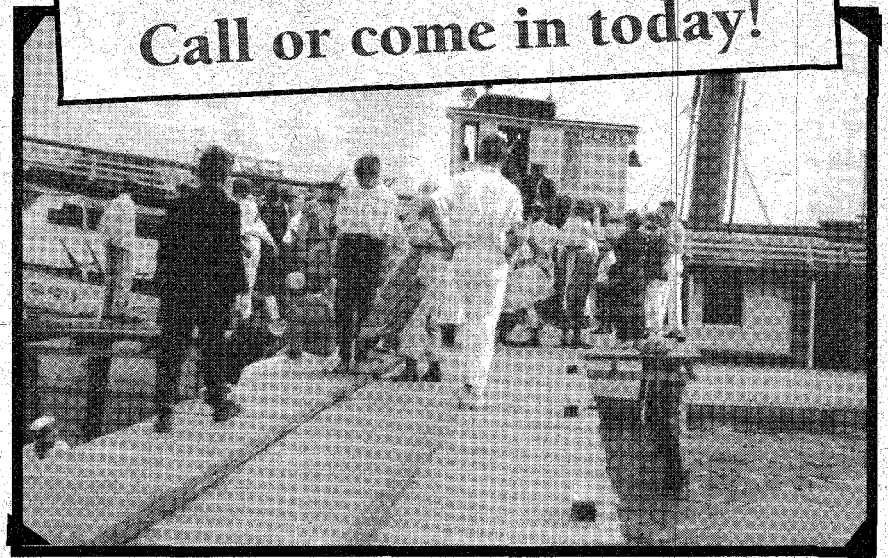
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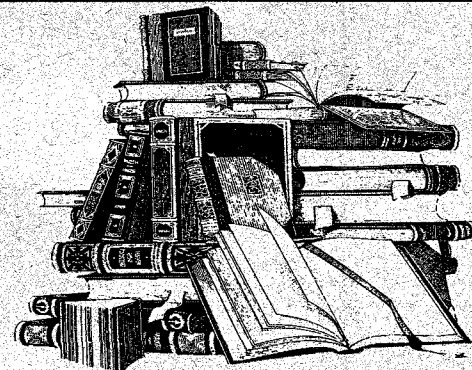
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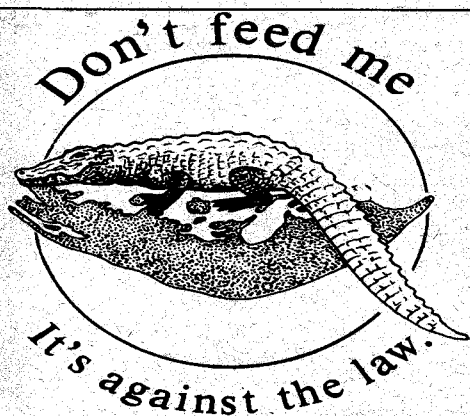
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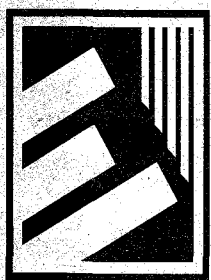
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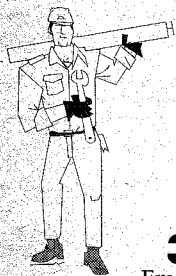
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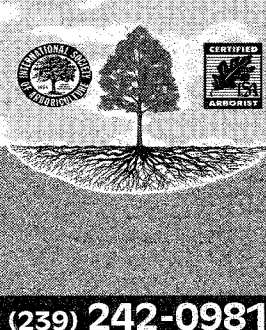
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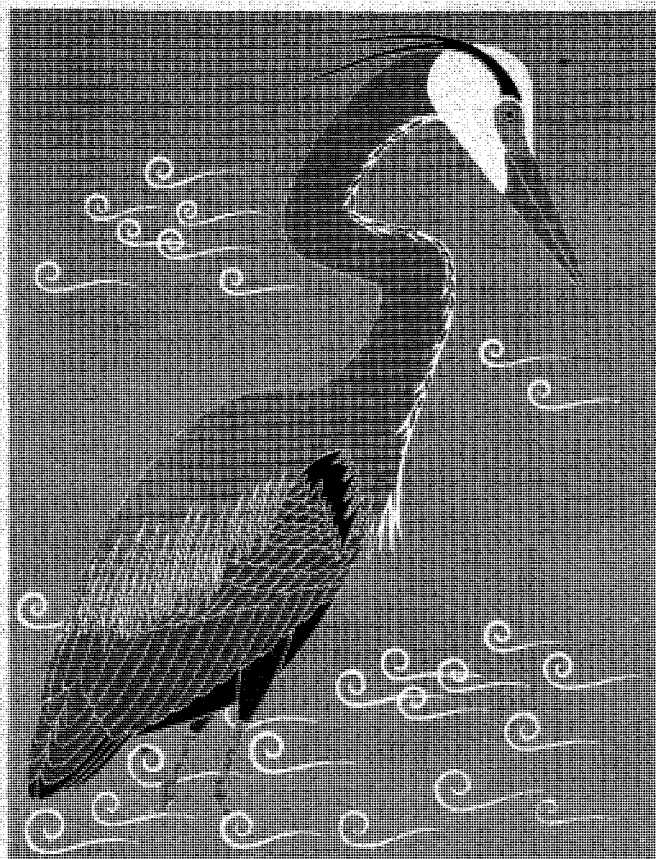


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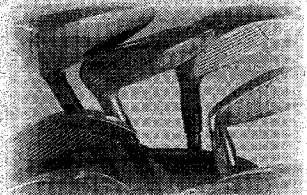
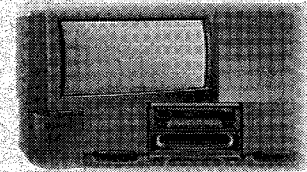
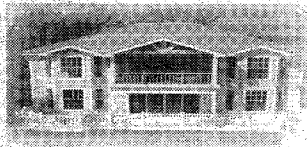
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# CLASSIFIEDS • (239) 472-5185



**GOOD**

**BETTER**

**BEST**

## ADVERTISE LOCALLY

Reach readers of The Sanibel Captiva Islander, which is mailed each Friday to every address on Sanibel and Captiva.

**\$5<sup>00</sup>** and up per week

28 WORDS - 1 ITEM \$51-\$100

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Your 28 word classified ad can run in The Islander, the Lee County Shopper, and your choice of any 8 papers listed in the publication list to the right.

\*Business Ads start at \$58.00

**\$41<sup>50</sup>\***

REACHES OVER 150,000 HOUSEHOLDS!

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Get the advantage and reach your target customer fast with the addition of an eye catching photo! Only \$13 additional charge per week!

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**\*\*\$ FREE CASH GRANTS! \$\$\$** As Seen on TV! Never Repay! Gov't Grants for Personal Bills, School, Business, etc. \$47 billion left unclaimed. Live Operators! 1-800-574-1804 ext. 642

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**FREE GOVERNMENT Grants:**  
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**ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE** Do you earn \$800/ day? 30 Machines. Free Candy All for \$9.995. (800) 814-6323. BO 2000033. CALL US: We will not be undersold!

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Looking for an equity partner. Sanibel resident, former New England entrepreneur needs equity to take advantage of opportunity to build a new business with good potential for long term sustainable value. Contact Alan, (239) 395-2546.

**NO. 1 CASH COW!** 90 Vending Machines in 30 Locations - \$9,995 (800) 836-3464 #B02428

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Back injury forces sale based on your motivation **earn up to 1500. a day, 30,000 a month.** Two years worth of work that's out there from the Hurricanes! Brand new trailer & equipment. 24' Pontoon boat for island work. 2 GMC utility body trucks and a trash trailer. Will train. In 6 months it will support you and return your investment. **Easy \$!** (239) 770-3804

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Very Good Condition. Must sell (due to death in family) 20 total for sale \$125 each or 10 for \$1100 20 for \$2100 (239) 540-3572 Leave message

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**Driver - COVENANT TRANSPORT.** Teams and Solos check out our new pay plan. Owner Operators, Experienced Drivers, Solos, Teams and Graduate Students. Call (888) MORE PAY (888-667-3729) Equal Opportunity Employer

**DRIVERS \$500 SIGN-ON BONUS!** LCT wants you! Immediate Processing for OTR drivers, solos or teams. CDL-A/ HAZ required. Great benefits! 1999-2004 Equipment. Call now! 1-800-362-0159, 24 hours

**Call Gloria to place your ad today!**  
**472-5185**



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**NEWSPAPER  
 CARRIERS  
 NEEDED  
 APPLY  
 AT**

**2510 DEL PRADO  
 CAPE CORAL  
 BLVD. 33904**

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 For 2004 Postal Jobs \$17.50 -  
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 Benefits. No Exp. Nec. Green  
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**MUST HAVE A**  
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**APPLY IN PERSON**  
**AT**  
**2510 Del Prado Blvd. S**  
**ASK FOR TIM**  
**IN**  
**CIRCULATION**

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 Delivery driver, counter help,  
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**MUST HAVE**

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**APPLY:**

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**MUST HAVE**  
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**INDEPENDENT**  
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Antiques

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## CAPE SUPER GARAGE SALE

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER. BIG JOHN'S PLAZA 47TH STREET CAPE CORAL DECEMBER 11, 2004

FROM 6:00AM UNTIL NOON!! IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR ANY ITEMS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE CALL MELODIE AT (239) 839-4594 OR E-MAIL mely@kirkwoodelectric.com

Dec. 18th 7:00 am til ? Huge garage sale. Don't miss this one! Something for everyone. Antiques, furniture, misc. Too much to list. 9327 Dimmick Dr. off San-Cap. Follow signs.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1622 SERENITY LANE IN GUMBO LIMBO, Sanibel.** Lots of Christmas decorations. Household items. Much misc.

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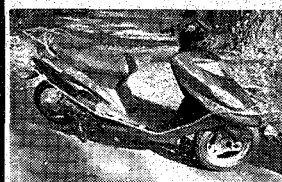
Class-A motorhome 33.5 2000, Vortex engine work horse, queen-size bed, 16ft slide-out, heated basement, 21" T.V. VCR, 21,000 miles, leveling jacks, includes car dolly. \$47,000 o.b.o. (239) 543-8080

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**2 BR/2 BA plus den**  
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**Perfect on-off**  
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**\$1800/month**

**3 BR/2 BA home with**  
**gorgeous lake**  
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**shopping, dining**  
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Iona Lakes near beaches. 2BR/2Ba  
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**Steve Bostwick**  
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**(239) 470-7547**

**"New" Waterfront Gulf access**  
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ad today! 472-5185**

**FISHING & SHELLING THE ISLANDS****Why you won't meet manatees  
at a MENSA meeting**

I had a first the other day. A manatee  
rammed into my boat.

In the times we live in, with borderline  
paranoia over even slightly disturbing a  
manatee, I would find it interest-  
ing that one came at me like a  
misguided torpedo.

And some people say they  
are so smart.

I was returning from a dawn  
shelling trip and was coming  
into the Roosevelt Channel, a  
no-wake zone, and was hardly  
moving at that prop speed when  
I noticed the tell-tale slick water  
that indicates when a manatee is  
in shallow waters and using its tail to  
move. This flattens the waters and it is one  
of the few signs there is one in the imme-  
diate vicinity of the moving boat.

I pulled back on the throttle of the out-  
board and told the couple on board that  
there was a manatee in the area and we  
went to zero speed.

Sure enough the flattened water was  
heading right for our bow. The husband  
and wife scrambled to the bow to get pho-  
tos and right on cue, this big lard butt  
dummy hit the front of the boat.

We were not hurt and neither was the  
boat. The manatee had a difficult time get-  
ting under the bow in the shallows and  
made it all the worst in thrashing around,  
kicking up mud in the process.

Now, picture this. This is post-hurri-  
cane times. There are not more  
than one or two boats on the hori-  
zon, for a ten mile look. I am going  
so slow that I have a hard time  
keeping a heading. The boat  
engine is obviously making a  
warning sound under the water.

Yet, this animal pounds into my  
boat bottom. It wasn't hurt. I told  
my people to look for blood in the  
water, but there was none. That's  
why you don't see any of them as  
finalists on Jeopardy.

**Shelling news**

We had a couple of interesting finds  
from the shelling beaches this week. Ever  
hear of one called a rosy euglandina?

These are quite unusual in that they  
look like a small junonia without spots.  
One of my long-time shellers, Steve  
Siegel from Chicago, came up with one  
recently and — having put in quite a few  
hours roaming the beaches — he was puz-  
zled as was another person just a few days

before.

Most collectors simply call the spiral  
shaped shell a "rosy." When I first found  
one I wondered if it might be one of the  
volute family, with the junonia being a  
start member. I looked for some time  
before getting my hands on a copy of R.  
Tucker Abbot's book called, "Collectible  
Florida Shells."

Coincidentally, any of this author's  
books are wonderful Christmas gifts for  
shellers trying to learn shell identification.  
The books I was reading were on marine  
mollusks or, in other words, sea shells.

Tucker and I got to be casual friends  
and he sent me an autographed copy,  
including a page of "pond, lake and land  
shells." The Rosy stands about two inches  
long, pointed at one end and rounded on  
the bottom. The other shell books don't  
include it because, as Abbot describes  
them, they are "carnivorous ground  
snails".

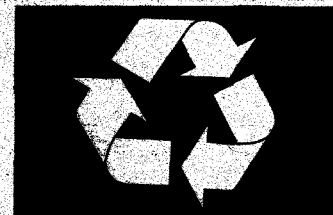
However as sea levels and storms like  
Charley play havoc with the beaches,  
occasionally one of the rosies wash into  
the shell line. Most I have found have a  
light brownish color, however it appears  
the live ones are a slight rose color. I've  
never found one alive, despite doing a lot  
of exploring far back from the high tide  
line in the islands.

My eight-year-old daughter, Tess, is a  
collector who often turns up strange  
things. She got a land snail which looks a  
lot like a shark's eye. I find them in the  
grass when I mow and they will even  
crawl up on the pilings of our house. We  
think it is called a knotty campeloma. At  
least in Abbot's book, that was the closest  
match.

Part of the fun of shelling is adding  
knowledge each time you go out. I learn  
new things all the time. Tess is still pulling  
fossils shells out of our driveway which I  
can't identify.

Good shelling this week.

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

**RECYCLE SANIBEL**

Bring recyclables to the Sanibel Recycling Center on  
Dunlop Road across from the Sanibel Public Library.



**Capt. Mike  
Fuery**



## Shell Point opens Parkwood

Shell Point is pleased to announce the grand opening of Parkwood in The Woodlands, according to Peter Dys, president of the retirement community.

Parkwood's first residents began moving in on October 18, after the completion of the fourth and final residential building in The Woodlands neighborhood. With the completion of The Woodlands at Shell Point, the growing community is focusing on its newest planned neighborhood, Eagles Preserve, which will be located right on the golf course.

Shell Point Retirement Community is conveniently located on Summerlin Road at Shell Point Blvd. in Fort Myers, just two miles before the Sanibel Causeway.

Call the Welcome Center at 1-800-780-1131 or 239-466-1131, to schedule a tour and learn more about lifestyle with lifecare at Shell Point.

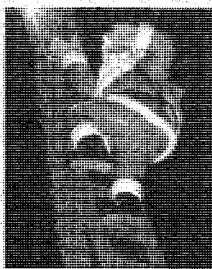
## Lawn and Turf Seminar

It takes more than water to keep your lawn green. This seminar at the Lee County Extension office on Palm Beach Boulevard will cover grass selection, fertilization, disease, irrigation; will help you select the best shade tolerant grass; and give you tips on beating those nasty grubs and chinch bugs. Speakers are from the University of Florida, TruGreen ChemLawn and Lee County Extension Service. The class is open to the public and the cost is \$10. For more info, call 239.461.7504.

## Santa Claus is coming to town!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Bank of the Islands is pleased to announce Santa Claus is coming to visit with island children of all ages. Santa will be visiting the Bank of the Islands lobby to meet all who stop by from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22. The bank will have handmade tree ornaments and instant photos with Santa for the children to take home.

"The reindeer and I always like to visit the islands," said Santa in a telephone interview from the North Pole. "I'm looking forward to hearing what the boys and girls want for Christmas, and to finding out who has been naughty and who has been nice."

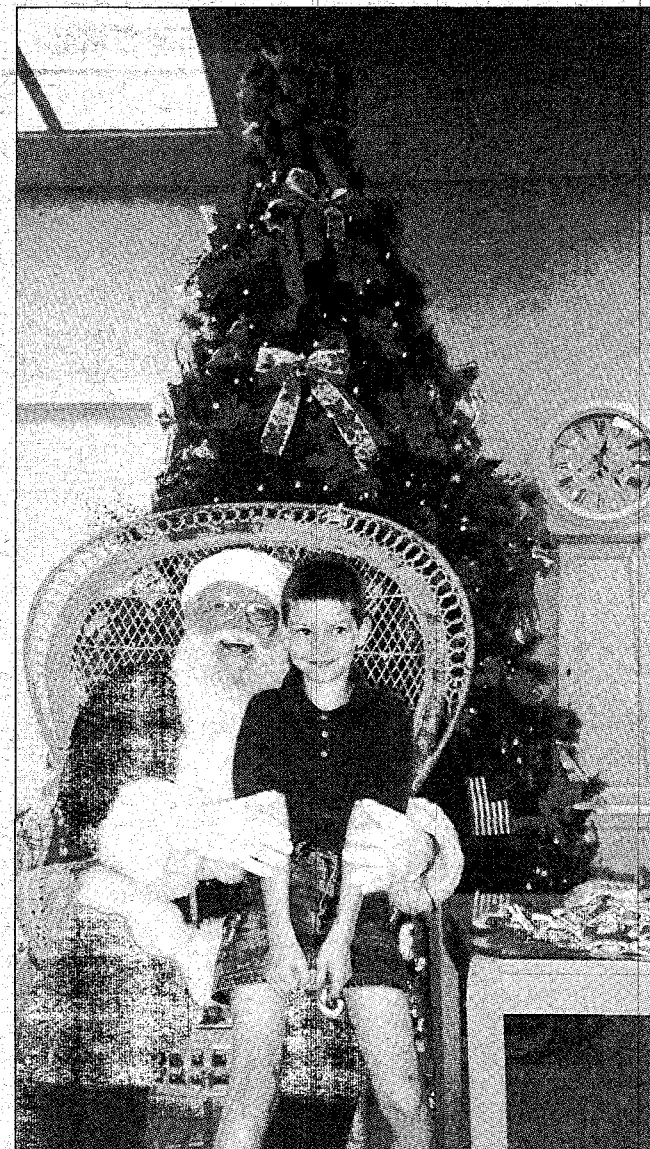


Interested islanders are also invited to bring unwrapped toys to the bank lobby. Toys will be collected every day until December 22.

"The toy drive is being conducted in partnership with The Sanibel School and its Future Educators of America Club," said Bank of the Islands President Robbie Roepstorff. "Families in our community can sometimes use this extra

help during the holidays."

There is a need for gifts for both boys and girls. Specifically, toys are requested for boys aged 4, 7, and 12, and girls who are 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 16 years old. The goal is to collect gifts for fourteen children in all.



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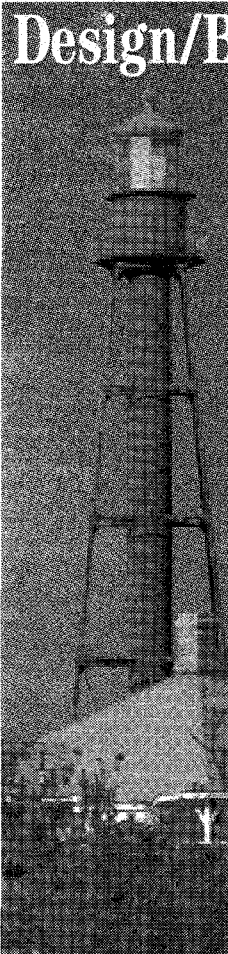
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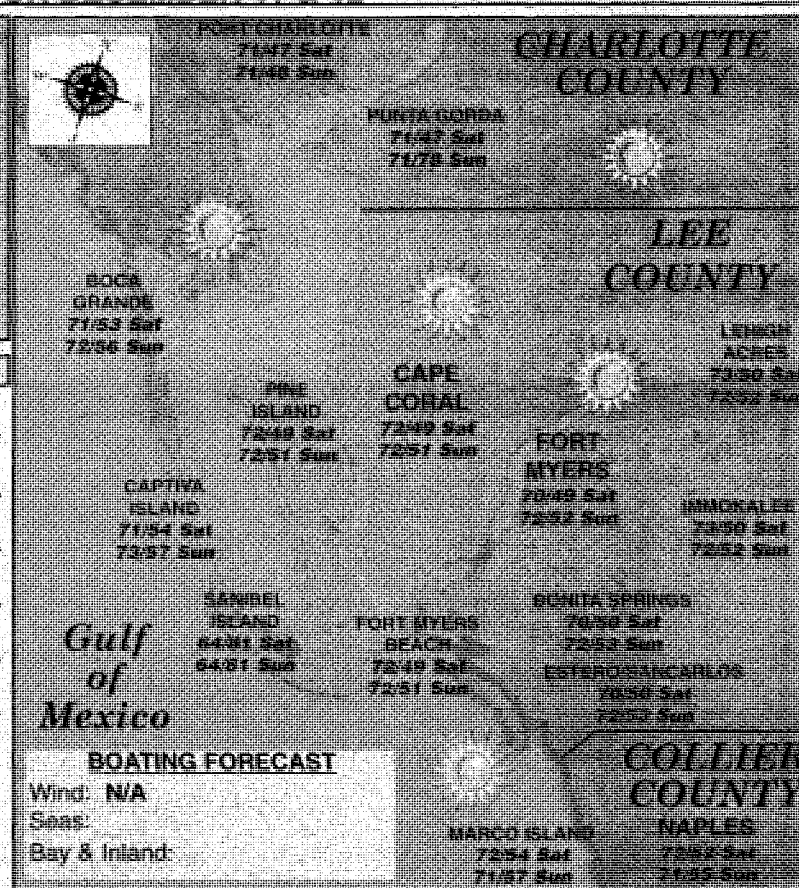


# FORECAST FOR DECEMBER 11 & 12

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.

## WEEKEND TIDES

City	Sat. High	Sat. Low	Sun. High	Sun. Low
Cape Coral	3:41 a.m.	12:21 p.m.	4:07 a.m.	12:04 p.m.
Bridge	6:44 p.m.	10:51 p.m.	6:46 p.m.	10:05 p.m.
Captiva Isl.	1:31 a.m.	9:05 a.m.	1:57 a.m.	8:46 a.m.
Fleedfish Pass	4:34 p.m.	7:35 p.m.	4:36 p.m.	6:48 p.m.
Fort Myers	4:34 a.m.	1:03 p.m.	5:00 a.m.	12:46 a.m.
	7:37 p.m.	11:33 p.m.	7:39 p.m.	10:47 p.m.
Mudlacha Pass	3:09 a.m.	11:47 a.m.	3:35 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
	6:12 p.m.	10:17 p.m.	6:14 p.m.	9:31 p.m.
Pineland	2:07 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	2:33 a.m.	10:28 a.m.
	5:10 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	5:12 p.m.	8:29 p.m.
Point Ybel	12:36 a.m.	9:07 a.m.	1:02 a.m.	8:50 a.m.
	3:39 p.m.	7:37 p.m.	3:41 p.m.	6:51 p.m.
Punta Rassa	1:25 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	1:51 a.m.	8:43 a.m.
	4:28 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	6:44 p.m.
St. James City	1:56 a.m.	9:35 a.m.	2:22 a.m.	9:16 a.m.
	4:59 p.m.	8:05 p.m.	5:01 p.m.	7:19 p.m.



# FOX4CAST



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

## STATE FORECAST-SATURDAY

CAPE CORAL	72/49
DAYTONA BEACH	65/44
FT. LAUDERDALE	75/57
FT. MYERS BEACH	72/49
GAINESVILLE	63/39
JACKSONVILLE	63/39
KEY WEST	75/65
KISSIMMEE	68/45
MIAMI	77/59
ORLANDO	67/46
PANAMA CITY	60/47
PENSACOLA	61/45
SARASOTA	69/42
ST. PETERSBURG	67/54
TALLAHASSEE	64/40
TAMPA	65/44
VERO BEACH	70/45
WEST PALM BEACH	74/53



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