



IslandLife

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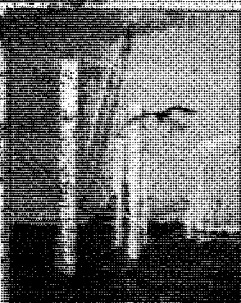
SINCE 1961

40 PAGES



Caricature artist Janet Vance, sculpted by Nancy Sacramento (pictured is one of her wall sculptures)

See Page 16



Beach abutments, pier and pier...
Calloway Construction

See page 16

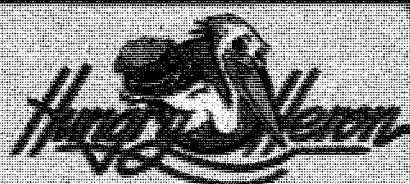


The staff at the Sanibel Island Conservation Foundation, page 6 for more on Sanibel Island's history.

AFFORDABLE FAMILY DINING!! LUNCH & DINNER

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NEW YEAR'S EVE • serving 5-9pm

- open seating offering our regular menu
- **PLUS** all inclusive dinner packages

(reservations are going fast for New Year's Eve)

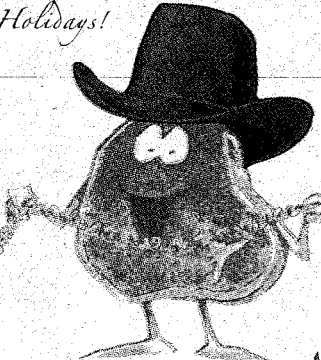
CHRISTMAS EVE • serving 3-7pm • open seating offering our regular menu

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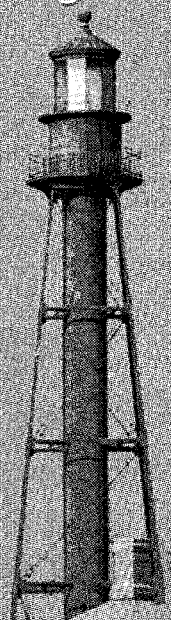


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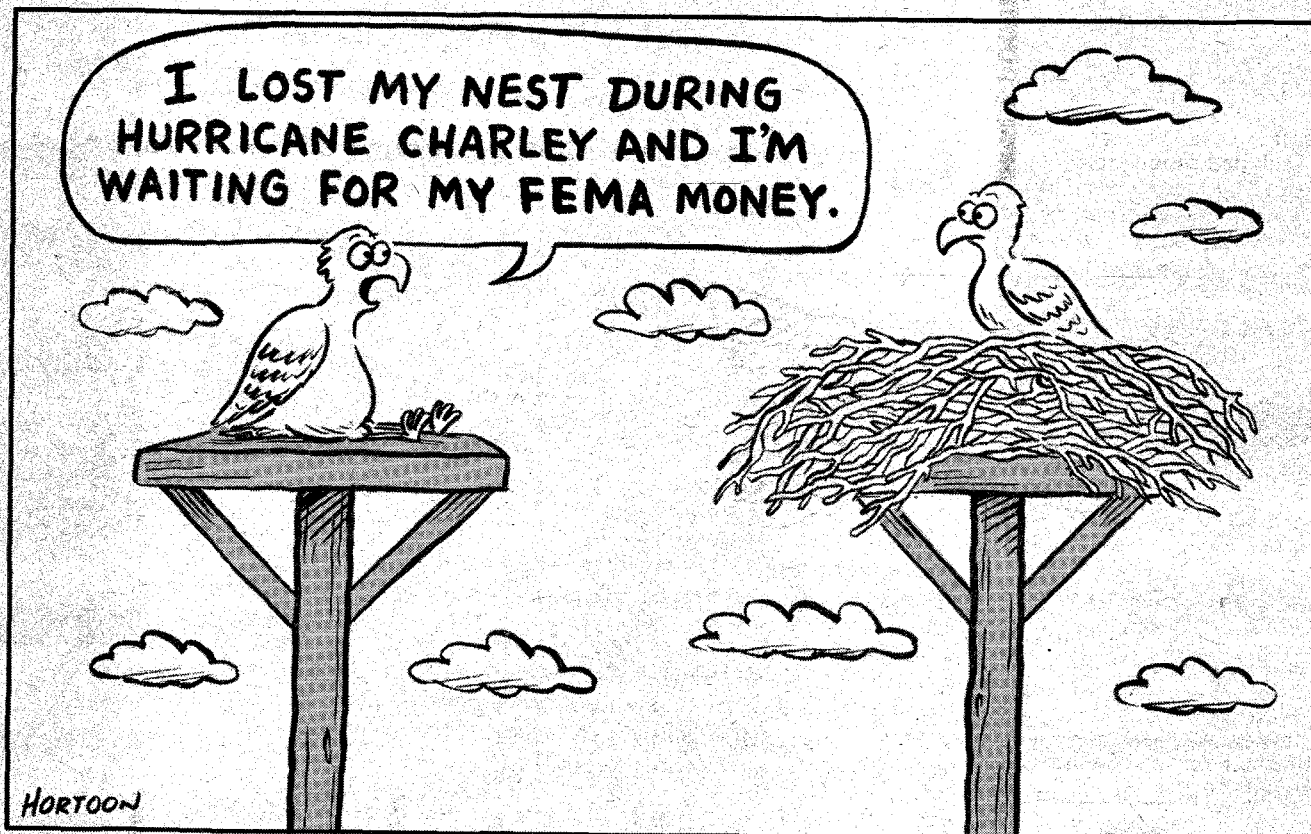
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Horton



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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.

Holiday closings at the Sanibel Library

Dec. 24	Close at 12 noon
Dec. 25 and Dec. 27	Closed
Dec. 31	Close at 12 noon
Jan. 1 and Jan. 3	Closed



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Christmas on Sanibel: Yule Love It! at the Schoolhouse Theatre. See page 27.

New Years at the Jacaranda

New Years Eve at
the Jac Bar

Music from the Both Hands
Band. Dancing. Champagne.
Party Favors. Balloon Drop.

Specials New Years Menu from 5 - 11 p.m.

Serving Dinner New Year's Day 5 - 11 p.m.

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Christmas

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OBITUARY

Agnes Genevieve McClintock

Sanibel resident Agnes McClintock, beloved wife, mother and friend lost her long and courageous battle with lung cancer on Dec. 16, 2004. She was 88. Born on Dec. 23, 1915 in St. Louis, Mo. to James P. and Agnes Lyons, she graduated from Rosati Kain High School, attended the City College of Law, and worked for the Missouri Workman's Compensation Commission. She met Elmo L. McClintock, Jr. while working for the Commission and they were married on April 6, 1940.

Following World War II the couple moved to Flat River, Mo. and later to Farmington, where they raised their family. Agnes was active in volunteer work with the American Cancer Society, St. Joseph's School and the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and, along with her husband, was a founding member of the St. Francois County Country Club, all in Farmington. When her children were all in school she returned to work at the Missouri State Hospital No. 4, where she worked as a patient advocate and subsequently established and ran a library for reading with the patients.

After moving to Sanibel Island in 1973, Agnes began a successful career in real estate sales with Michigan Homes and became active in her new community, including performing in productions at the Pirate Playhouse. Agnes was a devout member of St. Isabel Catholic Church and an inaugural member of the Beachview Golf Association. She and Mac enjoyed travel throughout the world and happily



explored the United States in their RV.

Agnes was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Mac, in 1999, and her sister, Vera M. Lowen in 2003. She is survived by her children — Kyllene Oder and her husband, Wayne, of Cape Coral; Kathleen of Boonsboro, Md.; Terrell of Keystone Heights, Fla.; Darrell and Maureen, both of Sanibel; and Francene of Peoria, Ill.; seven grandchildren and one great grandson.

Services for Agnes were held on Dec. 20, at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home with interment following in the Memorial Gardens.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Agnes's birthday, yesterday, Dec. 23, at St. Isabel's. The family has requested that memorial gifts be sent to either the Hurricane Recovery Building Fund at St. Isabel's or Hope Hospice, 9740 Health Park Circle, Fort Myers 33908.

Over \$3 billion to hurricane victims

Floridians who suffered damages from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, have been approved for \$3,169,950,000 thus far in federal and state disaster assistance, according to Florida's State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Nearly 1.18 million storm victims have applied for disaster assistance since Hurricane Charley came ashore four months ago.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved \$825.5 million to date in low-interest loans to repair storm-damaged homes and businesses. Of that amount, nearly \$636 million in loans went to homeowners and \$189.5 million to businesses.

Public Infrastructure was severely impacted by this season's hurricanes. More than 2,482 requests were submitted for Public Assistance to help defray the costs of repairing or replacing public and certain non-profit agency facilities. Nearly \$181.6 million in infrastructure assistance has been obligated thus far.

Additionally, many applicants were eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, free legal aid and other SERT/FEMA disaster recovery programs.

The deadline to apply for federal and state disaster assistance is approaching. Storm victims who have not registered for assistance should do so immediately. To register, simply call FEMA's toll-free number, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the hearing- and/or speech-impaired. Phone lines are open from 6 a.m. to midnight through to Thursday, Dec. 23. The service is closed on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 24 and 25, for the holidays. When the teleregistration line reopens on Sunday, Dec. 26, the new hours of operation will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Lee and Charlotte Counties

As of December 14, 69.36% of the households in Charlotte County had applied for individual assistance, ranking sixth in the state. Over 99% of the households in four counties — DeSoto, Hardee, Indian River and St. Lucie — had applied and 76% of households in Santa Rosa had applied. In Lee County, 17.84% of households applied for assistance.

Insured Individuals Should Apply Now

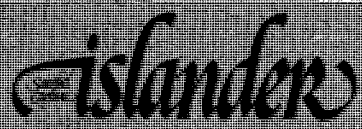
Individuals who have contacted their agents and are waiting for settlements are urged to apply for assistance before the December 31, 2004, deadline by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Once homeowners or renters have registered for disaster assistance, they are in the FEMA, SERT and SBA assistance systems. This allows for damages and losses to be addressed even after the application deadline has passed.


SBA urges all disaster victims to submit their loan applications as soon as possible after FEMA registration, regardless of the status of their insurance claims. By taking such action, a disaster victim continues the recovery process by allowing the SBA to process a loan to repair or replace their disaster-damaged property.

SBA takes into account insurance settlements received by the disaster victim and may adjust the eligible loan amount accordingly.

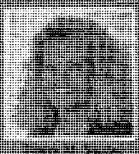
Please keep in mind that there is a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located in Ft. Myers at Lee County Public Works, 1500 Monroe Street. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. DRCs will close for the holiday: Friday, Dec. 24, Saturday, Dec. 25, and Sunday, Dec. 26.




The Islands' Community Newspaper since 1961




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Publisher




David M. Breen
Owner/Publisher



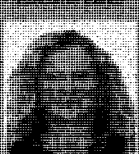
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Managing Editor




David Breen
Staff Writer



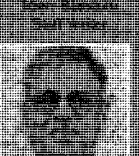
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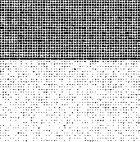
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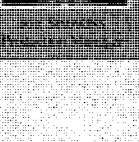
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On a lighter note: Top 10 Reasons to Join the National Polar Bear Club

10. To wave and laugh at the huge crowd of supporters, on-lookers, tourists, Sanibel Stoopers and "mice" (those who wished they had the courage to join in.
9. A symbolic throwing back into the sea of authentic Australian Pine Chips, now to be known as "Charley chips." By throwing Charley back into the sea, the curse of a hurricane visiting our islands during the coming year will hopefully, be broken.
8. To sing the Polar Bear Anthem.
7. To enjoy a champagne toast from the gigantic Polar Bear Champagne Glass.
6. To don the famous Polar Bear Pith Helmet. Any member may try on this unique hat. It makes a wonderful photo-op.
5. To have story-telling and bragging rights. Talk with the crowd or reporters of your adventure. Include how far you traveled, how cold the water was, how brave you were, or any other tale you wish to share.
4. To get your picture in the newspaper. Historically, massive media coverage insures that your picture will appear in one or more of the many newspapers covering this annual event. [Despite claims put forth by this august and dedicated organization and its fearless ursine leader, this publication cannot guarantee actual coverage of the event unless it is a really, really slow news day. -ed.]
3. To get an official certificate. It's a colorful 8 1/2 x 11, suitable for framing and FREE.
2. To get a membership card to carry with you at all times proving that you took the icy plunge (also FREE).
1. It's the ONLY event going on at the "Crack of noon" on New Year's Day - and it's FREE and FUN!

Polar Bears to convene on New Year's Day

According to Papa Bear John Carney, the club will gather at the "Crack of Noon" at Tarpon Bay Beach at the south end of Tarpon Bay Road and West Gulf Drive. He suggests arriving 15 minutes

early to sign in and receive instructions and handouts. For further information contact Papa Bear John Carney at 395-1767.

REPLANTING PERIWINKLE WAY

City panel meets with five replanting finalists

By Laura Nickerson
Staff Writer

On Thursday, December 16 and Monday, December 20, a panel representing the city of Sanibel met with the five landscape architectural or engineering firms selected as finalists from the 18 firms that responded to the city's request for proposals to aid in the replanting of the Periwinkle corridor following Hurricane Charley.

Of the five, the city will choose only one firm, which will then begin open forum discussions with the residents of Sanibel, and members of the Periwinkle Partnership to learn the community's ideas and concerns regarding any replanting efforts.

The city panel has seven members. Five were present, including Gates Castle, Public Works director; Ken Pflazer, acting planning director; James Evans, environmental planner, Natural Resources Department; Jennifer Flavin, City Planning Department; and Major Murray of the Sanibel Police Department. Absent were Rob Loflin, director, Natural Resources Department and Bill Tomlinson, chief of the Sanibel Police.

The five presenting firms were: A.Gail Boorman and Associates; Smallwood Design Group; Goetz & Stropes Landscape Architects, Inc.; Vanasse Daylor; and Johnson Engineering.

During the presentations, each group verbally and visually enlarged upon the written proposals that had carried them to this point. Each stressed reasons why they felt themselves to be well qualified for this particular project, citing completed designs for other Florida municipalities and counties that may have been in environmentally sensitive locations, using largely native plantings, and/or resolved community multiple use and traffic issues. Examples were illustrated using large mounted photographs with descriptions, or slides, with verbal explanations.

Every firm touched upon methods whereby the treasured historical and ecological aspects of Sanibel that make it so unique would be preserved. A. Gail Boorman's group suggested a more pulled-together look, using native plantings and highlighting island architecture while sharply delineating differences in areas along Periwinkle Way, making adaptations in existing traffic patterns, and proposing new, all-of-one-type signage.

Vanasse Daylor stressed preservation, and felt that the entire length of Periwinkle still has a valuable and useful base of native plants to build upon.

All of the firms expressed an understanding of, and a willingness to fully participate in the second phase of the project, the open forum resident discussion, after a final firm is chosen. Ellin Goetz, of Goetz & Stropes mentioned what an advantage it would be to work with a community that already had such a comprehensive vision. She was referring to Sanibel's "sanctuary island" statement.

Johnson Engineering even showed slides of native plantings mixed with some exotic species, illustrating a way to fairly promote the exchange of ideas during the public forums. The panel initially protested, but Ken Pflazer agreed that most likely some residents would attend the meetings seeking a mixed group of plantings, and it was only through discussion and education that an appropriate plant palette could be chosen.

Each group also aired their feelings and advertised their strengths regarding fundraising. Smallwood Design Group felt that the project might be ineligible for many grant applications, and that those the city might apply to, would likely be tapped out at this time. They instead suggested alternate avenues of raising the required funds, including individual philanthropy, and the mobilization of fundraising efforts already in the planning stages by Periwinkle Partnership and other groups.

Vanasse Daylor felt that certain components, such as artwork, might be added to the project, thereby expanding the grant sources the city could make application to. The group felt that certain FEMA money might still be possible to obtain, and had several other fundraising options.

Several of the finalists offered fundraising and grant writing skills as valuable assets in their proposals, and all were willing to take on the project either as a one-time endeavor, or in increments as funds became available.

Every presentation offered components for maintenance following the initial planting, but each also stressed the desirability of native species due to their ability to survive the extremes of this island climate with little human help.

Panel members posed questions following each presentation, and the questions were less concerned with artistic design elements, focusing more on logistics. Questions were asked, and answered satisfactorily, regarding traffic, utility lines and poles, drainage, and the cohesiveness of designs in the face of boundaries, setbacks, and the differing types of property ownership along sections of



Panel members: (top row, from left): Jennifer Flavin, Gates Castle, James Evans; (seated, from left): Ken Pflazer and Recording Secretary Susan Beck

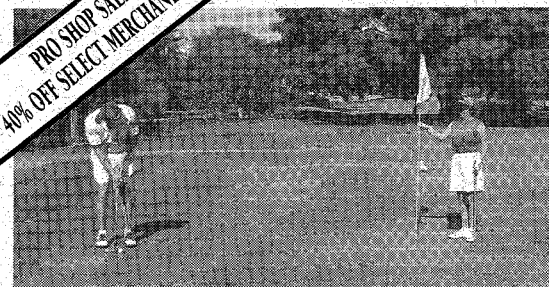
Periwinkle Way.

The panel plans to bring its findings and recommendations before the City Council at the first Council meeting of 2005, in the hope that the contract for

Sanibel's replanting will be awarded in time for the winning firm to conduct the first public forum sometime later in January.

Beachview Golf & Tennis Club

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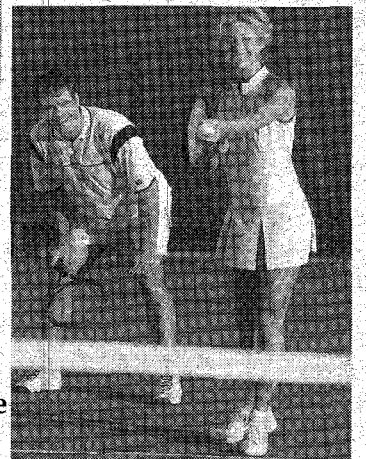
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BOOK REVIEW

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation: A Natural Course

By Karen Nelson
Managing Editor

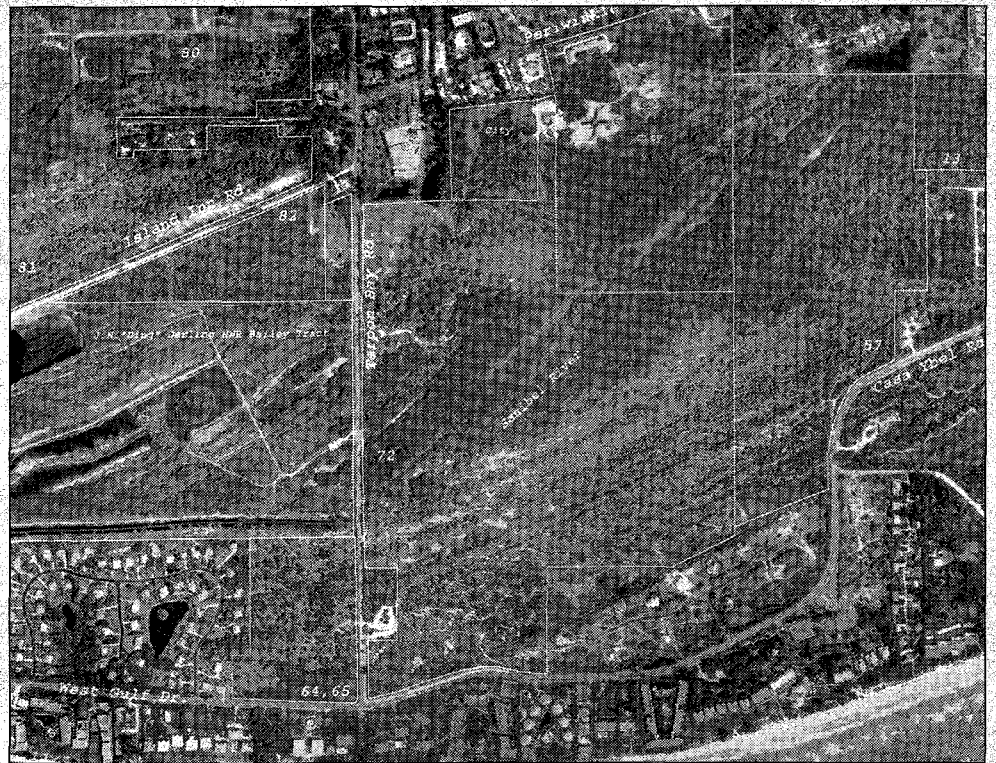
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation: A Natural Course, a lavishly illustrated history of the Conservation Foundation, has been published and is now available at the Foundation and the three island bookstores: Island Book Nook, MacIntosh Book Shop and Sanibel Island Bookshop.

Speaking as a relative newcomer to the island (Sept. 2000), I found the book to be a fascinating and highly educational read. The history of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation has been inseparable from the history of Sanibel and two of its defining institutions — the City and the Refuge — since the 1960s.

The roots of the Conservation Foundation go back to the Memorial Committee, which was founded in 1962 to work on issues related to the then-named Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge. First on the agenda was lobbying the government to rename the Refuge after J.N. "Ding" Darling, who had died in that year. The Committee was then affiliated with the Iowa-based J.N. "Ding" Darling Foundation.

In March 1967, with their goals within sight (the Refuge was officially renamed the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on August 15, 1967), members of the Memorial Committee began to look toward the future. Committee members voted to separate from the "Ding" Darling Foundation and to adopt the name Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. On October 31, 1967, the new organization incorporated. Its goals were "to assure the Refuge's soundness through oversight and land acquisition, to preserve interior freshwater wetlands and to develop educational and research programs."

In the 1960s and 1970s, development became a major issue on the island. As *A Natural Course* points out, it was not only the 1963 opening of the Causeway that increased the pressure for

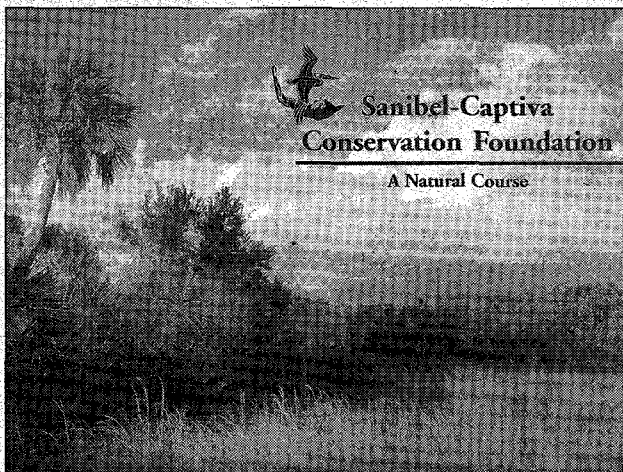


All photos/graphics from SCCF: *A Natural Course*

One of a series of aerial photos in the book, showing preserved lands, which are identified in an accompanying list.

development on Sanibel: the 1966 creation of the Island Water Association made drinking water readily available. The advent of mosquito control also played no small role.

While the nascent SCCF was formulating goals, obtaining studies, raising money, acquiring land, planning a Nature Center and writing by-laws, another group of islanders had formed The Sanibel-

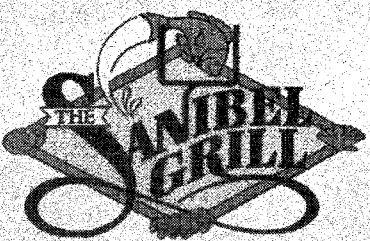


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Dec 25th-Jan 2nd

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Dec 25th-Jan 1st

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4-6 PM**

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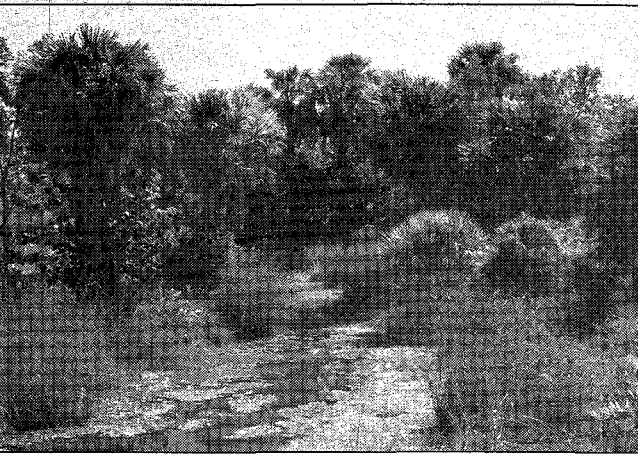
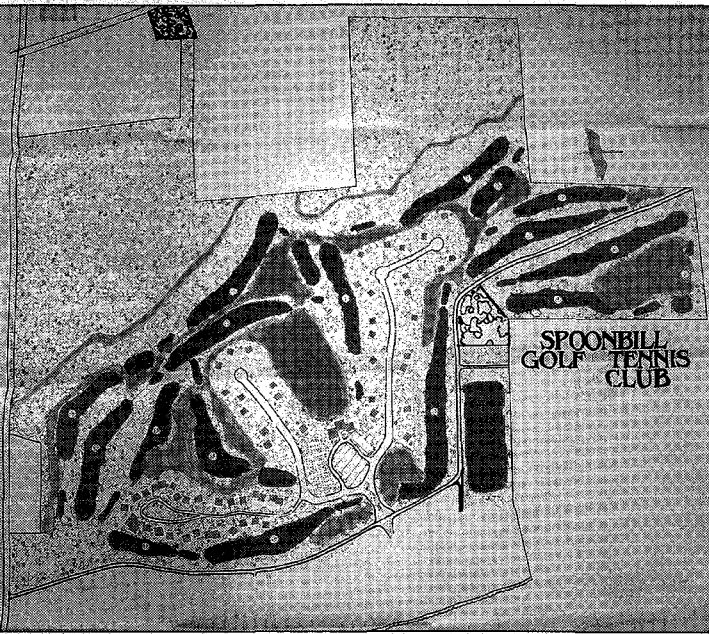


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Washington, DC-based Conservation Foundation; work on the study began in May 1975. The final report was incorporated into the Sanibel Comprehensive Land Use Plan and it was also published nationally by the Conservation Foundation as The Sanibel Report.

A *Natural Course* quotes Sanibel's first Mayor, Porter Goss, who wrote in 1975, "It seems an appropriate moment, now that we are on the threshold of achieving a Comprehensive

Land Use Plan for Sanibel, to consider the real debt of gratitude that the city owes the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation."

A *Natural Course* follows Foundation lobbying efforts which led the state to purchase land on Cayo Costa and North Captiva, the purchase by the Foundation of other sensitive sites off-island and the ongoing campaign to purchase lands adjacent to the island's interior freshwater slough (the Sanibel River). Education and the native plant nursery have also played an important role in the Foundation's mission.

The increasing role of

land restoration and management is explored, including the study and restoration of the Periwinkle and Blue Skies Preserves and the partnership with the City of Sanibel and the Refuge to restore the Sanibel Gardens Preserve.

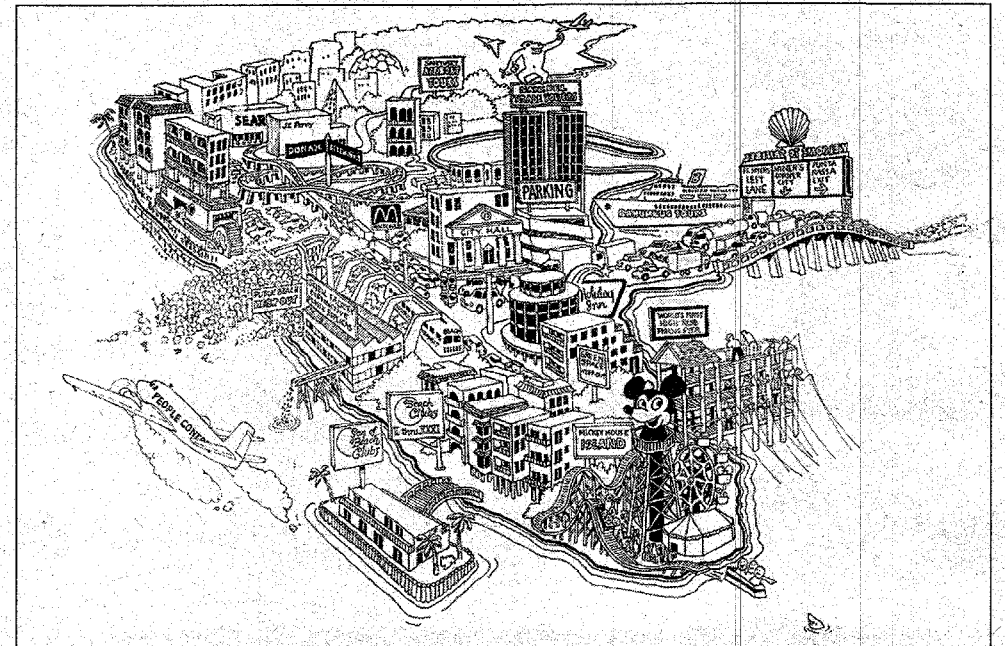
Back in the early days of the Foundation, a marine center "ambitiously described as a 'Woods Hole of the South,'" had been envisioned. The Foundation broadened its scope with the 2002 establishment of the Marine Lab at Tarpon Bay, with its mission "To investigate the status and trends and to promote the health of the habitat and fauna within the marine nursery areas in and around the barrier islands of Sanibel and Captiva."

SCCF Executive Director Erick Lindblad notes in *A Natural Course* that when he started with the organization in 1986, "It was rather overwhelming. I was going to have to protect the investment of those who came before me. That's always been motivating. Though it's been almost 20 years, I still think back to the previous years and all those people who were so progressive for their time. Sanibel's evolution as a city, the comprehensive land use plan based on natural systems — that is still a new concept for many communities now, let alone in 1974. I am still very grateful, and everyone in the community should be, for the people who came before us."

Written by Betty Anholt and Gwenda Hiett-Clemens and produced by Foundation staffer Maggie May, the 148-

page book is a pleasure to read. Photographs — most in four-color — by George Graham, David Meardon, Charlie McCullough, Clair Postmus, Foundation staffers Maggie May and Brad Smith plus Foundation volunteers, highlight the wildlife, preserved and restored lands and the important players who are part of the story. A fascinating section assembled by Lindblad lists all of the land acquired by the Foundation, accompanied by aerial photographs.

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation: A Natural Course retails for \$24.95. It is wonderfully informative for newcomers who are still learning about the islands. For those who have played a role in shaping this "sanctuary island," it's a well-deserved celebration of a remarkable achievement.



Pete Smith's "What could have been on Sanibel."

Captiva Zoning and Planning Board, whose members regularly attended Lee County Commission meetings in order to have some input into the rapid growth on the islands.

In 1973, members of the San-Cap Planning Board requested a building moratorium from the county commissioners. The Foundation's board supported the request and SCCF Director Dick Workman and Board Chair Ann Winterbotham represented the Foundation on the Sanibel Home Rule Study Committee. In 1974, the City of Sanibel was incorporated.

The Foundation sponsored a study of the island's natural systems by the

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ENVIRONMENT

One fish, two fish: The REDstart redfish habitat study at the SCCF Marine Laboratory

Jenny Burnham
Staff Writer

With a \$120,000 sponsorship from the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and under the auspices of the Florida Sea Grant, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory is surveying redfish habitats to determine the optimum environment for juvenile red drum in a project called REDstart.

"If we can protect the area where the juveniles thrive, then we can protect the adults," said Justin Spinelli of the

Marine Lab.

Populations of red drum, also called redfish or channel bass, have declined in recent years "relative to historic levels," according to REDstart project information. Steve Bortone of the Marine Laboratory noted that anecdotal reports of population decline from local fishermen also document the dwindling numbers of the prized Southwest Florida game fish.

Bortone noted that the species is making a comeback from the depletions of overfishing, as the fish currently receive "a certain amount of protection from size limits." However, overfishing is just one threat

to the red drum. The goal of REDstart is to identify the conditions in which juveniles flourish, and, said Bortone, "to identify activities that destroy their preferred habitat."

"Protecting the species," said Spinelli, "requires protecting the habitat."

The Marine Lab's REDstart project personnel, including Spinelli and A.J. Martignette, seine local waters for fish of all kinds, analyzing the conditions in which the healthiest populations are found.

The data the researchers collect addresses the following questions: What

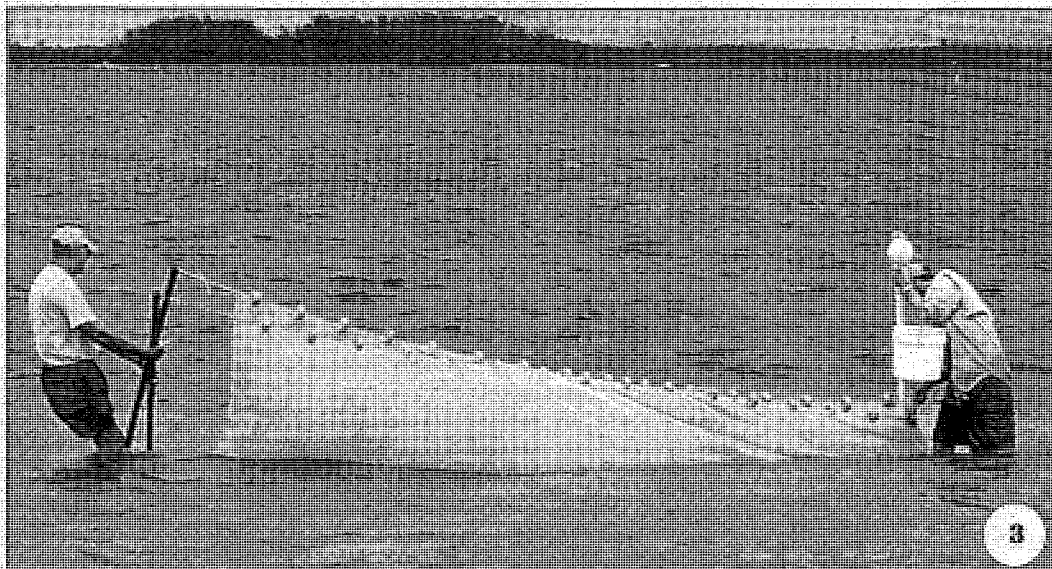
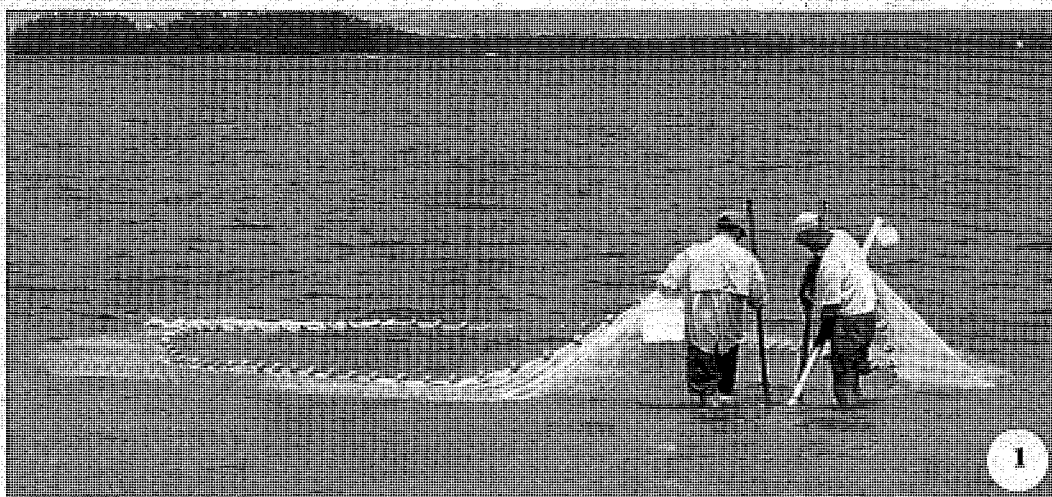
is the sub-strate? What is the shoreline type? How distant is the shore? What is the quality of the water?

Analysis of the sub-strate includes not only the composition—whether sea grass, sand, or oyster beds—but the quantity and distribution of the elements. "Is there one blade of sea grass," said Martignette to illustrate the point, "or is it everywhere?"

Next the teams categorize the shoreline. "Is it mangroves, a beach, or a sea wall?" Martignette explained.

"We also estimate the distance to the

REDstart, see right below




Photos by Jenny Burnham

Seine netting for juvenile redfish off the Sanibel Causeway; Eric Milbrandt, Michelle Gibson, A.J. Martignette, and Chuck Milbrandt, of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory REDstart project (all four are shown in photo on next page).

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ENVIRONMENT

Trekking in Madagascar: The Madagascar Lemurs

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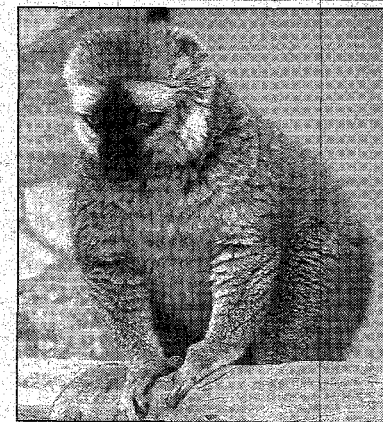
With pleasure we introduce Brian and Dolores Mishell, SanCap Audubon board members, as our guest speakers for our first Audubon program of the new season, Thursday, January 6, 2005, at the Sanibel Community

House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. Join the Mishells as they relive their amazing twenty-two day Madagascar adventure trekking through forest canopies, exploring, observing and photographing Madagascar Lemurs.

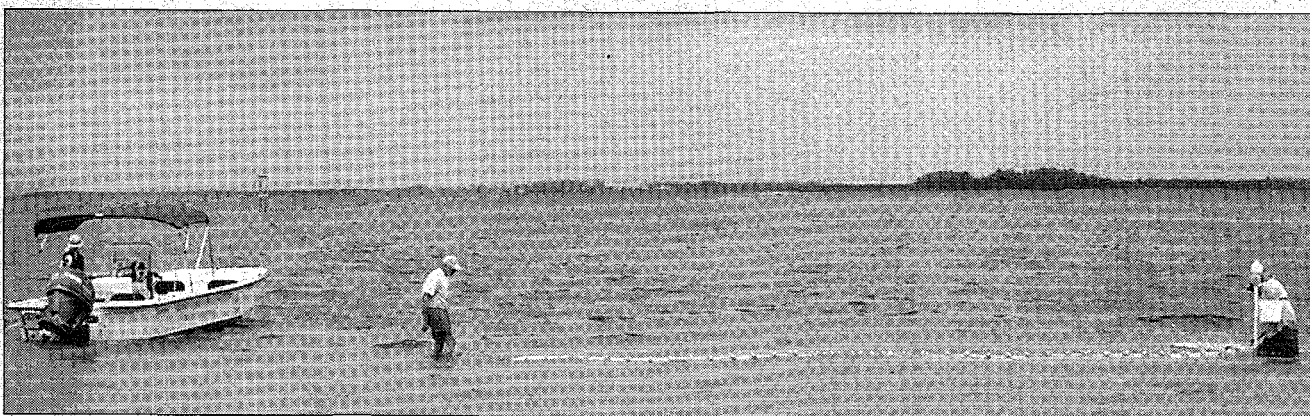
The Mishells, retired international business executives, have traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin American. They reside near Toronto, Ontario and spend their winters on Sanibel Island. Since retirement they continue to explore the birding "hot spots" of the world. Avid and excellent birders with a passion for nature, travel and photography, the Mishells are a wonderful asset to our board and our program schedule.

As always all are welcome to attend these weekly programs. Parking is available at the Community House as

well as across the street in front of the (new) Schoolhouse Theatre. A \$4 donation is appreciated. For additional information please call Elaine Jacobson at 395-1878 or visit the SanCap Audubon web site, www.sancapaudubon.org.



REDstart, from left



shore," he said, "is it 10 meters or more than 100 meters, for example."

As for water quality, the team determines the salinity, the temperature, and the levels of dissolved oxygen.

"We also note whether it's sunny or cloudy, where the wind is blowing from, how deep the water is," Martignette said.

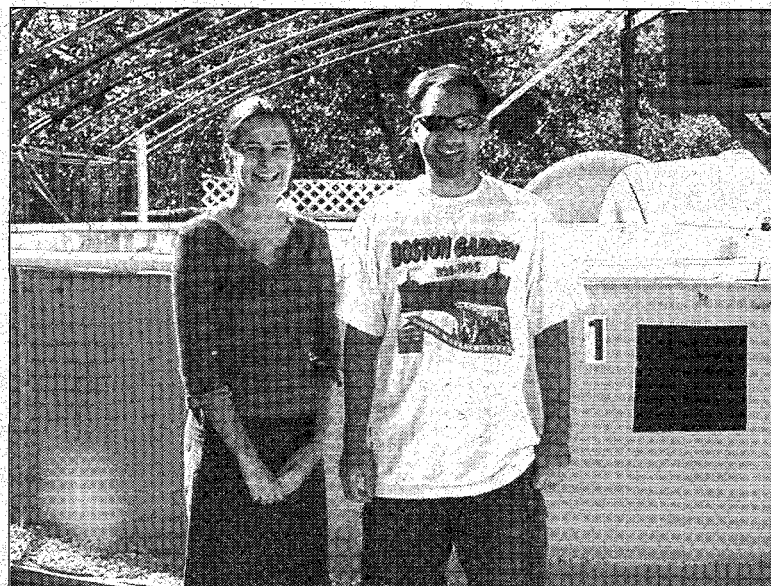
"We want to know what the wildlife population prefers," added Spinelli. Project personnel have spent a year creating the process for growing juveniles and a strategy for releasing them into the wild.

The state of Florida routinely raises and releases fish of many different types in projects all along the coasts of Florida in order to replenish diminished populations. The SCCF Marine Lab receives its juvenile red drum from a state-run hatchery in Port Manatee.

At the Port Manatee hatchery, personnel manipulate the light and water conditions in order to get adult fish to spawn. They then collect the eggs and hatch the young fish.

Once the red drum juveniles reach the Marine Lab, they are placed into a "grow-out" system of vats that are closely controlled for water filtration and development of organisms beneficial to the fish.

"Grow-out" is a delicate process that must be timed precisely with spawning cycles in the wild, according to Martignette. It's important that the juveniles be neither too big nor too little in order to survive among the exist-



Marine Lab research assistants Megan Tinsley and A.J. Martignette in front of the red drum grow-out tanks at the SCCF Marine Laboratory.

ing red drum schools.

The juveniles are also tagged by placing coded wire tagging in their jaws, so that in the future team researchers can identify caught fish as wild or as coming from the REDstart project.

In 2003, the team conducted a test by releasing adult size red drum into the pond at the Bailey Tract, "to make sure that the system is working and that we have a viable technique" for the release, according to Spinelli and Martignette.

The next step is to develop a plan and a potential date for the first release of juveniles into the habitats identified by the study. Martignette emphasized that REDstart is not an overnight project but a commitment for habitat preservation far into the future. Concurring,

Spinelli noted that, on the east coast of Florida, species restoration has become a significant marine issue.

"We want to catch it before it happens," he said about habitat degradation in Southwest Florida. "This is for the long run."

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SHELLING & FISHING THE ISLANDS

The thin-skinned shells

These aren't the kinds of shells which get their feelings hurt easily, but rather they are kind of miraculous in that they make it all the way to the beach in one piece, despite the pounding a normal winter cold front can deliver.

We got our first really cold weather right on schedule—December 15. You can just about count on the first one sweeping down on us a day or so either way, and we'll keep having those high-surf, high wind conditions every seven to ten days until the middle of March. That can mean some wonderful shell collecting, if only the thin walled shells don't get pounded to pieces.

Hearty shells like the stout Florida fighting conch can take a lot of heavy surf. Most rounded, single side shells we call univalves, stand up well to bad conditions. Mostly that is because the thicker sides protect it. The same goes for lightening whelks and olives. These shells can roll up on the beach, then back down into the water as the wave recedes for hours and hours and still remain in good shape.

Other thin walled shells like angel wings on the beach will often wear a hole on the back side, if it even makes it up on the high shell line at all.

The paper fig is a well named shell. It's not quite paper thin, but this delicately designed shell easily gets cracked in big storms. Coincidentally, the fig is one of the handful of shells which is more colorful on the inside than the out. You can figure that once a year on Sanibel Island, it will be "fig week" with all you would like to collect. I don't know if the winds have to be just right, in conjunction with certain tides, but they come tumbling to the beach in numbers.



Capt. Mike Fuery

Talk about brittle shells surviving, can you imagine how tough a sand dollar has to be to ride the high tide up on the beach and remain whole. For each dead one which comes in that way, you can know that many more were broken up. The living sand dollar is fairly strong and can come up on the shell line in one piece. Of course these is a total ban on the taking of any living shells, so they need to be returned to the water.

If the dead sand dollar is wet, which it is while being washed to the beach, it also holds up well.

Let it sit high and dry for a few days and turn white and it can crumble as you pick it up. You can make those dollars stronger by painting a mixture of Elmer's Glue and water. It takes several coats, but the dollar will be much more sturdy.

At Christmas, we usually place a couple of such treated dollars on our tree with a red bow. You will notice there is a convenient slot near the center which takes the ribbon.

Sometimes after big winter storms, you will come upon hundreds of dead jingle shells. These just might be the thinnest of our beach shells. They average about the same diameter as a quarter and are so thin a child could easily break one in two. They come in blacks, golds, silvers and clear.

During Hurricane Charley, I left my boat at the dock, in the water and we were very hard hit, so hard that it blew my shell display board off never to be seen again. The only shell to survive the hurricane force four winds was a thin skinned lion's paw. It came out without a scratch.

The thin walled shells are harder to find, but most collectors don't mind the extra looking. Hold a gold jingle up to the sun to see why it's a wonder to see how they can survive a storm at all.

Fishing news

It is now the cold hardy fish which will keep anglers busy for the next few months. Snook will fall off sharply now and most will move away from the barrier islands to deeper, more temperature-stable rivers and creeks. Not that they will bite, even if you find some.

There are two or three fish which don't seem to mind low water temperatures. One is the sheepshead, a black-and-white striped fish which is tough to clean, but the meat is quite good and very under-rated. Don't confuse these fish with freshwater fish which are considered trash up north.

They, along with the mangrove snapper, seem to thrive in cooler months. Both are well known bait stealers. They like being around rocky groins, like at Blind Pass, between Sanibel and Captiva Islands and at the fishing pier near the lighthouse on Sanibel island.

They are famous for "picking your pocket," that is, stealing your bait. If you are getting bites and getting your shrimp bait cleaned off, switch to half a shrimp and drop down a couple sizes on the hook. Mostly, people use too big a hook for these fish, although sheepshead can run to twenty inches and weight five pounds. They, along with the snapper have small mouths. The snapper is a very good eating fish also.

Neither fish appears on restaurant menus, however there are a couple of other kinds of snappers which do. There isn't a commercial market for sheepshead, so chances of getting a few are good since professional fishermen don't target them.

Good fishing and shelling this week and have a wonder New Year, filled with junonias and jumbo fish!

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

2004 Christmas Bird Count: The numbers

See story on page 11.

Bird Count Stats:

Tern, Sandwich - 2,521
Gull, Laughing - 2,096
Sanderling - 1,454
Ibis, White - 1,050
Tern, Royal - 883
Pelican, Brown - 736
Dunlin - 653
Egret, Snowy - 589
Crow, Fish - 587
Cormorant, Doublecrested - 545
Dove, Mourning - 514
Willet - 495
Turnstone, Ruddy - 451
Osprey - 401
Egret, Great - 362
Gull, Ring-billed - 333
Grackle, Common - 324

Pelican, White - 307
Starling, European - 284
Warbler, Yellow-rumped - 251
Warbler, Palm - 248
Vulture, Turkey - 223
Heron, Little Blue - 205
Sandpiper, Least - 199
Woodpecker, Red-bellied - 197
Plover, Black-bellied - 194
Grackle, Boat-tailed - 188
Anhinga - 155
Catbird, Gray - 137
Dove, Eurasian Collared - 121
Egret, Cattle - 115
Moorhen, Common - 108
Heron, Tri-colored - 107
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray - 94
Knot, Red - 93
Spoonbill, Roseate - 89
Mockingbird, Northern - 86

Cardinal - 83
Tern, Forster's - 80
Sandpiper, Western - 77
Heron, Great Blue - 75
Skimmer, Black - 75
Swallow, Tree - 70
Dowitcher, Short-billed - 68
Kingfisher, Belted - 62
Duck, Mottled - 58
Duck, Blue-winged teal - 57
Killdeer - 56
Kingfisher, Belted - 62
Duck, Mottled - 58
Duck, Blue-winged teal - 57
Killdeer - 56
Hawk, Red-shouldered - 54
Warbler, Common Yellowthroat - 53
Woodpecker, Pileated - 50
Gull, Herring - 49
Plover, Semi-palmated - 49

Stork, Wood - 47
Dove, Ground - 42
Grebe, Pied-billed - 42
Duck, Red-breasted Merganser - 39
Vulture, Black - 37
Phoebe, Eastern - 32
Heron, Black-crowned night - 29
Wren, Carolina - 27
Heron, Yellow-crowned night - 26
Crow, American - 23
Kestrel, American - 22
Plover, Snowy - 19
Sandpiper, Spotted - 19
Eagle, Bald - 18
Vireo, White-eyed - 14
Warbler, Yellow-throated - 13
Heron, Green - 12
Egret, Reddish - 11
Warbler, Prairie - 11
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied - 10

Coot, American - 8
Woodpecker, Downy - 8
Yellowlegs, Greater - 8
Flicker, Northern Yellow Shafted - 7
Jay, Blue - 7
Frigatebird, Magnificent - 6
Wren, House - 6
Oystercatcher, Am. - 5
Blackbird, Red-winged - 4
Loon, Common - 4
Shrike, Loggerhead - 4
Vireo, Blue-headed - 4
Goldfinch, American - 3
Warbler, Pine - 3
Yellowlegs, Lesser - 3
Warbler, Black and White - 2
Flycatcher, Great crested - 1
Owl, E. Screech - 1
Robin, American - 1
Sparrow, House - 1
TOTAL - 19,223

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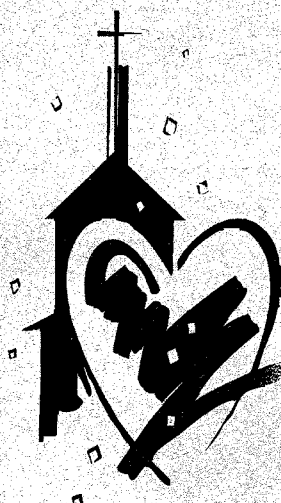
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Bike Club cleans up San-Cap Road

On December 11, the Sanibel Bicycle Club, in conjunction with the Keep Sanibel Litter Free Committee and the City of Sanibel, cleaned up the litter on San-Cap Road.

Sixteen members of the Club braved strong winds, sandspurs, poison ivy, and red ants to fill 20 large black garbage bags with trash, which the Public Works Department collected at the end. Unlike the trash picked up on previous clean-up days, the post-hurricane litter included construction materials and assorted junk. The Sanibel Bicycle Club will hold its

third annual Shared Use Path Clean-up Day on Friday morning, January 14. For details, call the Club's Vice-President, Bob Lynd, at 472-2905.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to pick up litter in front of their properties and along the paths, beaches, and roads that they frequent. Sanibel's Adopt-A-Road program is also looking for people to adopt an area for pick-up on an ongoing basis. With community involvement, the island will be back to its pre-hurricane condition in no time.

Tea and Talk: Your healthy heart

The holidays may not be good for your heart. Weight gain, increased sugar and alcohol consumption, stress fatigue... All can contribute to increased cholesterol and triglycerides, and elevated C-reactive protein (a marker for heart disease).

Nutrition educator Carol Simontacchi will present the "science of good nutrition" for the heart at the Island Nutrition

Center on December 28 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. to answer questions about nutrition, particularly as it relates to the cardiovascular system. The goal? Nutritional recovery from the holidays!

Space is limited so reservations are required. Please call Carol at the Island Nutrition Center (472-4499) for more info and to reserve your space.

TO YOUR HEALTH

Fit 'n' Trim on the islands

The world is a scary place nowadays. Many folks feel they have little or no control over what happens. But one thing we can control is our weight, and the start of a new year is a popular time to take charge of our lives by plunging into a weight management plan.

For many years, Weight Watchers offered its program on Sanibel Island. Unfortunately, this international corporation decided a few years ago to discontinue meetings in small communities. So, islanders who wish to participate in Weight Watchers have to fight traffic all the way to Dragon Plaza on Route 41.

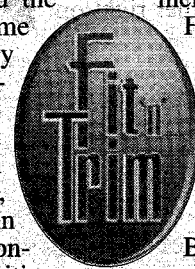
To serve island residents and visitors, Claudia Burns and Moon Price, who ran the Weight Watchers meetings on Sanibel, developed a program based on their own strategies for staying fit 'n' trim.

Starting on January 7, 2005, Sanibel

Congregational Church will offer a newly-expanded, easier to use, Fit 'n' Trim weight management program, now including meal plan suggestions, each Friday at 11:30 a.m. in its ground-level Heron Hall. Doors open at 11 a.m. for weigh-in.

The emphasis of Fit 'n' Trim is on fitness. Its objective is to wean participants from starchy foods and sugar, and to encourage them to increase their daily activity. Burns and Price, who avoid sugar/starch and get lots of exercise, will serve as Fit 'n' Trim instructors, as well as role models for participants, who are encouraged to give a five dollar donation to the church for each meeting they attend, as well as a one-time fee of five dollars for program materials.

For more information on Fit 'n' Trim, phone 472-5133 or e-mail imfitntrim@msn.com.



Audubon 2004 Christmas Bird Count: The story

By Renny Severance
rseverance@breezenewspapers.com

Last Saturday, Dec. 18, legions of Sanibel's dedicated ornithologists, and others who simply appreciate what nature and what these islands have to offer, turned up early in the morning at a number of designated locations to walk the beaches, comb the marshes and search the roadways. They came 121 strong for the annual Christmas Bird Count to count the birds they saw and identify them. The reports were then collected and brought to the Sanibel Captiva Audubon Society at the conference room at the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation.

This year's count of 19,009 and 100 species was larger than the 10-year average and considerably larger than last year's. The 2003 count, however, was greatly reduced by very inclement weather, yielding a mere 7,943 birds of 93 different species. The 10 year average is 18,810 birds and 105 species.

The effort was part of a much larger national — now international — process which was first organized in 1900. According to the National Audubon Society's website, "The Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago when 27 Audubon conservationists in 25 localities, led by scientist and writer Frank Chapman of the New York Audubon Society, changed the course of ornithological history. On December 25, 1900, the small group posed an alternative to the 'side hunt,' a Christmas-day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Chapman proposed to identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based conservation effort and a more than century-old institution."

Going out in teams of two and three, the Sanibel counters were supplied with forms on clipboards and freshly sharpened pencils. They brought their own bird books and binoculars. The more pairs of eyes on the job the better — not only do they pick what others miss, they help avoid double-counting.

This year, the count started on the morning of a rare South Florida cold-snap and the gloves, jackets and

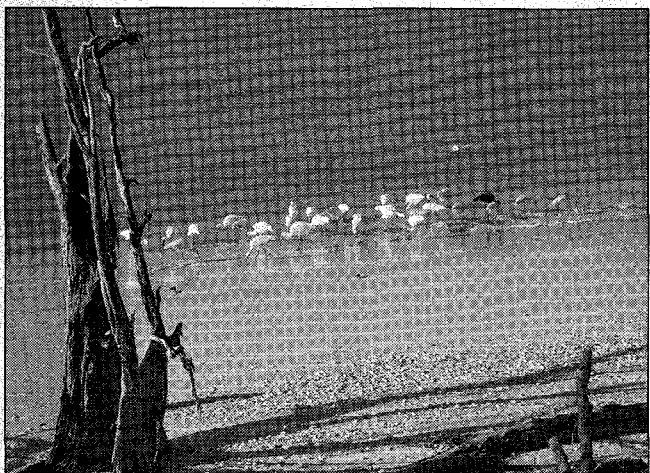


Photos by Renny Severance

sweatshirts were in evidence everywhere.

But as the morning progressed, the sun came up and out and the jackets came off and the counters enjoyed more typical seasonal weather.

The birds cooperated as well, making for the best count in years.



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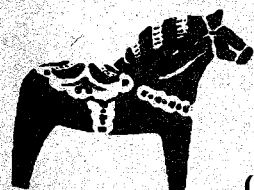
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SWEDISH CRYSTAL

DATELINE: THE HOLLYWOOD FILE

A Hollywood Hero

Another name for Hollywood is Storyland Heaven. The town is the world's magnet for dreamers who are attracted by their hope of becoming part of a greater story. And y'know what? For some, the relatively few, their dream comes true; they become part of an unimagined particular, for what they realize is usually not quite what they had in mind, but it most definitely is a dream that could only come true in Hollywood.

Say hello to Ritchie. He's 13 years old as his story unfolds. His dad died a while back, the details very cloudy for young Ritchie, but he knows his dad died rather mysteriously. Foul play was afoot, for sure, leaving an omnipresent cloud on Ritchie's consciousness.

Ritchie's Mom had to get a job. Given that Mom hadn't worked since before Ritchie was born, she found herself highly unqualified for everything. The best job she could get hardly paid the bills, usually leaving too many days at the end of the month.

Ritchie got a job selling papers on the street. Maybe it's more accurate to say he created the job. Fortunately, Ritchie chose to sell his papers on Hollywood Boulevard, so he was more often than not able to sell his load so he could contribute his meager take to his Mom.

Ritchie would patrol Hollywood Boulevard where, over time, the intersec-

tion of Highland Boulevard became the center of his "route." Not too far off that corner was a restaurant called The Villa Capri. The popular nightspot was frequent-

ed by all sorts of Hollywood Royalty. Perhaps its most famous patron was Frank Sinatra. Rumor was that Sinatra owned "a piece a the joint," as one wag put it.

In more than a year of hawking papers, Ritchie had never even seen Sinatra. Maybe the Sinatra story was more Hollywood Bull, Ritchie thought. That's the way it is in Hollywood sometimes. Kinda like the story of Marilyn Monroe sipping a chocolate soda

at Schwab's. Nobody Ritchie knew ever saw Marilyn Monroe in Schwab's, let alone drinking a chocolate soda.

Whatever, this evening Frank and Marilyn were not part of Ritchie's thoughts. Tonight his mind was troubled far more than usual. Ritchie's Mom had lost her job. She'd get another one right away, she assured Ritchie, but right now they were \$10 short of paying the rent, due tonight, and flat out of money for food. Some graham crackers and a mostly spent jar of peanut butter were the bounty Ritchie saw in the cupboard this morning. And wouldn't you know it, Ritchie still had a fist full of papers tonight, with the clock on the corner showing 7:34 p.m., a half hour past his "head for home" time.



Little Joe Micale

The unsold papers represented most of Ritchie's take. Money already collected was for buying his load of papers tomorrow. If these didn't sell, what would he and Mom eat tonight, Ritchie wondered. If they dared use the money in his pocket, he would have no ability to buy papers tomorrow. As it was, he'd probably cut school again, get a head start on tomorrow evening, but he'd only pick up an hour, not a big enough edge at all, but....

People were scarce tonight, Ritchie noted to himself. Then he realized he felt that peculiar heaviness in the middle of his chest. Shifting focus to his forehead, he became conscious of the frown on his face. That, his Mom had helped him understand, was his body letting him, letting the whole world know, that he was worried. "Gotta sell those papers, but first take a breath; unwrinkle...."

Ritchie found himself heading west toward Highland Boulevard. A couple stopped him, bought a paper. Waited for their change. No tip. That's the way it goes, sometimes.

He crossed Highland, turned north, but suddenly the thought occurred to him that he was on the wrong side of the street if he wanted to head home to Burbank. A man stopped him, took a paper and gave him a quarter. "Keep it," the man said.

"Thanks, Mister," Ritchie said, and under his breath he added, "You should only know how much I mean it."

A bit further up, a black limo pulled to

the curb, let out three men. Maybe a sale, Ritchie thought as he started walking toward them.

"Hey kid. Kinda late to be selling papers, ain't it?" the man in the hat said.

"Little bit, maybe," Ritchie heard himself say.

"How many y'got left?" he wanted to know.

"Six...eight...um..." Ritchie said, wondering if the twilight was playing tricks with his focus.

"Gimme 'em," the man said. "I'm meeting a bunch of people inside who love to read."

"I was sure I was dreaming," Ritchie reported later. "I don't have that kind of luck."

"Keep the change," the man said as he slapped a bill into Ritchie's hand.

With a quick glance at the "5" on the bill and locking in on the man's blue eyes, Ritchie was able to stammer, "Gee, thanks Mister Sinatra."

"Oh Ritchie!" his Mom exclaimed as he related the story to her. "But are you sure it was Frank Sinatra?"

"Musta been, Ma," Ritchie said with plenty of sparkle in his eyes. "Who else would give me a fifty dollar bill?"

I'll bet I have at least a million dreamy Hollywood stories. Be really tough to top this one, though.

littlejoe@earthlink.net

Enter to win a free trip at Village Shops

The Village Shops at 2340 Periwinkle Way are offering a free three-day, two-night getaway to one of the following locations: Las Vegas, Reno, Orlando, San Francisco or San Diego. The trip includes

airfare and two-night hotel accommodations for two. There's nothing to buy - just fill out a ticket at any Village Shop. The drawing will be on January 24.

UU January meeting rescheduled

The Unitarian Universalists of the Islands' meeting has been rescheduled. There will be no meeting on Jan. 2.

Our next meeting with Rabbi Bruce Diamond will be on Jan. 16."

Book signing at Shell Museum

Chuck and Debbie Robinson, husband-and-wife authors of *The Art of Shelling*, will sign copies of their book at The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum on Sanibel Island on Tuesday, Dec. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. "The 180-page paperback

sells for \$14.95 at the museum store. The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum is located at 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road on Sanibel Island. For further information, call the museum at 239-395-2233 or 888-679-6450.

Christmas Crabfest at The Timbers

"'Tis the season to be Crabby..." that is, if you like crab!

The Timbers Restaurant & Fish Market begins a Christmas Crabfest on Christmas Day, which continues through New Years Day.

In addition to its regular menu featuring the largest selection of fresh fish on the islands, the Crabfest menu will offer Crab bisque, lump crabcake appetizer,

lump king crab cocktail, stone crab claws, Alaskan king crab legs, lump crabcake dinners and crab combinations dinners of all the types of crab on the menu.

The retail fish market will be offering special prices on all crab items.

Please call ahead for New Year's Eve special orders. For more information, call 395-CRAB (for real!).

Legion Meatloaf Dinner for Child Welfare

The American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting a Meatloaf Dinner with Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy — and topped off with a brownie — on Tuesday, January 4 from 5 - 9 p.m.

The cost will be \$7 a plate. All of the proceeds will benefit the Child Welfare Foundation and the public is welcome. Please come and help us help the children of Florida.

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472-2005

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MOAA and Legion collect personal comfort items for our troops

"Nearly a ton of personal comfort items have been donated by the Sanibel-Captiva community to send to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Dewey Tate, the President of the San-Cap chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Special thanks to the members of Chapter 123 of the American Legion; the legion hall was the site for collecting and boxing the materials that were donated by CVS Pharmacy and hundreds of islanders.

The badly needed items will be mailed to individual soldiers this week and will arrive in time for Christmas. The cost of the mailing will be about \$1,500 according to Tate. Patriotic citizens who want to show their concern for our men and women in uniform can help by sending a check to MOAA, 1036 Sand Castle Road,

Sanibel, Florida, 33957.

"The military provides the soldier with necessities, like guns, ammunition, rations, and uniforms but personal comfort items such as toothpaste and soap are considered an individual's responsibility," said Bob Laswell, MOAA past president. "There are no stores to provide personal comfort items during combat operations. In Vietnam about once a month each unit would get a box of personal comfort items from the Red Cross. It was a major morale booster for the soldiers."

MOAA and the Legion expect to continue to collect and send personal comfort items to our men and women in the combat zone throughout the coming year.

*If you want to help, contact Dewey Tate at 395-3904.



Bernadette Nachazel (left) and Margie Harrington (right) displaying some of the goodies in Santa's bag.

St. Isabel's brings Christmas to North Fort Myers children

On Sunday, December 19, St. Isabel Women's Guild traveled to St. Joseph the Worker Mission in North Fort Myers to keep the tradition of a Christmas party for the children of migrant workers.

As St. Isabel's Church suffered substantial damage from Hurricane Charley,

services are being held in the church hall. Since space at the church is limited until renovation is complete, the Women's Guide collected gifts and brought them (plus Santa!) to the children.

The children performed several numbers, ending with a tabloid of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the three kings arriving later.

After a visit with Santa (Paul Andrews) each child had the opportunity to select a gift from the large display. Lunch followed the festivities.

A special thank you to all the associates of Coldwell Banker and St. Isabel parishioners. We were able to gift over 200 children.

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At the Senior Center

Pilates Class at Senior Center

The Island Senior Center is happy to have Marsha Wagner teaching Pilates classes twice a week. Marsha is well known to this area as an instructor of this distinctive form of exercise. Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Tuesdays are for the more experienced; Thursdays are for all levels. Bring your own mat. Reservations are not required. \$10 per class; open to the public. At the Senior Center; phone 472-5743.

Ten Minutes That Could Save Your Life

Island Seniors is hosting health screenings on Thursday, January 27. A more detailed sheet is available at the Senior

Center, located at the corner of Palm Ridge Road and Library Way. Screenings save lives! Preventive Blood Testing is provided by First Link and includes Prostate Cancer, Cholesterol, Thyroid, Diabetes, Heart, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Liver, Estrogen Levels, Allergy Profile and more. Tests must be scheduled by calling First Link at 1-866-302-5663.

Life Line Screening is also offering: Stroke Screening, Aneurysm Screening, Osteoporosis Screening and Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening. Tests are non-invasive, and painless using Doppler ultrasound technology. The tests are also affordable. Reservations required; call Life Line Screening at 1-800-324-1851.



New Year Eve Champagne and Wine Dinner Friday, December 31, 2004

6:00 PM or 9:30 PM Seating

For reservations call 472-6200

Amuse

Lobster Aspic

Piper Heidsieck Nv

First Course

Jonah Crab Cheesecake, Hazelnut Vinaigrette

Second Course

Cold Smoked King Salmon, Chive Blinis, Osetra Caviar
Katnook "Estate" Chardonnay, Australia, 2000

Third Course

Duck Confit and Golden Chanterelle Risotto
Merryvale "Reserve" Merlot, 2000

Fourth Course

Roasted Red pepper and Muscle Broth
Louis Jadot, Pouilly Fuisse, 2002

Fifth Course

Butter Poached Homard, Tarragon and Short rib Daube

Sixth Course

Slow Simmered Escargot, Pancetta lardons, Montrachet Ravioli

Seventh Course

Intermezzo

Eighth Course

Wet Cured Ostrich Loin, White Bean Cassolet
Guenoc, "Beckstoffer" Cabernet, 1993

Ninth Course

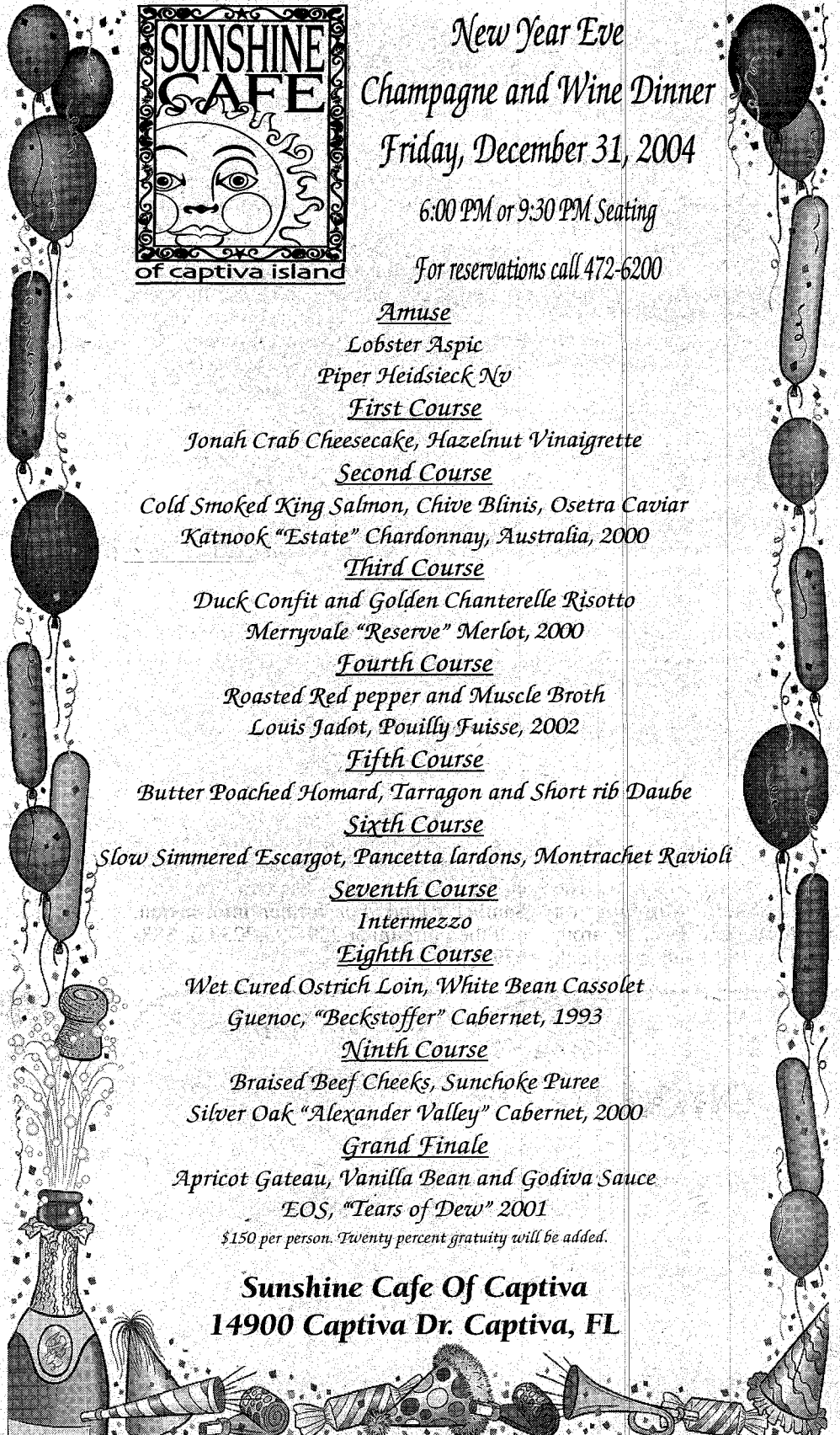
Braised Beef Cheeks, Sunchoke Puree
Silver Oak "Alexander Valley" Cabernet, 2000

Grand Finale

Apricot Gateau, Vanilla Bean and Godiva Sauce
EOS, "Tears of Dew" 2001

\$150 per person. Twenty percent gratuity will be added.

Sunshine Cafe Of Captiva
14900 Captiva Dr. Captiva, FL



The little old schoolhouse moves on down the road

By Jeri Magg

The Little Old Schoolhouse, a 101-year-old fixture on Periwinkle Way, is getting its own special spot at the Historical Village and Museum on Dunlop Road around December 29. Built in 1896 on the corner of Periwinkle Way and Bailey Road, it was moved farther up Periwinkle in 1903.

Sam Bailey, the force behind the expansion of the Village, remembers the schoolhouse fondly. A seventh grade math wiz, he was asked to teach fifth grade math at the school, but claims his favorite subject was recess.

In 1888, Sanibel petitioned Lee County for a school district. By 1889, Sanibel had grown to a total of 100 inhabitants. In the early 1890s the Board of Public Instruction decided there should be two schools on Sanibel, an east-end school on Periwinkle Way and a west-end school at Gray Gables on West Gulf Drive.

The original east-end school with dirt

Come and celebrate at the Sanibel Historical Village

Former students and the public are invited to the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum on Wednesday, December 29 between 7:30 and 9 a.m. to celebrate the arrival of the Old Schoolhouse Building to the Village. Coffee, donuts and wonderful stories will be served up by the museum docents. The Historical Village is located at 950 Dunlop Road, Sanibel. Call 472-4648 for more information.

floors, built in 1891, blew down in '93 following a hurricane. A horrendous freeze in 1895 forced northern Floridians south, and Sanibel's population swelled to 350. The following year a classic one-room schoolhouse was built at a cost of \$539, on the corner of Bailey Road and Periwinkle Way. It was named the East Sanibel School for White Children. This one room schoolhouse was typical for its day with a

teacher's desk upfront on a platform where pupils took turns reciting lessons. A wood-burning stove was used for warmth and for heating hot cocoa and soup.

Employing rollers and a winch, the schoolhouse was moved up-island to land donated by the Riddle family in 1903.

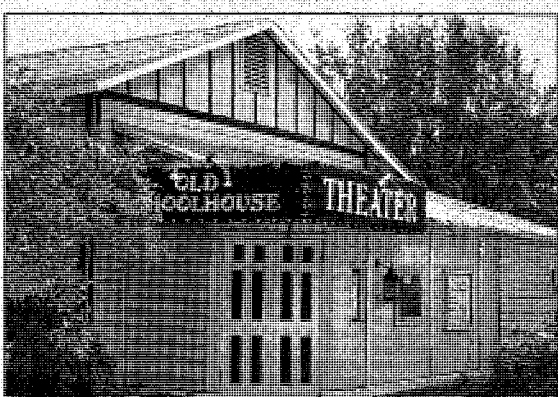
Around 1930, Frank Bailey recommended to the school board that more windows be placed on both east and west sides of the school. Light would then come in over the students' shoulders. In 1938, a second room was completed so that grades one through eight could be taught. After 1940 a steeply pitched roof was added.

The schoolhouse, with its upright piano, was a perfect setting for community activities until the Community Center was built in 1927.

A new school was built on San-Cap Road in 1963 and the old schoolhouse abandoned.

Ruth and Phillip Hunter bought the building in 1964 and ran it for 18 years as a community theater. They painted it pink, converted the building to a 90-seat theater arranged in two tiers surrounding a square

Far left: The little old schoolhouse played its last active role, bringing joy and light musical fare, as the familiar pink-coated Old Schoolhouse Theatre. Near left: Ruth and Philip Hunter. Top right: The schoolhouse when it was a schoolhouse, in the early 1900s.



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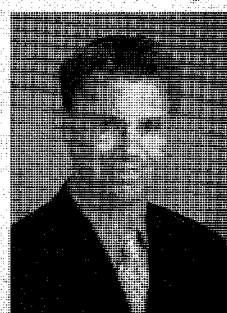
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WHO'S WHO ON THE ISLANDS

Captivan Janet Vince advises, "Always have fun and never take yourself too seriously!"



Nancy Santeusanio

Janet Vince, a native of Surrey, England, has been on Captiva for the past nineteen years and now is delighted to be living in the historic cottage that at one time was occupied by Maybelle Stamper in its original location next to The Chapel by the Sea but now relocated to Captiva Drive. Vince describes the whole place as crooked with the floors and windows all on a slant but says that's what makes it a wonderful house and "a sanctuary of quietness in beautiful surroundings".

Vince's conventional and proper family wanted the best for their two children and Janet was taught the finest of table manners, the most perfect English and that courtesies like "Please" and "Thank you" were a must. She still values highly their teaching but admits, "I was a bit of a black sheep, a polite conformist and I always needed to have a goal." Her father understood this and would challenge her with a goal like, "If you pass the '11+ exam, I'll buy you a bicycle," or "If your brother swims the length of the pool and you swim across the pool, I'll double your pocket money." They both swam their distance and earned their reward.

In the mid-seventies Vince's father explained that her career choices were to become a secretary, a hairdresser or to get married. None of these appealed to her free spirit and in the early eighties she and Karen, her best friend, flew to California. "We thought California was amazing. Everything was so big and so alive. Our two-week holiday at Newport Beach extended into five and by that time we had maxed out our credit cards." Since that time Vince has never had a credit card and has renamed them dangerous "debt cards".



Upon her return to England Vince figured that the quickest way back to America was to become an English nanny. With her impeccable English accent and fine manners she was snapped up immediately to work in Beverly Hills but after two years she was ready for a big change. This time Vince returned to England and landed an excellent job as a "croupier"

or casino dealer. The competition was unbelievable: with 10,000 applicants, the list narrowed down to 70 who were given training and eight qualifying to be on the casino floor. This was a very glamorous job with certain drawbacks like cigar smoke being blown in her face from nine o'clock in the evening until five o'clock the next morning and watching people lose big money. "I took over one million pounds from one man in forty minutes playing roulette." After three years, Vince quit and became a tree surgeon for a short while.

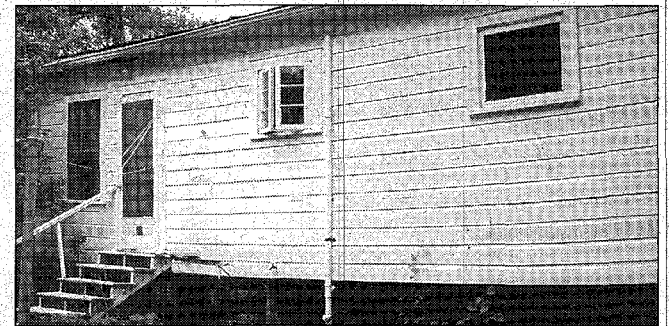
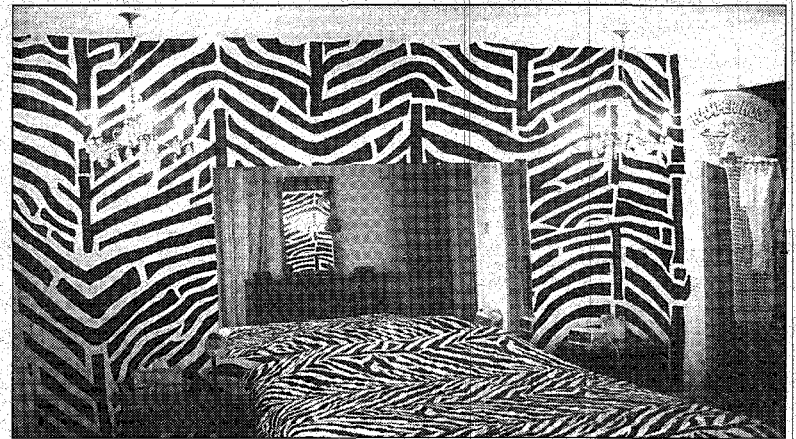
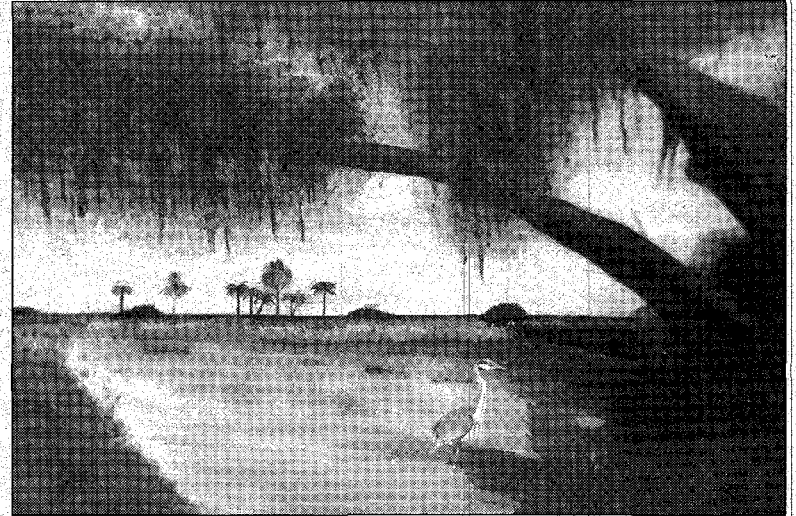
With the appeal of tree surgery waning, Vince went to the cruise ships and received a contract as croupier for the first job she applied. This was a fabulous life but after Vince completed her contract, she went to Captiva, "a place with which I had fallen in love long before my cruise ship days". As her two-week vacation turned into a much longer time, Vince had fun helping out as hostess at The Mucky Duck. ("I can't cook and I can't balance plates, so hostess was my best bet.")

Since her childhood, Vince loved art and was always playing with paints. However, her father had stopped her from doing art. At thirteen she had to make a decision whether to take languages or art. Since she already spoke French and German, he said "do languages. You'll never make any money as an artist." Today Vince exclaims, "I've been painting every day for seventeen years. I was always painting whatever I felt like painting and it's still that same way." When guests come to visit, she's usually working on a project and with big pieces of paper spread over tables, invites her guests to paint or draw whatever they would like. With no television in sight and only beautiful background music, her guests become absorbed in their painting and usually ask, "Can I take mine home?"

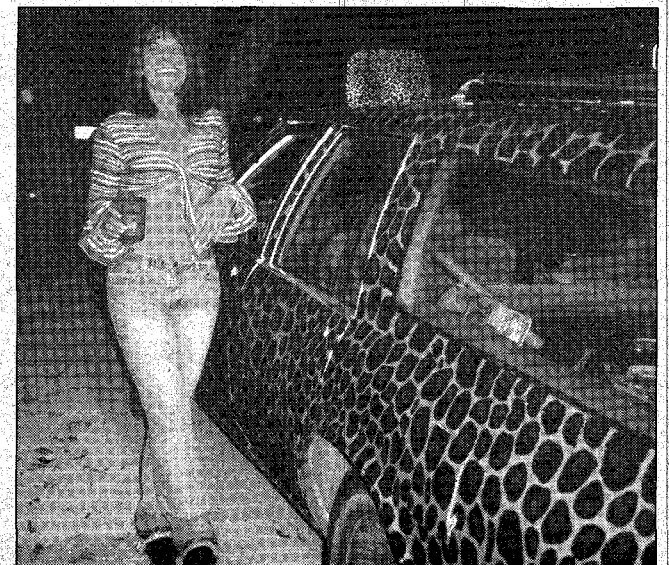
One day Matt Asen, owner of Timbers, asked Vince if she could paint fish on the exterior of his restaurant. Without hesitation Vince replied "sure" and went to work. A reporter came by, liked the fish and called her a local artist. Jokingly she adds, "That's the day I became an artist!" Vince is well known for her faux finishing and murals whether it's completing a wall to match an opulent and dramatic bedspread or painting a mural of old Florida. She's the lady who has painted lots of fancy station wagons you may have seen around the islands. "One day I woke up and painted my station wagon like a patchwork quilt." Another time she decided to paint a "leopard skin" station wagon and then there was her white icing wagon with its decorative motif. Right now she's deciding whether to paint her big Volvo.

Vince calls herself a color and texture person who loves new ideas and different ways of doing things. She's exper-

Clockwise from bottom right: Vince and her famously faux-painted cars; with friend Karen; in 1965; faux mural of an "old Florida" scene and of a zebra-patterned wall custom-matched to a bedspread. Vince's home, a cottage formerly occupied by Captivan Maybelle Stamper.



imenting with magazine collage using a whole bunch of ads found in the "sixties" magazines. "I'm considering doing a whole wall with magazine collage or, who knows, maybe a whole car. I don't know why I do any of the things I do. There's no logical reason. Somewhere in my head something clicks. I like painting happy things to make people laugh. I have a lot of fun with my work and never take myself too seriously," she adds, breaking into her infectious smile. That's probably why Vince's work is so engaging and upbeat.



Causeway construction by the numbers

By Jenny Burnham
Staff Writer

First off, here are number of terms you should be familiar with to keep pace with the Causeway construction project: four.

At least, four so far. Here they are:

1. Bent - part of a bridge substructure, a rigid frame commonly made of reinforced concrete or steel which supports a vertical load and is placed transverse to the length of a structure. An end bent is the supporting frame forming part of an abutment.
2. Abutment - part of a structure which supports the end of a span; often supports and retains the approach embankment.
3. Pier - a vertical structure which supports the ends of a multi-span superstructure at a location between abutments.
4. Pile - a long column driven deep into the ground to form part of a foundation or substructure.

(Definitions from "Bridge Terminology" at pgh-bridges.com, a web site for the bridges and tunnels of Allegheny County and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.)

Paul Wingard, Director of Lee County's Department of Transportation, and Kris Cella, CEO of Cella & Associates, provided the *Islander* with the following statistics on the progress of the Causeway construction project.

- Number of bents on Bridge B: 14
Each bent is comprised of 2 abutments and 12 piers. The project has currently reached the third bent.
- Number of piles per bent: 15
- Number of permanent piles driven so far: 45
With one exception, the test piles proved to be of such good quality that they can be used as permanent piles. "If the piles are good enough, we keep them," said

Cella. "If not, we cut them off at the mudline. These happened to be good enough."

- Height of a pile: "About 140 to 145 feet," said Cella.
- Average depth to which the pile is driven: about 100 feet below the mudline, stated Cella.

Factoring in the depth of the bay, each pile will "stick out of the water by 20 to 25 feet," Cella said. Once all the piles are in place, crews will top them to the same height, and then pour a block of concrete to form a footing, according to Wingard.

- Number of pile-driving cranes: one.
A barge-mounted crawler lattice-boom friction crane is driving the pilings from a fixed position on the barge.
- Height of the crane: 200 feet.
- How much it weighs: "a lot," said Cella.
- Number of support cranes: one.
A second barge-mounted crane is providing support services for the pile-driving crane as well as performing tasks associated with fixing the sea wall that was damaged in Hurricane Charley, said Wingard.
- Number of cranes due to arrive next on the project: two.
A land-based crane is expected to arrive at the site around Christmas. A second water crane will be arriving within "two to three weeks," Wingard stated.
- Number of barges assigned to the project: "about half a dozen" support barges are working on the construction, said Wingard.
- Number of workers currently assigned: about 30. Ultimately, said Cella, the project will involve about 80 workers.
- Number of new phrases you can add to your vocabulary: one.
"Don't mess with me, or I'll cut you off at the mudline."

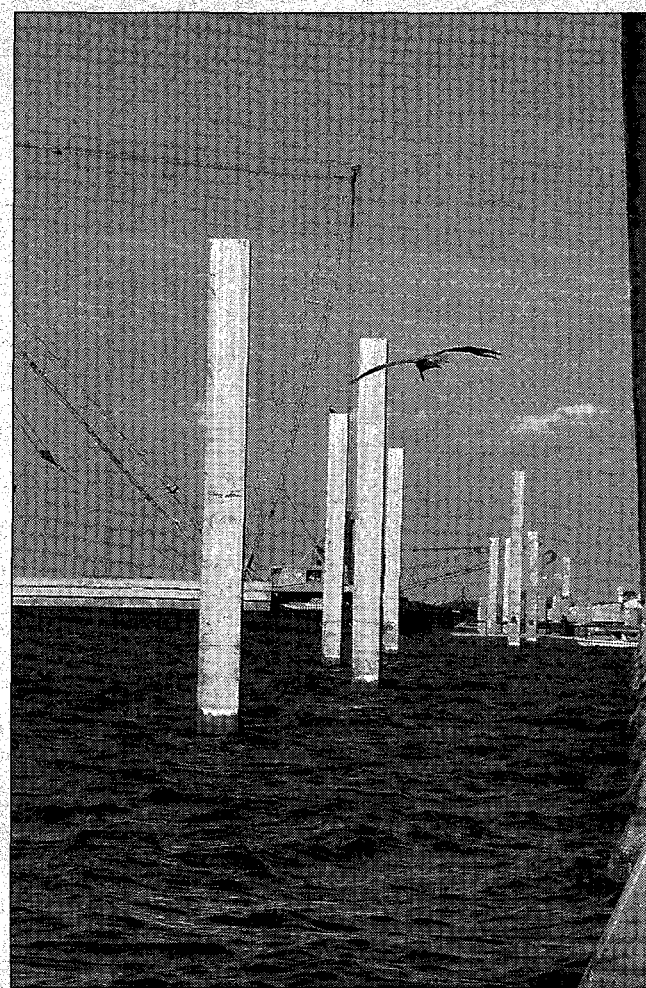


Photo by Karen Nelson

Causeway pilings on Sunday, Dec. 19.

SERVICE CLUBS

Zonta presents \$15,000 in grants

Wrapping up another successful year, the Zonta Club of Sanibel/Captiva has dispensed \$15,000 in grants and funds to support its mission of improving the status of women both locally and globally.

At the club's annual holiday party at Ellington's on Thursday, December 16, before a crowd of nearly 70 Zonta members and their guests, president Darla

Letourneau presented checks for \$2,500 each to two organizations selected by club members for special assistance this year: Making It On Purpose, which operates under the auspices of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Fort Myers, providing emotional and practical support for young women transitioning out of foster care; and the Transitional Living Center (TLC) at Southwest Florida Addiction Services, also in Fort Myers, which provides education and support for women in recovery from addiction. The recipients also took home gaily-wrapped holiday gift packages for the program participants, assembled by club members.

As well as financial support and seasonal gifts, Zonta members offer to both programs on a volunteer basis mentoring, training in social, practical and job-seeking skills, collections of clothing and household goods, and (for the young women) social outings.

In addition, checks for \$2,500 each have been forwarded to Partners for Breast Cancer Care, a Fort Myers-based organization that provides mammograms and other diagnostic procedures for low-income women, and to Planned Parenthood of Southwest Florida, to provide continuing education and outreach. The club also submitted a total of \$5,000 to Zonta International, principally to support the organization's ambitious Anti-Trafficking Project in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The club recently adopted the topic of trafficking in women for study and support both locally and internationally.

The Zonta Club of Sanibel/ The Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is a service organization of professional



Above: Zonta President Darla Letourneau with Judi Woods, founder and CEO of Making It On Purpose, and Rosemary Boisvert and Linda Peterson of the TLC administrative staff. Left: Sue and Mick Denham enjoying the wonderful music.

women working together to provide hands on assistance, advocacy, and funds to strengthen women's lives on the islands, in Lee County, and around the world through Zonta International. Additional information is available at www.zontasancap.com or by calling Ginger Parker on 466-5100.



Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve Beach Service

All residents, visitors, children, dogs on leashes and boaters are cordially invited to follow the luminary trail to the annual traditional Christmas Eve service at Lighthouse Beach beginning at 5:30 p.m. and lasting until darkness falls. The Sanibel Congregational Church sponsors the service. Dr. Ran Niehoff will present a 45-minute nondenominational rendition of the Christ Child's birth, aided by sound effects from the audience, the sound of a twinkling star, the breeze and more. As darkness falls across the beach, each worshiper will light a candle to celebrate the arrival of the Holy Night. There will be a free will offering for the benefit of the Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity. Plan to bring a chair or blanket and insect repellent.

Chapel by the Sea, 11590 Chapin Lane on Captiva, 472-1646

Christmas Eve

7 p.m. - All are invited to attend the nondenominational service with Reverend Doctor Bob Hansel. Candlelight and carol service

Sanibel Community Church, 1740 Periwinkle Way, 472-2684

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. - contemporary worship
7 p.m. - contemporary worship
9 p.m. - traditional with choir
11 p.m. - Christmas communion

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 2050 Periwinkle Way, 472-0497

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. - Lighthouse beach candlelight service at 5:30. Arrive early for parking!
10 p.m. - Midnight service in the Sanctuary

St Michael and All Angels Episcopal, 2304 Periwinkle Way, 472-2173

Christmas Eve

5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Christmas Day
10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
December 26
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

St. Isabel Catholic Church, 3559 Sanibel-Captiva Road, 472-2763

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. - Vigil
10 p.m. - Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Off-island:

There will be a Paper Bag Pageant at the Iona-Hope Episcopal Church at 9650 Gladiolus Drive in South Fort Myers. As people enter the sanctuary, they are urged to pick up simple props and costumes from paper bags. At the appropriate time, participants act out their parts. The Pageant will be at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Call 454-4778 for more info.

Last Flight Out

Sanibel Community Church will be showing the film, *Last Flight Out*, an exciting family film from World Wide Pictures, the Billy Graham film ministry on Sunday, Jan. 2 at 6 p.m.

This true-to-life story is about a daring rescue of a U.S. missionary caught in a Colombian drug war. Free to all. Call 472-2684 for info.

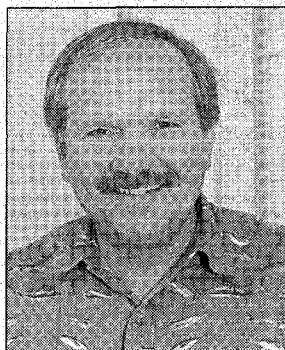
Sobczak at MacIntosh

Sanibel author Charles Sobczak will be signing copies of his four books on December 30 at MacIntosh Bookstore, located at 2365 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel.

The signing will begin at 2 p.m. and continue until 4 p.m. that afternoon. In remembrance of Hurricane Charley (no relation), autographed copies of the author's second novel, *Way Under Contract*, a Florida Story will be available for a New Years celebration price of \$10 each.

Set on the fictional island of Shoreside, *Way Under Contract* tells the story of a category five hurricane hitting an overdeveloped Southwest Florida barrier island. Winner of the 2001 Patrick Smith Award, *Way Under Contract* was recently the focus of a live BBC radio interview with the author. Mr. Sobczak will also be signing copies of his first novel, *Six Mornings on Sanibel* along with his other two titles.

Please contact Jim Dowling at MacIntosh Books for additional information at 472-1447.



New Year's Eve at BIG ARTS

Say farewell to 2004 in style!

Please join your Sanibel friends and neighbors in welcoming 2005 at Schein Hall at BIG ARTS. The hall will be transformed into an elegant night-club and the evening begins at 9 p.m.

- *Coffee* and a scrumptious *holiday dessert bar*

- *Dance music* by the Vince Evans Quartet will continue until 1 a.m. Vince, the bassist, is joined by Ron Beaver on piano, Jim Blakemore on drums and Sal Spazzo on trumpet. (You may recognize them from Ellington's Jazz Club.)

- *Midnight* will be celebrated with *champagne, hats and noisemakers*.

- Soft drinks, ice and set-ups are provided.

Tickets \$40 per person

On sale now at BIG ARTS, 900 Dunlop Road
Phone 395-0900.



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Gifts by Design opens at Tanger

By Laura Nickerson
Staff Writer

Islander Sandy Gales has done it again. After two successful years of ownership at Salon By Design, located in the Sanibel Tanger Factory Stores, she decided that the shop's overflowing display of gifts needed a home of its own. She chose a location only four doors from Salon By Design and named it **Gifts by Design**.

And if the gifts overflowed before, you should see them now! Sanibel Candle Company, once located on the island, is now headquartered here. Hundreds of their beautiful and unusual candles are not only on display; visitors can watch them being made, up close and personal. They only burn internally, leaving the buyer with a decorative shell in which to place a votive after the original interior wax burns away. In effect, you get a candle for life. Designs include sea life, florals, lighthouses, and colorful abstracts.

Birthstone fairy bears are a great new take on the original childhood teddy, one that will delight women and teens, as well as children. Adorably dressed, soft plush bears have gauzy wings, and each wears a simulated gemstone on the front of its garment.

There is a large display of beauty products by Crabtree and Evelyn, famous worldwide for their quality lines of soaps, creams, and other personal potions. Sanibel Soaps is well represented with row upon row of colorfully glowing glycerine bars. Mizu products feature elemental body care with scrubs, buffers, and sponges.

The costume and semi-precious jewelry here is a mind-boggling display contained in several huge cases at the center of the large shop. Lots of sterling silver items, in fascinating new designs, and accented with gemstones or handblown glass beads are so lovely, it would be difficult to pick just one.

Enlarging upon the feminine theme, a display of "Birdie Bags" by Loclar marches around one rear corner

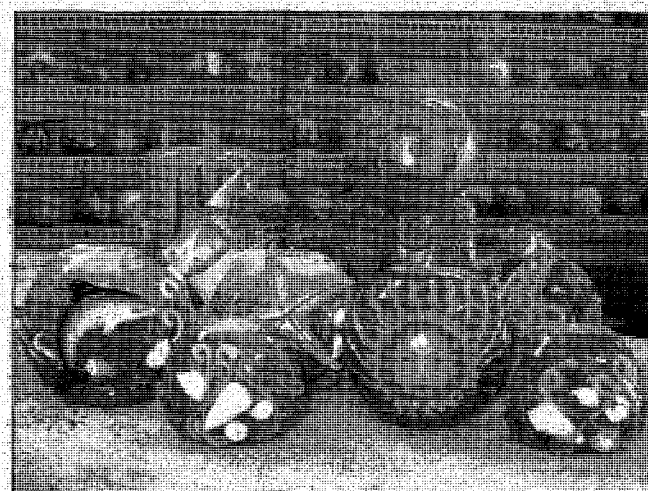


Above left: Birthstone fairy bears for little girls of any age. Above right: Some of Sanibel Candle Company's unique wares available at Gifts by Design

of the store. These are one-of-a-kind fabric handbags in bright fashion patterns, with real ostrich or maribou trim. Likewise, a line of fun, fabric and feather-trimmed portable bottle covers, for 16-ounce drinks, this time by a local artist, completes the movie queen look.

On a slightly more serious note, several terrific lines of glass or ceramic giftware in colorful patterns are available, as useful as they are pretty.

One of the best gift ideas around this year, is a line of "how-to boxes" put out by a company named Top That. These are a sort of topic-in-a-box, with an informative book included for every subject, as well as everything needed to explore each subject as a beginner. For instance, in the Herb Gardening box, you would find seeds, small pots, growing medium, and an illustrated



Photos by Laura Nickerson

book on the subject of gardening with herbs. Some topics in a box that are offered include aromatherapy, body detoxing, making sushi, and how-to fondue.

Chocolate covered orange or coconut patties, salt water taffy, and coated pretzels, all by island Candy Company, will keep sweets lovers happy and there are literally thousands of other small gifts to choose from.

If it's only a card you are seeking, check out the cards at Gifts by Design. Several fun lines are sold here, including three dimensional cards, and "tropical shirt" cards, which are cut out in the shape of a shirt, patterned like your favorite Tommy Bahama wear, with cute sayings inside. Gift bags are on hand too.

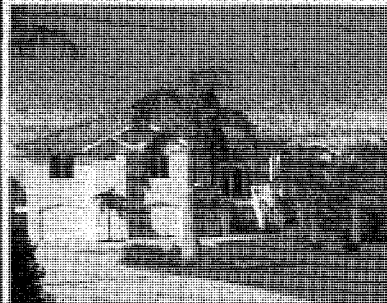
Reach Gifts by Design at 239/590-0082 or stop in at suite 5115 of the Sanibel Tanger Factory Stores.



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American Sewing Guild

Author and fashion designer Stephanie Kimura will show *Bags with Style* at the next meeting of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the American Sewing Guild on Saturday, Jan. 22 from 12:30 - 3 p.m. at the Lee County Extension Service, Terry Park, 3406 Palm Beach Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Kimura's book, *Bags with Style*, features 25 contemporary projects to create purses, belts, bags and creative holders.

Membership in the national, non-profit guild is open to all who would like to learn more about sewing; dues are \$40 per year. Call President Diane Stramel at 458-2858 for more info.

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CROW winner at Periwinkle Place



Dan Thompson of End Result awards Lisa Gumenick of Sanibel with a Prize Basket worth \$300 from the C.R.O.W. promotion at Periwinkle Place. This was from the second of five drawings - one more week to go!

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Holiday Fest at Bailey's



Photos by Terri Blackmore
Bailey's General Store welcomed the holidays on Saturday, Dec. 18 with food and music. 7-year-old James Dowling paid a visit to Santa Claus. This is a very, very busy time of Santa and he was a touch under the weather on Saturday, so Renaldo Matos graciously stepped in for the evening at Santa's special request, subbing for the Mr. Claus. We hear that Santa is now fully recovered and gearing up for his Christmas Eve travels.



The Sanibel Company Store

Sanibel's Specialty Shop

Gifts, Lamps, & Antiques

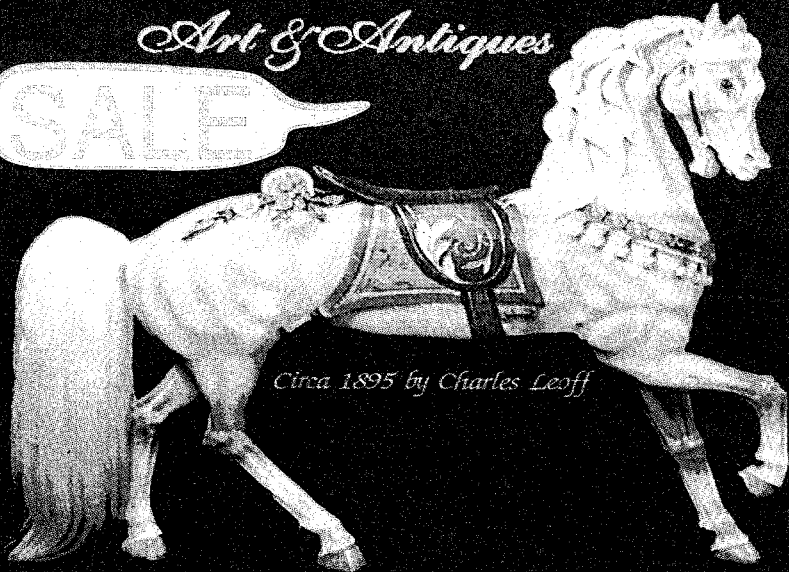
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*The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) set forth above is accurate as of the publication date but is subject to change thereafter. There is a penalty for early withdrawal. \$1,000 minimum deposit.



Letters from the 2nd Grade

Dear Santa, Claus

I have been a good girl this year. I helped my mom do the dishes. I would like edio, a tetty bear, an easy bake oven, a movie and lots and lots of prezins.

Love,
Laura Gauthier

Dear Santa,

I've been a good girl this year. I helped my mom when she was sick. I would like a Golden ratrever puppy for Christmas I promise I will take care of it and feed it. I can't wait till Christmas!

Love,
Kelsey Congress xoxo

Dear Santa,

How is Rudolph? How is Dasher, Donner, and Blitzen, Say hi to them from me and everybody else. One more thing I need to tell you, when my ferened, Sam got hurt I helped him and see if his ok. One thing I want is Battallball. I been a very good boy. Merry Christmas, Santa!

Love,
Christian Fischer

Dear Santa claus,

I was a good boy this year. I would like a Game Boy Advanced SP and fire red and leaf green the games. Santa, can I have your autograph? Can I have a CD and a movie of Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Asgband. Can I have a game cube and a Xbox. See you soon.

Love,
James Dowling

Dear Santa,

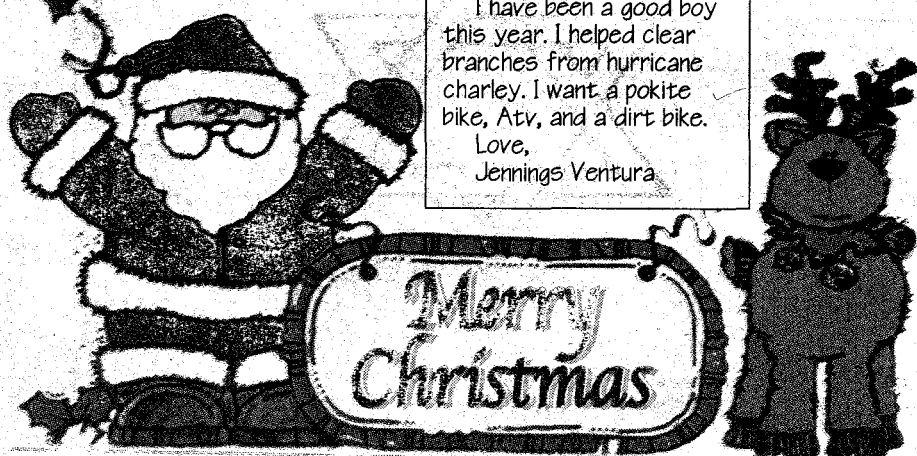
I have been a good boy this year. I helped clean the boat and car. I helped put up Christmas decerashis. I would like a dirtbike and dirtbike helmet and dirtbike goggles and dirtbike boots, an eltret gatar, a NCAA 2005 and a Madden 2005.

Love,
Alec Suarez

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy this year. I helped clear branches from hurricane charley. I want a pokite bike, Atv, and a dirt bike.

Love,
Jennings Ventura



Dear Santa,

I have been a very good girl. I have helped my dad pike up his friends yard while he was away. I would like a game boy Avavne sp. I would like a Video Now. I would like a cell phone. I would like a cat phone for my bed room. I would like a Boohbah DVD. I wuld like a stofed aminal cat. I would like an art set.

Love,
Crystal Falde

Dear Santa,

I have been a girl this year. I helped my sister with her homework. Santa, all I would like this year is a big traplen. Can I have a reindeer? I 'Want Rudolph and a real rabbit. I would like my own computer, a camrai, a real gold neccles and I want a CD player with a I want candy CD. I hope you have a good Christmas.

Love,
Sara Hayes

Dear Santa,

I am good becus I let my little brother play my game boy. I play with my, sister. I helped in the hurricanes. If my Mom is bisy I watch my little brother. I know you are very bisy but I know that you can get me all this stuff becus you are spechle. Can I get a four weeler, game boy for me not my brother and a water gun.

Love,
Katherine Strange

HO HO HO Holidays

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~ A Big Sanibel Welcome Back! ~

May your holidays be merry and bright, and
your New Year filled with good fortune.

TWO SANIBEL LOCATIONS

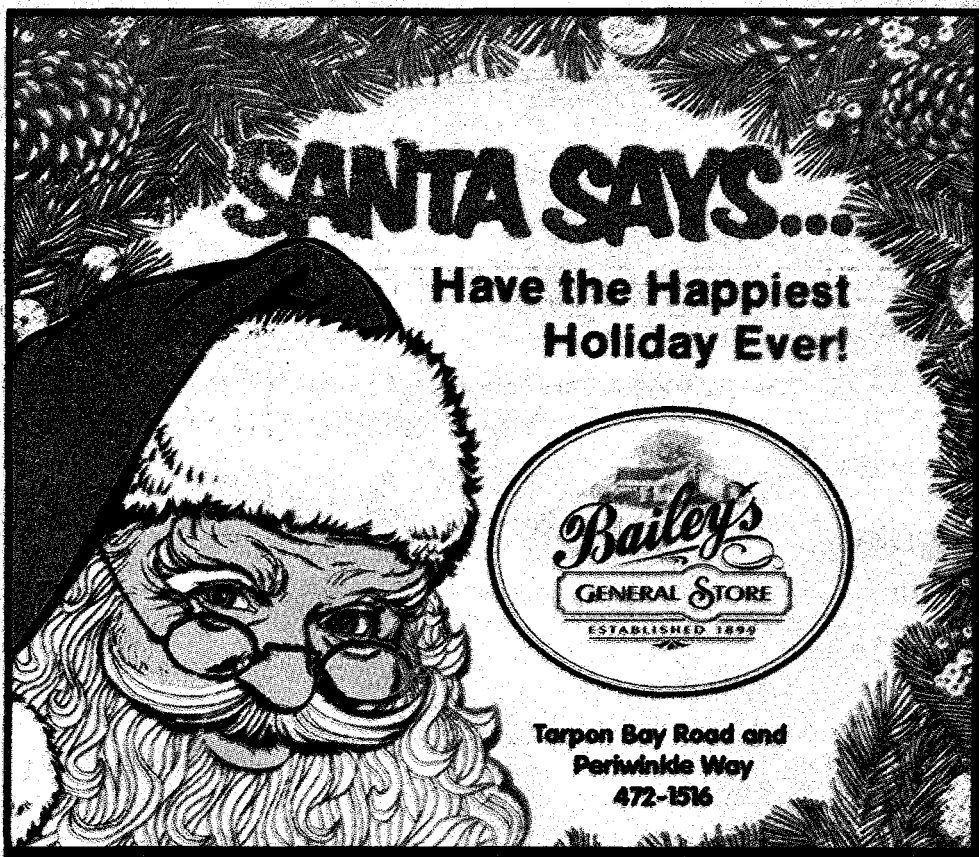
1157 Periwinkle Way OPEN 7 DAYS 2422 Periwinkle Way
472.6991 9 'til 9:30pm 472.8080

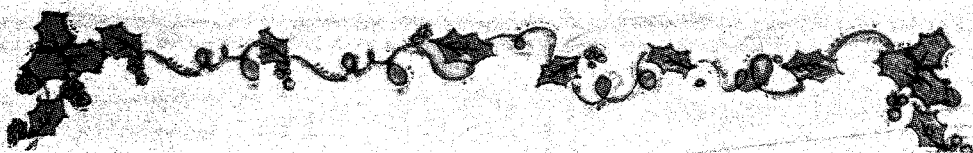
SANTA SAYS...

**Have the Happiest
Holiday Ever!**



**Tarpon Bay Road and
Periwinkle Way
472-1516**





Dear Santa,

I was a good boy. I walk everybody to the clinic. I want to see my cousins that are in Canada. Their names are Uncle Dan, Ian, Carolyn. See you soon!
Love, Thomas

Dear Santa,

I've been very good this year. I helped clean the garage, the turtle tank and the deck. So can I please have a pokeon Charzardex pack, and a Blastowd ex pack to and a Playstaton 2.
Love,
Andrew

Dear Santa,

How is Rudolph, Blitzen, Donner, Cupit and Comet? I hope they are ready for the flight and I hope Rudolph's nose is shining brightly. 2nd grade and 3rd grade are doing Christmas songs. The name of it is Christmas on candy cane lane, please come. I've been a good boy. I help Joel when he got hurt. I cleaned dog poop and I put the silver ware on the table. I want leaf green and fire red omagspiem, and the ultimate doom kit.
Merry Christmas!
Love,
Kirkle Williams

Dear Santa,

I've been good this year. I've fed my turtle and my fish. I've been good to my Mom and Dad. I've helped my baby brother when his leg was really hurting and he had a cast. I've helped My Mom and Dad put on the lights on the Christmas tree. I've done my homework every night and I've been reading lots of chapter books. I want a Row Bow saipin and a go cart. See you soon!
Love,
Chris Arundel

Dear Santa,

I was a good girl this year. I helped my dad pick up branches and many other things. Here is what I would like for Christmas: video now color, Fairly Odd parents, the Amanda show, Spongebob, and Drake and Josh disks, password journal, computer games, ESPN gamestashon and a new bike.
Love,
Dara Craig

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy by taking out the trash.
Santa, will you get me 30 yu-gi-oh packs sole of the duelist, yu-gi-oh duel disk, every fake yu-gi-oh card and yu-gi-oh the movie.
Merry Christmas!
Love,
Sam McGowen

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy. I mowed the lawn when the tarp was in the back yard. I picked all of it up and I picked up the shingles and branches too. I have been nice to my baby brother. I want a mini moto.
Love,
Taylor Williams

Dear Santa,

I have been a good girl. I helped with the hurricane. I carried water to the bathroom and got the flashlight. I helped with my cat. May I have Amaracin girl Josefinas happy birthday set. May I have a two seted stroller. May I have the 3 movies of harry poter. May I have the move the cinderrwa story movie, he frist book of harry poter and a snow thing for my two Amaracin girl dolls.
Love,
Maddison Raynor

Dear Santa

I was a good boy this year. I always help my, mom set the tabol. Say hi to Donner, Dasher, Blitzen, Comet, Cupid, Vixen and Rudolph. I would like a go cart the most I also want a drum send sum tools.
Merry Christmas!
Love,
Evan Simons

Happy Hanukkah

Dear Mom and Dad,

I have been a very good girl this year. I gave cans to people that don't have very much food. And this is what I won't for Hanukkah. I would like a gumball machine, a tent, a juice box, clothes, sandles a hershy smorth maker.
Love,
Dana Congress

Dear Mom and Dad,

I have been a very good girl. Beacus I helped my dad get the candles during Hurricane Charley. Also I helped put the shutters up. My cousin was scared so I read him a story. Then I gave him one of my bears. Now what I want for Hanukah is a gift card, money, cd's And That is all.
Love,
Nicole

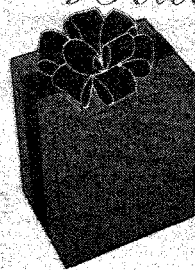


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Welcome back,

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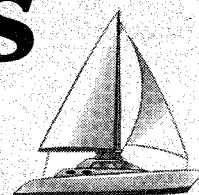
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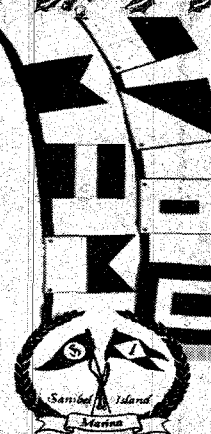
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Dear Santa Claus,
I have been a very good girl. I feed the dog every day. I would like the Harry Potter Prisoner of Azkaban book and movie. I hope you have some of these left in your bag.
Love,
Andrea Berrian

Dear Santa Claus,
I have been a good boy this year. My next door neighbor and I found a lost dog and told the owner. I would like, a Game Boy SP. I hope you have a good Christmas.
Love,
Joel Prosser

Dear Santa,
I've been a good girl this year. I helped my mom when she was sick. I would like a Golden retriever puppy for Christmas I promise I will take care of it and feed it. I can't wait till Christmas!
Love,
Kelsey C1nn9 r2SS xoxo

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. I help put up the Christmas tree. I wou like a piano and a game boy advanced and pop go reflection and a Barbie.
Love,,
Alicia Carrier

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl. I hope because I cleaned my room but it was painful. I even helped my mom pack before we went on are vacashon and I was sick! May I please have a new poly pocit that is an animal shelter. And a new toy babby! Marry Christmas!
Love,
Tricia Garmager

Dear Santa,
I have been a very good girl. I helped pick up after the hurricane and made my Mom break-fast in bed for Mother's Day. I also helped my Mom with her arens. Here are some things I want, baby born, go go my walking pup, Twister moves, the digital ping pong game and Barbie pet rescue. And one more thing, can I have your autograph? Have a very joly Chistmas.
Sencerly,
Casey Duran
dxoxoxoxoxoxo

Dear Santa,
I have been a good little girl. I helped my mom and dad pick up stuff after Hurricane Charley. I help my friends, I help my dad cook, I help my mom wash the car and I do a lot of other stuff help people. Here are the things I want for Christmas. I want a doll for Christmas, a chapter book, a Barbie car, a picture book, earrings, shoes, and a lunch box. One more thing, a coler-ing book. That is all I want and there is one more thing I want to tell you,
Merry Christmas And Happy Holidays!
Love,
Cayla Davis

Dear Santa,
I was a very good boy. I helped my buddy Doo clean pools. I also helped after Hurricane Charley. So, I, was wondering if you could get me 20 game boy games for both of my game boys, 20 PS2 games and a new bike. I would also like a dirt bike the same size as my Dad got 4e, Thank you Santa
xo xo xo!
Love, Brent Mohr



from the Islander staff:

Best wishes and happiness to you during the holidays and especially for the next year!

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Terri Blackmore | Ron Weisburg |
| Karen Nelson | Gary Hooper |
| Anne Bellew | Susan Wilhelm |
| Laura Nickerson | Gloria Schutlz |
| Joy Simpkins | Cathy Kupsky |
| Rich Martin | |

JOY TO THE WORLD
to all our good friends ~ we wish you the very best of everything!
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Happy Holidays
to all and heartfelt
wishes for the
safety of our
troops.
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Letters from the 2nd Grade

Dear Santa Claus,
I've been, very good girl this year. I helped my sister in the mornings. I would like a guitar for Christmas and Game, Boy, S.P. with Pokemon game. Good luck on getting the presents on time!
Love
Samantha Biddle

Dear Santa,
I've been a good girl so far. At West Palm Beach when hurricane Francise hit I told Lily my sister not to be scared and hugged her tight. May I please have a Dora the explorer house. I would also like to have a boy bratz.
Love,
Allina

Dear Santa,
I was a very good boy this year. I helped take all of the things out of my pool when hurricane Charlie hit. Then I helped put out the fire in my moms bathroom. Santa can I have a game boy advance and rock em sock em robots and legos.
Love,
Dylan Slocum

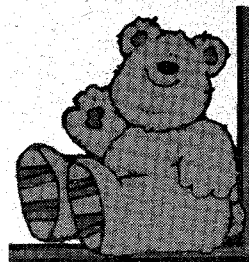
Dear Santa Claus,
I have been real good this year...This is what I did. I wached my brother, did the dishwasher, cleaned my room and I crushed cans. Then I swept my trampaleen, helped my friends, fed my cat, did my home-work, made cards, waterd plants, and did the londry. I would like a guitar and some games. Merry Christmas!
Genevieve Horton

Dear Mr. Santa
I have been a good girl this year. I helped my sister do her home work. I want to know how you are doing, hopefully good. I know I am doing good. How are the reindeer doing? Do they still like carrots? Ok, now I am going to ask what I want for Christmas. Can I have a Game Boy SP and a Pokymon game. Thank you. I hope the elfs are working hard. See you soon!
Love,
Peyton Logan

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I helped my sister clean her room. I also helped clean up after Hurricane Charley. What I want for Christmas is a Play Stashin 2 with a foot-ball game and a baseball game. I hope the elves are doing well. Could I please have your autograph? See you soon!
Love,
Will Sitton

Dear Santa Claus,
I was a good girl this year. I helped after Hurricane Charley, I went to bed when I'm told and I always give you cookies every Christmas. For Christmas, I would like a Easy Bake Oven, tea set and life size kitchen. I would like you to give children some toys if the children don't have toys. Please give them clothes and stuff they need.
Love,
Destiny Kosloske
xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxox

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this..year. I helped pick up the branches when hurricane Charlie hit. And helped clean up the pool. Could you please give the Harry Potter prisoner of Azkaban-le o set. and the star wars castle lego set and can you please give me the ice hockey lego set and the lego set dinosaur.
Love,
Joshua Congress



*Wishing you all the
Happiest of Holidays
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!*

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GALLERY**

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For Their Caring And Sharing
Toward Those Who Have Been
Less Fortunate This Past Fall
The Best Of Health & Happiness
To All In The Year 2005.*



Create a Perpetual Charitable
Fund at the Community
Foundation of Sanibel-Captiva
call: 274-5900



Letters from the 2nd Grade



Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. I have helped my dad in the yard. And I wold like a ckuple things pleas and it wold Be...

- 1.Videayo now in coler
- 2.Coler pister
- 3.Captain Underpants
- 4.E-Z bake oven
5. Shrek2
- 6.Ice cream maker
- 7.X-box games too

And if you can git that stuff. That wold be great.

Love, Olivia

Dear Santa,

I've been a good girl lately. Me and Jessica have been trading a Lot and I gave My mom some Stuff. I helped my brother with the words in Florida Panther. I helped give cans to people that don't have food. Please send me a My seane doll and a pair of earings. I also want a bratz doll, a stuffed dog and cat, a gum ball macine, a cell phone, an amarcian doll, a cotton candy maker and a Milk shake maker.

Love,
Paris Smith

Dear Santa Claus,

I've been a very good girl. I helped my mom when she was very sick. I helped with the Christmas deceracins and I fed the dog. I do my home work every day right after I get home from school and I do some chores. This is what I would like for Christmas, a Fur real pet, Easy Bake Oven, recipe, clay and an art set. See you soon.

Love,
Christianna Messinger

Dear Santa,

I have been a very good girl lately. I have been very nice to my Mom and Dad and my sister and the rest of my family. I have helped my Mom do the londre. I am doing what I have been told. Here is what I wood like for Christmas please. A gumball mishien, josebox, sum Amarcin girl stuff, a play grownd, coten candy maker, and a Hershey smor maker and an Amarcin girl doll.

Love,
Madison Kilgore

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been a little good girl this year. I did all my chores. What I would like for Christmas is, a baseball, set, a cranium game, lots and lots of new computer game's and whatever you think I should have.

Love,
Madeline Watt

Dear Santa,

I was a very good boy this year. I was a realy big helper putting up the shutters. Now here are the gifts I want. I want a puppy a game boy DS a pretend shotgun and bi bi gun a juice box.

Love,
Lewis Farrara

Dear Santa,

I was a good girl this year. I helped my mom do dishies. I don't care what I get exsepet I wood like 5 new pars of shoes. And I wood like a gumball mshen. I wood like a video now. And my own diry. And my own purs.

Love,
Katherine Paci

Dear Santa,

I have been a good boy this year. I helped pick up the branches when hurricane Charlie hit. And helped clean up the pool. Could you please give the Harry Potter prisoner of Azkaban lego set. and the star wars castle lego set and can you please give me the ice hockey lego set and the lego set dinosaur.

Love,
Joshua Congress

Dear Santa,

I have been good all year I have helped pick up branches during hurricane Charley I helped weed the yard. I have also been good in school. I have done all my work. I listen to the Teacher. I have wanted a lot of horses and this dog seat too.

Love, Deanna

Give the Gift of Health To A Friend
or To Yourself and Have a Happy,
Healthy, Ship-Shape, Totally
Toned, Carb-Busting
Holiday Season!

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Corner of Sanibel-Captiva Rd. and Rabbit Rd.



2005 Forum at BIG ARTS

The Forum at BIG ARTS returns for the third year, bringing intellectually stimulating speakers ranging from diplomats to congressmen, from world-renowned economists to news anchors.

The eight speakers on the 2005 schedule include a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a Harvard professor who's an expert on far eastern economic policy, a Senior Associate at the Carnegie Institute for International Peace, a former director of the CIA, and the director of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars. Also presenting their insights are a Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow in U.S. foreign policy, a Columbia professor who's a Senior Fellow on the Council on Foreign Relations, and a *Washington Post* columnist — "one of Washington's finest journalistic thinkers," according to the American Political Science Association.

Professor Jagdish Bhagwati (Jan. 11) has published more than 300 articles and 50 volumes. He is currently a university professor at Columbia and a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is an External Adviser to the World Trade Organization and a member of U.N. one of Secretary General Kofi Annan's high-level advisory groups. He is regarded as one of the foremost international trade theorists of his generation and

has appeared frequently on national TV programs from CNN and the BBC to *The MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour* and the *Charlie Rose Show*.

Walter Russell Mead (Jan. 16) is Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy - Council on Foreign Relations and author of the recently released *Power, Terror, Peace and War: America's Grand Strategy in a World at Risk*. His 2001 book, *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*, received the Lionel Gelber Award, called by *The Economist* "the world's most important prize for non-fiction," and nominated for the 2002 Arthur Ross Book Award. Mead is considered a leading interpreter of the history of U.S. foreign policy and America's role in the world.

Admiral William J. Crowe (Jan. 30) was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Reagan and named Chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board by President Clinton. From 1994 to 1997, Crowe served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In 1980, he was named Commander in Chief of NATO forces in Southern Europe and, three years later, became Commander in Chief of Pacific

Forces. After retirement, he took a position at the University of Oklahoma as a professor of geopolitics.

Dwight Heald Perkins (Feb. 17) has held the Harold Hinchings Burbank chair in Political Economy at Harvard since 1981 and served as director of the Harvard Asia Center since 2002. He has authored or edited 12 books and over 100 articles on economic history and development with special reference to the economics of China, Korea, Vietnam and other nations of east and southeast Asia. He has served as advisor or consultant on economic policy and reform and as a visiting professor or scholar at universities in both Japan and China.

Robert Kagan, Ph.D., (Feb. 20) is senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His fields of expertise include China and Iraq, democracy, human rights, NATO expansion, national security, and the use of force. He is the author of several books — his most recent, *Of Paradise and Power* (Knopf, 2003) — he writes a monthly column on world affairs for *The Washington Post* and is a contributing editor to both the *Weekly Standard* and the *New Republic*.

Lee H. Hamilton (Feb. 23), vice-chairman of the 9/11 Commission, became president and director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in January of 1999 following 34 years as a congressman from Indiana. During his tenure there he served as chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and chaired the subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East from the early '70s to 1993.

R. James Woolsey, Jr. (March 6), a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is vice-president for Global Strategic Security at Booz Allen & Hamilton. Besides serving as director of the CIA, he has served the country as ambassador to the Negotiations on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe from 1989 to 1991, as Under Secretary of the Navy from 1977 to 1979, and General Counsel to the Senate Committee on Armed Services from 1970 to 1973.

Washington Post columnist **E.J. Dionne, Jr.** (date uncertain at press time) specializes in examining the strengths and weaknesses of competing political philosophies. His analyses of American politics and trends in public sentiment is considered some of the best in the business.

San-Cap Art League events and exhibits



Sanibel-Captiva Art League welcomes visitors and residents to view their December Exhibit in the Sanibel Public Library. Featured are watercolors of local scenes from their weekly paint-outs. Included are prints, drawings, oils, acrylics and mixed media of many subjects that extend throughout the library walls this month. The library is located on Dunlop Rd near Sanibel City Hall and BIG ARTS. For library hours call 472-2483.

You are also invited to see Art League members' artwork along with other local artists who have almost 250 colorfully impressive realistic, stylized and abstract pieces in BIG ARTS' BIG/small Buy It Off the Wall Exhibit. The paintings, wall sculptures, drawings, photographs and prints have been specifically created for visitors' viewing pleasure and for

Helen Copeland (seated) and Sara Hurst at a Paint-out.

holiday gift-giving. They are suitable for private collections and for home or office decoration. The sizes are small for easy shipping and the pieces are low in price providing a unique opportunity to purchase attractive work by talented area artists. Gordon Coughlin, chair of the show and also a San-Cap Art League member, says, "This 'ever-changing' show has been very popular with the artists and receives great response from the viewers." There are over 70 artists who replace their sold work so there are always new works coming into Phillips Gallery and the sales benefit BIG ARTS' visual arts and other cultural events. The show can be seen weekday afternoons through December 29. Call 395-0900.

The League's upcoming

Experimental/Realistic Painting Workshop, the Tuesday afternoon portrait sessions, the weekly Thursday morning paint-outs and the meetings are open to all. For more information about these San-Cap Art League events, juried exhibits and Annual Clothesline Sale call 472-2726 or 472-8834 or write to PO Box 1192, Sanibel FL 33957.

San-Cap Art League paint-outs

The next San-Cap Art League paint-out will be on Thursday, Dec. 23 by the Sanibel lighthouse. All artists are invited to join these informal paint-outs at 9 a.m. They are followed by a casual discussion during lunch. Bring a sandwich and have some creative fun!

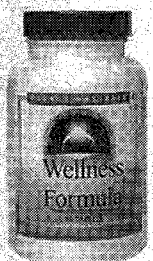


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Source Naturals Wellness Formula is the classic immune system support product!



For more information on how to "eat for good immune health," see Carol at the Island Nutrition Center

1633 C Periwinkle Way (next to the Cricket Shop, under the orange awning)

472-4499

Hours: M-F 9 - 5, Saturday 9 - 4

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
- *Use of marine radio
- *Basic weather
- *Aids to navigation
- *Seamanship
- *Basic piloting
- *Engine troubleshooting
- *Florida & local laws

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

CENTER STAGE

Cuttings is cutting-edge theater

Word of mouth was totally correct about the Theatre Conspiracy's latest production — *Cuttings* — which closed last week. Prize-winning author Thomas Atkinson has written a beautiful play for featured actress Joanna Olsen, who gave a stellar performance as Holly in this tour-de-force role. Director Bill Taylor has staged this play like a ballad, full of tenderness, childish audacity, charm, understating and humor. I may as well cast my vote here and now for a repeat engagement, so that those of you who missed the play and its wonderful performance can celebrate its return by attending the production the second time around.

Playwright Atkinson uses the theater as a powerful medium where intricate ideas can be stated. His concepts, sensitivity, and tender insights into character indicate an amazing familiarity with the inner life of women, as well as a finely tuned sympathetic feel for people who have been somehow damaged by accident or by life itself. This new playwright is someone worth watching. He has the potential to remember and embellish on the private impulses and dilemmas of his characters as he widens the theater's awareness of obscure people. He writes complete personalities filled with depth; he also mines the extraordinary spiritual capacities of his characters. The structure of *Cuttings* is both tenuous and poetic, as if the author looked on from a distance in the role of a sympathetic observer watching the character of Holly move through the shadowy labyrinth of life. He puts her hopes and frustrations into idiomatic words that have both cadence and melody — in a word "beautiful."

Olsen puts on the character of Holly like a second skin. She creates her charac-



ter through a highly individual acting technique that is both spontaneous and eloquent, consisting of quizzical glances, variations in tempo, tentative movements that are not quite completed, a warm expressive voice that always seems to be addressing the individual theatergoer. "Luminous" would be the only adequate word to apply to this stunning performance, where she looks into the dark corners of the human mind and heart and floods them with light that radiates from her acting sensibilities. This was an inspired play performed by a consummate actress. Not only was Taylor's fine direction ideal, but his simple, comfortable set design was in every way perfect.

Thank you, Theatre Conspiracy for a great evening of live theater, with a first rate cutting-edge theater experience of *Cuttings*!

Theater Conspiracy's next offering is a Southwest Florida premiere — *Anton in Show Business* by Jane Martin. Opening Jan. 6th, it plays Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Jan. 22nd and Sundays, Jan 9th and 16th at 2. Reservations/tickets are available by calling 936-3239.

Florida Rep auditions

Robert Cacioppo, Producing Artistic Director of Florida Repertory Theatre will be holding AEA and Non-AEA auditions by appointment only for the following show/roles in the 2004-2005 Mainstage Season:

- *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* by Charles Busch

Run dates: March 18 - April 10, 2005
Rehearsals begin: February 22, 2005

Marjorie Taub, the wife of a philanthropic allergist is barely able to rouse herself from her sofa. Her children are grown, her beloved therapist has just passed, and her bowel-obsessed mother incessantly needles her. Her spirits soar, however, when a fascinating and worldly friend from childhood mysteriously appears on her doorstep. Though Marjorie is infused with a renewed lust for life, the mysterious guest becomes unwelcome and sinister in short order. "A window rattling comedy of mid-life malaise... The Allergist's Wife earns its wall-to-wall laughs," - New York Times.

Mohammad - A boyish and very good-looking twenty-two year-old door-man from Iraq.

- *The Sugar Bean Sisters* by Nathan Sanders

May 27 - June 19, 2005

Rehearsals Begin - May 3, 2005

This very original comedy takes place in the fictitious town of Sugar Bean, nestled in the Florida swamps. Faye and Willie Nettles are two sisters sitting on a fortune buried somewhere in their daddy's sugar cane field. Faye, having witnessed the landing of an alien spacecraft in her backyard some twenty-five years earlier, eagerly awaits its return. Meanwhile her devoutly religious and bald-headed sister Willie, longs to travel to Salt Lake City to find herself a husband. Mayhem ensues and secrets are revealed when a strange

woman from New Orleans arrives at the Nettles home on the night of the expected "landing". This modern reworking of *Arsenic of Old Lace* is soon to be a major motion picture. A Southwest Florida Premiere.

The Bishop Crumley - A Mormon Bishop from Salt Lake City, Utah, now living in Sugar Bean, Florida. A gentle, strikingly handsome young man and the object of Willie Mae's unrequited love and affection.

The Reptile Woman - (40's - 70's) The snake and "gator" lady of Sugar Bean, Florida. An eccentric swamp mystic, is summoned to the Nettles home on the night of the "landing." Minorities are strongly encouraged to submit.

The auditions will be held at the Theatre, 2267 First Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901, on Saturday, January 8. Sides will be available for perusal at the time of the audition. Auditionees should immediately send an updated P/R to CASTING at Florida Repertory Theatre, 2267 First Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901. Auditionees will be called to arrange an audition. Please no phone calls.

Florida Rep will only be auditioning for these listed roles at this time. Minorities are strongly encouraged to submit. Equity and Non-Equity will be seen.

Florida Repertory Theatre, an SPT-9 now in its 7th season, is a professional, Equity regional theatre in Fort Myers, FL. Salary range commensurate with experience and union affiliation.

Florida Repertory Theatre recognizes and appreciates the benefits of diversity in the work place. People who share this belief or reflect a diverse background are encouraged to audition.

Don't miss our Christmas & New Year's Eve Extravaganza!

Come join Artistic Director Victor Legarreta and our talented cast of actors ring in the New Year in an evening filled with holiday fun and laughter.

The evening will start at 9:00 p.m., December 31st, as you sit back and enjoy "Christmas on Sanibel," our island Christmas extravaganza that is sure to become a family tradition for years to come.

At the end of our regular show, join our zany cast in the lobby as we enjoy a full buffet complete with champagne, wine, beer and soft drinks.

We will re-enter the theater, champagne in hand, to count down the last moments of the old year. Following our New Year celebration, you will be treated to a special cabaret show designed exclusively for our New Year's Eve audience.

Tickets are \$100 and are going fast so reserve your tickets early!

The Schoolhouse
Theater

2200 Periwinkle Way • Sanibel, FL 33957
239-472-6862



Starring Cindy-Lee: The Blonde Songbook

The Blonde Songbook is a fully staged and choreographed, 90-minute musical-comedy montage celebrating the careers and personas of unique, theatrical Blonde Bombshells including Jean Harlow, Mae West, Marlene Dietrich, Marilyn Monroe, Betty Grable, Doris Day, Peggy Lee, Judy Holliday and more.

The production blends popular standards with original material as it surveys the life and resumes of these Hollywood legends with stops along the way for Cindy-Lee's uniquely riotous, ad-lib interactions with the audience.

Bring back all those wonderful memories of days gone by with songs like... "Just in Time," "Falling in Love Again," "I Wanna Be Loved by You," "Ten Cents a Dance" and more.

The Blonde Songbook was developed in well known New York cabaret clubs such as Don't Tell Mama, The Duplex and Steve McGraw's.

"Audiences are being treated to some really fine musical comedy," New York radio personality, John Michael Koroly critiqued, "Whether it involves torching the hell out of a ballad or crooning an amaretto-smooth cover, Cindy-Lee shows herself in a spectrum of styles." After relocating to the Fort Myers area, Cindy-Lee brought *The Blonde Songbook* to Sanibel Island in 2002, where it garnered critical acclaim.

On November 23rd 2004 the show previewed once again to rave reviews. Laura Nickerson of *The Islander* wrote "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." Di Saggau wrote "The pacing of the show was right on target and boy can (Cindy-Lee) belt out a tune."

The Special Holiday Show on December 28 continues the 2004-2005 tour of *The Blonde Songbook* and Cindy-Lee's return to the stage after a two year hiatus. The two-act show was conceived, written, and arranged by Cindy-Lee and her long-time accompanist, Regan Ryzuk with additional contributions from the comedy team of Honey & Buddy.

Don't miss out on this musical journey, celebrating Blonde Bombshells!

The Blonde Songbook plays at The Crows Nest at Tween Waters Inn on Captiva, December 28 at 8p.m. There is no admission for the show. Food and drink are available. Tween Waters Inn phone number: 472-5161. Visit CLO Productions online at www.CLOProductions.com



Christmas on Sanibel: Yule Love It at the Schoolhouse

Don't miss the holiday production at the Schoolhouse Theatre, *Christmas on Sanibel - Yule Love It!*

Cast members Amanda Davis, Juliet Hicks, Geoffrey Nelson, Peter Riopelle (and Michael Baer at the piano) open the show with a calypso beat as they carol in Bermuda shorts and stocking caps. Moving through "snow" tunes — and more traditional holiday attire — to humorous takes on Tiny Tim, Elvis and "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer," this light-hearted romp will add cheer to your holidays.

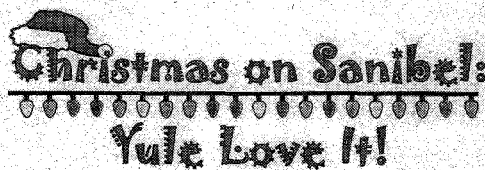
From "Feliz Navidad" to "Christmas in Killarney" to "Mele Kalikimaka," the cast rounds the

world, pausing to comment on the Jingle of Bills in the \$6 Causeway tills. "O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, how lovely are your branches," becomes "Australian Pine, Australian Pine, your stumps are very pretty."

"Hanukkah Harry" and cast sing the "Dreidel Song" and there's even a tribute to the Rockettes with the tapping "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." The evening ends with a lovely rendition of "Silent Night."

Artistic Director Victor Legarreta has concocted a delightful holiday confection

There will be two shows on New Year's Eve: a regular show at 6 p.m. and a special extravaganza at 9 p.m. Call the box office at 472-6862 or stop by 2200 Periwinkle Way.



42nd Street at B'way Palm

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre brings you the all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza *42nd Street*, playing December 30 through February 19, 2005. The hit musical score includes "Lullaby of Broadway," "We're in the Money," "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" and more.

Performances are Tuesday through Sunday; ticket prices range from \$22 to \$46. There is a New Year's Eve show with special menu and late night cabaret. Tickets for New Year's Eve are \$100 per person. Call 239/278-4422, visit www.BroadwayPalm.com or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Ice Cream Theatre: Sleeping Beauty

Looking for someplace to take the kids? Naples Dinner Theatre's Ice Cream Theatre presentation of *Sleeping Beauty* is a perfect family outing, appealing to all ages.

Ice Cream Theatre includes a lunch of burg-

ers, hot dogs, pizza, fries and an Ice Cream Sundae Bar plus a beverage. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$13 for children 12 and under.

Shows Dec. 24, 27, 28 & 30. Call the box 239.514.STAR (7827).

Two days left for Holly Jolly Christmas Revue

Celebrate the spirit of the holidays with Broadway Palm's *Holly Jolly Christmas Revue*, playing through December 25. Bring your friends and family as we share this most joyous of seasons. Join us for a song and dance holiday spectacular with dazzling costumes and traditional holiday songs you know and love.

Broadway Palm's *Holly Jolly Christmas Revue* is written and directed by Paul Gregory Nelson. Some of the seasonal holiday songs include *I'll Be Home For Christmas*, *Let It Snow!*, *Sleigh Ride*, *Jingle Bells*, *Silent Night*, *Winter Wonderland* and *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*.

Broadway Palm's *Holly Jolly Christmas Revue*: Yule

laugh! Yule Sing! Yule love it! Performances are Tuesday through Sunday with selected matinees. Tickets are now on sale and prices range from \$22 to \$46 for adults and only \$19 for children 12 and under. Reserve your tickets today by calling (239) 278-4422, by visiting the website at www.BroadwayPalm.com or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Broadway Palm Gift Certificates are available for a specific show, in a dollar amount or for the balance of the 2004-2005 Season. This year, give the gift of entertainment!



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(239) 463-5887



The Schoolhouse Theater

Now Playing Tickets make great Gifts!

Christmas on Sanibel: Yule Love It!

December 2 thru 31

Just across the "Santa Bell Causeway" on Periwinkle, you will celebrate the holidays like you never have before! Come join us as we ring in the holidays with Joy, Love, and of course, Laughter. Christmas on Sanibel will become a tradition that you will look forward to year after year. Oh, and kids... There will even be a guest appearance by the big guy himself!

For More Info or Tickets
Call 472-6862
Please visit us at our website
www.theschoolhousetheater.com



POETIC LICENSE

A Nuyorican Child's Christmas In Vieques

"No hableh inglés en Viequeh,"
(Do not speak English in Vieques)
I still remember my mother's words
a few days before Christmas
and after we had just completed
a five-day steamship voyage to Puerto Rico
and a long drive in a público to Fajardo
where we were waiting for "La lancha"
to brave the choppy straits for two hours
and land us on my mother's home island,
Vieques, an island off
the eastern shore of Puerto Rico,
itself an island in the West Indies.

And I still remember
that when half the island came
to greet my mother
and see the first americano
born in the family
and hear him speak English
and kept demanding
"Habla inglés, habla inglés,"
that I held out for as long as I could,
repeating after each request
my mother's admonition,
"No hableh inglés en Viequeh."
but the bribes of bananas, oranges,
sugar cane and pennies were too great
for four year old me to resist
and I succumbed by reciting
the first stanza of the Star Spangled Banner
that my brother had taught me
before I left New York
and even though I was not too sure
of the meaning and pronunciation
of many of the words,
a shower of applause and pennies
rewarded my first adventure
into performance poetry.

A few days later
I wowed the crowd even more

at my uncle Agustin's house
when I remembered it was Christmas
and added to my repertoire
"Santa Claus Is Coming To Town"
but when I asked,
"¿cuándo viene Santa Claus?"
I was given the bad news:
Vieques was one town
Santa (*San Nicolás*) didn't go to.

Everyone watched my reaction
in a careful silence
until my devastation was relieved
by my uncle's revelation
that there were *Tres Reyes*,
Gaspar, Melchor and Baltasar
who delivered presents
not on Christmas Day
but on January 6 because
the camels on which they traveled
were much slower than reindeer.
They would be tired and hungry
and if I left some straw for them
in a shoebox, the next morning
I might find presents.
'Three Santa's! Three times more presents!'
I remember thinking in English,
'and they don't even have a list
of who's naughty and nice.'

I obeyed and did not speak English in Vieques
except on those performance occasions
and that one time when my Uncle Braulio
tripled the ante to three pennies
to hear me say the "f" word
but the Spanish I spoke
was an equal source of delight -
larded with English words and syntax
hybrid utterances such as
me comi five bananas and no me gustan anyway
were preserved in family lore for decades.
I didn't realize then

I was one of the pioneer speakers of Spanglish.

There were parties every night,
and three of my uncles were the
island's musicians
and my cousins and I
would accompany them on *parrandas*
to people's houses where they played
while everyone sang *aguinaldos*
and danced and ate and drank
and partied on to the next house
with many of us being carried sleepily
and piled on beds and hammocks
at each stop.

On New Year's Day, I wept with my cousins
who were heartbroken over the slaughter
of their pet suckling pig, *Cucharón*,
but that evening we fought over the rights
to his *cuerito* - roasted crinkled skin,
that tasted better than candy.

Barefoot and happy the entire time,
I spent my second remembered Christmas
with coconut palms instead of pine trees,
sand instead of snow, sleeping in open shacks
without doors, rocking softly in hammocks
canopied with mosquito nets,
with Three Kings and camels and straw
and hand-made gifts in shoeboxes,
and family singing and dancing every evening —
the rhythmic joy and faith of the *aguinaldos*
shining through their poverty,
illuminating and deepening
the memory and celebration
of all my Christmases to come.

A Nuyorican Child's Christmas in Vieques will be broadcast nationwide on Latino USA, a National Public Radio program on Christmas Eve. The audio for the program will be available on latinousa.org.



Joseph Pacheco

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Presented by
Margie Davison

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If you have a house for sale in the Sanibel and Captiva area, your buyers will probably include a home inspection contingency in the contract that will allow them to have an expert check the house and the major systems and appliances.

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Buyers should regard the home inspection as a method of indicating what is right or wrong with the house. Sellers are often required to repair certain defects, depending on the terms of the purchase contract.

Remember that no house is perfect. You should come away from reading the inspection report with a better understanding of what you are buying and how much the maintenance will cost.

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.

"Return and Renewal" read a big hit at BIG ARTS

by Joseph Pacheco
Special to the Islander

An audience of more than one hundred packed the Philips Gallery of Big Arts on the evening of December 9 to hear members of the four Island Writers group read original poetry, fiction and non-fiction. The theme for the evening was "Return and Renewal" and the quality of the selections and the reception they received left no doubt that Sanibel Island and its writers are well on their way to full recovery.

I had the privilege of beginning the evening with my hurricane poem, "Alligator in the Sky." Nancy Carlile followed with a World War II memoir recalling her mother's nurse uniform and how it symbolized women's contributions to the war effort. Another memoir by Vic Dix remembered two inveterate sports fans disturbing the

decorum of the library with endless and inaccurate argument. Ruth Iyengar's poem "A Dish of Democracy" was most effective in making the case against forcing democracy down people's throats by killing their innocent countrymen. Mary LaVelle's elegy to a friend who died at fifty was beautiful and moving.

Tanya Hochschild read Chapter Nineteen from her novel *Sonya*, a gripping account of a Soweto riot in South Africa. John Jones' humorous fantasy, "The Jumping Frogs of Sanibel Island," reminded us delightfully that Sanibel wildlife often wanders indoors. Carole Greene's "What A Difference A Gene Makes" lamented her lack of a "shopping" gene, which has denied her participation in one of American women's favorite activities. Vincent Faraone's wonderfully inventive "My World of Lex" bisected compound words into hilarious rhymes and new combinations.

Nancy Mack began the second half of the evening with a heart-warming account of the family dog that could predict weather. Hal Iyengar's "Traffic" analyzed how the entire history of India could be studied through its present-day traffic and traffic patterns. Peter Hilger's "Another Love Affair" was a eulogy to the Jeep and the fortieth car he owned — the Jeep Wrangler. In his poem, "Southern Accent, Northern Shoe Laces," Bill Highsmith, a newcomer to Island Writers, described with graceful irony and precision the cross-regional impact of a Yankee general's statue on an elderly Southern woman. Winnie Donohue's "Edwards, Cheney, Bush Kerry Combo," recounted with wry humor and irony her experience

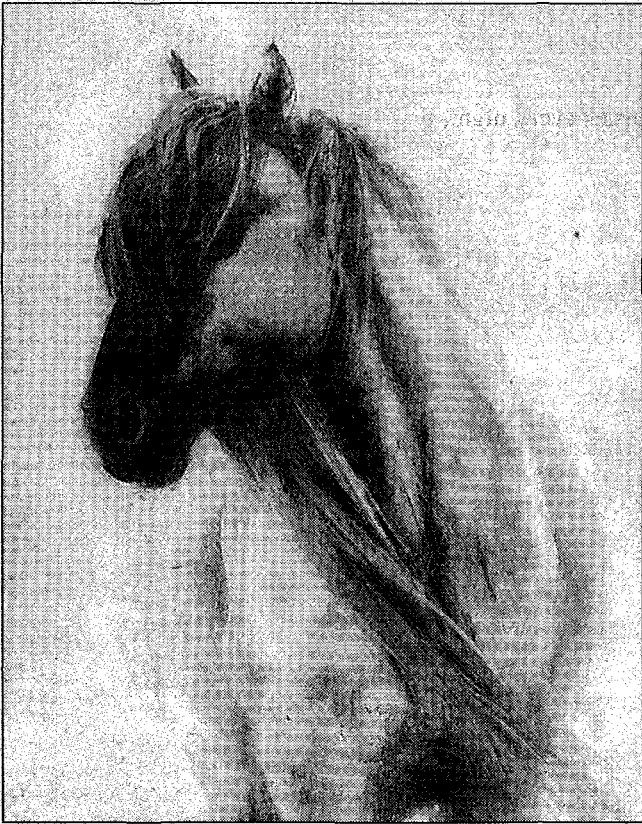
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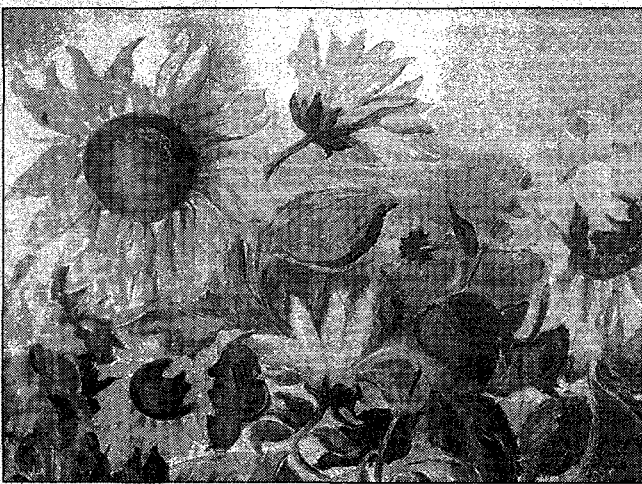
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Sanibel Reads, see page 29

Rohl's horses at Matsumoto Gallery



December's featured artist is Sherry Chiverton Rohl, with "Portraits of Horses in Agony and in Ecstasy." Rohl is exhibiting new works in graphite and kilz as well as new monotypes. Matsumoto Gallery is in the Village Shops.



Myra Roberts at Arts for ACT

Sanibel artist Myra Roberts has an exhibit, "Greetings from Florida" at the Arts for ACT Gallery at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers through Jan. 5.

A love of historical images, in particular post-World War II Florida, provides a continual source of inspiration; she's an accomplished portrait artist and she also paints endangered wildlife.

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.

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.

Sanibel Reads, from page 28

riences on election day as a poll greeter for the Democrats. The evening closed with two moving poems by Sid Simon: "What my poems are, what my poems are not," expressed Simon's philosophy of poetry and "Ninety-two-year-olds have their place, too" captured the spirit and theme of the evening with simple but powerful eloquence.

It was a wonderful evening for the spoken and written word and for the creativity of Sanibel's many talented writers.

March 8, 7:30 p.m., BIG ARTS is the date of the next read. Mark it down on your calendar now!



Left above: a painting by Gordon Coughlin; Right above: League member Maya Bryant at a recent Paint-out.

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.

Tardosky Show

Sanibel 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.

Right: Tardosky's Sunflowers

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Dunes Men's Golf Association

Results: November 16
Event: 18 Hole - Four Men Two Better
Balls Match - 90% HCP - 24 Players

	Score
1st Place	107
John Hendricks, Dave Reynolds	
Mike Hochschild, **Blind Draw**	
2nd Place	110
Al Larson, Doug Tudhope	
Dave Jones, Bob Lindman	
3rd Place	114
Bruce Noble, Bob Davison	
Charlie Simms, Norm Henning	
3rd Place	117
Jeff Burns, John Frymoyer	
Stan Hirschfeld, Hal Tray	

Results: November 10

A Flight	
Score	
1st Place	59
Bruce Sprinkle, Dave Parmelee	
2nd Place	60
Bruce Noble, Don Egensteiner	
3rd Place	62
Jim Bradford, Dave Jones	
4th Place	67
Bob Davison, Art Lehman	
B Flight	
1st Place	58
Dan Alton, Tim O'Neill	
2nd Place	62
Hubie Whitaker, Andy Mckelvey	
3rd Place	
Ev Bowie, **Blind Draw**	
4th Place - Tie	66
Jack Trautwein, Bob MacNaughton	

Bill Arthur
Bud Albertson

Max Friedersdorf, Chuck York

D Flight	
1st Place	51
Bob Maxeiner, Ev Bowie	
2nd Place	52
Bud Albertson, Lee Southard	

Today, some of us probably felt the same as Lee Trevino did about a match he played. "I'll put that down as a practice round. I'm not a COLD WEATHER player!"

Results: December 1

A Flight	Score
1st Place	59
Bob Kent, Al Larson	
2nd Place (tie)	65
John Hendricks, Roy Brodersen	
Jeff Burns, Hubie Whitaker	
4th Place	67
Jack Czarnecki, Doug Tudhope	
B Flight	
1st Place (tie)	63
John Frymoyer, Bob Louwers	
Tim O'Neill, Herb Hoover	
3rd Place	64
Mike Richmond, Ev Bowie	
4th Place	65
Jack Trautwein, Dave Jones	

Results: December 8
Event: 18 Hole - Four Man Scramble - Net
Score - 40 Players

	Score
1st Place	49
Skip Richard, Bob Baumler	
Max Friedersdorf, Mike Hochschild	
2nd Place (tie)	52
Bob Kent, Bruce Sprinkle	
Ley Smith	
Sandy Cortopassi, Dan Alton	
Dave Jones	
4th Place (tie)	53
John Basher, Jack Trautwein	
Andy Wood	
John Griesbaum, Bill Hotchkiss	
Bruce Noble, Denny Jones	
Jack Cohen, Jim Laramie	
Roy Brodersen, Jim Burke	
Wilf Mannion, Dave Reynolds	
Bob Louwers, K.K. Bigelow	

Results: December 15

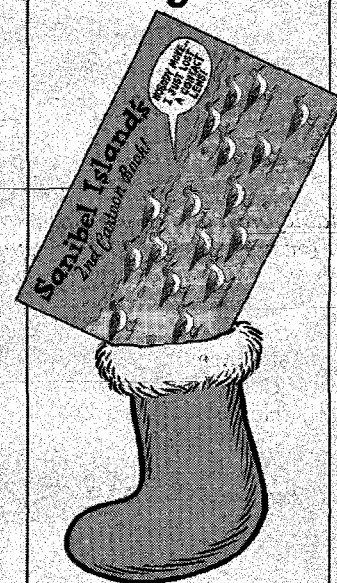
A Flight	Score
1st Place	54
Tom August, Bill Glenn	
2nd Place	57
Jim Hetmanek, Jim Clark	
B Flight	
1st Place	55
Bob Baumler, John Frymoyer	
2nd Place	57
Bob Davison, Hubie Whitaker	
C Flight	
1st Place	51
John Basher, Fred Nordstrom	
2nd Place (tie)	56
Roy Brodersen, Bill Arthur	

A Golfer's Wishlist for Santa

by Tanya Hochschild
DWGA

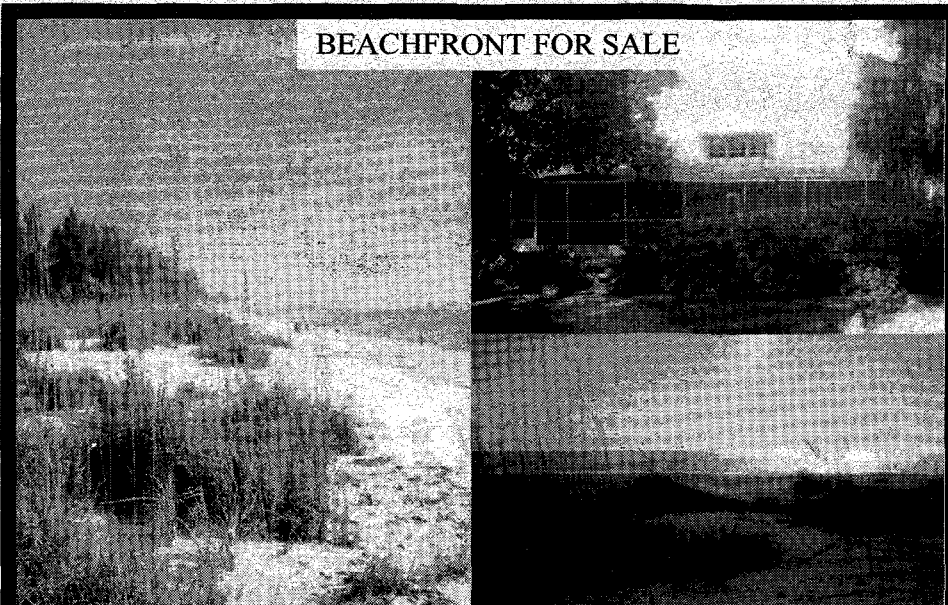
Oh please Santa, all we want for Xmas is a hole in one, and only on the par threes and then we are done. Well no, not exactly... of course we all want more - on the par fives we all want a four. And Santa, once you're listening please make waterholes disappear. We'll hear so much less of "oh shucks," "oh, my," "oh, dear!!" And we know, just know, in that sack of yours there're a whole lot of fine brand new by laws such as lifting the ball when you can't see the green, moving white stakes if your ball rolls into the rough unseen. Penalty strokes are a thing of the past. Slow play is tolerated and so is play fast. And just so there's never ever a beef, Please grant us all free relief from bunkers and from pine straw, And anything else us players think of...more? Let's put an end to the embedded ball rule, let us lift, clean, drop much nearer to the hole. Oh, Santa, dear if this for us you can do To you and your reindeer, we'll always be true!

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Beachview Women's Golf Association

Results: Wednesday, Nov. 17

Gusty winds greeted the members of the Beachview Women's Golf Association on Nov. 10, which was the first day of play for the Ringer Tournament. On Nov. 17, the second day of play, prizes were awarded for the best Ringer scores.

18-hole	Score
A Flight	
1st Place	
Diane Metz	82
2nd Place	
Kandi Sanger	84
3rd Place	
Cecilia Olsson	88
B Flight	
1st Place	
Barbara McGuffin	89
2nd Place	
Judy Ware	93
3rd Place	
Bea Maggio	95
9-hole	
1st Place	
GINNY O'NEIL	46
2nd Place	
Nancy Ruedig	47
3rd Place	
Kathy Krause	51

Congratulations to the winners!

Results: Wednesday, Dec. 1

The ladies played a four-person Stableford Point game. Points were added for pars, birdies, bogeys and double bogeys. The team with the most points wins.

1st Place	Score
Carol House	85
Henny Karasin	
GINNY O'NEIL	
Linnea Sadd	
2nd Place	
Barbara McGuffin	84
Diane Metz	
J.B. Novelli	

Chip-Ins

Barbara McGuffin - Hole #1 on Nov. 10 (the only one for the month of November)

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
Low Gross	
Jill Bugby	103
Low Net	
Jill Bugby	76
Low Putts	
Barbara McGuffin	32

9-hole

Low Gross	
Barb Mulka	57
Low Net	
Barb Mulka	39
Low Putts	
Barb Mulka	18

Congratulations to the winners!

Results: Wednesday, Dec. 8

In a flag tournament, each player is given a flag and a number of points equaling par plus her handicap. When that number was reached, the golfer noted that location on the flag instead of placing the flag at that spot. The flags were returned to the Pro Shop. The winners were based on the closest to the pin on #18 or the highest number of strokes that were not played.

18-hole

1st Place	Jill Bugby
2nd Place	Diane Metz

9-hole

1st Place	GINNY O'NEIL
2nd Place	Maureen McMahon

Nifty Niners

Results: Dec. 2

Event: Four-person Scramble

1st Place	Score
Julie O'Neill, Joan Sprinkle	43
Pat Coughlin, Sue Lopez	
2nd Place	44
Janice McNeal, Kay Wightman	
Mary Tobin, Toni Bracco	
3rd Place	46
B.J. Weimer, Nancy Hopkins	
Gwen Trautwein, Mary Lou Tecklenburg	

Results: Dec. 16

Event: Two-Person, Better Ball

1st Place (tie)	Score
Joan Sprinkle, Mary Tobin	28
Phyllis Koury, Mary Coddens	
3rd Place	30
Lois Smith, Sue Lopez	
4th Place	31
Mary Condit, Nancy Hopkins	

Chip-Ins

Pat Coughlin, #2, 6
Mary Condit, #4

Results: Dec. 9

Event: Low Net - Low Putts

A Flight	Score
Low Net	
1st Place	
Lois Smith	37
2nd Place	
Ginny Burgoyne	39
Low Putts	
1st Place	
Nancy Hopkins	17
B Flight	
Low Net	
1st Place	
Mary Coddens	30
2nd Place	
Joanne McKelvey	32
Low Putts	
1st Place	
Marilyn Bigelow	15
C Flight	
Low Net	
1st Place	
Gwen Trautwein	36
2nd Place	
Sue Lopez	37
Low Putts	
1st Place	
Mary Condit	19
Birdies	Mary Condit - #2
Chip-Ins	Joan Sprinkle - #4

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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



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Beachview Men's Golf, from left

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, 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.

This is going to be one long, hot season. That's not the latest weather forecast. It's the reality for competition in the Beachview Men's Golf Association.

After the first month of head-knocking, the league has seen 40 different members win prizes in nine different events. A sin-

gle shot has been the difference in most of the tournaments, several after playoffs.

In team or individual play, 22 golfers — about a fourth of the membership — have finished in first place at least once. The torrid pace continued down to the last day of November when Rob Cutler and Barry Humphries won the featured two-man best ball tournament with a net 29.

And the razor-thin competition was

Beachview, see page 34

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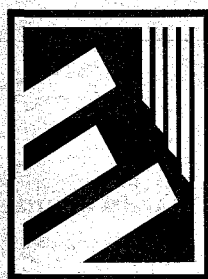
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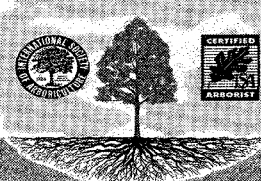
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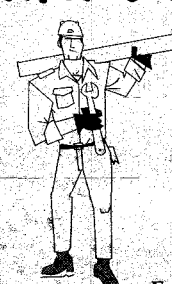


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Beachview Men's Golf, from page 33

emphasized with Bob Ritchlin and Bill Pritchard won a scorecard playoff for second place on the wings of Dr. Ritchlin's eagle on the 17th hole. That left George Osterfeld and Russ Bilgore's 30 only good for third place.

After a month of close finishes, the law of averages kicked in for Saturday's (Dec. 4) Very Modified Stableford tournament.

The format, designed to shower out points did just that for Jack Shea, Tom McKenny, Rod Verblaauw and Ralph Suechting, who combined for 162 points. Bjorn Olsson, Stan Sheft, Bill Blankenship and John Moores finished a distant second at 146. But they comfortably left Dave Bugby, John Royse, Joe Hoffmann and Ken Karasin in third with a

126.

The cool weather finally chased Phil Jones out of Traverse City, Mich., but he warmed up quickly to win two tournaments in one week, once he adjusted to Sanibel.

One-point margins have popped up with regularity this season, so to break the monotony it took slicing points down to fractions to settle the four-man scramble event on Dec. 11.

Jack Tukey, the father of Froot Loops (no kidding), Ralph Suechting, Jones and Guy Tober won with a net of 42.25 strokes. Dave Bugby, Sam Jaffe, Bob Ritchlin and Ken Steele came in second with 43.25. That shaded Bill Fellows, Ed O'Neil, Stan Sheft and Jerry Mader by

one-fourth of a point at 43.5.

Every golfer's cookbook has the recipe for winning a best ball tournament... ham and egging it.

If you slip on a hole your partner saves the day. Hopefully, you return the favor. Those who do it best usually win. That "ham n egg in."

Bob Ritchlin and Jones combined for the best serving of the dish when they scored a nine-under 27 to win the Beachview twosome best ball Dec. 7.

Rod Verblaauw and Bill Blankenship won a playoff for second with 30 strokes, nosing out George Osterfeld and Russ Bilgore. That's the second straight Tuesday Osterfeld and Bilgore have teamed with identical results: a net 30, a scorecard playoff loss and third place.

Biomes for children at Captiva Library

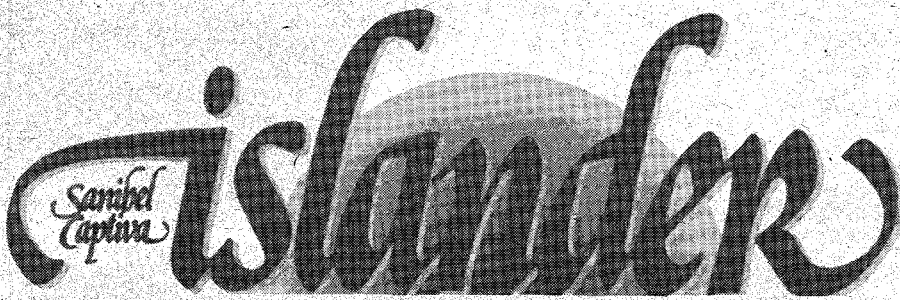
The Captiva Memorial Library is offering an exciting program for children next month. The following scheduled program is free and open to the public:

Kids' Club: Biomes of the World

Come and explore biomes during our Kids' Club. at 2 p.m. on Saturday Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29

We will share information about the forests (Jan. 8); deserts (Jan. 15); grasslands (Jan. 22) and tundra (Jan. 29). Please preregister. Captiva Memorial Library is located at 11560 Chapin Lane on Captiva island. For more information about the program or to register, please call the library at (239) 472-2133.

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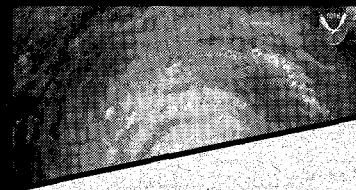
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miscellaneous

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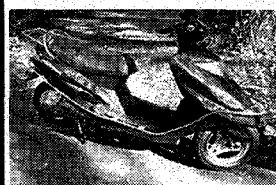
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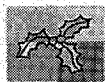
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SEASON'S GREETINGS



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For sale by owner. Duplex (2/2) in the Dunes. Call (239)395-5868.

Pine Island Real Estate. Free Report: "Pine Island - Things to know before you buy". Call Sellstate Pine Island. Toll Free- 1-866-5-Island or visit: www.sellstatepineisland.com click on: "Things To Know"

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COME TO THE MOUNTAINS! RE/MAX Mountain Properties offers the best properties available in Western NC. Mountain views, creeks, cabins & acreage. Call toll free, 1-877-837-3002 to receive more information!

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NC MOUNTAINS 2 acres to 45 acres on scenic mountaintop with breathtaking views \$39,900 - \$159,900. 2.3 acres w/ new log cabin shell under construction, \$79,900. Excellent financing. 828-247-0081

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VACATION RENTALS

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

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VACATION RENTALS

Disney Area "Winter Spectacular" 3 days 2 nights 2 tickets as low as \$99. Kids Stay Free! Shuttle and breakfast. 800.749.4045 ext 757. www.Trip2orlandoUSA.com

GREAT BAY VIEW Facing northwest at Punta Rassa Bldg. IV

Two bedroom/two bath Bayfront condo/amenities No toll/delays Save through owner \$2900/month (usually \$3700) (970) 874-7796

GULF-PINES Beach Front Community 3-bedrooms/2-baths. Completely furnished home. Private beach access. Lake view. Club-house. Two-pools. Tennis-courts. AVAILABLE MONTHLY: DEC. 2004 THRU JUNE 2005 Call Broker/Owner: (239) 395-1985

SEASONAL RENTALS

FMB 2/Br., 1.5/ Ba., Florida room 1,400 sqft., Canal Front Gulf Access Southend Furnished, 3 Beach accesses, porch, W/D, Wireless Internet, 6 month available plus electric, Seasonal or Annual \$1,650 to \$3,000 (239) 765-9505

WANTED TO RENT

Dock rental needed. 22', 1,350 lbs Bay boat. Looking for long term dock rental on East side of Sanibel, walking distance from Sanibel Marina preferred. Call Neil (406) 579-0502.

ANNUAL RENTALS

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

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

CONDOS FOR RENT

Lakefront, bike to beach! New luxury hi-rise: Mastique Condo, 15th floor, panoramic gulf islands views. 3 BR/2 BA, two car garage, resort, pool, tennis, fitness, lounge. \$2900 monthly/annually. Call Steve Bostwick Century 21 Sunbelt (239) 470-7547

Minutes from beaches, very private, includes 2 parking spaces. 2bedroom, 2bath. \$2900. monthly seasonal or \$895. month annual. Call Jim (239) 898-1827

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

HOMES FOR RENT

Sanibel for rent annually. 3 bedroom house, newly renovated, pool. \$2200/month by owner. (718) 527-3400, ext 225, Monday - Friday, 10 - 4 pm.

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

Ft. Myers Beach/Sanibel, available Now. 1-Bedroom furnished, W/D, central A/C, free cable, \$595/mo. Annual lease required. Age restricted. No Pets or children. References necessary. Turnkey. (239) 949-2689.

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

BONITA SPRINGS HOMES

Immaculate 2bdm/1bth manufactured home on .28/acre includes huge shop with 1000/1bth, boatlift, all under A/C! Fruit trees and three sheds! \$169,000. Call Lahaina Realty, Marc Lassaux, (239) 405-3700

NORTH FT MYERS HOMES

Newly remodeled!! 3Bedroom 2bath, new kitchen, tile/ carpet floors. New paint and A/C. 983 Hyacinth Street, off Orange Grove. \$112,900. (239) 898-1827

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From Sanibel Captiva Power & Squadron: Man Overboard

Have you ever thought what you'd do if someone fell overboard from your boat? Knowing what to do could save a life. The U. S. Power Squadron suggests the following actions:

- Slow your boat down immediately.
- Quickly throw anything(s) (more than one) that floats (PFS, life sling, seat cushion, etc.) as close as possible to the person in the water.
- Have someone in the boat constantly point at the person in the water.
- Don't let anybody jump overboard to attempt a rescue unless the victim is a small child or is helpless. If it is absolutely necessary for a second person to enter the water, be sure the rescuer is a good swimmer and wearing a PFD (life jacket) so you won't have two people in the water to rescue.
- Maneuvering your boat to pick up

someone in the water depends upon the wind direction. Try to approach the person overboard from down wind so the boat floats away from, not towards the person as you reduce the speed of the boat. Be sure the propeller is stopped when the person in the water is near to the boat.

- After rescue, keep the person warm and quiet. Call the Coast Guard if you feel the rescued person's life is still in danger from signs of hypothermia, heart problems, etc.
- A boarding ladder is a good piece of safety equipment to have aboard. A line over the side with a large loop tied in the end can serve as a handhold or foothold for boarding.
- Often a quick rescue is necessary to save the life of a person who has fallen overboard. You should know what to do and practice doing it.

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.

Top producers

Steve Fisher Top Selling RE/MAX Agent

Steve Fisher was honored for being the top sales associate at RE/MAX of the Islands in November. He began his career in real estate in 1981 and joined RE/MAX of the Islands in 1991. Steve Fisher has received many R E / M A X International and state awards. He is consistently an annual member of the R E / M A X International 100% Club and received his most coveted award in 2001 when he was inducted into the RE/MAX International Hall of Fame.

Broker/Owner of RE/MAX of the Islands, Art Corace, said "Steve is extremely thorough and pays strict attention to detail. He is energetic, enthusiastic and above all a professional. Steve has a loyal client base that appreciates his dedication to the business."

Fisher's wife, Maxine, is very involved with the business with him. She has been a Florida licensed real estate agent since 1987 and joined RE/MAX in 2002.

Kimberley Andrews Top Marketing Agent at RE/MAX

RE/MAX of the Islands announced that Kimberley Andrews was their most productive marketing agent in November. Kimberley began her real estate career in 1999 and joined RE/MAX in 2000. Since then she has become one of the top agents in Lee County.

Kimberley Andrews was formerly a sales representative with the Edward Don and Company food service distributorship. She was their most productive associate until deciding to make a career move

and join her husband, Chuck Andrews, in the real estate business.

Broker/Owner of RE/MAX of the Islands, Art Corace said, "Kimberley Andrews is having a wonderful year. She has become a top agent in the RE/MAX network in a relatively short time. We at RE/MAX are all proud of her accomplishments."

Phil Nolden joins ResortQuest/PMR

ResortQuest/Priscilla Murphy Realty recently announced the association of Sanibel resident Phil Nolden with its Periwinkle Way office. Phil and his wife are full-time residents of Little Lake Murex on Sanibel. He is a retired captain for American Airlines and flew over 100 combat missions during the Vietnam War (awarded the three Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross).

Phil is a member of the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Association of Realtors(r), The Realtor(r) Association of Greater Fort Myers and the Beach, The Florida and National Associations of Realtors(r), the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, the Sanibel Community Association and the Military Officers Association. ResortQuest/Priscilla Murphy Realty was founded on Sanibel in 1955, and ever since has had the reputation of having the finest real estate professionals.



Andrews



Fisher



Nolden

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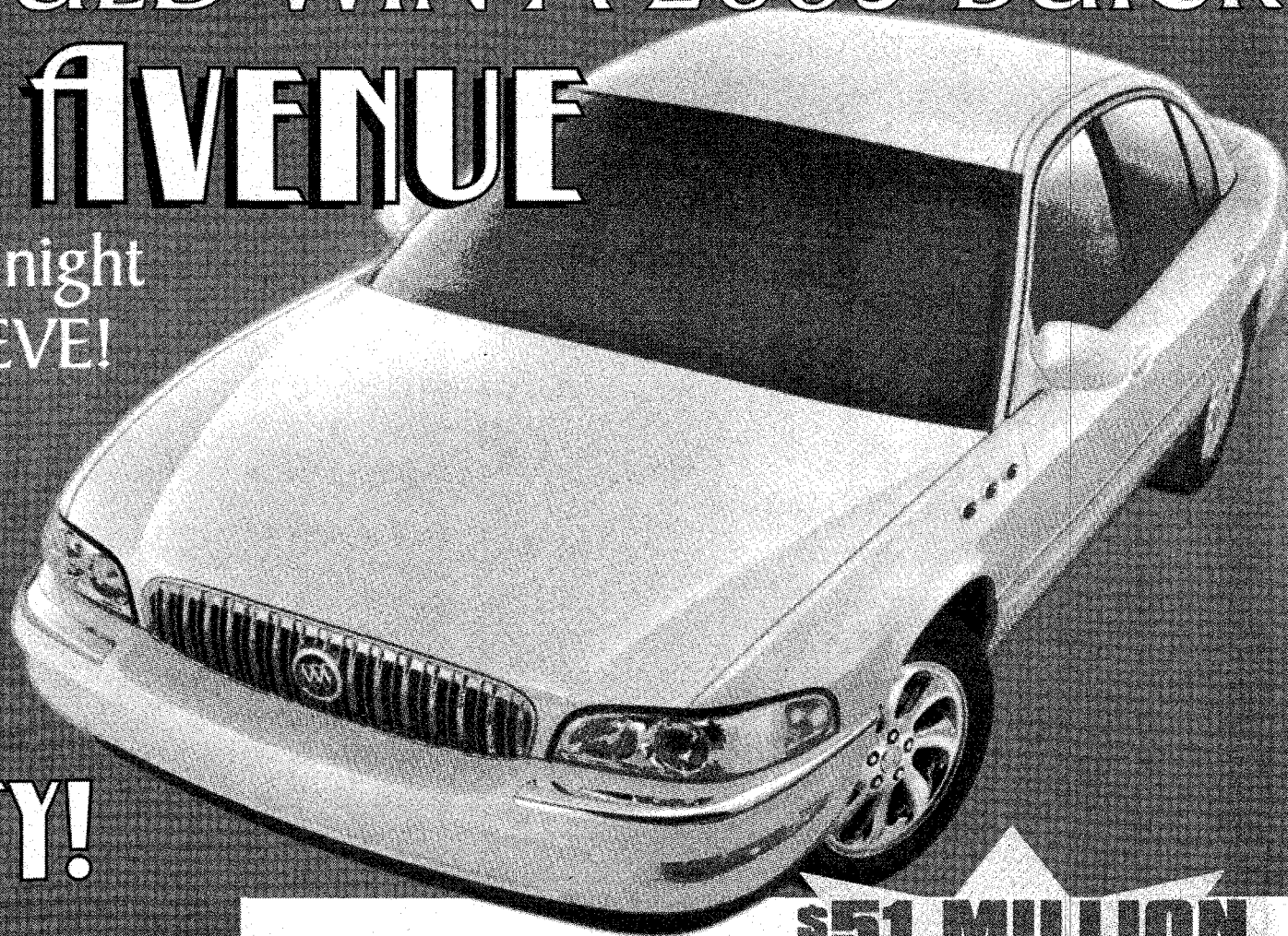
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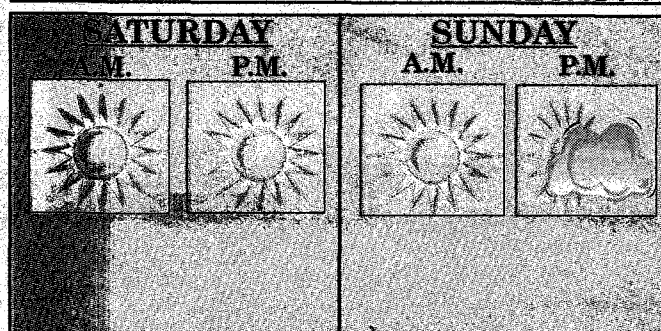


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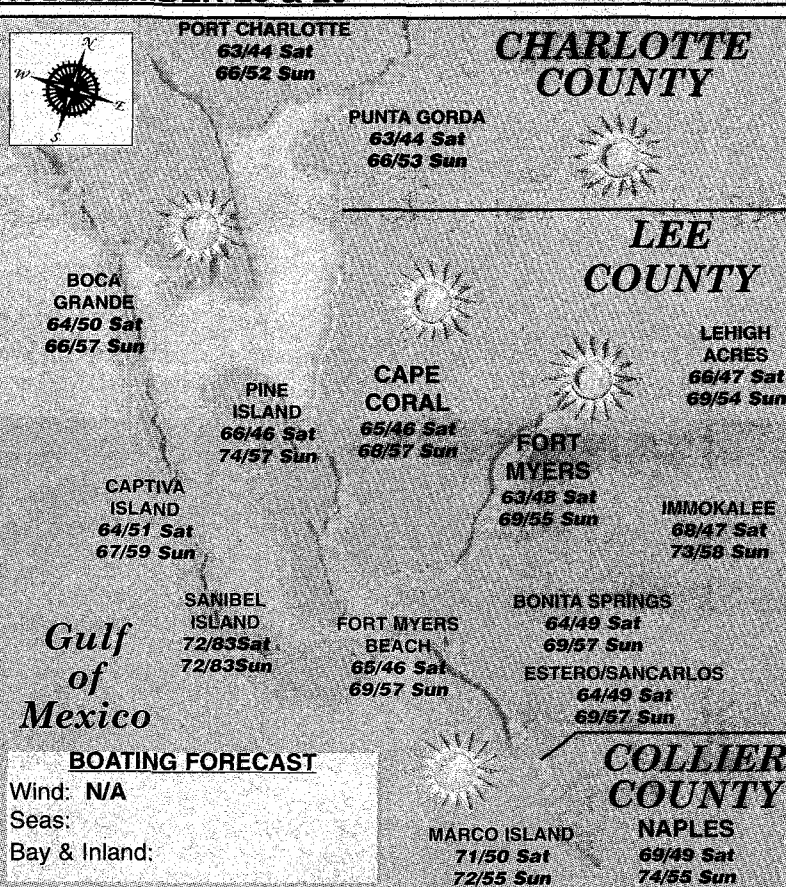
LAC

FORECAST FOR DECEMBER 25 & 26



WEEKEND TIDES

City	Sat. High	Sat. Low	Sun. High	Sun. Low
Cape Coral Bridge	3:41 a.m. 6:44 p.m.	12:21 p.m. 10:51 p.m.	4:07 a.m. 6:46 p.m.	12:04 p.m. 10:05 p.m.
Captiva at Redfish Pass	1:31 a.m. 4:34 p.m.	9:05 a.m. 7:35 p.m.	1:57 a.m. 4:36 p.m.	8:48 a.m. 6:49 p.m.
Fort Myers	4:34 a.m. 7:37 p.m.	1:03 p.m. 11:33 p.m.	5:00 a.m. 7:39 p.m.	12:46 a.m. 10:47 p.m.
Mallacha Pass	3:09 a.m. 6:12 p.m.	11:47 a.m. 10:17 p.m.	3:35 a.m. 6:14 p.m.	11:30 a.m. 9:31 p.m.
Pineland	2:07 a.m. 5:10 p.m.	10:45 a.m. 9:15 p.m.	2:33 a.m. 5:12 p.m.	10:28 a.m. 8:29 p.m.
Point Ybel	12:36 a.m. 3:39 p.m.	9:07 a.m. 7:37 p.m.	1:02 a.m. 3:41 p.m.	8:50 a.m. 6:51 p.m.
Punta Rassa	1:25 a.m. 4:28 p.m.	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	1:51 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	8:43 a.m. 6:44 p.m.
St. James City	1:56 a.m. 4:59 p.m.	9:35 a.m. 8:05 p.m.	2:22 a.m. 5:01 p.m.	9:18 a.m. 7:19 p.m.



FOX 4 CAST



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

STATE FORECAST-SATURDAY

CITY	HIGH/LOW
CAPE CORAL	65/46
DAYTONA BEACH	56/39
FT. LAUDERDALE	71/54
FT. MYERS BEACH	65/46
GAINESVILLE	53/28
JACKSONVILLE	56/22
KEY WEST	74/60
KISSIMMEE	56/41
MIAMI	73/54
ORLANDO	56/40
PANAMA CITY	51/32
PENSACOLA	48/26
SARASOTA	58/43
ST. PETERSBURG	59/44
TALLAHASSEE	45/22
TAMPA	56/32
VERO BEACH	63/46
WEST PALM BEACH	70/53



SATURDAY
SUNRISE
7:14 AM



SUNDAY
SUNSET
5:43 PM

AWARD WINNING BREAKFAST · LUNCH · DINNER & SNACKS IN BETWEEN

FREE



MORNING BLEND COFFEE w/YOUR BREAKFAST

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Starbucks Coffee

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KIDS MENU \$4.99

? THIS WEEK'S TRIVIA QUESTION ?

Name ALL 9 Of Santa's Reindeer And
Receive A Slice Of Homemade Keylime
Pie With Dinner

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