

INSIDE
Free 2005 Planner
and Calendar

Sanibel Islander

POSTED \$15
PAID
Sanibel Islander
December 2004

BREEZE
LIFESTYLE

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 45

WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2004 - JANUARY 6, 2005

SINCE 1961

36 PAGES

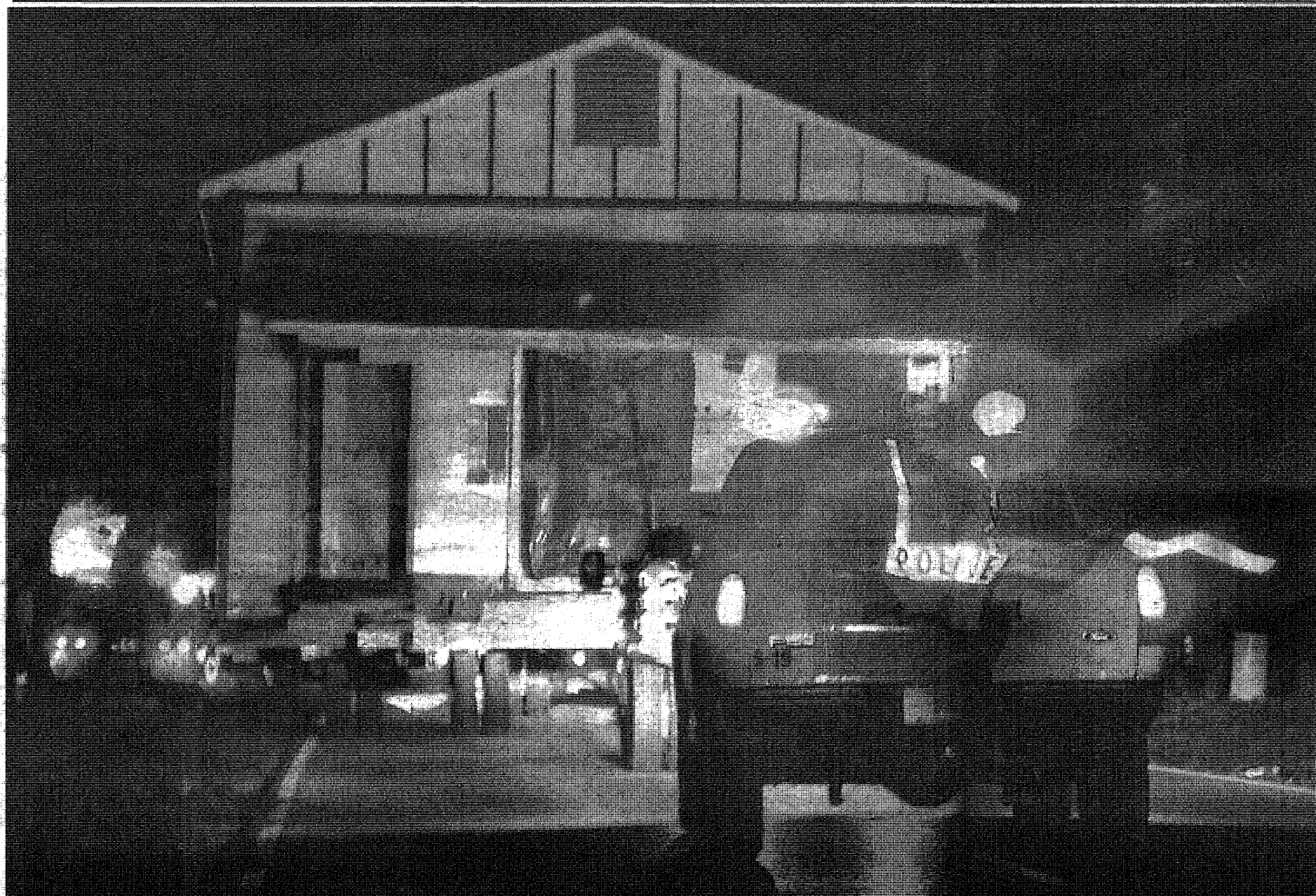


Photo by Karen Nelson

With its escort of police, utility and cable trucks, The Old Schoolhouse rolled down Periwinkle Way at 2:30 a.m. on December 29, on its way to the Sanibel Historical Village & Museum. Before being converted to The Old Schoolhouse Theatre, the building served as an island schoolhouse from 1896 to 1963.

AFFORDABLE FAMILY DINING!! LUNCH & DINNER

MONDAY NIGHT IS PRIME TIME!!
ALL YOU CAN EAT **PRIME RIB**
Served with baked Idaho potato & corn on the cob
\$14.95

"FRESH".... ALL YOU CAN EAT!!
Shrimp **Grouper EVERYDAY!**
Served with French Fries & corn on the cob
\$15.95



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

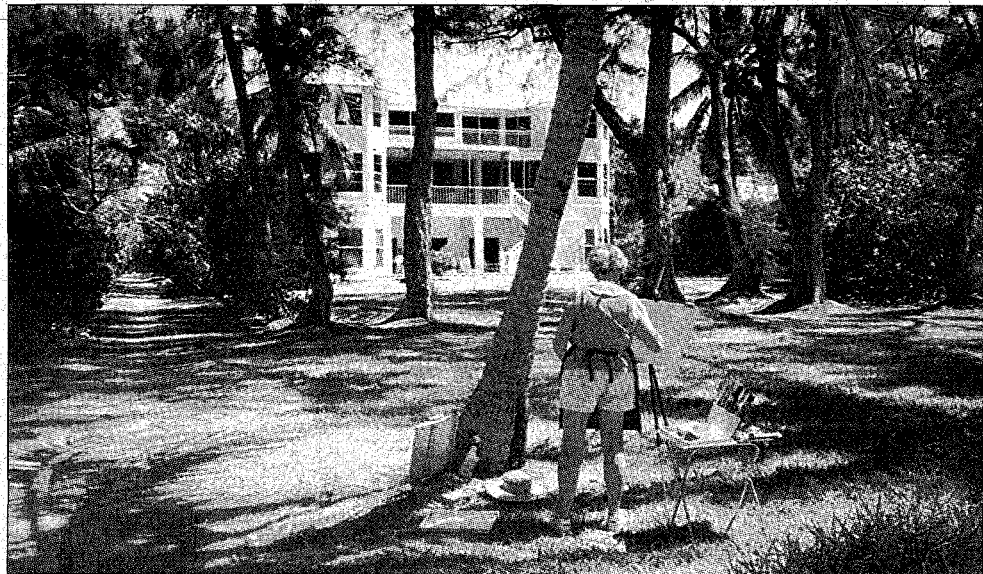
239-995-2300
37 items on the "Consider the Kids" menu.
All specials subject to availability.
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CRAB EVERYDAY!! 2 POUNDS OF SNOW CRAB

\$17.95

FRIDAY NIGHT LOBSTERFEST
1 1/4 Pound Maine Lobster served with
corn on the cob, French Fries, & Coleslaw
(while supplies last)
\$17.95

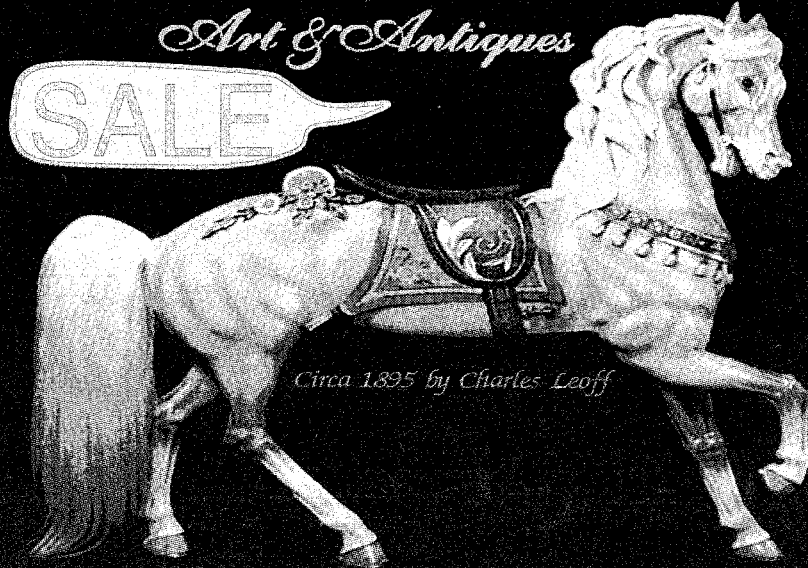
Fabulous Breakfast Buffet
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\$8.99



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Art & Antiques

SALE



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Paint-Outs in Fort Myers coming-up

The Sanibel-Captiva Art League invites all visitors and artists to participate in the following Thursday morning off-island paint-outs, which are followed by an informal and friendly critique.

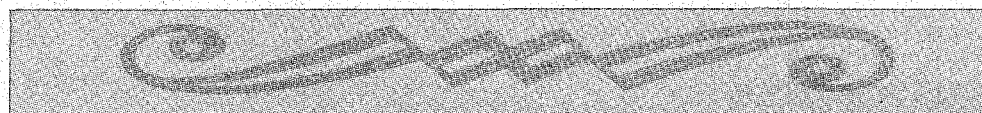
- January 6th - Shell Point
- January 13th - Shell Point
- January 20th - Lakes Park
- January 27th - Lakes Park


Painting begins at 9 a.m. and each artist brings their own materials and lunch. Artists attending vary in skills from beginners to experienced. Everyone is

welcome. Further information may be obtained by calling Olga at 466-2914.

There are still openings for the experimental paint pouring and realistic watercolor workshop to be held March 2 and 3 with the instructor Jean Grastof. For more information please call 472-8834 or write to PO Box 1192, Sanibel, FL. 33957.

The next meeting of the Art League will be January 25 at the Community House at 9:30 a.m. The league is hosting the monthly meeting of the Art Council of Southwest Florida.





the all new

Beachview

STEAKHOUSE & GRILL

home of

SANIBEL'S COWBOY STEAK

and the heavy-off-the-hoof

BONE-IN FILET

RESERVATIONS ARE GOING FAST FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE!

NEW YEAR'S EVE

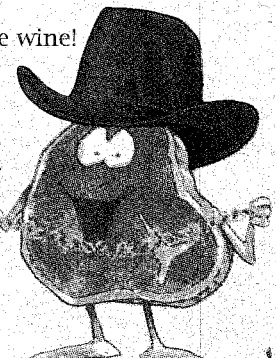
- serving 5-9pm
- open seating offering our regular menu
- PLUS all inclusive dinner packages

DAILY HAPPY HOUR • 4-7pm


discounted drafts, well drinks and house wine!

REGULAR HOURS • lunch 11am-3pm
• dinner 5-9pm

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*Happy Holidays
From All Of Us
To You, Our
Loyal Patrons*

Serving

Lunch 11:30 AM

Dinner 5:00 PM

Take out Available
Closed Christmas

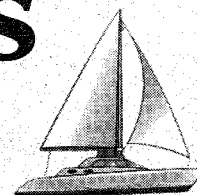
472-8138

**Dine Dockside and Enjoy Mouthwatering Delights From the Sea —
It Doesn't Get Any Fresher!**

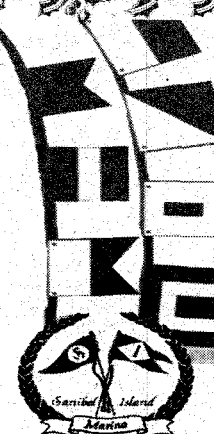
Gramma Dot's

Seaside Saloon

Winner of 14 Taste of the Islands "Awards"
Our latest win for
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4 Years in a row
Come See Why!



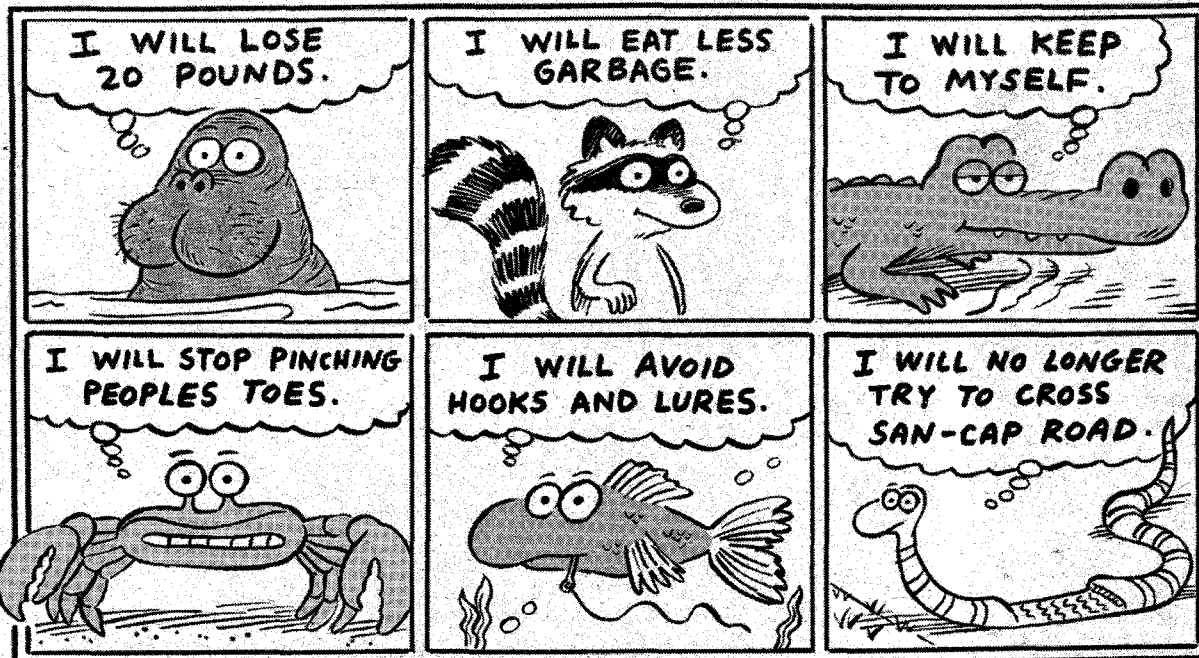
Located at...
Sanibel Marina
634 N. Yachtsman
Sanibel, FL



TOO MUCH SUN



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR SANIBEL WILDLIFE



Dave
Horton



Lee
Horton

The best of everything in 2005 - from the staff of the Islander

City holiday hours and refuse collection

- 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 31, 2004 & January 1, 2005, in observance of the New Year's Holiday. All recreation facilities will resume regular operating hours on January 2, 2005.

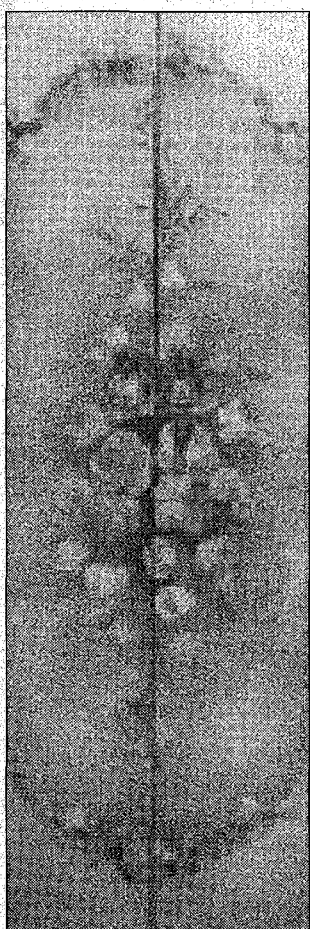
For questions regarding the holiday schedule, please contact Sanibel City Hall at 472-3700.

Holiday closings at the Sanibel Library

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

Holiday decorations

Just a reminder that all holiday decorations on Sanibel should be taken down as of January 10. Sunday, January 9 is the final day of holiday display on Sanibel.



Penny Pritt's decorative painting or roses on an armoire. For more on decorative painting on Sanibel, see story in Island Home section, starting on page 18.



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OBITUARIES

Bernard Scheier

Bernard Scheier, born August 28, 1923 in Bronx, N.Y., died Dec. 22, 2004 after a brief illness. Scheier resided in Monroe Township, N.J. and spent winters in Sanibel.

A lieutenant in the 86th Infantry during World War, he fought with General George Patton, liberating Europe from the scourge of Nazism. Scheier will be most remembered as a loving spouse, compassionate parent, and successful businessman. He was the toast of every party, a fantastic listener and storyteller, a man bestowed with great wisdom, eternal love, and a sense of duty and honor. His grandchildren remember him for his endless love, spirited discussions of life, enthusiasm for education, and his passion for telling stories from the heart.

Scheier was preceded in death two years ago by his beloved spouse, Francine Barbara Scheier, after 56 beautiful and wondrous years of companionship and marriage. He is survived by two sons - Neil Robert Scheier and Lawrence Matthew Scheier; 10 grandchildren - Eric and Leah, Adam and Abby, Rachel, Benjamin, Rebecca, Jenna, Kiley, and Shane; three great-grandchildren - Aviva, Miriam, and Talia; his sister - Roslyn Lieberman; and enough friends to make a wonderful life.

Bernard will always be remembered by his family and friends. We are all eternally grateful and blessed for the chance to live fuller lives owing to his presence.

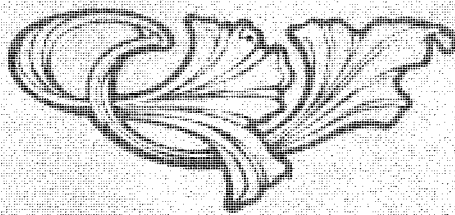
Janet Y. McNaughton

Janet McNaughton 70, died Dec. 24, 2004 at her residence in Miramar Lakes from cancer. Born Sept. 1, 1934 in Auburn, Ind., she attended Stephens College in Columbia, Mo. For the past 18 years she has lived with her husband, W. Bruce McNaughton, in Southwest Florida.

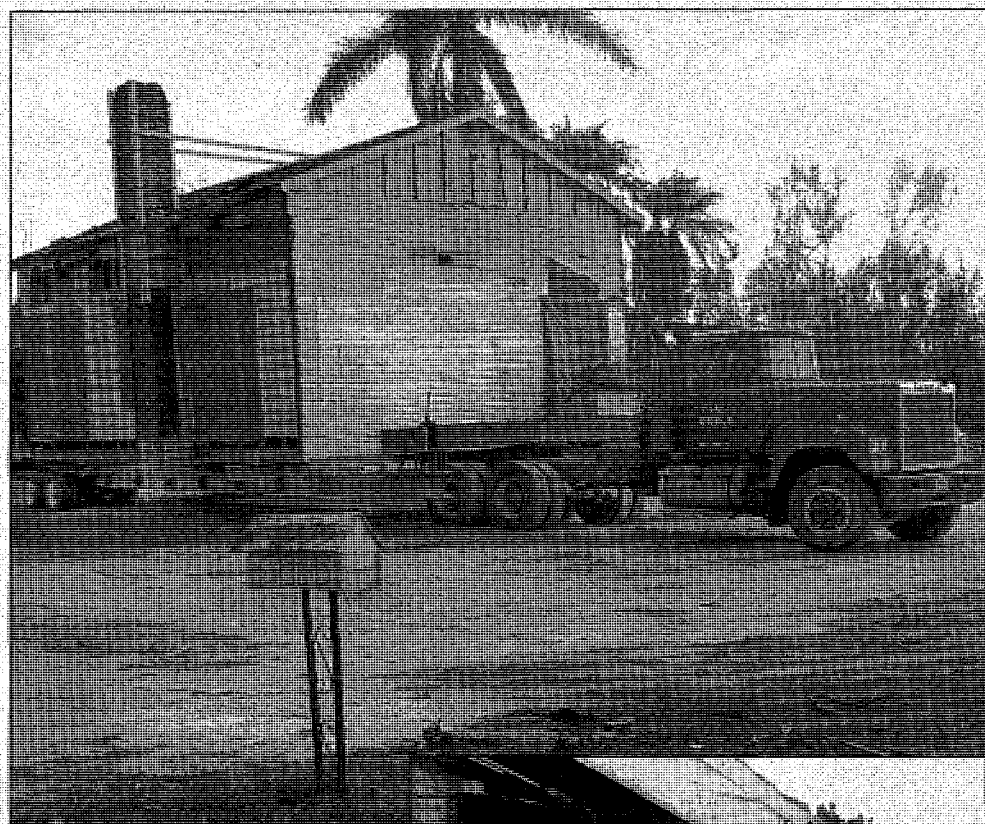
Janet enjoyed spending time with her family, playing bridge and taking cruises. She was an award-winning artist known for her sculptures and "Sailor's Valentine's."

She is survived by her husband; her daughter, Lisa; three sons - Jeffrey, Douglas and William; and three grandchildren - Crystal, Arielle and Hunter. She was preceded in death by another son, Gregg.

Funeral services will be private. The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Hope Hospice or the American Diabetes Association.



Movin' to the Museum



Above:


Photo by Laura Nicholson
The old schoolhouse on the morning of December 28, ready to roll.

Right and Below

Photos by Karen Nelson
The schoolhouse, still in its original location but shifted onto girders for moving, photographed on December 23

Electric and cable lines had to be taken down at four locations on Periwinkle to allow passage of the schoolhouse. Workers bring down the first set of lines.





The Islands' Community Newspaper since 1961

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P.O. Box 56 • Sanibel, FL 33957
Phone (239) 472-5185 • Fax 472-1372


Location:
Promenade Center
695 Tarpon Bay Rd. Unit #13

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Classified Ad deadline: Next Tuesday.


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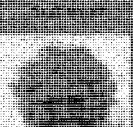
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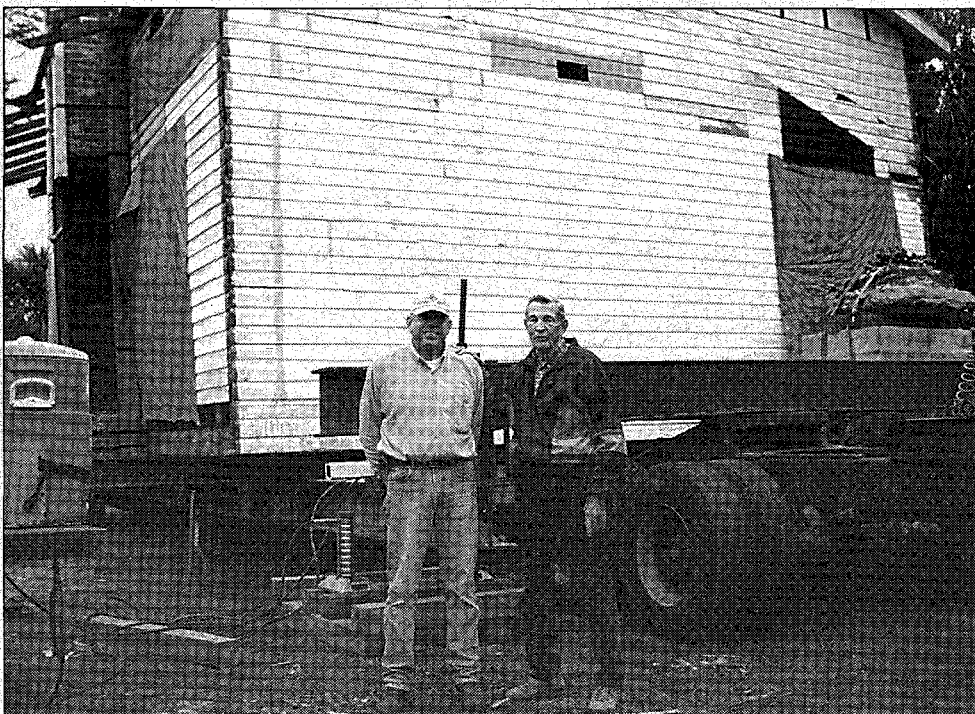
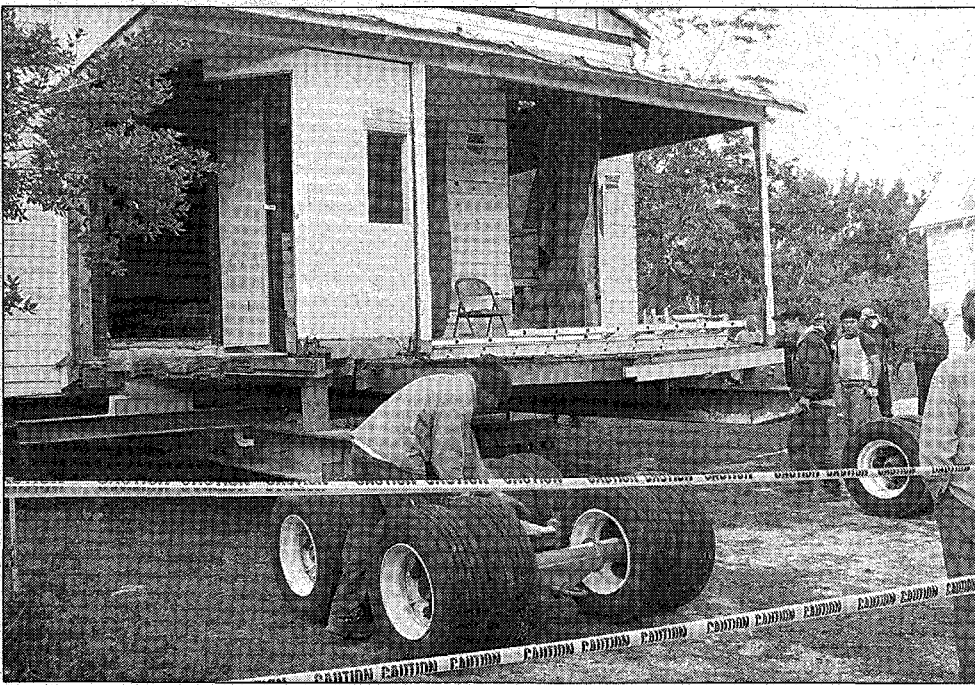
JOAN WATSON
Advertising Editor



Top: The schoolhouse moves down the road as workers move in to repair the downed lines.

Below: At the Historical Village on Wednesday morning, the wheels are rolled out from beneath the schoolhouse.

Bottom: Tom Doyle (left) of Flint & Doyle, and Sam Bailey. Former students and residents gathered at 7:30 on the morning of December 29 to celebrate the arrival of the schoolhouse to its final home, where it will be part of the Sanibel Historical Village & Museum.



Sanibel dancers going to Orange Bowl

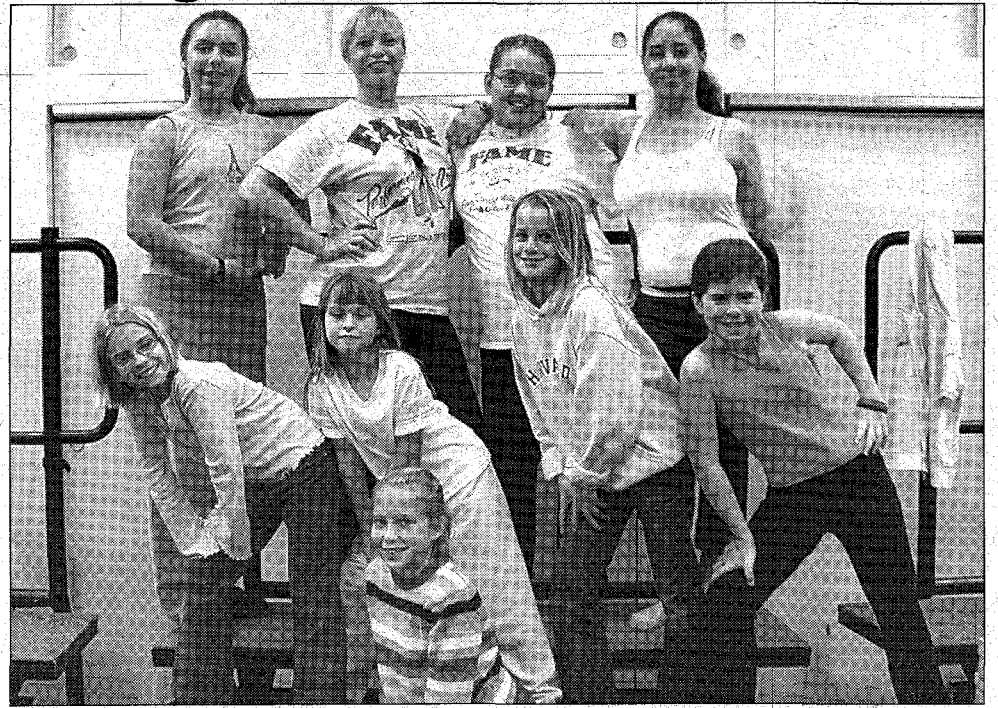


Photo by Laura Nickerson

Top row: Anna Gould, teacher Vanessa Stocker, Rhiannon Cappannelli, and Angelie Vasquez. **Middle:** Kate Sprehn, Joelle Finley, Rachel Sands, Jennifer Prichard. **Bottom:** Kari Fowler.

Two Sanibel girls, Kari Fowler and Anna Gould will be dancing in the Orange Bowl on January 4. Their dance class of eight girls at St Michael's Lutheran Church in Fort Myers was chosen to participate with 800 boys and girls who are to dance during vocal performances by Ashley

Simpson and Gwen Stefani. Over 3,000 children auditioned. The class is taught by Vanessa Stocker, who said "The girls had to learn four routines in two weeks but they are ready!"

- LN

May the FISH be with you!



**2005
Best Wishes
From
All Of Us**

* Dec 25th-Jan 1st



SEAFOOD • SPORTS • SPIRITS

ALL BOWL GAMES
"Big 10 Headquarters
on Satellite"

LUNCH

Dec 25th-Jan 2nd

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Dec 25th-Jan 1st



**26 Years of Fresh Fish
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Happy Hour in the Raw
4-6 PM
Oysters & Clams 3/ \$2.25

Captiva's Scotch Bonnet house to be moved

By Amy Fleming
Managing Editor, Captiva Current

Scotch Bonnet, also known as the Dr. Hicks House on Captiva Drive, will be spared the bulldozer after all.

The historic home will soon become the property of Marvin and Helene Gralnick, owners of Chico's clothing stores. The current owners, Ralph and Mary Roberts, had been planning to relocate the house, now at 15759 Captiva Drive, to a parcel owned by the Gralnicks when Hurricane Charley hit on August 13. According to the Lee County Historic Preservation Board's staff report, the Gralnicks then declined to accept the damaged house, and other attempts at finding a suitable receiving parcel, even from such interested parties as South Seas Resort and author Randy Wayne White, were unsuccessful. The Roberts filed an application for demolition with the Lee County Historic Preservation board, citing extensive damage from the hurricane.

A structural evaluation conducted by Arnold/Sanders Consulting Engineers stated "The loss of structural integrity of this building will not allow the building to be moved to another location, as has been discussed, without substantial redesigning, repair and construction of the entire building. Further, it is our opinion that required repairs would not

be feasible within reasonable economic means."

The application was met with concern from the previous owner, as well as the Captiva Civic Association, which urged the HPB "to take all necessary precautions to prevent demolition of this historically significant Captiva Island house."

County staff had also advised the HPB to continue the hearing until their December 16 meeting, while discouraging demolition.

Relief for Scotch Bonnet came on December 15, when the application for demolition was withdrawn.

"We were able to strike an agreement with the Gralnicks, the initial recipients of the house," Don DeLuca, the Roberts' attorney said. "The goal is to preserve rather than demolish it."

DeLuca added that some improvements have already been made to the house, but that it is uncertain when the move will take place.

"We're trying to do it as quickly as we can. The receiving parcel needs to be permitted, a foundation put down, and a barge rented," he said.

The Roberts will also contribute funds toward repairing the structure once the move is complete. The move entails floating the house on a barge approximately 5,500 feet on the Roosevelt Channel, to

the nearby lot.

The house, given historic designation in 1993, was built in or around 1908 by Dr. John F. Hicks, who purchased the land from his neighbor, Dr. John R. Dickey. The Hick's were so taken with the Dickey home that they had theirs built using the same house plans. Like many structures of that era, The Hick's house incorporated Dade County pine into its construction. Dade County pine, no longer available because of over harvesting, is an unusual-

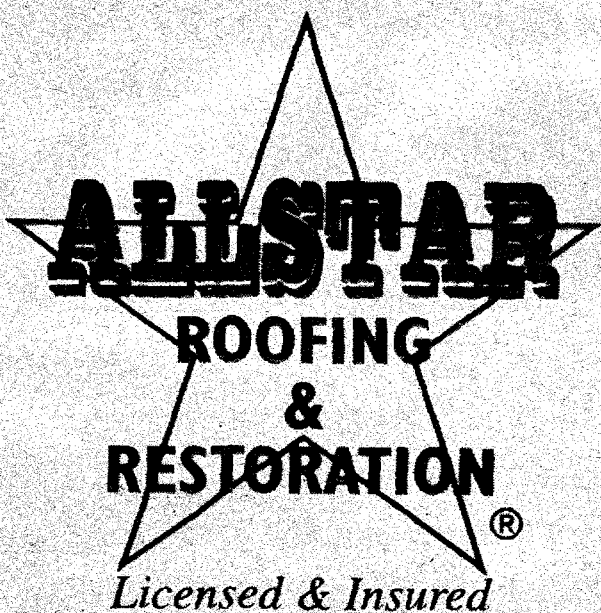
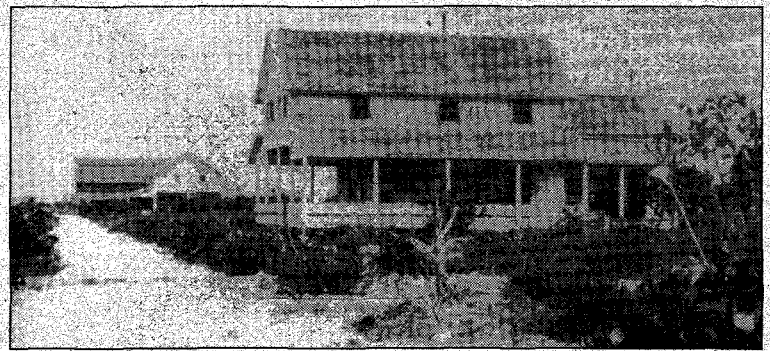
ly dense wood that is naturally termite resistant. Because of its rarity and durability, Dade County pine elements are usually harvested from structures that are scheduled for demolition.



Photo by Amy Fleming

Scotch Bonnet, or the Dr. Hicks House, on Captiva Drive will soon have a new home.

Photo courtesy of Louise Tuttle, "Homes of Old Captiva"
The Dr. Hicks house, back in the day.



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Leo Doerr retires from banking

Bank Of The Islands has announced that Senior Vice President Leo R. Doerr is retiring from banking effective December 31, 2004.

"We are happy for Leo that he is beginning his long planned and well-deserved retirement," said Bank of the Islands President Robbie Roepstorff. "At the same time, we are also very saddened to see him go. Leo's the kind of guy who makes his colleagues and customers wish he would be around forever."

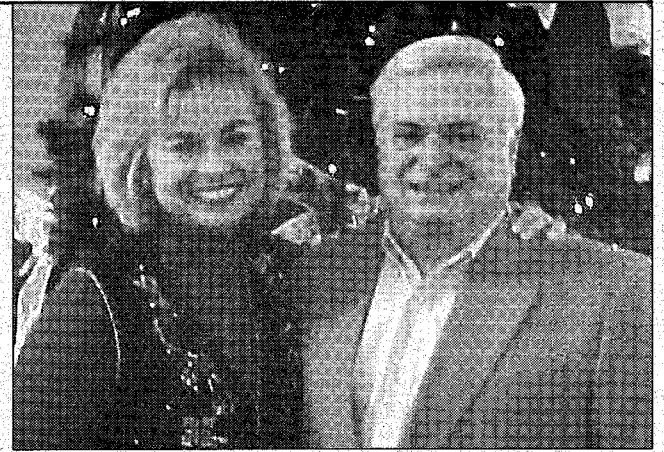
Mr. Doerr's local banking experience stretches back to the sixties, and includes the founding of Heritage National Bank where he served as president and CEO.

"Working at Bank of the Islands is like seeing family everyday," said Doerr. "I have worked with Robbie

Roepstorff for 30 years, and her husband, Geoff, for at least 25. Working with them, the staff, and the customers of Bank of the islands for the past five years has been an honor. I will miss everyone, but know that I leave my customer friends in good hands."

During his banking career, Doerr has been a director of the Florida Bankers Association and a past president of the Lee County Community Bankers Association. A longtime resident of Fort Myers, Leo intends to enjoy his retirement with Karen, his wife of 40 years.

Located in the heart of Sanibel at the intersection of Periwinkle Way and Casa Ybel Road, Bank Of The Islands has been voted best island bank for six years straight.



Robbie Roepstorff wishing Leo Doerr a fond retirement farewell.

Sanibel PD Holiday Safety Alert: Do not become a statistic Do not drink and drive

In 2003, Sanibel arrested twenty-two persons for driving while under the influence of alcohol. An additional twenty-two persons have been arrested on Sanibel since January 1, 2004 for the same offense. The Sanibel Police Department has issued the following Holiday Safety Alert in an effort to keep the users of our City's roadways safe this season:

Don't Drink and Drive!

- Be careful and conscientious when celebrating
- Adults, when you are away from home, be mindful not to leave alcohol accessible to your children
- Designate a driver to be available if you are drinking alcohol
- Keep friends safe by not allowing them behind the wheel if you feel they have imbibed too much, even if this means taking their car keys away from them
- Allow your guests a choice of non-alcoholic beverages
- If you have a large group going out for the evening, consider hiring a limousine service to provide round-trip transportation
- If in doubt, call a cab to get you home safely.

Remember, even if you are being careful, there are others on the road that may not be as cautious. Sanibel Police Officers will be on duty and monitoring Sanibel's roadways for persons who are driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Do Not Become a Statistic - Do Not Drink & Drive.

If you, a friend or an acquaintance has been drinking and can not safely drive home, please contact 1-800-AAA-HELP. Triple A will respond to tow your car and give you a ride home. This program is called "TOW TO GO". You do not have to be a member to use this FREE service. The program will be in effect until January 2.

If you have any questions, please call the Sanibel Police Department at 472-3111.

A rolling **Full Belly** gathers no moss.

Walk gently and carry a big **Full Belly!**

The governor just called and granted you a **Full Belly** pardon.

I've got great news! I didn't save a lot on my car insurance but I've got a **Full Belly**.

Full Belly Deli...472-2555
Now Open
Located in Palm Ridge Place

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.

Open til 11 p.m. for
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Entertainment Nightly in the JAC Bar
"Sanibels Social Scene"

If it Swims
in Florida
Waters,
We Serve It.

The
JACARANDA

239.472.1771

1223 Periwinkle Way - Sanibel

Tween Waters Resort

New Years Eve Party

in the CrowsNest
with The Modulators
9 pm - 1 am

Even more Modulators

Jan 1, Jan 4 thru 8th & Jan 11th thru 15th

Special Event

The Blonde Songbook - Tues. Dec. 28 8-10
pm

Tribute to history's great Blonde
performers/singers...Mae West, Peggy Lee,

Weekly Specials in the CrowsNest

Melt n Your Month Meatloaf Monday

Terrific Teriyaki Tuesday

Wild Hog Wednesday

Terrific Chicken Thursday

Fish Fry Friday

Super Spaghetti Saturday

Succulent Shrimp Sunday

the
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TWEEN
WATERS
INN

OF SEA AND SHORE

Our New Year's Resolution

By Charles Sobczak
Special to the Islander

There is a tale often told on my wife's side of the family that merits retelling. Molly's father, Art, was approached decades ago by a small group of friends to invest in a fledgling computer software company. At the time, aside from a firm called International Business Machines, there were very, very few people who knew anything about computers or what their future might hold. But for Art, the timing couldn't have been worse.

He still had young children, his wife Jean was pregnant, money was tight and the \$10,000 they were asking for him to invest was more than he could spare at the moment. He passed on their offer. The company was Control Data. Had he been able to make that investment, everyone in the family would be a multi-millionaire many times over today.

Each of you reading this article has your own lost opportunity tale to tell. Be it a piece of acreage on the outskirts of town, a stock tip you paid no attention to, or a business venture you thought would never fly. In each and every case, you decided not to risk it. The acreage became a bank site, the stock was Microsoft and the business was Subway and you, or someone you know is still kicking themselves to this day for not taking the risk or having the initiative to commit.

With those thoughts in mind, I've got a hot tip for you. In fact it's more than a tip for those of us living in Southwest Florida. I want you to make this our New Year's Resolution #1. We have to buy the Babcock Ranch. Losing it to more development is not an acceptable option.

As of Dec. 17, 2004, the State's efforts to purchase the ranch have been derailed and the family has now placed the property on the open market. Under the current zoning, only one dwelling unit is allowed per 10 acres. That's very low density, but bear in mind that Florida's developers have a history of miraculously increasing residential densities. Even at the current asking price of \$455 million, we are looking at a cost per homesite of under \$50,000 ($91,361$ acres divided by $10 = 9,136$ lots / $\$455$ million divided by $9,136 = \$49,802$ per lot). That's with every future home boasting a lavish 10-acre estate. Try

finding 10 acres anywhere in Southwest Florida for under \$50,000. Don't even dare to compare this bargain with the current cost of lots on Sanibel or Captiva because you cannot. This is our chance to own Control Data.

Our Governor, Jeb Bush, after funding two separate appraisals that came in at \$450 million and \$460 million respectively, had his hand-picked negotiator low-ball the Babcock family with an offer of \$400 million. The EPA, who spear-headed the offer, said that this was typical for the State, with the understanding that they could convey considerable tax advantages to the sellers and that their offer was cash.

Of course, the Babcock family was insulted and immediately withdrew the property from further negotiations with the State. I can't blame them. From their perspective why would the State bother to fund the two appraisals only to ignore them when it came time to make the actual offer?

Where do we go from here?

We call Jeb Bush at 850/488-4441 and tell him to resubmit the offer, splitting the difference of the two appraisals to come in at \$455,000,000. Throw in the tax benefits for good measure. This isn't a 400-acre piece of wetlands we're talking about. This is a parcel of land ten times larger than Sanibel, nearly 20 times larger than the entirety of the "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

Bob Janes, our County Commissioner, has been relentless in his pursuit of this property. Adam Cummings from Charlotte County has likewise been a strong proponent of State ownership of the Babcock Ranch. Support them and the efforts of the consortium of conservation groups allied to make this acquisition a reality — SCCF, the Nature Conservancy, Audubon... the list is large and represents every conservation-minded organization in Southwest Florida.

Send money. Send five dollars, five hundred or fifty thousand if you can afford it. Mail your tax deductible donation to The Southwest Florida Community Foundation, 8260 College Parkway-Suite #101, Fort Myers 33919. In the memo of your check write "Babcock Preservation Partnership Fund." Visa and Mastercard are also

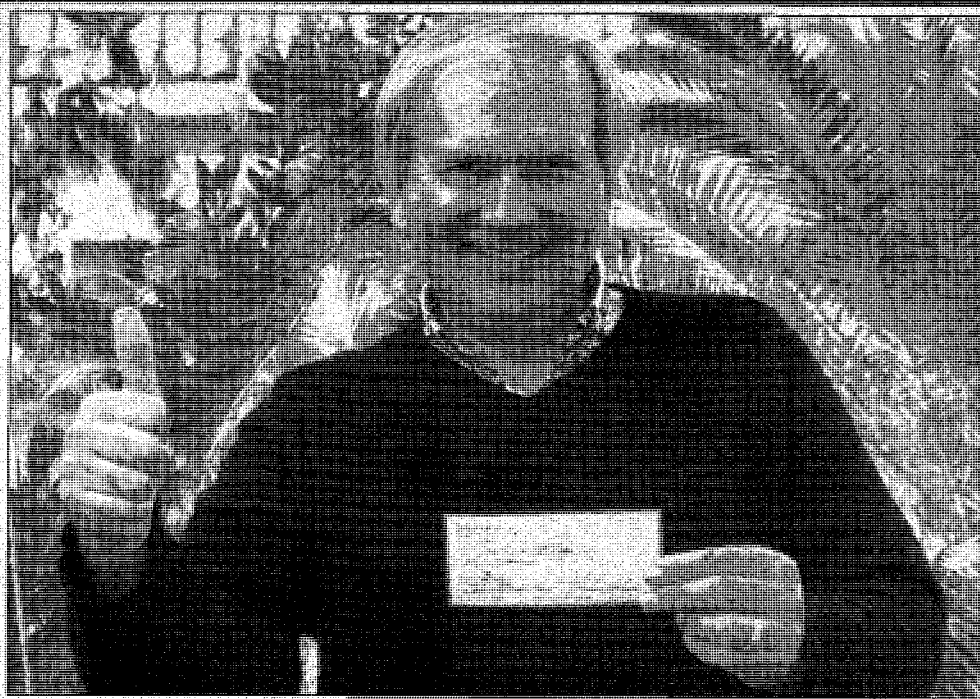


Photo by Karen Nelson

Charlie Sobczak and his \$1,000 check for the Babcock Preservation Partnership Fund

accepted by going on line to Florida Community.com or by calling the SWFL Community Foundation at 274-5900. So far, there have been donations that range from fifty cents to over \$1,000 from 1,028 individuals. A little over \$108,000 has been raised to date. Given the magnitude of this unique opportunity, we should all remember my father-in-law's Control Data mistake.

With that in mind I'm adding my \$1,000 to the fund today. Four years ago I wrote a novel about hurricanes and over-development in Southwest Florida. I know I got the over-development part right, but the hurricanes caught me by surprise. When I wrote the book, I promised \$1 per copy sold would go to the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and/or its projects. (Under the terms of our agreement I was able to earmark where my future installments might be dedicated.) This time, my personal New Year's Resolution is that they are going to help buy the Babcock property. Everyone reading this must add it to the top of their own list of 2005 resolutions.

I will close with an excerpt from the epilogue of that novel I wrote — *Way Under Contract, a Florida Story*. I think it says it best:

Way Under Contract is a work of fiction. What has occurred in Florida over the past 50 years is not. In 1950, the population of Florida was 2,771,305. The projected population based on the 2000 census is expected to exceed 15,428,000 people. On average, for every decade over the past 50 years, Florida's population has doubled.

For the wildlife of the Sunshine State, this unprecedented growth has been devastating. Golf courses, suburbs, condominiums, apartment buildings, shopping centers, freeways, office buildings — the immeasurable uprootings of man — all serve to displace those creatures who once called those pastures, swamps and forests home. The animals retreat in silence. Some, like the Florida panther and the manatee, retreat to the very brink of extinction. Extinction is the longest silence.

In a way, *Way Under Contract* is not a Florida story. It is the Florida Story. It is the story of section, township and range... the tale of men who see the world, not through the childlike eyes of wonder, but through the eyes of lot and block. The eyes of money. The men who clear off the slash pines, burn the saw palmetto and lay the footings for the next

Salon by Design

Presents:

Pat

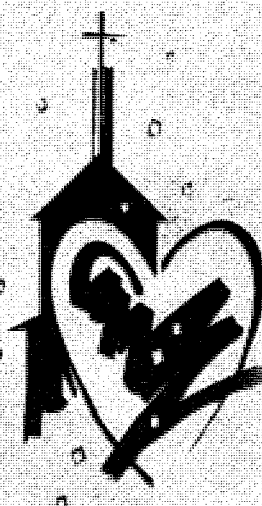
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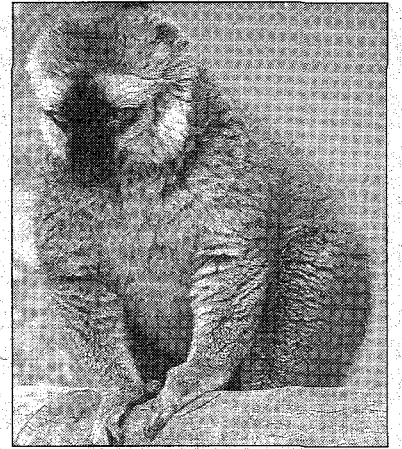
With pleasure we introduce Brian and Dolores Mishell, SanCap Audubon board members, as our guest speakers for our first Audubon program of the new season, Thursday, January 6, 2005, at the Sanibel Community

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.sancap-audubon.org.



Audubon outing on January 1

The next Sanibel-Captiva Audubon birding outing will take place on Saturday, January 1 (tomorrow) at Bailey Tract/Sanibel Gardens. South (left) on Tarpon Bay Road from Bailey's, approx. 1/2 mile. Entrance on right. Free parking.

Meet at 8 a.m.

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

Babcock, from left

exclusive subdivision, complete with lit tennis courts, Olympic-sized swimming pools and exotic landscaping from every corner of the planet. All this while the native trees and shrubs lie smouldering in the distance and the gopher tortoises, egrets and indigo snakes try to find a patch of land unscathed by the merciless roar of the bulldozer... someplace, anyplace to call home.

Give them a home at the Babcock

Ranch. Think Control Data. Happy New Year!

Charles Sobczak is the author of three novels, including Way Under Contract. His books — his first novel, Six Mornings on Sanibel, and his latest, A Choice of Angels, along with Rhythm of the Tides, a collection essays and poems previously published in the Islander and/or Island Reporter — are available throughout the island.



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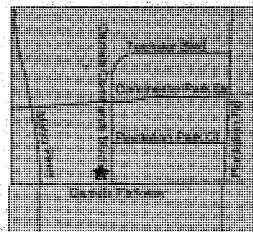
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At SCCF

Lessons from the Eye of Charley Cruises

When: 1:00-3:00 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays.

Where: Pine Island Sound; leaves from McCarthy's Marina on Captiva.

Fee: \$25. Reservations required, call 472-5300.

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

Resident Environmental Orientation

Resident Environmental Orientations (REO) will return for another season starting on Monday, January 10. The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation in partnership with Captiva Cruises, will be offering this free orientation to residents, property owners and the business community of Sanibel and Captiva. The REO will take place on Mondays during the winter months from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

These programs will include a review of the conserved lands of the island, island formation, conservation history and the Conservation Foundation's Landscaping For Wildlife program. Thanks to Captiva

Cruises, the orientation will culminate in a trolley ride and short boat trip in Pine Island Sound.

The REO provides an excellent overview of the islands and opens the door of opportunity for people to learn more. These Monday programs are limited to 25 people so reservations are required. Additional information and reservations can be obtained by calling the Conservation Foundation at 472-2329.

Dolphin & Wildlife Cruises

When: 3:00-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Where: Pine Island Sound; leaves from McCarthy's Marina on Captiva.

Fee: \$20/adult, \$12.50/children. Reservations, call 472-5300.

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

Shoreline Discovery

When: Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

Where: Meet at the Nature Center for a trip to a local beach.

Fee: Free to members and children, \$5 for nonmembers plus beach parking fee, approximately \$2.

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

Take Me to the River

When: Wednesday, Jan. 5, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Nature Center and trails.

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

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

Water Conservation

- from the Island Water Association

Last year, IWA undertook its most extensive water conservation effort ever. Engineering Manager, Rich Calabrese developed a program partially funded by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), to contact our 350 highest water users and to help them conserve water.

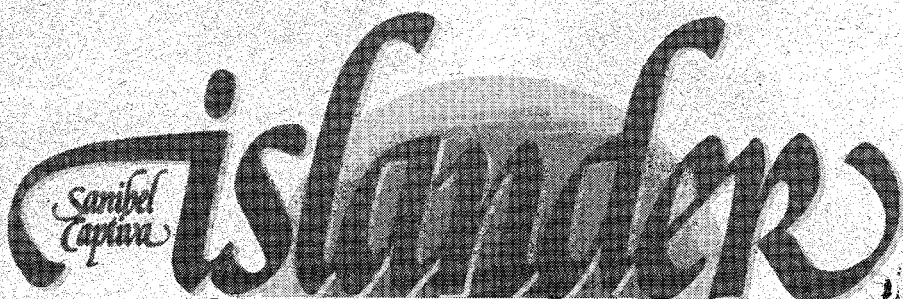
We estimate that the 30% of our high users who responded to our offer to help them conserve water saved around 26,000,000 gallons of water last year, which is a lot of water! Some important lessons emerged from the effort:

- Most landscape companies are more concerned with cutting/fertilizing the grass, and pruning shrubs, than with irrigation systems or water usage. IWA members need to understand their irrigation system so they can ensure that it doesn't waste water.
- Landscaping changes over time, and the original design of the irrigation system does not always reflect the needs of the current landscaping. Irrigation systems are often designed for watering-in new shrubs and trees. Established vegetation does not require nearly as much water.
- Members should have their irrigation systems completely checked at least every six months, including operation of the rain sensor.
- Irrigation times should be reset seasonally (Spring, Summer and Fall) to accommodate the changing watering requirements of landscapes.

We are currently expanding this effort to members whose slightly lower water usage did not qualify them for the first program. If you have any questions about water conservation, just give Rich a call at 472-1501.

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From Florida DEP

Governor Bush signs Bill to restore Florida's beaches

After a devastating hurricane season, Governor Bush signed SB 14A into law on December 21, appropriating supplemental emergency funding for the restoration of the state's storm-damaged beaches. Florida's appropriation provides \$68 million for rebuilding dunes and repairing miles of shoreline battered by the forces of four hurricanes.

The hurricane recovery plan, developed by the Department, identifies more than 120 local beach projects ranging from dune restoration to beach renourishment. While many impacted beach and dune systems will recover naturally with time, strategies detailed in the plan will accelerate the natural process and provide coastal communities with storm protection.

To prepare the beach recovery plan, teams of Department engineers and environmental managers assessed erosion along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts following the summer storms. Engineers completed close to 1,000 hours of aerial and ground assessments across 25 coastal counties, shooting 76 hours of video and more than 5,200 still photographs to document hurricane damage to the state's famed beaches, sandy dunes and coastal communities. To aid recovery, the federal government is providing \$116 million to repair or nourish federally-authorized shore protection projects in Florida. The \$68 million provided by the Florida Legislature for the State's beach recovery plan will complement the restoration activities and funding provided by federal agencies.

State, federal and local governments invest millions of dollars annually to restore and maintain critically eroded beaches along Florida's 1,350-mile coastline. Over the last three years, the Florida Legislature has appropriated more than \$80 million to restore Florida's shoreline. To date, more than 180 miles of

beach has been restored and maintained through the State program.

For more information and to view the full recovery plan, visit www.floridadep.org/beaches.

For a copy of SB 14A, visit www.leg.state.fl.us.

DEP launches website providing storm impact information

Following an unprecedented hurricane season, the Department launched a website on December 22, providing coastal mapping of storm damaged counties, which can be used by disaster relief personnel, property owners, realtors, insurance agents and coastal planners to assess coastal damage to assist in the recovery process.

"The Department is using state-of-the-art e-tools to manage information, deliver services and increase government efficiency," said Secretary Castille. "This is another way the agency is stepping up to assist storm disaster relief efforts. Access to accurate, timely data is critical to recovery."

Video clips and photographs of Florida's shoreline from spring 2004 and in the aftermath of Hurricanes Frances, Ivan and Jeanne provide illustrations of beach erosion and damage caused by the four storms.

Teams of Department engineers and environmental managers assessed erosion along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts following the summer storms. Engineers completed close to 1,000 hours of aerial and ground assessments across 25 coastal counties, shooting 76 hours of video and more than 5,200 stills to document hurricane damage to the state's famed beaches, sandy dunes and coastal communities. Collected data was used to develop the State's Hurricane Recovery Plan for Florida's Beach and Dune System.

To view the new interactive coastal map, visit <http://bcs.dep.state.fl.us/rcmd>. To view the State's Hurricane Recovery Plan for Florida's Beaches, visit <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches>.

Christmas Crabfest continues 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!).

Mandoki at CHADD of Lee County

Miguel Mandoki, M.D., J.D. will be speaking at the next CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) meeting on Tuesday, January 4 from 7 - 9 p.m. in the Lee Memorial Hospital Auditorium, 2776 Cleveland Avenue in Fort Myers. Mandoki is a Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist, Associate Professor in Pediatrics, University of Florida. Information presented will include: co-morbid conditions; bipolar disorder; conduct disorder; oppositional defiant disorder; depression & irritability; DSM-IV diagnostic criteria

There will be a question-and-answer period. Lee County teacher in-service credits are available. The evening is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Lynne Lampila at 466-1167, or M. Jean Gavin at 472-9758.

Shell Islands Garden Club Auction

Victor Mayeron of the Mucky Duck on Captiva will be celebrity auctioneer at the Shell Islands Garden Club annual auction, on Tues. Jan 11.

This annual fund raiser will take place at St. Michael and All Angels parish hall, 2304 Periwinkle Way at 12 noon following a regular club meeting at 11 a.m. Members and friends are asked to donate as many treasures as they can to ensure the success of this fundraiser. Proceeds help fund the club's many community projects.

Beverages and desserts will be provided by hostesses, Jean Klein: chairperson, Betty Matthey, Carole Smith, Sandie Travas, Nancy DeBenedictis, and Anne Boho.

For information please call Glenda Campbell at 472-8994 for particulars.

Fly Fishing Club meeting

The monthly meeting of the Sanibel Fly Fishers will take place Thursday, January 6, at 7 p.m. at the Sanibel Captiva Community Bank on Library Way. The meeting will include a presentation by a well-known Florida guide.

The SFF is a dynamic, growing club affiliated with the International Federation of Fly Fishers. The club is open to anglers of all age and ability levels and focuses on all types of fly fishing, as well as conservation, access and other issues. Guests are welcome. For more information, call Norm Zeigler at 395-9442, Dave Ford at 395-3540 or Glenn Pittard at 481-7362.

CIB Call Home Project

The Combat Infantrymen's Association of SW/Florida is requesting help for their "Call Home Project" from the families in Southwest Florida who have a member of their family in the military service in Afghanistan or Iraq in the war on terrorism. We shall send each a phone card to enable them to call their loved ones here at home. Please mail the entire address to: Combat Infantrymen's Assn., Daniel R. Sankoff Adjutant, 236 Danby Rd. Lehigh Acres, FL 33936-7531 or e/mail to SilverFox236@aol.com (Call Home Project) All donations for this cause will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to Combat Infantrymen's Assn.

Legion's 123 Sale

On January 15, 16 and 17, The Sanibel Captiva Islands American Legion Post 123 will hold its fourth annual 123 sale. On January 2, the Post will begin to accept donations of gently used furniture, working small appliances, clothing, books, accessories, etc. Anyone wishing to donate such items may bring them to the Legion Hall located at 4249 Sanibel Captiva Road (mile marker #3) between the hours of 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. through January 14. To arrange for the pick-up of large items, call the Post at 472-9979. Area businesses wishing to donate items for door and raffles prizes may call the Post at that number as well.

The Annual 123 sale has been one of the most successful events sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary and held at the Legion each year. The Auxiliary is grateful for the support provided in the past; proceeds offset operational expenses, and fund capital improvements and Auxiliary programs benefiting children.

The 2005 123 Sale will be held from 12 noon to 6 p.m. on January 15 through 17 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance). Food and beverages will also be available during these times. Throughout the sale's hours of operation, door prizes will be awarded and raffle tickets sold. You need not be present at the time of raffle drawings to win designated prizes. For more information call 472-9979.

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WHO'S WHO ON THE ISLANDS

Ellen Lai: The Banker Who Makes House Calls

Ellen Lai, born Ellen Soong, to parents of Chinese ancestry, grew up in Trinidad and exudes the warmth and hospitality of the Caribbean people. From the beginning, her education was based on British standards and she was taught by English teachers in a private elementary school followed by a classical education at the private Bishop Anstey High School in Trinidad. These schools were highly disciplined, based on the standards set by the University of Cambridge in London. Ellen explains that the students had to "sit the exam" in Trinidad and the exams were sent back to the University of Cambridge for scoring and evaluation.

After graduation, a career in the field of banking was one of the better choices for a girl. Starting as a teller with the Royal Bank of Canada in Trinidad, Ellen spent five years in banking before she married Stephen Lai. When their only son John was born, Ellen wanted to care for John and left the banking business. Meanwhile she was invited by the British West Indies Airways in Trinidad to become their Special Services Reservationist giving special attention to their VIP clients. In this idyllic job Ellen met royalty and celebrities from many different countries including Princess Margaret, Tom Selleck, Diana Ross and The Supremes and — as part of her assignment — gave special care to children travelling alone. She explains, "Trinidad was a tourist island in many ways resembling Sanibel Island and I loved working with the B.W.I.A."

In 1983 the Granada Coup was bringing unrest to the neighboring island of Trinidad and in 1984, the Lai family migrated to America. Ellen returned to the banking business and started as a

teller at the Bank of the Islands moving from teller to supervisor to branch manager in 1993.

As a supervisor Ellen still remembers the day a teller cashed a Florida Power and Light bill for a customer. When Ellen asked the teller why she cashed the bill like a check, the teller answered, "It says, Pay this amount!" That same error was never repeated again.

Another cash-checking incident of a very different nature occurred on a cold January morning in Sanibel. A man came into the bank and told Ellen that he wanted to cash a check. When Ellen asked him for I.D., he unzipped his jeans, saw the look on Ellen's face and said, "It's okay, lady, it was so cold this morning I had to put on two pair of jeans and my I.D. is in the pocket of my inner jeans."

With her diversified banking experience Ellen joined Sun Trust as a branch manager in 1995, then five years later became part of Colonial Bank as assistant vice president and, in 2003, vice president/business development. She now spends much of her time on Sanibel Island in Colonial Wealth Management as a Private Client Banker who makes house calls.

When Ellen talks about her first job in banking, she explains that there were no computers and everything was done manually. The work was very time-consuming and, at the end of the day, a teller supervisor had to check and prove the day's work. At that time no one had imagined how different the job would be in less than twenty years.

However, one of the best parts of her job was the intimacy of a closely knit community where people knew one another and watched children grow up and return as adults, only to ask, "Do you remember me?" Ellen has always believed that making an impact on someone's life is what matters the most. "I really enjoy filling people's needs and making meaningful relationships."

In her work as a Private Client Banker, Ellen finds there is a need for more and more women in this work. "There are so many widows and divorcees who tend to want to reach out to another woman and feel comfortable seeking help in the privacy of their own home or place of business. Also many people new to

the area and making Florida their new domicile are looking for this same guidance. Both men and women appreciate someone who can help them with a whole range of services and point them in the most advantageous direction, based on their individual needs. "I credit my success to a loyal client base and new referrals based on a fulfillment of people's expectations." This provides an enviable support service and knowledge base for the client.

Along with her visibility in the banking field, Ellen is an active member of the community, serving on the Board of Directors of the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce and other business-related groups. She participates actively in community events, doing what she does best by becoming a mentor for "Making It on Purpose," a new group helping girls who are turning eighteen and making it on their own.

Ellen's natural warmth and love of people are part of her Trinidad culture, where calypso music is the norm and flamboyant colors abound.

Today, she says humbly, "I never applied for a position to move up. I was always invited."

Clockwise from top right: Grand Opening at the new Colonial Bank location; Steve and Ellen Lai with grandson Zachary; a Glamour Shot session for Ellen when "I turned 50;" Ellen and her father in Trinidad in 1995; Ellen's mother; Ellen and her sisters (Carol, Joanne and Ellen, at about seven years) in Trinidad.



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TO YOUR HEALTH

Holistic Health Notebook: And I thought I'd heard it all

Over the course of the years, I have worked with a number of people with Crohn's disease and other conditions of the gut. I find that simple dietary changes make huge differences, almost immediately.

So when I recently read of a new way of treating this chronic inflammatory bowel disease, I was really surprised.

According to Reuter's, "Patients with Crohn's disease...who do not respond to conventional treatment, may get symptom relief by swallowing parasite eggs."

What???

No, this study was not conducted in a Third World country with a sanitation problem. Researchers at the University of Iowa did the work. For three weeks, patients consumed a commercial drink containing 2500 ova of the

parasite, helminth *Trichuris suis*. The parasite primarily affects pigs.

Compliance was good, and at the end of the 24-week study period, 80% showed benefits. Only a few people withdrew prematurely from the study, and not for reasons of squeamishness.

Since a number of people have recently inquired about inflammatory bowel disease, may I present a protocol that will relieve many symptoms of the disease, including reducing the inflammation, that will not send shudders down your spine?

I generally find that food allergies are at the heart of most bowel conditions. The most common offenders are grains with gluten (wheat, oats, etc.) and dairy products. Other foods can produce intestinal inflammation, though, including red meat, sugar, soft

drinks, and corn. I recommend that you eliminate all grains, except rice and millet, along with all dairy products for at least six weeks. Symptoms generally improve dramatically.

Meanwhile, some wonderful nutrients and herbs can help relieve the unpleasant symptoms. Enteric coated peppermint, for example, helps reduce intestinal spasms and gas production. The amino acid L-glutamine is well-known for repairing and replacing the cells lining the intestinal tract wall (1000 mg, twice per day on an empty stomach), and aloe vera (one or two tablespoons per day) provides additional healing. Take 1000 mg of L-glutamine on an empty stomach, twice per day. Take one or two tablespoons of aloe vera juice each day.

If, at the end of the six week period, you are still experiencing symptoms, we take it to the next level by recommending

allergy testing, to test for IgE and IgG immunoglobulins (it's a blood test). You may be reacting to other foods not mentioned above.

To help resolve the inflammation, use ginger or curcumin (turmeric), or bromelain, an enzyme from the green stem of a pineapple that works very well as an anti-inflammatory. Two capsules three times per day on an empty stomach does the trick.

The nice thing about this protocol is that it is simple, inexpensive, and does not involve swallowing parasite eggs.

I am extremely curious about the name of this "commercial drink containing 2500 ova" but am afraid to ask. I wonder if the producers of Fear Factor produces it...

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



Carol Simontacchi

Aquatic exercise: Happy new year!

By Jane Ranieri
Special to the Islander

I'm not one to make New Year's resolutions, but many people do. And the majority of those resolutions involves exercise and losing weight.

When beginning a new exercise program, you will need to consider small goals that can easily be met. For example, what types of physical activity interest you most? How many days are you willing to exercise per week? Are you self-motivated enough to exercise alone or would you prefer a partner or group exercise? How much are you prepared to spend on your health and well-being?

In order to be successful with your New Year's resolution:

- Make sure that you meet the challenge with a positive attitude. If you begin the New Year with a defeatist or negative outlook, you're bound to fail.

- Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to see results from your new change in lifestyle. Studies show that results are seen after about two months when beginning an exercise program.

- Beware of burn-out. Try to vary your regimen so that you don't get bored or tired of doing the same old thing day in and day out. Variety is the spice of life! Guidelines recommend doing an aerobic activity three times per week, so depending on your interests, try to include a different activity each week.

And don't forget your resistance work. Weight training should be performed at least two times per week. Some people will concentrate on working the upper body muscle groups one day and the lower body the second day. Whether in your home gym or at the local fitness cen-

ter/spa, finding a variety of exercises for training the many muscle groups will keep you motivated to continue your exercise program well into the new year and beyond.

However, if you prefer efficiency, try an aquatic workout. In one hour in the pool you can achieve your goal of a complete, total body workout that will incorporate aerobic conditioning, resistance training and flexibility. It's also convenient, affordable and the workouts can be varied daily.

Start 2005 off with a positive outlook. If your New Year's resolution involves exercise, try an aquatic program to meet your fitness needs.

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

Cholesterol Screening

Low cost health screenings will be available at K-mart at 15271-33 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers from January 13 to January 15, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. A variety of tests will be

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"Little Joe" Micale leaving the island

By Jenny Burnham
Staff Writer

Christmas Eve was the last day for Little Joe and Ginny Micale at their current location on Sanibel. Little Joe has been an *islander* columnist with his Dateline Hollywood columns for several years.

On January 1, 2005, Beverly Hills Hair Design will reopen in the Pines Plaza at 16956 McGregor Blvd.

"I have really mixed emotions," said Little Joe. "I hate to say good-bye, especially to someone or something that I love."

And the Micales have loved Sanibel since their first day trip to the island five years ago. When asked why he was leaving the island, Joe cited a variety of reasons.

"First," he said, "I'm an islander. This is my adopted home. If not for Sanibel I probably would have headed straight back to L.A. But I was cautioned by others that Sanibel is a ghost town in summer, that it's really hard to make a living then, which is true."

Joe also found that hiring people from the mainland to work for him was "virtually impossible" before Hurricane Charley, and "absolutely impossible" after, as the problem was compounded by the toll increases and causeway construction.

"Plus," said Little Joe, "after the hurricane I didn't know if I had a business to come back to. I didn't know if the building was still standing."

Joe and Ginny did some scouting, and found a rental opportunity at Pines Center. They weren't expecting to take occupancy for several months, but were soon offered a chance to move in immediately.

That presented a problem: Little Joe's lease still had a year to run.

"So I thought about my grandfather," Joe said. "He taught me about the Golden Rule. It's 100 per cent true 100 percent of the time. Things only work if both parties are happy. So I thought, what would make me happy?"

He approached his landlords, Joe and Anne Costanzo,

with the proposal that he leave enough equipment behind that the unit could still function as a salon, which they accepted.

"They did me a huge favor," said Joe, "and there's no hard feelings. They came by today and brought us a Christmas present."

Joe also sees the move as an opportunity to season-proof his business, pointing to the "substantial people" who occupy the new construction and high rises around John Morris Road as a pool of potential customers.

His clients have been "very understanding. There has been no discouraging word. They understand. I need to work."



"Little Joe" Micale

Samler to Cypress Gardens Gala

Jack Samler of ResortQuest/Priscilla Murphy Realty attended the grand re-opening ceremonies of the Cypress Gardens Adventure Park on December 8 and 9. The park unexpectedly closed two years ago. The Trust for Public Lands, in conjunction with the State of Florida, saved it from commercial development. Therefore, the gardens, wetlands and lake frontage, are being preserved.

Jack Samler worked with the St. Petersburg Office of The Trust on a Sanibel project a few years ago. He was also included in a statewide survey by The Trust's consultants in November.



Jack Samler

VIP Top Producers

VIP Realty Group, Inc. has announced November Associates of the Month from the Sanibel office. Eric Pfeifer was named Top Sales Associate and Top Listing Associate and James and Penny Hetmanek were named Top Producer.

Eric Pfeifer is a licensed Florida Realtor® and recently obtained his Broker's license. Eric's background includes five years as a Project Engineer for a construction company and owning and operating a successful sports-wear printing and embroidery business. He has his Professional Engineering License from the State of Florida and is a licensed Building Contractor. Actively involved with the Sanibel-Captiva Association of Realtors® since 2001, Pfeifer spends his free time coaching his two children in soccer, flag football, softball and baseball. He was recognized as "Rookie of The Year" for 2002.

James and Penny Hetmanek have been consistent performance leaders at VIP and in the top 2% nationally.

The Hetmaneks are members of the Sanibel-Captiva Association of Realtors® Honor Society and VIP Realty's President's Club. Penny has designations as an Accredited Buyer's Representative as well as Signature Property Specialist. Jim, an Associate Broker, is a Graduate of the Real Estate Institute and a Certified Residential Specialist. Only 4% of the nation's Realtors® hold the CRS designation. The Hetmaneks, along with their Client Care Manager, Ed Beck, offer a professional team approach which has been proven very successful for both buyers and sellers.



Eric Pfeifer



James & Penny Hetmanek

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The future of Australian pines...

By Kevin Duffy
Staff Writer

Hurricane Charley's wrath was sufficient to bring down the lion's share of Australian pines that once held sway on Sanibel, but the city has no plan to indiscriminately finish the job.

Islanders were left without power and unable to return to their homes for over a week following Charley's visit Aug. 13, largely due to the signature canopy of pines that adorned Periwinkle Way before the storm and came crashing down upon it during its fury. The invasive exotic is considered to be the primary culprit for much of the inconvenience that residents were forced to deal with.

"After working on the property damage assessment team with the Building Department it was obvious to all team members that the most significant structural damage to non-Gulf front homes and the single biggest cause of blockage of roadways and loss of electric power on Sanibel was the result of toppled and broken Australian pines," City Manager Judie Zimomra said in a written statement.

But some, such as Sanibel resident Mary Cutaia, feel the city acted overzealously in the weeks following the storm, removing pines wherever they found them. The notion of taking down seemingly healthy trees because they might eventually topple over did not sit well with all islanders, she said.

"If a storm takes something down you can accept that, but I think they took advantage of the opportunity and I think it's a crime," Cutaia said.

Zimomra said the city was merely acting in the best interests of its residents when trees that were still standing following Charley were removed from public right-of-ways. The shallow, brittle root system of the pines, coupled with moist soil from rain and the three hurricane threats that followed Charley made the action necessary, she said.

But using the storms as an excuse to remove all Australian pines from Sanibel is not the case, Zimomra said. "At this point, there is no proposal on the table to eliminate them," she said.

Going onto private property to remove them, Zimomra added, is also not a consideration. "It is a program that would require significant funding," she said.

State law closely regulates Australian pines, Zimomra pointed out, noting it is illegal to sell them in Florida or replant them after a storm event. Piles of pines, stacked like cordwood, still can be found in various portions of the island, including the parking area of the Sanibel boatramp. Piles of mulch ground from them are available, free of charge, to anyone willing to cart them off.

Damage to Bowman's Beach — the city's popular tourist destination which re-opened last week for the first time since Charley — was caused primarily by falling pines. A \$150,000 grant secured from the Tourist Development Council covered most of the clean-up.

Cutaia said she was also concerned about comments relayed to her by a subcontractor conducting clean-up work for the Lee County Electric Cooperative shortly after the storm. The worker told her they were "under orders" to remove all Australian pines from the island, she said.

But Karen Ryan, spokeswoman for the Co-op, said that no such orders have ever been issued. Tree-trim-



Photo courtesy of the City of Sanibel

ming, she said, is done only to insure safety and reliability of service.

"We worked closely with the City of Sanibel during restoration and I think that coordination and cooperation was incredible," she said. "They did not instruct us to remove specific vegetation but were instrumental in assisting us with maintaining safety and rebuilding the system."

The Co-op is responsible for tree-trimming when the limbs are in contact with primary electrical lines or lines located in utility easements, Ryan said. Workers will occasionally trim outside of an easement if a tree is between the lines and there is high potential for an outage, she added.

But to Cutaia, it's just another reason why the island will never look the same.

"Those Australian pines were part of the character of the islands, and Periwinkle Way looks terrible now," she said. "In summertime it gave you shade and the birds roosted in them."

"It was part of living on Sanibel."

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 11:00 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.

UU Jan. 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.



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LET'S TALK REAL ESTATE

Presented by
Margie Davison

HOUSING BUBBLE THEORY EVAPORATING

Increasingly, housing experts and economists are backing off from predicting the bursting of a housing value bubble. Even the nation's top economist, Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan, does not believe a housing bubble exists. "A national severe housing price distortion seems most unlikely in this country, given its size and diversity," he said.

Greenspan also believes most homeowners now have enough equity to handle record debt loads and withstand moderate regional declines in property prices. "To be sure, some households are stretched to their limits, but the vast majority of them appear to be able to calibrate their borrowing and spending to minimize financial difficulties," he said.

Brian Topley, a noted real estate investment advisor, had this to say on the subject: "Though we have witnessed a period of rapidly increasing housing prices, similar increases in prices have occurred in the recent past without resulting in a major drop. Also, the housing market has historically demonstrated the ability to withstand a sharp increase in interest rates without sustaining a major correction in housing prices."

Real estate continues to be the most stable and secure of all investment forms. That particularly applies to home ownership.

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.

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IN MY OPINION

Despite it all – A Rabbi's response

Nature is incorrigible, perhaps demonic, governed by laws totally amoral. Now it is estimated at least forty thousand have died in Southeast Asia. The sudden onslaught of a roiling sea, even if unleashed by an inner logic let loose by earth's tectonic movements, is an event of egregious irrationality.

There is no comfort in theological placebos. God's will may be mysterious in its ultimate beneficence, but no good, hidden in this tragedy, can balance the evil wrought by the horrible loss of so many lives.

Woe is us for the children, the countless children, generations of life to come, who have been drowned by the deadly tor-

rent like the flames quenched by a fire hose. They are cruelly lost. And neither our tears nor our fantasies should soften the harsh reality. As did Abraham, we dare now to be fully human by our anguished complaint, "Shall not the Judge of all do justly?"



**Rabbi
Murray
Saltzman**

There is a phrase sometimes used by our ancient Jewish sages: "Afal pe chayn - despite it all." Let our disillusion at any reassurance of a divine plan be heard on high. Defiantly then, and despite it all, we shall cling still to life. We shall yet insist: "Life is worth living!"

Ayn b'rarya – there is no other choice. For, despite it all, to choose life is our faithfulness.

SCA January Family Dinner Social

A Membership Month Special

Saturday, January 22 will be a very special family evening at SCA. The fun begins at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and a reduced cash bar. At 6:15 p.m. a delicious dinner buffet including roasted chicken, crab cakes, shrimp skewers, salad, rice/vegetable medley, and dessert will be served. At 7 p.m. we are pleased to present, "The Magic and Comedy of Erick Olson."

Erick has won numerous awards and he brings over a decade of experience. He thrilled and entertained us in October with his one-man show. A special thanks to

Sanibel-Captiva Trust Company for sponsoring his return to do his full show, including his assistants. Plus, it is rumored that someone from SCA will be cut in half.

All of this is only \$15 a person! And if you are a paid 2005 SCA member you receive a \$5 discount; bring in a new SCA member and get another \$5 discount: your cost? only \$5 for the evening! The new member will also receive a \$5 discount on their evening. Children are only \$5. Please call SCA at 472-2155 or stop by 2173 Periwinkle Way. Reservations required.

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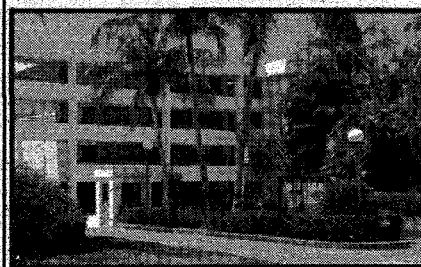
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Richard Johnson: The new face at Bailey's

By Jenny Burnham
Staff Writer

Richard Johnson, son-in-law of Francis Bailey, made up his mind to become a permanent member of the Bailey's management team after Hurricane Charley.

"I knew that this is where I needed to be," said Johnson. Before the storm, Johnson said, he was aware of the close relationship between people on the island and the Bailey brothers. The storm showed him just how much the people of Sanibel depend upon Bailey's.

"It was clear we were here to work with the community and help the island recover as soon as possible," said Johnson. "We were a center for information, ice, water, food, you name it."

Johnson, along with Sam and Francis Bailey and five store employees, rode out the storm on the island.

"You know," he said, "we were only closed for five hours, and that was during the storm itself."

The subject of Johnson's joining the Bailey brothers in business had been discussed among family members prior to Charley. Johnson was acutely aware of the "tradition and name recognition" that the brothers have, along with the "history and heritage of Bailey's Center," he said.

It was sharing the storm experience that made him decide to leave his position as a business consultant for a large insurance company in Jacksonville to work side by side with the brothers.

Johnson met Francis Bailey's daughter, Mary Mead, when he was at school in Virginia. He later attended and graduated from the Davis College of Business in Jacksonville.

"That's ironic," he said with a grin, as he pointed out to Francis Bailey that his alma mater was endowed by the founder of Winn Dixie.

Mary Mead and the couple's three children, Calloway, Bailie, and Dane, will remain in Jacksonville until the school year is over. "I've moved them a couple of times during the school year, and I vowed not to do that again," said Johnson.

"The balance between business and family is very important," he said. "I expect to work hard at both, and I do. I miss my family, but it's not a regret. It's important for them to be there, and important for me to be here."

He's found that his business knowledge applies well to store operations, although, he said, "the retail part is new to me. But I

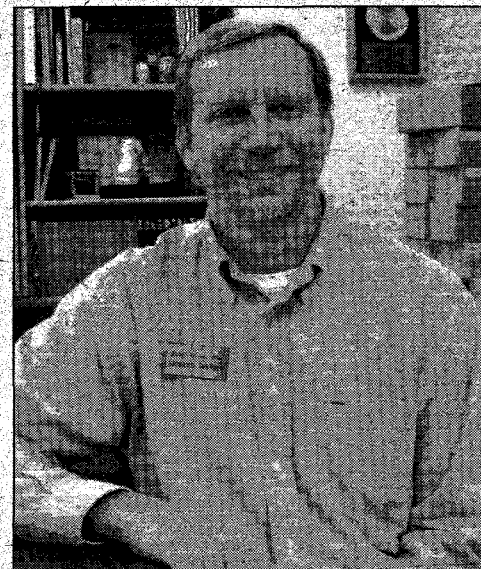


Photo by Jenny Burnham

New Bailey's management team member, Richard Johnson

have very transferable skills. Plus, this is more fun."

Johnson made it clear he is "not here to make changes. Bailey's has been doing it right for over 100 years, and we plan to continue with that tradition."

At work, Johnson is balancing his time between administrative chores upstairs at Bailey's and interacting with the customers and employees downstairs.

"I have been warmly welcomed by Bailey employees," said Johnson. "Bailey's has a fine group of employees, full of dedication and loyalty."

Johnson has also enjoyed greeting customers, islanders, old-timers. "I've been welcomed to the island and the business community, and I very much appreciate that."

In introducing Johnson to the crowd at a recent Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce box lunch, Sam Bailey explained the new addition to the management team.

"It's not that our business is getting big, it's that Francis and I are getting old. We have 165 years combined experience. That's a lot of years."

Johnson, he said, offered to step in. With a grin, Bailey said, "We expect to find him sleeping in Francis's chair just like Francis does now."

Johnson, however, has other ideas. "If you like what we're doing and you enjoy your experience at Bailey's," he said, "tell your friends and neighbors. If you don't like it, tell me."

BOTI's New Year's wish wall

Bank of the Islands invites all its customers and neighbors on Sanibel and Captiva to write their New Year's Wishes for Our Islands on the bank's temporary construction walls in the lobby.

"Hurricane Charley seriously damaged our building," said Bank Manager Rob Lisenbee. "With so much water in the

lobby, we were cashing checks from a folding table in the doorway right after the evacuation ended.

"Now that the lobby renovations have begun, we have plywood walls closing off the construction area... We are inviting lobby visitors to write their New Year's Wishes for Our Islands on the plywood walls. It seems a fitting gesture to ring in the new, and hopefully less eventful, year."

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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.

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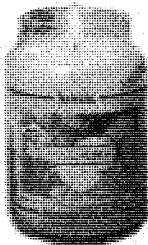
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Country Notions



By Laura Nickerson
Staff Writer

In the midst of Sanibel and Captiva's many gift oriented shops that are brimming over with neat items featuring sealife, palm tree, or alligator motifs, one shop stands out as unique from all the others.

Late one night, a little more than a year ago, Jim Spaulding awakened his wife, Lisa, from a deep sleep to tell her he wanted to open an old time country store on Sanibel.

Lisa's response was a quick "Are you crazy?" before drifting back to dreamland. Her dreams must have been good ones, because in the morning she was willing to listen to her husband's idea with new interest.

The couple, who have lived on island for 13 years, opened Country Notions in the Jerry's shopping center on Periwinkle in January, 2004, with an inventory that Joe calls "midstream" country.

They carry a really cute line of decorative signs for home and garden, made by an Orlando artist, in recognized country colors like barn red and forest green.

The shop is the only full-line handler of Yankee Candles on island, and the colorful display holds a prominent place inside the front door.

There are many fun and unusual food items including jams, jellies, and mustards.

A line of sauces and condiments by Gator Hammock have names like swamp cabbage pickle, swamp berry dam jam, and gator-que. These might spur some great table talk when guests arrive, or make unusual gifts to send north. Key lime pie, and tropical drink mixes are also popular.

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The shop makes a concession to the tropics with a nice line of decorator area rugs, featuring tropical or beach motifs such as lighthouses, shells, palms, pineapples, and monkeys.

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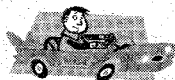
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Sanibel's decorative painters

By Laura Nickerson
Staff Writer

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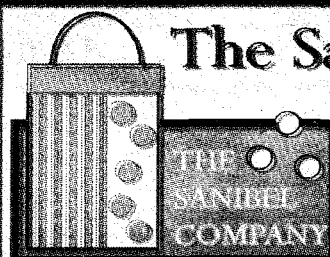
Decorative painting techniques have been used for many centuries to embellish the things we use in our daily lives. From man's earliest cave paintings, to Renaissance frescoes, to the decorative painting in cathedrals and palaces of seventeenth century Europe, to present day cottage furnishings, people have used paint as a means to decorate their dwellings.

Sanibel is a community that embraces all arts,



Faux painting on the wall and ceiling of a Sanibel elevator by Heather Slabosz

Painting, see page 19



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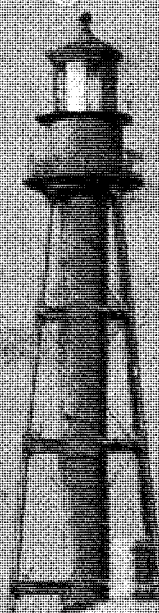
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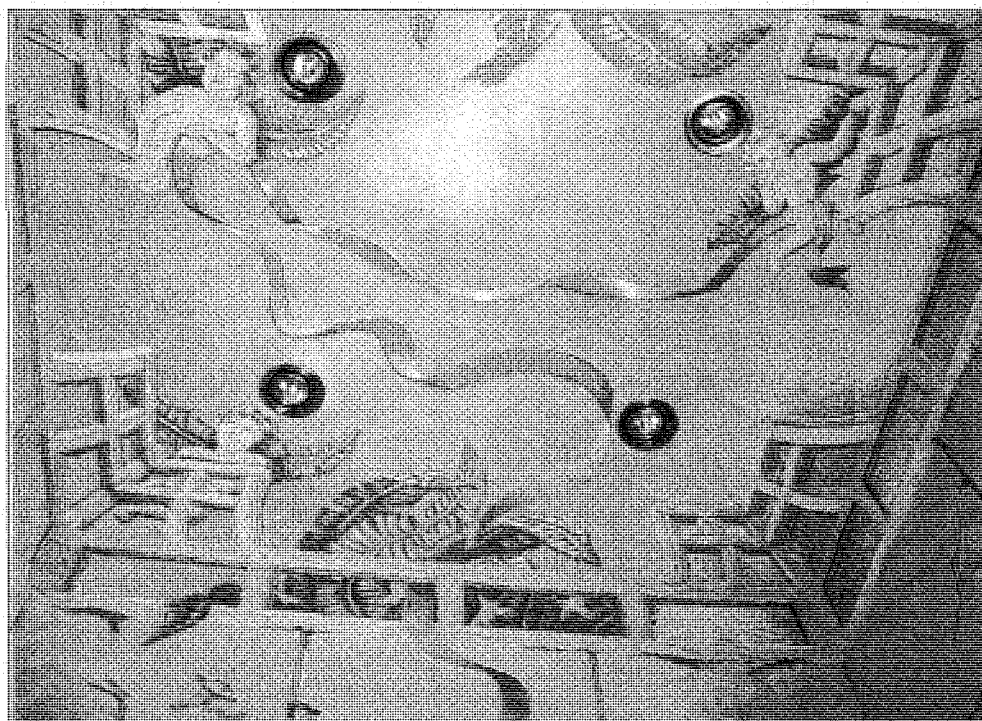
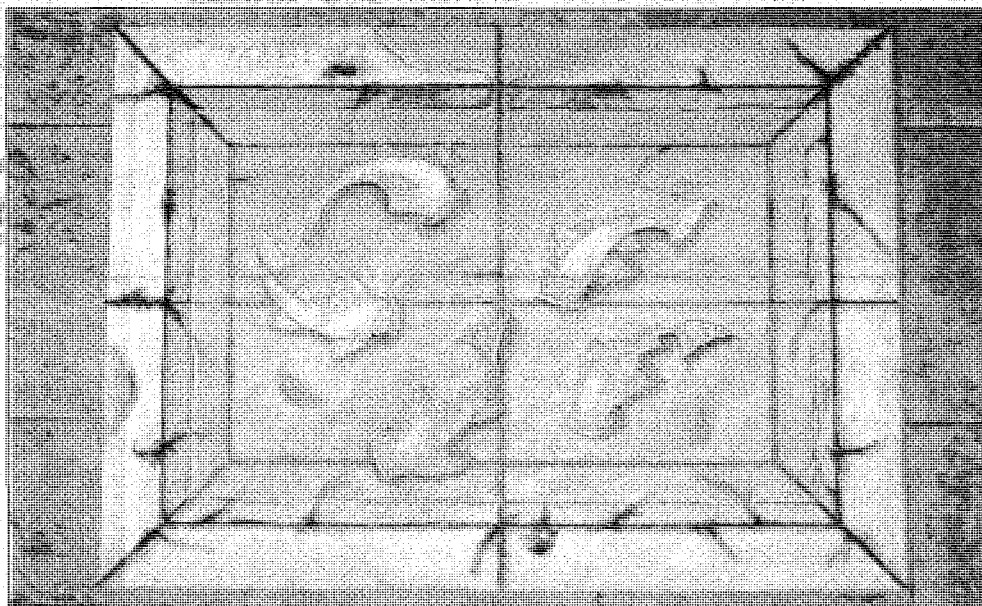
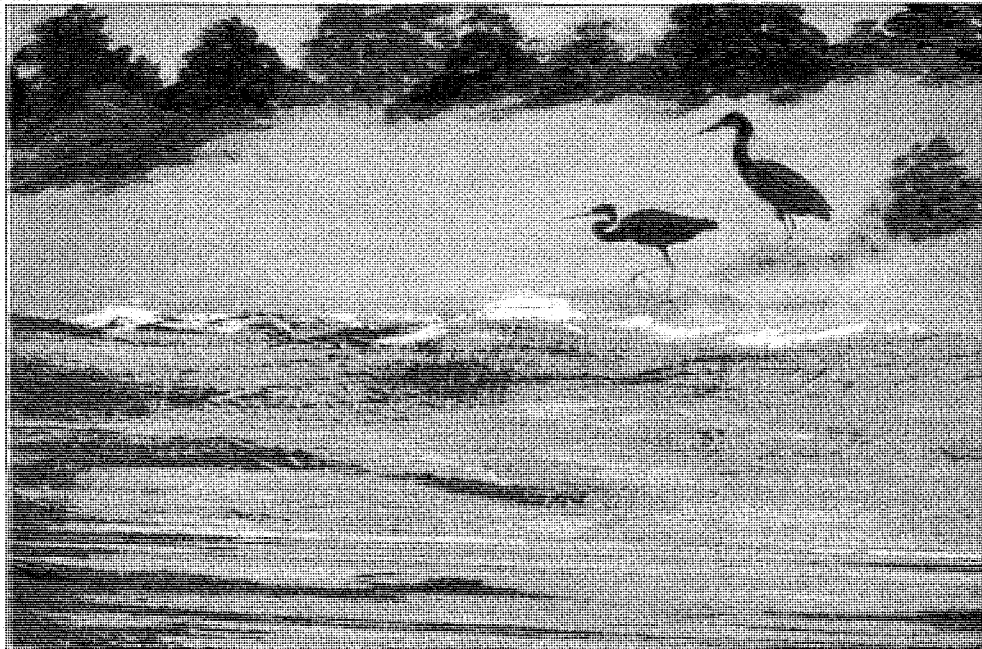
Remodeling

Painting, from page 18

and decorative painting is no exception. In private homes, restaurants, shops, and other public locations on island, artists have added their magic to walls, ceilings, floors, and furnishings, employing the

time-honored traditions of faux painting and trompe l'oeil (trick the eye) techniques which were invented by the ancient Romans.

Painting, see page 21



Top: Laura Ball's seabirds in a mural at the Hungry Heron; **Middle:** Koi pond by Heather Slabosz, painted on removable floorcloth in elevator; **Bottom:** Fresco style ceiling inside elevator by Heather Slabosz.

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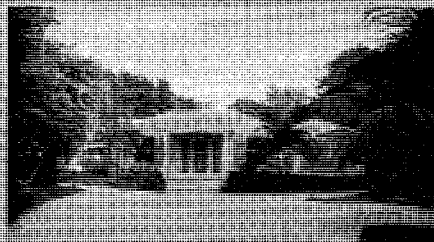
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CAPTIVA WATER-FRONT & GATED ESTATE

Renovation has started on this 6 BR/5.5 BA main house and remodeling is complete on the charming 2 BR/2 BA guest house. Professional landscaping, new pool, dock, deeded beach access and frontage on direct access Roosevelt Channel are all included. \$3,495,000



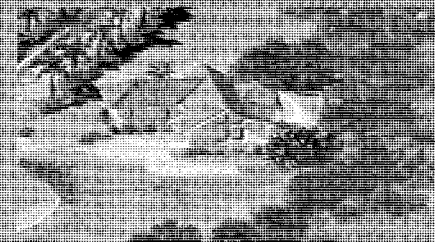
SPECIAL BEACH CHARMER

Beautiful completely remodeled Old Florida style home with 5 BR/5 BA. Offering a pool with spa, beach access, shared deep water dockage with Gulf access, hardwood & tile floors, guest cottage with pool bath and sold furnished with a few personal exceptions. There is a 1.2 acre lot included with 1 acre of deepwater where Roosevelt Channel meets Pine Island Sound. \$4,950,000



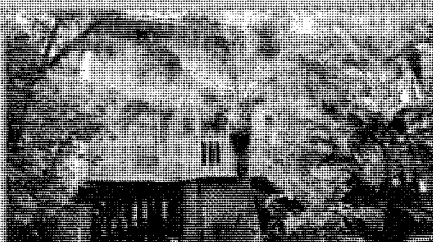
DON'T DREAM A DREAM-BUY ONE

Beautiful near beach 4 BR/2 BA home with heated pool and spa. This home offers Maple hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry, large master suite with room step into shower with glass block, 2 screen enclosed porches, vaulted ceilings in the great room with wood burning fireplace and plenty of storage. This house is just steps to the beach and close to everything you want and need. \$2,195,000



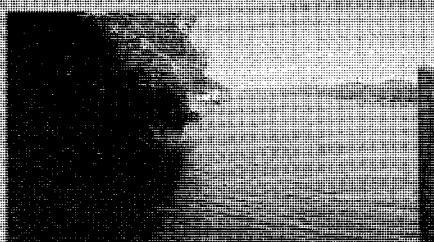
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Lovely 3 BR/4 BA near beach home to be constructed in Osprey Bay Estates. Shared boat dockage with direct access and a short walk to the deeded beach access in Captiva's estate zone. Quality construction with private elevator, fireplace, pool, French doors, metal roof and detailed millwork throughout. \$2,595,000



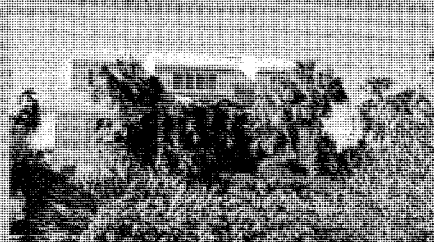
ESCAPE TO PEACE AND QUIET

Wonderful Sunset Captiva home with 2 BR/2.5 BA. This home offers a great room with fireplace, sundeck off master suite, screen enclosed porch and plenty of storage. Great community offering deeded beach access, pool, tennis, dock with Gulf access and BBQ grill. \$789,000



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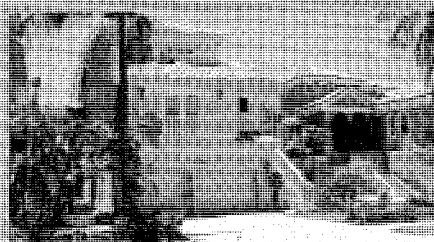
PORPOISE POINT

Absolutely spectacular Bayou views from every room of this custom built home. This home offers 3 master suites with large bathrooms and walk-in closets, boat dock, sunset deck, storm shutters, endless pool, elevator, private park-like setting, stunning great room with vaulted Cypress ceiling, Corian counters, pantry, paddle fans and separate laundry room. This is truly a nature lover's paradise! \$1,449,000



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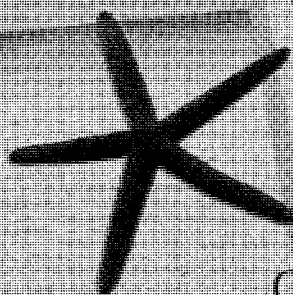
Gorgeous Mediterranean villa with 3 BR/5.5 BA and just steps to the Gulf of Mexico. This quality constructed home offers a heated pool with spa, outdoor entertaining area with built-in grill, gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry, unique finishes, Sabana marble floors, fireplace, private elevator, 2 car garage, high tray ceilings and quality details throughout. \$2,560,000



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Two-story near beach home with 4 BR/5 BA, den, fireplace, vaulted ceilings, private elevator, covered patio for entertaining, observation deck, French doors, gourmet kitchen with custom cabinetry, sun decks and screen-enclosed pool. Located across from the deeded beach access and just steps to the beach. \$2,295,000

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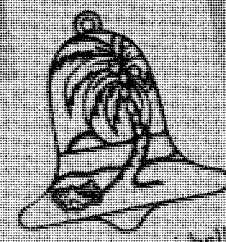


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Painting, from page 19

They painted realistic marble columns and arches, with distant gardens in paint, on plain walls, thereby giving the average home the appearance of a villa. The murals were considered status symbols, almost the way real palaces with columns and arches would be.

Faux techniques are imitative of nature. Sanibel's decorative painters use faux techniques often, to incorporate the island's beautiful and exotic trees, flowers, wildlife, and sea creatures into wall murals and painted furniture; and also to paint in details of stone or wooden indoor and outdoor architecture, and features such as ponds, waterfalls, and beach scenes.

Fresco paintings — painted into wet plaster on walls and ceilings so that the paint bonds with the plaster as it dries — turned the ceilings of Renaissance cathedrals into a fabulous patchwork of architectural details, with areas of open, light-filled sky, and huge figures in allegorical scenes.

Some of today's on island painters capture something of the style of fresco painting, but without wet plaster. They use classical motifs, with large areas of open sky, and cherubs trailing garlands of flowers, yet seeming to fly to the four corners, probably symbolic of four winds, four seasons, or four classical arts.

As the courts of Europe became more wealthy and powerful, it was no longer only for the glory of God that decorative paintings were done, but also for the glory of the royal houses in power. One of the simplest ways of achieving the appear-

ance of wealth was to faux paint the details. Marble architectural details were painted on whatever stone or other building material lay affordably to hand. Walls were painted to resemble elegant stone, or fine wood paneling. Images of flower-filled urns, birds, fountains, gods and goddesses, all became painted decorative elements. The techniques even spread to furniture and small decorative objects, which were marbleized, ebonized, Japaned, burlled, grain-painted, tortoise-shelled, or otherwise painted to resemble various ancient or precious materials, including gemstones like malachite and lapis lazuli. Techniques like glazing were used, in which many very thin layers of paint were built up to achieve depth of color and other effects.

Today's island faux painters employ all of these techniques, painting urns of flowers on cupboard doors, turning steel walls into aged stone blocks, and letting two-dimensional birds fly over a wall.

In the nineteenth century, aniline dyes were introduced, which made vibrant new pigments available and affordable to many more people, though the techniques were still executed by master craftsmen.

When printed wallpaper began to be mass produced, decorative painting fell out of favor except as a treatment for furniture, but it was again taken up during the art deco era in the 1920s-1930s, the designs having become more graphic and stylized, the colors predominantly white, and black, with metallics.

Both World War II and the advent of plastics conspired to almost eliminate most traditional decorative arts in this

country, for at least two decades. It was not until the mid-1960s that a new wave of artists and musicians began to embrace historic "folk" arts.

As history was progressing, a second tradition of decorative painting quietly grew alongside the frescoes, trompe l'oeil and faux techniques that were found in the homes and public places built by and for an elite upper class. In charming cottages and lowly huts, people decorated their walls and furnishings in a more simple fashion, using primitive symbols, and interpreting with an untrained eye, and limited supplies and techniques, the natural flora and fauna that grew around them. Stories were told in paint, and if someone in a village happened to see a piece that had been grain-painted, they tried to copy that effect. Sometimes the results were so good, that the important craft guild painters would borrow an idea from the peasants. Simple and useful peasant furniture, including wardrobes, cupboards, blanket chests, tables, chairs and benches, primitively built, and decorated with beautiful folk paintings, was built in every part of the world, at all points in history, including the early 20th

century. Today, pieces in this genre are considered folk art treasures and bring thousands of dollars at top notch auctions and antique shops around the world.

Decorative painters who design pieces for Sanibel homes and galleries today use not only the historically fine craft guild techniques of trompe l'oeil and faux finishing, but are also proficient at bright colorful painting using graphic symbols and floral motifs to create one of a kind furnishings that look as light and bright as an island sunrise.

Meet the Artists

Heather Slabosz

A Fort Myers artist, specializing in murals, faux finishing, and trompe l'oeil, Heather has decoratively painted theme rooms, niches, floor cloths, children's rooms, elevators, garage doors, and lanais.

In a recent commission, a residential elevator in a Gulf Ridge home off San-Cap Road, was given a treatment reminiscent of an English garden, to satisfy the homeowner's wishes. The walls were painted in faux stone, with small plants growing between cracks, which were

Painting, see page 22

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Detail of flamingo towel rack, by Penny Pritt Bird's heads are knobs for towels.

Painting, from page 21

Painted in for extra character.

There is a fountain on the back wall, with cascading water down to the koi pond, which is painted on a removable floorcloth. The ceiling has palm-winged cherubs, with added birds and other touches of nature. The homeowner was so pleased, she is having the mural continued in the entry room off the elevator, with canvas drapes in a tropical motif, which will be painted using a trompe l'oeil technique. "I enjoy this type of work because I never get bored," said Heather. "Each job is as different as each individual homeowner."

Many times Heather does the preliminary sketches thru the mail, especially when working on murals for a client's home in another state. When the work is complete, she simply takes the canvas off the stretchers and ships it wherever it needs to go.

Murals can be done on thinner canvas and applied to a wall just the way wallpaper is, allowing endless possibilities.

Laura Ball

A Sanibel artist who is really beginning to make a name for herself designing and executing decorative painting projects on the islands, Laura Ball has done work for several private island homes. She is a master faux painter, accomplished in many techniques including marbleizing, tortoise shell, and old leather. She excels at beach and underwater effects, and has recently completed a huge wrap-around mural at the Hungry Heron that showcases species of island sealife, birds, and other wild critters as they would appear in their natural habitat.

Laura is a Sanibel Island Post Office employee who worked nights and weekends to complete the large murals. The base coats were applied by her husband, Charley Ball, better known as Barefoot Charley, house-painter, on the islands. The two have been teaming up on several projects lately.

"When I was almost finished at the Heron," Laura said, "the owner of the new needlepoint shop at the Village, called Jeez Louise, came in for a meal, saw the murals, and hired me on the spot to do the interior of her store. It's nice when your work does the promotion for you," she added.

Penny Pritt

Penny is unique among decorative painters who display their work on the islands. A resident of Bonita Springs, Penny's only painting jobs for the last 18 years have been decorative paintings on furniture, fabrics, and

Painting, see page 23

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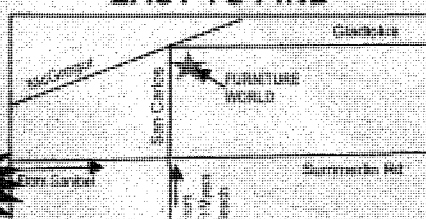
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Painting, from page 22

walls through Sanibel's Norfleet Interiors, Inc. at 1554 Periwinkle Way. It is a great symbiotic relationship. She is Norfleet's only decorative painter; they are her only creative income.

As a result, there are monumental amounts of Penny's work all over the islands. Enough, in fact, to fill two fat portfolios with completed designs for everything from armoires to throw pillows.

She has painted cabinets with species of island birds, flowers, beach grasses, underwater scenes, and even one in French cafe style. Three barstools with three different fishes, cedar chests with palm trees, floral mirror frames, vines twining up chair legs, and a series of comical frog pillows offer additional creative example.

Penny is also good at restoring paint-

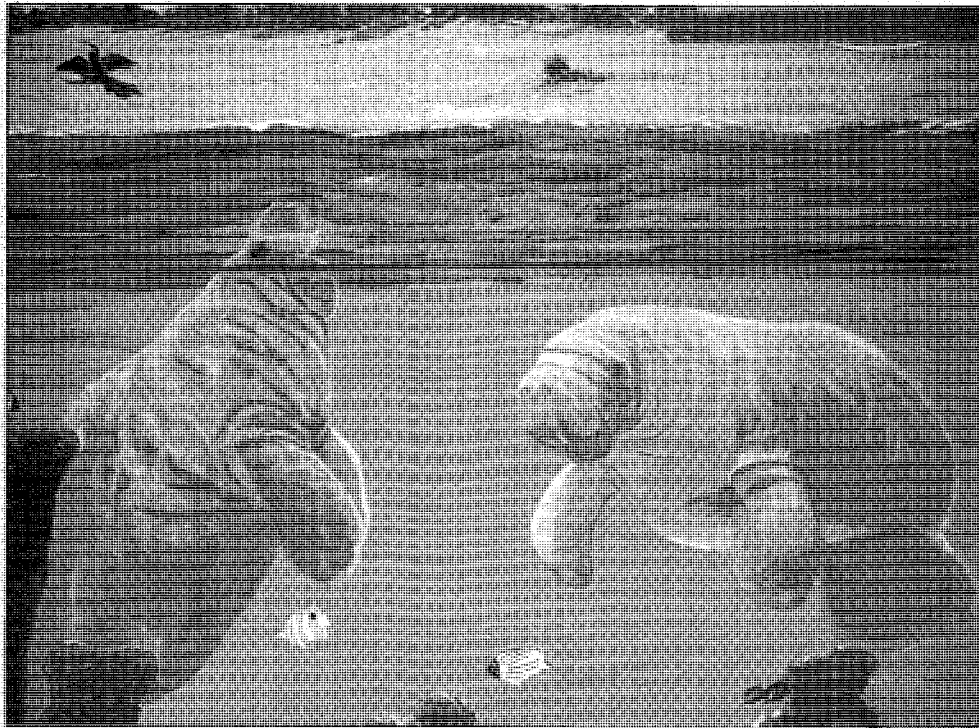
ings, and has had many commissions for that type of work.

Penny said about her work after all this time, "My painting passion is flowers. I love the intricacy of their petals and colors. Also, I enjoy it when I can successfully repair a piece of artwork that has been damaged. If I can recapture its previous look, then the owner can once again treasure it."

Obviously, decorative painting has been embraced on Sanibel and Captiva for at least the last two decades. There are many other painters, living on and off

island who exhibit their work here. Linda Boltrek, at her Seaweed Galleries on both islands has always promoted decorative painting particularly on furniture, and regularly shows the work of Christina Wyatt, Sissi Janku, Jennelle Randell, Kassia Strauss, Linda Ashton-Travis, Teri Causey and others. These artists are featured in the January edition of the *Captiva Chronicle*.

Several other decorative painters are listed with BIG ARTS, including Lisa Lawlor Williams, Laura Conway, Lisa Gould, JoAnn Marriot, Joyce Curvin, and Lois Ferguson.



Manatees from Hungry Heron mural by Laura Ball.

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CENTER STAGE

Christmas in New York

As I sit here in the Southwest Florida International Airport waiting for Jet Blue to whisk me off to the Big Apple for my annual holiday visit with family and friends, I have the opportunity to think of the many gifts I receive throughout the year from living on our island paradise. High on that list are the friends and neighbors who live here, my island family. The spirit of this peaceful spot also rates high... where wildlife and people coexist in beauty and harmony... this wondrous place where courage and strength work hand-in-glove



Marsha Wagner

with the fragile eco-system. Look at how nature has continued to thrive in spite of the devastation of Charley. Last but not least, one of the gifts I really appreciate is how this Island of the Arts nourishes all manner of creative artists as well as audiences who appreciate them. Christmas has always been a time for me to count and appreciate the presents lavished on me throughout the year from the Source of all blessings.

Speaking of presents, a perfect example would have to be the December 21 Great Performers Series

given at Big Arts, where we were treated to a very special performance by the fabulous American tenor, William Burden, a Metropolitan Opera Principal, and his equally talented wife — Met prize winning soprano, Carol Chickering. Burden's parents Anne and John have kept me apprised of son Bill's career for the past 20 years. What an auspicious climb that has been, from Seattle Opera to the Lyric in Chicago to Santa Fe Opera, on to Glimmerglass then Paris, NYC Opera and, now, to the Met where, later this season, Bill will be starring as Pelleas in *Pelleas and Melisande*. Burden has a tenor voice that is pure honey; his seamless technique allows him to stretch difficult notes effortlessly with color and brilliance. He is eloquent elegance personified, with handsome good looks; it's easy to understand why he has won such an outstanding reputation throughout Europe and America with his wide-ranging repertoire.

We got a fine sampling of that repertoire in the varied program which ranged from Italian and French operas to Viennese operetta. Burden further demonstrated his versatility by successfully performing selections from American musicals. Carol, a Juilliard graduate, also projected the great possibilities for her future opera career. She has a delicate lyricism, and performed the effortless scaling of high notes with a witty, coquettish charm. What makes these two talented artists unique is that they act the emotions embedded in the lyrics; that makes for even greater enjoyment when listening to opera.

Now I ask you, what could be a nicer holiday gift than having the Metropolitan Opera come right here to us? Thank you Burdens, thank you BIG ARTS, BIG ARTS Angels and Sanibel Captiva Trust Company for sponsoring this special treat.

After parking my car at the Sports Complex's Park & Fly, Jet Blue flew me away for more holiday festivities with family and friends in the Big Apple. Fortunately, the trip was simple and without all those horrendous security checks and endless waits that the news media had predicted. The only glitch in my flight was the squirming, screaming toddler to my immediate left. I wonder why it is I never get to sit next to a normal human being when I fly. It's either a wiggling kid, a snorer, or a babler who feels compelled to fill me in on his or her entire life, the weather, past flights or any other boring topic — anything to keep one from reading or sleeping. Sometimes I'm wedged next to a chubby-wubby who takes up one third of my seat as well as theirs. Or I'm next to the flight fidget who's up at least 10 times in a two-hour flight. As you can guess, flying is not one of my favorite sports, actually I'd rather "leave the driving to me." Finally, I arrived at Kennedy weary, but ready to forget the drag of flying and have some fun.

One of the first things we did after my arrival, was attend granddaughter Meghan's Fourth & Fifth Grades Winter Holiday Concert 2004. This was quite a different concert from the Tuesday event at BIG ARTS. The Rye Brook Ridge Street School gave an ecumenical concert celebrating Chanukah, Kwanzaa and Christmas. The two grades celebrated the feasts in song, dance and full orchestra. The chorus reached some extraordinary

vocal highlights that put one in mind of the Chipmunks singing holiday favorites, while the band played some notes I didn't even know existed. The dance ensemble consisted of 34 females and one stalwart male "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." The band's portion of the program and the conductor encouraged the audience to sing along with the brass section, quite the challenge since the drums and timpani drowned out the notes. This Christmas concert may never reach Carnegie Hall but its total effect was touching and dear. I loved it.

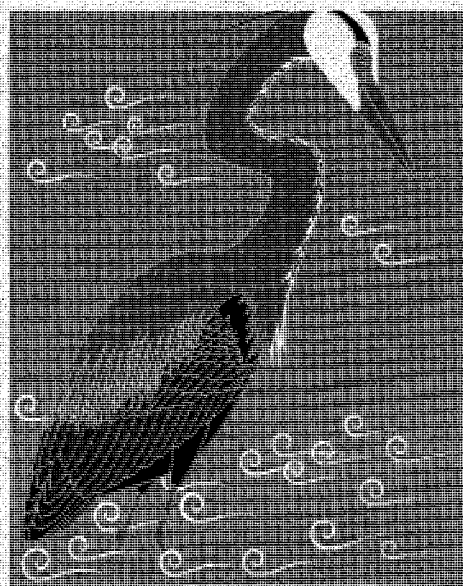
Since their return from London two winters ago, my daughter Lisa, her husband Rick, the two grandkids and I have spent Christmas in their home in the suburbs. Her friends and their young families have gone to great lengths to establish their very own Christmas traditions. I grew up in New York and Brooklyn where my Mom and Dad had their own special customs which centered on the bright lights and doings in NYC. Through the years before moving to Sanibel, Frank, Lisa and I celebrated Christmas in Connecticut with its many New England traditions. Although I must admit some of those customs were disasters — the Christmas goose dinner (too fatty) or the roast suckling pig (hated the taste) — I finally took a Chinese cooking course after which we had a Chinese banquet every Christmas Eve.

At any rate, each family unit needs to create its own rituals, and that's as it should be. So, for the past two years Christmas Eve Dinner has been at one of my daughter's friend's home where she celebrates Italian style with seven different kinds of fish in honor of the seven Sacraments of the Catholic tradition. We eat family-style with the children sitting at one table next to the adult's big table. The meal and the laughter last all evening and finish with the children putting on a performance of Christmas carols, stand-up comedy and dance routines. This year the star of the show was a Charley Brown kind of Christmas tree which shed its needles at the slightest breath, and really lost them, when the cat joined the performers by beating the tree in time to the music. "O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, how green are your branches" became "O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, how fast you drop your needles."

Our team's Christmas Day routine starts with a pancake breakfast cooked by Master Pancake Chef Rick, followed by diving into the presents, trying on and modeling all the clothes received, and playing with every toy and game after reading every gadget's instructions. Then it's off to another set of friends and another massive meal, followed by everybody viewing a Christmas DVD, then dessert. After a homeward drive around the neighborhood to check out all the lights, our well-fed troop watches a little TV while packing for the New York City jaunt — getting ready for Grandma's turn at traditional treats: checking the lights at Rockefeller Center, the windows on Fifth Avenue, shopping the sales and going to a Broadway show. And that's what Christmas is like in New York for my little group. I'll be back home next week after Marsha does Manhattan.

Meanwhile, Happy New Year from the Big Apple!

IKKI POSTER;



Incoming Tide

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Christmas on Sanibel: Yule Love It at the Schoolhouse

If you haven't seen the Schoolhouse Theatre production of *Christmas on Sanibel - Yule Love It!* — or if you're still looking for some New Year's Eve fun — this is your last chance. December 31 is the final performance.

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.

Christmas on Sanibel:
Yule Love It!

Broadway Palm: The beat of dancing feet

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre brings you the all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza *42nd Street*, now playing through February 19, 2005.

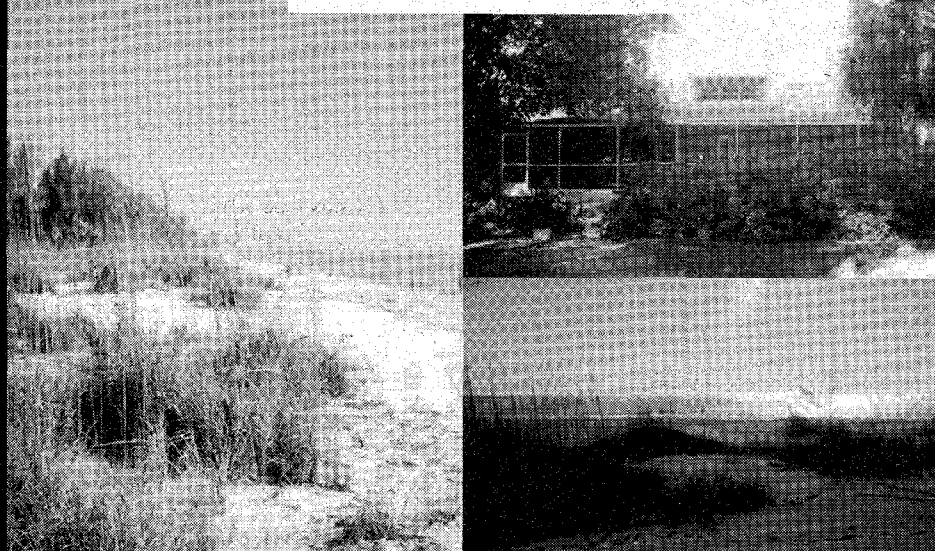
42nd Street is a show within a show. The plot features a once-great director, Julian Marsh, trying to make a comeback by staging a big new show. When the leading lady suffers a broken ankle just before the opening night on Broadway, young Peggy Sawyer from the chorus line takes her place and gets her big break.

The hit musical score includes "Lullaby of Broadway", "We're in the Money", "Shuffle Off to Buffalo" and more.

Come and meet those dancing feet with *42nd Street*, now playing through February 19. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday with selected matinees. Ticket prices range from \$22 to \$46. There is a New Year's Eve show that includes a special menu and late night cabaret. Tickets for New Year's Eve are \$100, per person. Tickets are now on sale and can be reserved by calling 239/278-4422, by visiting www.broadwaypalm.com <<http://www.broadwaypalm.com>>, or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.



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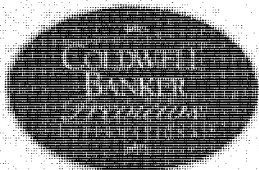
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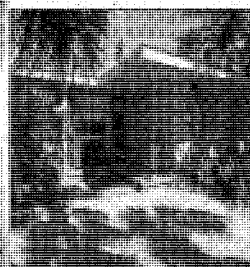
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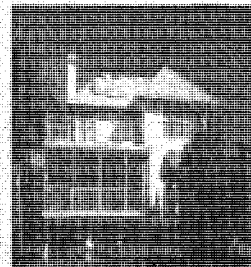
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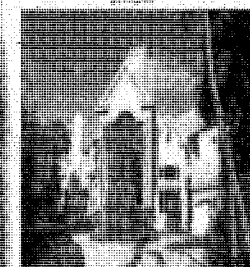
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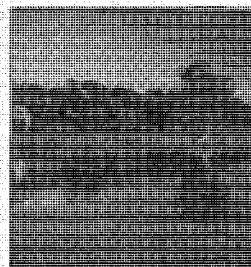
Sanctuary Estate Home

This beautiful furnished estate size home overlooks the 18th hole at exclusive Sanctuary Golf Community. 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths. Living room features 2 story high coral fireplace and 20 ft. ceiling. Beautiful kitchen adjacent to wet bar area with pass-through to large patio, poolside with brick waterfall. \$1,495,000. Furnished.



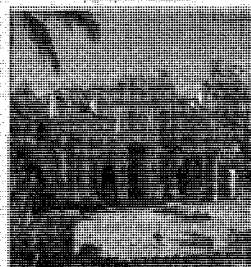
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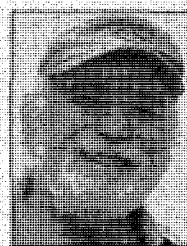
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MUSICAL NOTES

A Magical Evening Of Song



Harold Lieberman

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, the BIG ART's Angels and the Sanibel Captiva Trust Company sponsored a special, highly musical, holiday treat to an ecstatic and most appreciative audience. Lyric tenor William Burden and coloratura Carol Chickering Burden, accompanied by pianist J.J. Penna, presented a potpourri of selections drawn from Italian, French and Viennese opera, operetta and the American musical theater.

Burden, a graduate of Indiana University, has performed with prestigious opera companies in the United States and Europe, including the Met and the Paris Operas. He has also sung with leading orchestras such as the Philadelphia, Minnesota and the BBC. Chickering graduated from Juilliard and has performed in both opera and concerts throughout the United States and Europe, including with the Philadelphia Orchestra and solo performances at New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

Bill and Carol, husband and wife, met 12 years ago while appearing together in Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* at the Skylight Opera Company in Milwaukee. They have a five-year-old daughter, Claire, and an 11-month-old son, Jackson, and would have appeared as part of the Great Performers Series last year had not Carol been pregnant. They are an elegant and talented couple whose consummate musicality was communicated to all in attendance.

The program was divided into four sections. The first consisted of excerpts from Italian opera and included Verdi's "Libiamo" from *La Traviata*, Donizetti's "Una Furtive Lagrima" from *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and two Puccini arias — one from *La Bohème* and the other from *La Rondine*. The Verdi featured both vocalists in duet form while the Donizetti was performed by Burden; Puccini's familiar melody, "Quando me'n vo," (from *Bohème*) was sung by Chickering. The Italian opera segment concluded with a tour-de-force for both artists as they sang Puccini's "Chi il bel Sogno di Doretta." Wearing a beautiful turquoise silk dress, Chickering was

visually stunning to look at and most convincing as an actress. Her voice is wonderfully centered with vibrant overtones and she can execute technical Lily Pons-type runs with dazzling effect. Her intonation, phrasing and control is of the highest level. Burden, formally dressed in a tuxedo, was equally appealing. His resonant, well-placed tone was impressive throughout and his expressive movements and stage presence added breadth to the fine interpretation of his selections.

The second segment consisted of French opera selections and allowed Burden to sing the melancholy aria, "Pourquoi me reveiller," by Jules Massenet. His soulful rendition beautifully captured the sorrow of the poet, Werther, as he lamented his abandonment by his love, Charlotte. The second Massenet aria, "Ah! Douce enfant!" containing numerous rubatos, permitted Chickering to expose her effortless control and her lyrical, rich, broad-toned bel canto style of vocalization. The last selection before intermission, "C'est toi" from Leo Delibes' *Lakmé*, featured both artists ending with a passionate and persuasive kiss as only a couple in love can display.

The third section of the program focused on one of the most famous composers of operettas of the 1900s, Franz Lehar. Although born in Hungary, Lehar spent most of his career in Vienna, and Burden, singing in German, warmly delivered one of his familiar and great love songs, "Dein ist mein Ganzes Herz." Next, Chickering sang his "Meine Lippen sie Kuben so Heib" — complete with Gypsy coquetry — who tries to project her many charms to an admiring crowd. The last Lehar aria, "Born of April," from the most popular operetta in music history, *The Merry Widow*, was delivered in English by the Burdens and closed the third segment with another lingering kiss.

The final and fourth portion of the night's program featured music drawn from popular American musical theater. The first selection — Chickering's — was "Soon It's Gonna Rain" from the Off Broadway musical *The*



Carol Chickering Burden and William Burden

Fantasticks. This was followed by "Soliloquy" from *Carousel*, sung with great feeling by Burden. Both performers sang "People Will Say We're In Love" from *Oklahoma*, then a poignant rendition by Chickering of "This Is My Beloved" from *Kismet*. The last two numbers, by George and Ira Gershwin, were written for Fred Astaire movies — Burden sang "Nice Work If You Can Get It" from *Damsel in Distress* and the husband and wife duet concluded the concert with "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off" from *Shall We Dance*.

The end of the program brought a standing ovation and three beautiful bouquets to the vocalists and pianist. And the tasteful refreshments provided by Burden's proud parents, islanders Ann and John Burden, was a wonderful finishing touch to a warm, gala and magical musical evening.

Harold Lieberman is a Professor of Music emeritus at Ramapo College of New Jersey, has also taught at Manhattan School of Music and played trumpet for Benny Goodman, Arthur Godfrey, many other well-known band leaders and solo trumpet with the CBS Symphony Orchestra.

Golf premieres at Florida Rep Jan. 7

As one memorable character in Florida Repertory Theatre's *Golf With Alan Shepard* says, "I have to twist my body because my shoulder won't budge. My body can't hit the ball anymore, and if I do hit it, I can't see it. And if I'm lucky enough to find where I hit it, I can't remember where I was going!"

When Griff, Milt, Larkin, and Ned, four cranky senior citizens, get together for their regular battle against the golf course and each other, audiences are more likely to get hit by a laugh than a golf ball.

Florida Repertory Theatre is thrilled to present *Golf With Alan Shepard* by Carter W. Lewis. This area premiere opens on Friday, January 7 and runs until Sunday, January 30. Opening night will feature a champagne and chocolate reception, with champagne kindly donated by downtown's City Tavern. The reception begins at 7:30 p.m. and curtain is at 8 p.m. *Golf With Alan Shepard* is generously sponsored by Captiva's 'Tween Waters Inn.

Florida Rep's Producing Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo, who is also directing the show, says, "*Golf With Alan Shepard* is a must-see for anyone getting older, anyone who loves golf, or anyone who loves someone who loves golf!"

Taking on the role of Larkin, the beloved and popular Niels Miller returns to the Florida Rep stage, after charming audiences and critics in last seasons biggest hit, *I'm Not Rappaport*. Miller and Cacioppo have collaborated on close to 40 productions in the last 10 years.

Another Florida Rep favorite, John Newton joins the cast of *Golf With Alan Shepard* as Ned. Newton is fondly remembered from several shows at the Rep, including *Inherit the Wind* and *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Newton has appeared on Broadway, as well as television.

Playing Milt is Dick Westlake, popular local actor, director, and theatre teacher. Westlake has appeared in past Florida Rep productions including *The Bad Seed* and *Mixed Emotions*.

Finally, Peter Thomasson makes his Florida Rep debut as Griff. Thomasson has appeared at many of the country's finest regional theatres including Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, Flat Rock Playhouse in North Carolina, and Hilton Head Arts Center.

Golf With Alan Shepard will open on Friday, January 7 and close Sunday, January 30. Show times are Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. with Sunday and Wednesday matinees at 2 p.m. There will be Saturday matinees on January 9 and January 16. Tickets range in price from \$15 - \$32. Call the box office (open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 30 minutes prior to show time) to order tickets, 239-332-4488.

Florida Repertory Theatre is located in the entertainment district of historic downtown Fort Myers on Bay Street between Hendry and Jackson Streets with free parking directly across from the theatre.

Ann Rabson (Uppity Blues Women) & Greg Piccolo

Two great Blues players — Ann Rabson and Greg Piccolo — will join together to rock BIG ARTS with a hall full of blues on Saturday, January 8 at 8 p.m.

Ann Rabson

Ann Rabson claims the blues have been a friend to her since she was four years old. Eventually her blues became the spark that ignited one of the most successful blues bands of all time Safire - the Uppity Blues Women.

Rabson's distinctive style developed from listening to master artists. She is proficient on guitar, her first instrument, and piano, which she learned at age 35, and is said to have "one of the best left-hands in the business."

She was inducted into the Boogie-Woogie Hall of Fame in August 2003. The 24th W.C. Handy Awards, the equivalent to the Grammys of blues, marks the seventh time Ms Rabson was nominated for an award in the Traditional Female Blues Artist category. The *Boston Herald* calls her "simply irresistible. Ann Rabson knows how to strut her stuff." She has several CD's to her credit.

Blues, see page 28



Rabson

Pianist Roberto Plano at BIG ARTS

Lola Katchen retrospective in Founders Gallery

The BIG ARTS audience will welcome back Robert Plano to Schein Performance Hall, Thursday, January 6 at 8 p.m. An evening celebrating the joy of knowing Lola Katchen. The program will include works of Scarlatti, Brahms, Scriabin, Respighi, Villa-Lobos and Ginastera.

A native of Varese, Italy, Roberto Plano, 25, has a long list of awards, and performing venues in his resume. He is currently studying for the Higher Diploma of Execution at the Ecole Normale "Cortot" in Paris. He has earned the "Diplome Supérieur D'Enseignement, Avec Felicitations Du Jurie," and also holds a Diploma of Piano from the Conservatorio "G. Verdi" in Milano and has studied with Eli Perrotta, Walter Krafft, Lazar Berman, and Bruno Canino.

In his first appearance in the United States, Plano received First-Prize in the Cleveland International Piano Competition in August of 2001. He performed at BIG ARTS the following season. He has performed at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, at Sala Verdi in Milano, and Gasteig in Munich, throughout Italy, and also in Paris, Munich, Hamburg, Innsbruck, and Bratislava Spain, Japan, Czech Republic and Romania.

"Understandably he is critically acclaimed. He showed artistic maturity beyond his year... there were wonderful clarity and control of inner voices in his performances.... Mr. Plano demonstrated competition-honed virtuosity as well as music depth. And his boyish self-effacing stage manner should only help him win over audiences." *The New York Times*

Sponsored by the Friends of Lola Katchen. Tickets available at \$26, BIG ARTS, (239) 395-0900,

900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel.

Concert sponsored by Friends of Lola Katchen

The January 5 concert of Roberto Plano at Schein Hall was underwritten by the Friends of Lola Katchen. A retrospective of Katchen's works will open on January 5 in the Founders Gallery at BIG ARTS, where it will run through the month.

Husband Bern Katchen noted that "Many of her major pieces will be on exhibit and it's a comprehensive look at her entire output." A founding member of the Hirdie Girdie Gallery, Katchen liked to call herself a Surrealist. She felt strongly that one has to look at a painting and read it before deciding what it has to say. When Bern would look at one of her paintings, he would ask, "What are you saying with this painting?"

Lola would answer, "What do you think it's saying?"

She began painting while in high school. "She's a natural," noted Bern. Lola Katchen attended the Little Red Schoolhouse in Greenwich Village, the High School of Music and Art, Hunter College and received her M.A. from the Institute of Arts.

She worked professionally in the textile design business until 1980, when she began doing her art full time, although she had continued to pursue her art even while working. Her large works were in pastels, except for one major oil; she also sculpted. While Bern was straightening her studio, he found notebooks of drawings that he had never seen before, drawings from open studios done in pastel, charcoal, water colors and pencil.

Lola Katchen was a lover of life who was a long distance swimmer, an equestrian, a pianist, a singer with a "beautiful singing voice" and a lyricist. When Bern and Lola were members of a sailing club, she wrote lyrics all summer long. As you view her paintings in the Founders Gallery, you might just find yourself asking, "What do you think it's saying?"

- KN



Plano



Lola Katchen

The Modulators at 'Tween Waters

The popular band, The Modulators, returns to 'Tween Waters Inn for their annual new year's appearance. They will be playing at 'Tween Waters from Dec. 31 through Jan. 15, nightly at 9 p.m. except Sunday and Monday.

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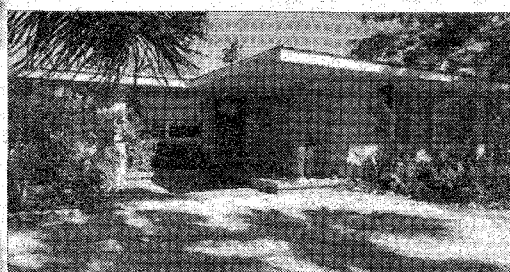
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Sanctuary Lake Front

Spectacular estate size home with 4 bdrms, 5 1/2 bths, private study. Marble floors, 2 fireplaces, large gourmet kitchen w/granite & Corian counters. Walk-in wine closet. Master suite with large marble bath & lots of closets. Spacious pool/spa entertainment area, summer kitchen & full bath. 3 large guest suites each w/private bath & balcony. **\$2,300,000 Furnished**



Colony Beach Estates

Elegant 4 bedroom, 4 bath, single family home within the gates of Sanibel's most sought after gulf front community. 2 fireplaces, elevator, crown molding, screen lanai. Gourmet kitchen area with center island & breakfast bar. Yard & garden area open to the picturesque pool with spa & waterfall. **\$1,975,000 Furnished**



Sanctuary Golf Club

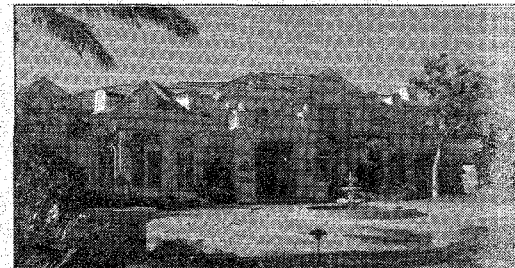
On the 3rd fairway, lot offers fabulous sunset views of the lake & 2 fairways. Build your dream home, sit on your lanai & enjoy the abundant wild life & preserve around you. **\$459,000**

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Sanctuary Estate Home

This beautifully furnished estate size home overlooks the 15th fairway at exclusive Sanctuary Golf Community. 3 bedroom, 3 bath + 2 half baths. Living room features 2 story high coral fireplace and 20 ft. ceilings. Beautiful kitchen adjacent to wet bar area with pass-through to large patio. pool/spa with rock waterfall. **\$1,695,000 Furnished**



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Blues, from page 26

Greg Piccolo

After 36 years of recording and touring, Greg Piccolo continues to present his unique style and sound all over the United States. His credentials include 25 years with the Grammy-nominated, world renowned, Roomful of Blues. He served as bandleader, lead singer and tenor sax man from 1978 until 1994. His impressive recording history includes over 50 albums including sessions with Pat Benetar, Colin James,

big Joe Turner and more. Piccolo cleverly fuses the simplicity of blues, the freedom of jazz and the rhythm of reggae all on a solid traditional R&B foundation always keeping the music fresh and exciting.

The concert is generously sponsored by R.S. Walsh Landscaping, Inc. Tickets available at \$31, BIG ARTS, 239/395-0900, 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel.



Piccolo

King's Brass at Shell Point

The Village Church at Shell Point invites you to the first Season of Praise concert in 2005. The church will host a New Year Celebration with Tim Zimmerman & The King's Brass on Sunday, January 2 at 6 p.m. and on Monday, January 3 at 7:15 p.m.

The internationally-renowned King's Brass features three trumpets, three trombones, a tuba, percussion, and keyboards, playing a wide variety of music from Gabrieli to hymn classics, from Handel to jazz spirituals. A \$5 donation to The Village Church is suggested for each concert ticket. Tickets required; tickets available at the church office; call the Village Church office at 454-2147.

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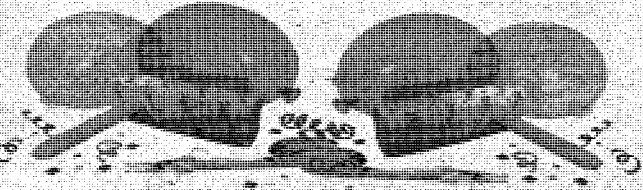
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Christmas at the Historical Museum

A two-story, three-foot long doll house is the buzz at this year's Holiday Antique Toy show at the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum. The house, replete with vintage 1930s toy furniture, was built by Raymond Clinton for his daughter, Mary Ann Wasson. Clinton, uncle of former President Bill Clinton, enjoyed working with wood and made the house for Mary Ann in 1935. The doll house was passed down from generation to gen-

eration and has now been donated to the museum to be enjoyed by new groups of children.

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

Legion Meatloaf Dinner benefitting 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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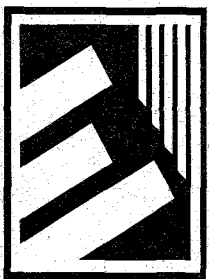
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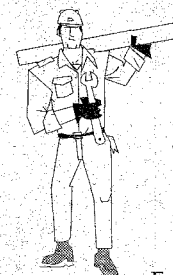


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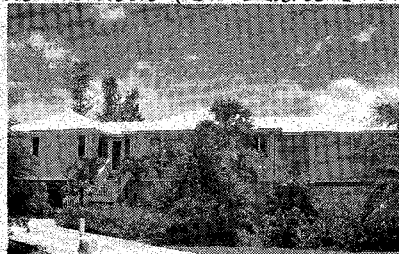
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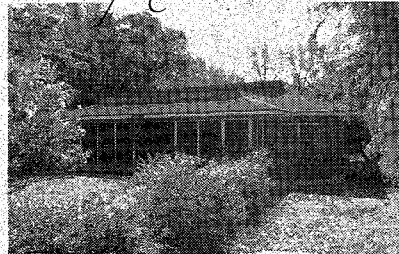
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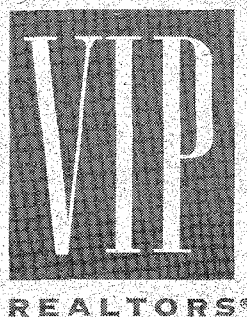
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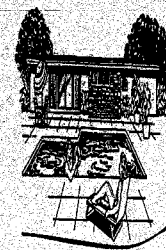
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Broadway's "Urban Cowboy" Stars Perform and Party Jan. 21

Stars from the Broadway musical "Urban Cowboy" will be headlining a raucous evening of fun on Friday, January 21 at the Sanibel Community House. That's the time and place for "Urban Cowboy - A Boot Kickin' Island Fun-Raiser". Sponsored by Bank Of The Islands, the event benefits Gulfshore Ballet.

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

"This is going to be an evening for eating barbeque and kicking your heels up," said Roy. "We'll have a deejay, I'll be teaching line dancing, and most importantly, the stars of the Broadway cast - Jenn Colella,

Matt Cavanaugh, and Chad Schiro - are performing the show's hit numbers."

"This is another great opportunity for our students," said Gulfshore Ballet co-founder Jan Egeland. "They have been learning the routines and will be participating in the Urban Cowboy numbers with our guest artists."

In addition to a full Chuck-Wagon Buffet, the party will also feature "The Longest Bar On The Island", sponsored by Doc Ford's Sanibel Rum Bar & Grille. Priced at only \$50, tickets can be purchased by calling Nanelle Wehmann at 395-2774.

Located at 2155 Andrea Lane in Fort Myers, Gulfshore Ballet is Southwest Florida's only non-profit classical ballet school.



Broadway star Jenn Colella to perform Jan.21

New Year - New You At SCA

SCA has many fitness programs that will promote a healthier 2005. Call or stop by the Sanibel Community Association at 2173 Periwinkle Way (472-2155) for more information or just stop by to attend.

Fitness with Carla will be starting January 11. Welcome back to Carla Ferrel who spent so many years on the Island introducing many of the residents to fitness. Carla has been living in Phoenix, AZ for the past few years, working as the Director of Health & Fitness for the Phoenix YMCAs. This has enabled Carla to direct the Valley fitness staffs, travel to learn the latest trends in fitness, and further develop her teaching and leadership skills. She will be instructing "Extreme Balance, Strength, Flexibility and Cardiovascular Training for the Older Adult" here at the Community House on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m.

If you are truly concerned about your fitness, take the initial step and learn more about functional fitness training, the focus of this class. Functional fitness training promotes strength and coordination for "real-world" activities. When we do things in life such as walking, running or even mowing the lawn, muscles work as a unit, and you will be on your way toward building a healthier functioning body. Modern technology has given us a better understanding of just how the human body operates and along the way answered the question "How can the body be trained as a functional integrated system?" The answer is core functional training.

Core functional training is so beneficial because it involves acceleration, deceleration and stabilization strength movements. In other words functional training strengthens the body in a manner that is conducive to your lifestyle outside of the gym. Traditional machines do not allow for this type of training. In fact, this type of training is excellent for developing the core muscles needed for stabilization and support, namely the abdominal, lower-back and hip muscles.

Classes will begin Tuesday, January 11. Passes are available for January 11 through March 31 at \$100. Walk-ins welcome: \$6 SCA member and \$7 non-members. Please bring your mat and free weights!

Yoga at the Community House

Instructors: Murari Brian Healy, LMT, CKYT and Barbara Luboff. Per class cost is \$12 for SCA members, \$13 for non-members and a 5-class card at a reduced rate is available. No experience necessary.

Healing Meditation Yoga with Murari is offered on Monday night from 7 - 8 p.m. This class combines various techniques for finding inner calm and mental focus from various contemplative traditions is presented in a relaxing atmosphere. Murari merges a combination of gentle hatha yoga with meditation.

Mindful Yoga with Murari and Barbara: Hatha yoga provides a deep sense of mental, emotional, and physical well being, while promoting flexibility, strength, and balance. Yoga is not a religion and does not conflict with spiritual beliefs or practices.

Murari has been serving the Sanibel community for 14 years and has been studying holistic health for over 17 years. He is a former resident of Kripula Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, MA and a former staff member of the Omerga Institute for Holistic Studies in Rhinebeck, NY. Murari's unique blend of easy humor, anatomical knowledge, and spiritual wisdom make for a deeply rewarding experience.

Barbara has been a student and teacher of yoga for over 40 years and passes on her extensive knowledge of both the physical and philosophical aspects of yoga to her students with enthusiasm, love and humor. An Anusara affiliated teacher, Barbara has a great respect for ALL yoga traditions, which is reflected in her distinct teaching style. Barbara will teach on Wednesday and alternate Thursdays.

Community Courses at Sanibel Community Association

SCA's Shellcrafters meet every Monday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Instruction and materials are provided. Come join this great group and learn how to make beautiful and creative crafts out of shells found on our beach. These crafts are sold to raise money, helping to support the Community House. Your donation of shells is always welcome and appreciated. Call Wanda Will at 472-8059 or the office at 472-2155.

Duplicate Bridge Lessons We are pleased that Susan Voorhees will be teaching a number of bridge courses this season at the Community House. Susan is a native of New England; she raised her family in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Social bridge was a favorite of hers until she moved to the Ft. Myers when the game seriously became a challenge. Subsequently she became a Life Master and began teaching beginner and intermediate bridge at The McGregor Point Bridge Club (currently The Bridge Place). She now teaches at a number of locations around Lee County as well. A 4-week Intermediate Bridge Course will be offered Tuesday 1:00 - 3:45PM (January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2005). The cost for SCA Members is \$50.00 and Nonmembers \$57.00. A 4-week Beginner I Bridge Course will be offered Tuesday 9AM - Noon (January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2005). The cost for SCA Members is \$55.00, Nonmembers is \$65.00 and the workbook \$15.00. A 4-week Intermediate Bridge Course will be offered Tuesday 1:00 - 3:45PM (February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2005). The cost for SCA Members is \$50.00 and Nonmembers is \$57.00. A 4-week Beginner II Bridge Course will be offered Tuesday 9AM - Noon (February 1, 8, 15, 22, 2005). The cost for SCA Members is \$55.00, Nonmembers is \$65.00, and the workbook \$15.00. Pre-registration and pre-payment absolutely required as class size is limited (minimum of 12 people). Please call the Sanibel Community Association office at 472-2155 or stop by to make reservations (Visa/Master Card accepted).

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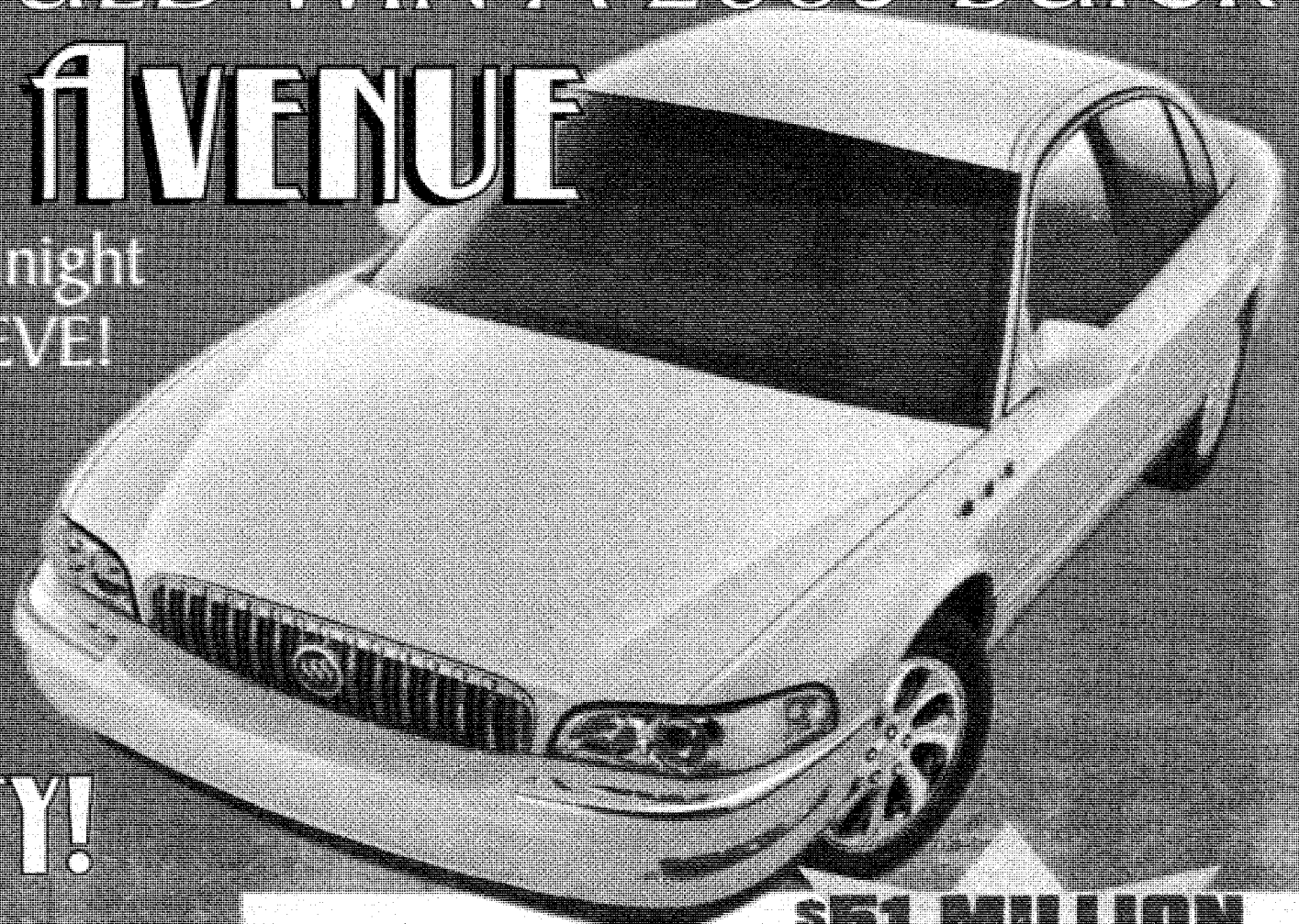
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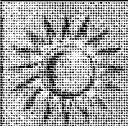


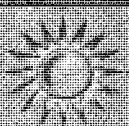
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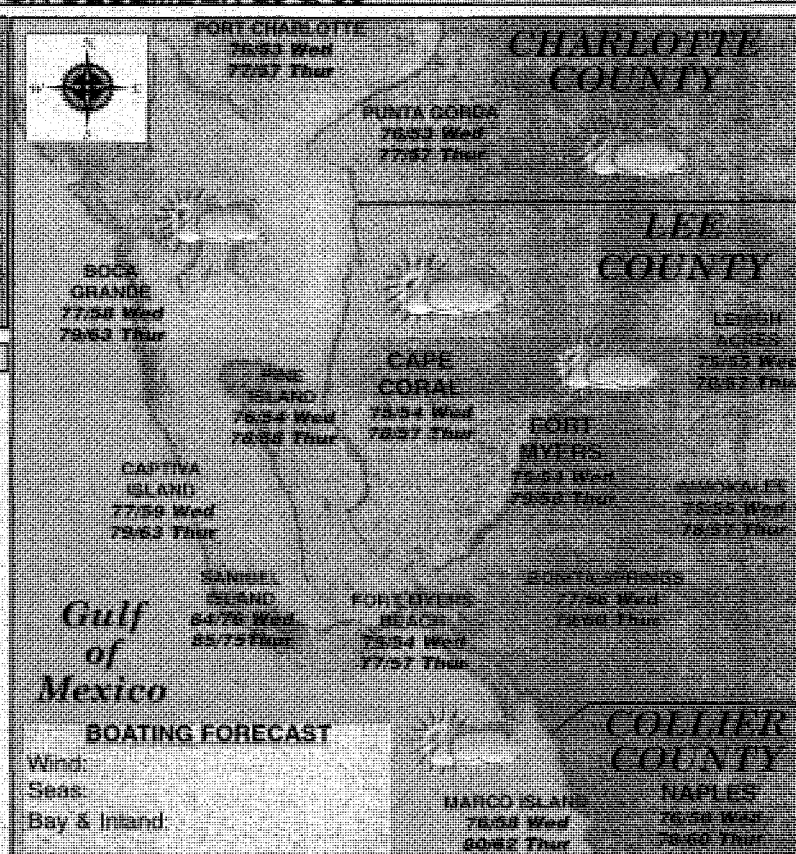
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FORECAST FOR DECEMBER 29 & 30

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY	
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
			

WEEKEND TIDES

City	Wed. High	Wed. Low	Thur. High	Thur. Low
Cape Coral Bridge	3:03 a.m. 3:52 p.m.	10:17 a.m. 10:29 p.m.	3:17 a.m. 4:43 p.m.	10:59 a.m. 10:50 p.m.
Captiva at Piedfish Pass	12:53 a.m. 1:42 p.m.	7:01 a.m. 7:13 p.m.	1:07 a.m. 2:33 p.m.	7:43 a.m. 7:34 p.m.
Fort Myers	3:56 a.m. 4:45 p.m.	10:59 a.m. 11:11 p.m.	4:10 a.m. 5:36 p.m.	11:41 a.m. 11:32 p.m.
Matlacha Pass	2:31 a.m. 3:20 p.m.	9:43 a.m. 9:55 p.m.	2:45 a.m. 4:11 p.m.	10:25 a.m. 10:16 p.m.
Pineland	1:29 p.m. 2:18 p.m.	8:41 a.m. 8:53 p.m.	1:43 a.m. 3:09 p.m.	8:23 a.m. 8:14 p.m.
Point Ybel	7:09 a.m. 7:15 p.m.	12:47 a.m. 1:38 p.m.	12:12 a.m. 1:38 p.m.	7:45 a.m. 7:36 p.m.
Punta Rassa	12:47 a.m. 1:36 p.m.	6:56 a.m. 7:08 p.m.	1:01 a.m. 2:27 p.m.	7:56 a.m. 7:29 p.m.
St. James City	1:18 a.m. 2:07 p.m.	7:31 a.m. 7:43 p.m.	1:32 a.m. 2:58 p.m.	8:13 a.m. 8:04 p.m.



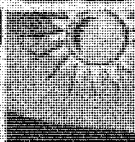
FOX 4 CAST

FOX 4 NEWS
AT 10:00

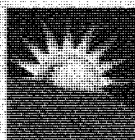
Old Manatee County News & Events

STATE FORECAST-THURSDAY

CAPE CORAL	72/63
DAYTONA BEACH	72/55
FT. LAUDERDALE	76/69
FT. MYERS BEACH	77/57
GAINESVILLE	72/50
JACKSONVILLE	78/44
KEY WEST	78/70
KISSIMEE	75/57
MIAMI	77/67
ORLANDO	74/58
PANAMA CITY	70/53
PENSACOLA	68/56
SARASOTA	77/58
ST. PETERSBURG	73/59
TALLAHASSEE	73/60
TAMPA	78/54
VERO BEACH	74/61
WEST PALM BEACH	78/65



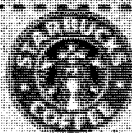
THURSDAY
SUNRISE
7:15 AM



THURSDAY
SUNSET
5:45 PM

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