

islander

BREEZE
NEWSPAPERS

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 2

WEEK OF MARCH 4 - 10, 2005

SINCE 1961

32 PAGES

Seagrass bed scarring caused when the Australian pines were dragged into the bay by Hurricane Charley. Inset photo taken from the bay side.



Aerial view of the pass created on North Captiva by Hurricane Charley. Photo taken by staffers from the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Lead Ranger Kevin Conner will be talking about the effects of the hurricane on the Refuge on Friday, March 11. See story on page 6.

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TUESDAY, MARCH 8

The Thistle Lodge • Casa Ybel Resort
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10:30 am - 12:00 pm • Lunch Provided

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

The Veranda Restaurant
2122 Second Street • Downtown Fort Myers
10:30 am - 12:00 pm • Lunch Provided

Sanibel election results

Results are unofficial returns from the Lee County Elections Office as of 7:46 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.

Sanibel City Council Seats

Vote for 3	votes	%
Mick Denham	1,850	18.41
Marty Harrity	1,589	15.82
Carla Lee Brooks Johnston	1,937	19.28
Bob Laswell	1,304	12.98
Eric J. Pfeifer	1,581	15.74
Tom Rothman	1,702	16.94
Larry C. Thompson	84	0.84

Amendment 1

• Explanation of Plans to Alter Causeway		
YES	1,375	40.1
NO	2,050	59.9

Amendment 2

• Authorizing Appointment of Separate City Clerk		
YES	2,373	69.7
NO	1,030	30.3

Amendment 3

• Permit Council Member to Call Special Meeting		
YES	1,854	54.4
NO	1,556	45.6

Amendment 4

• Development Requires Voter Approval		
YES	1,793	52.0
NO	1,655	48.0

Amendment 5

• Height of Building Requires Voter Approval		
YES	1,841	53.4
NO	1,606	46.6

Amendment 6

• Vegetation Removal Requires Voter Approval		
YES	1,728	50.2
NO	1,714	49.8

Amendment 7

• Planning Commission Purpose & Membership		
YES	1,894	55.4
NO	1,525	44.6

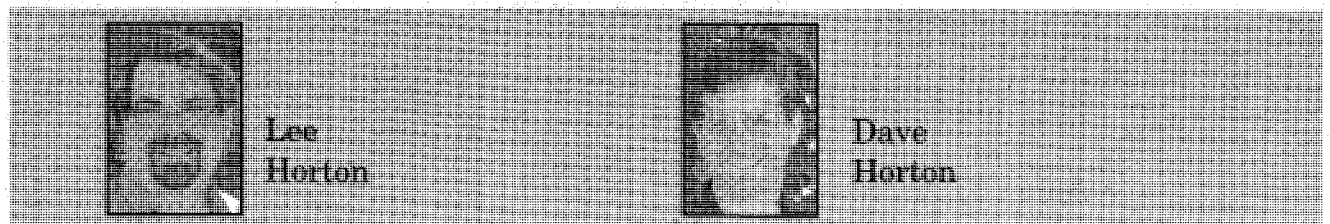
Amendment 8

• Electorate Approval of Changes to H'wy 867		
YES	1,769	51.5
NO	1,663	48.5

Referendum 1

• Exchange of City-owned Real Property		
YES	2,616	77.0
NO	783	23.0

TOO MUCH SUN

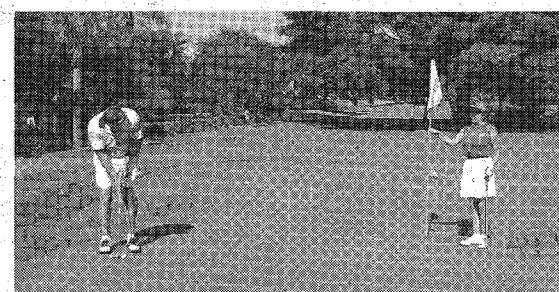


Rec Center pool closing

The Rec Center pool will be closed on Tuesday, March 15 due to additional leak detection. The water aerobic class will be held at 9 a.m.



Beachview Golf & Tennis Club

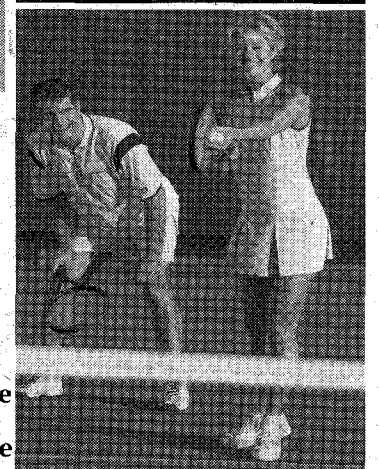


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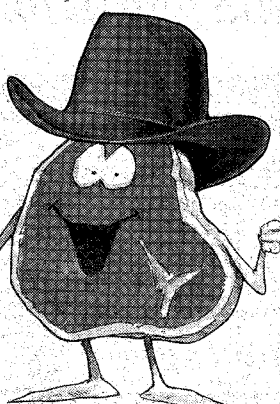
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OBITUARY

Carolyn S. Smith

Carolyn S. Smith, 72 of Fort Myers, died Sunday, February 27, 2005. She had been a resident here for the past 28 years, formerly of Galena, Ohio and was one of the founders of Big Arts on Sanibel. Surviving are her husband, Peter G. Smith of Fort Myers, daughters, Cynthia Haas of South Bend, Indiana, Lisa Pierot of Fort Myers, Carrie Ross of Winchester, Virginia, son Adam Smith of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, brother Tim Bradford of Morehead, North Carolina

and 11 grandchildren.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, Carolyn preferred memorials be made to Hope Hospice, 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers, Florida, 33908.

The staff at the Islander extends our deepest sympathy to Islander columnist Lisa Pierot for the loss of her mother, Carolyn S. Smith.

Kingsolver draws full house

Sanibel Reads' Barbara Kingsolver's lecture, which was co-sponsored by the Center for Environmental & Sustainability Education at Florida Gulf Coast University, sold out BIG ARTS' Schein Hall weeks before the event on Feb. 25.

The author, hobbling on a cane because of a recent leg break, related her personal calamity to the island's recent disaster with humor, poetry, and sensitivity.

"I've been looking forward to this since my doctor said I'd never make this trip," said Kingsolver, whose parents live on Sanibel Island. "Which made me know I'd have to do it."

Sanibel Reads chose Kingsolver's collection of essays, *Small Wonder*, as its adult pick for its inaugural 2004-2005 season because of the book's and the author's Sanibel Island connections.



For children, the committee selected *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen and is working towards a guest appearance by the popular Miami newspaper columnist and novelist. To learn more about Sanibel Reads, visit www.zebis.com/sanibelreads.

Kingsolver and a Small Wonder

Barbara Kingsolver spoke at BIG Arts on February 25 to a sold-out crowd of conservatives. Sanibel is a hot bed of conservatism, according to Kingsolver's definition. We want to conserve what we have. We value our heritage and history of Sanibel. We will fight to conserve rather than to use up the wonders of Sanibel. We do not want change and we do want safeguards to be sure we don't change. We don't want high-rises and high density. At least, that's our reputation, if not our reality.

Kingsolver's talk was sponsored by Sanibel Reads and the Center for Sustainability and Environmental Education. She spent most of the time talking about her own recent experiences with calamity, a severely broken leg, and comparing it to our recent disaster, Hurricane Charley. She said there are many lessons to learn from our disasters. First, we learn that we have to accept our fates and deal with them. Second, after a disaster, we need to learn the basics again. Third, we need patience as we work toward getting back to what we have always taken for granted — like having two working legs or a house with a roof. Fourth, we learn to appreciate our friends, especially those who understand what we have learned to understand. Fifth, we learn about ourselves — our strengths and our weaknesses. Last, we learn that courage is like bread. You have it, you use it up, you have to make or get more. After she learns to walk again, she will have to learn to be brave again, just as we have had to move forward after the hurricane.



Nola Theiss

She concluded her speech with a discussion of how and why she wrote *Small Wonder*, the book the Sanibel Library chose as its Sanibel Reads book. She

wrote most of the essays around September 11, 2001 as an attempt to affirm life over death. She resented the way we were submitting to the worst of ourselves and how we were intimidated and frightened and she didn't want to be that way. She feels that it is our job in life to keep asking the hard questions, to hold tight to what things real-

ly mean and not let the enemy, whoever that is, steal our language. That is when she described what it really means to be a conservative. She ended by telling us that we go through something like a hurricane, we become afraid, but we must never be too afraid to stand up for what we believe.

Her speech was followed by a question and answer session where she told the audience that she is working on a screenplay of *The Poisonwood Bible*, an "enormous novel," and, with her family, she is writing a natural history of food.

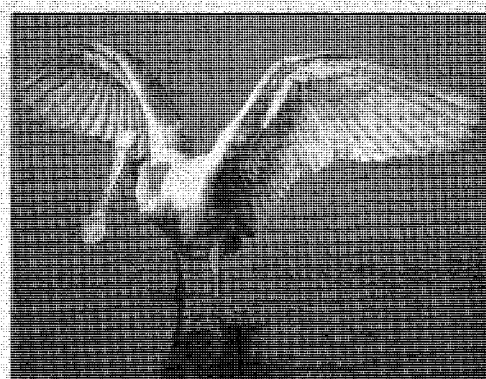
Kingsolver did on Sanibel what she did in *Small Wonder*. She took personal events and her reaction to them to make a statement about much broader issues. One treat was her lovely sense of humor and her self-deprecation. As one of the best known and respected American writers today, it is obvious that she takes her responsibility to her art, to her message and to her audience seriously, but she does it in person with the same ease as she does in her written work. *Small wonder*.

Pink Canaries in a Coal Mine

Roseate spoonbills in Florida Bay are the focus of Dr. Jerry Lorenz's program to be presented as part of San-Cap Audubon's 2005 Lecture Series at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 10 at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way.


At the turn of the century, the plume hunting industry in Florida nearly extirpated the huge populations of wading birds associated with the Everglades, including one of Florida's most identifiable and beloved bird species, the roseate spoonbill. By 1935, it was believed that the spoonbill breeding population had been reduced to only five nests on Bottle Key in Florida Bay. At that time, the National Audubon Society took on the task of protecting these birds and Robert Porter Allen, Audubon's first research director, began Audubon's 65-year tradition of studying Florida Bay in general and spoonbills in particular.

Dr. Lorenz, a trained fisheries biologist, with a BS in Biology, a Masters in Zoology and a Ph.D. in Marine Biology, is the Director of the National Audubon Society's Tavernier Science Center. In his presentation, Dr. Lorenz pulls together Audubon's 65-year record on spoonbill nesting patterns with his personal experience in studying the fish on which spoonbills feed. During the development boom, seemingly unrelated events serially reduced the spoonbill's foraging habitats in domino-like fashion, resulting in a dramatic decline in spoonbill nesting success that continues today. Dr. Lorenz demonstrates how the destruction of wetlands for




urban and agricultural use have not only endangered spoonbills, but a myriad of other creatures and entire ecosystems. Like the canary in a coal mine, roseate spoonbills are letting us know that there is something drastically wrong with our environment and that continued runaway development will not only ruin our remaining wilderness areas but our lifestyles as well. Interwoven with the scientific endeavor, Dr. Lorenz chronicles the colorful history of Audubon science in Florida while also explaining how the indomitable appeal of the flame birds won the heart of a man who made a career of studying fish.

All are welcomed to attend the San-Cap Audubon Lecture Series Programs. Suggested donation is \$4. Parking is available at the Community House and in the lot across the street at the (New) Schoolhouse Theater. For additional information, please contact the program chair, Elaine Jacobson, at 395-1878.



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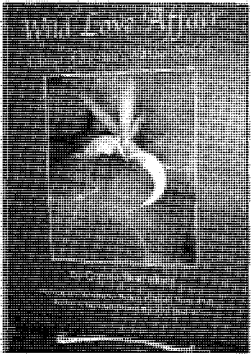
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ENVIRONMENT

Author reveals Wild Love Affair at "Ding"

Connie Bransilver, author of *Wild Love Affair: Essence of Florida's Native Orchids*, will make a guest appearance on Thursday, March 10, at 1 p.m. in the Education Center at J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

Bransilver's words and images have appeared in local, national, and international publications including books such as *Florida's Unsung Wilderness: The Swamps*, which she wrote with Larry Richardson.



"Orchids are undeniably erotic," writes the author-photographer. Her *Wild Love Affair* showcases Bransilver's stunning photography and love of orchids. She will speak about the plants she calls "swamp eye-

candy" and sign copies of her coffee-table edition, which is available at the "Ding" Darling Bookstore.

Admission is free; the event is spon-

sored by the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, the refuge's non-profit support organization, as part of its 13-week Thursday Afternoon Lecture Series. For more information, call 472-1100 ext. 241 or log on to www.dingdarlingsociety.org.

UPCOMING "DING" DARLING LECTURE SERIES EVENTS

(All events begin at 1 p.m. and are free to the public)

- March 11 (Friday) – Kevin Godsea, "Ding" Darling Lead Ranger – lecture about effects of Hurricane Charley on the refuge.
- March 17 – Kip Koss, grandson of Jay N. "Ding" Darling and author of *Ding Darling Sampler* – lecture about Darling and book-signing
- March 24 – Tom Allen, author of *Field Guide to Caterpillars* – caterpillar lecture and book-signing
- March 31 – Joyce Mazourek, "Ding" Darling ranger serving as Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Liaison – Everglades restoration lecture

Seagrass Wading Trip

Did you know that the shallow waters and seagrass beds between Sanibel and Fort Myers are home to a wide variety of fascinating sea life? This estuarine environment, where the fresh water of the Caloosahatchee River meets the salt water of the Gulf of Mexico, is one of the most productive ecosystems on Earth.

Come explore the wonders living below the surface of San Carlos Bay with a Naturalist from the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. Learn about the delicate ecology of seagrass habitats and what is being done by local agencies to study and protect these valuable nurseries of the sea.

This program is being brought to you by a partnership between the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program.

Seagrass Wading Trips will be held on Friday, March 11 and Tuesday, March 22 at 9 a.m. in San Carlos Bay. Full directions will be given upon reservations, and the date and location are subject to change

due to weather or parking restrictions.

Seagrass Wading Trips are free to children and adults and they are sponsored by the Charlotte Harbor National

Estuary Program (CHNEP). Reservations are required and space is limited to 16; all children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 472-2329 for information and reservations

You will need to bring: Old clothes and/or bathing suit, closed toed water shoes, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and a towel.



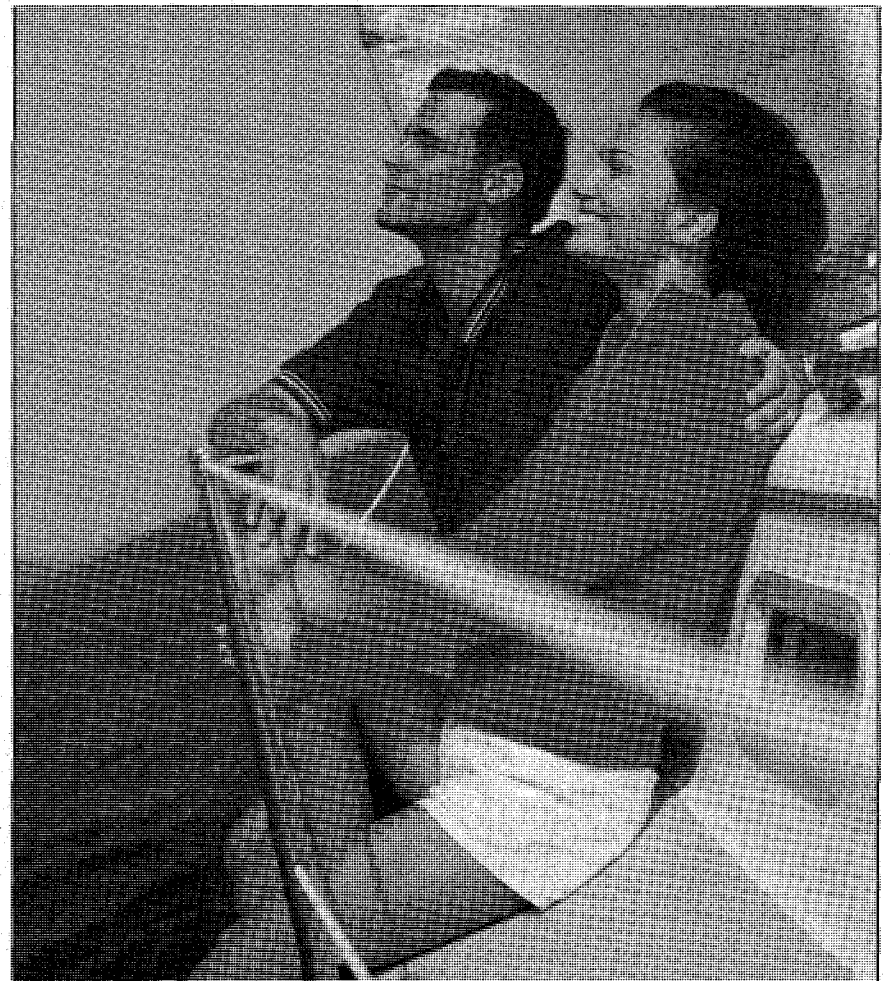
Island gopher tortoises

On March 11 at 9:30 a.m. the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation invites you to learn about your island Gopher Tortoises. Come and hear Pat and Ray Ashton, authors of their new book *The Gopher Tortoise...A Life History* for a presentation and book signing.

The Ashton's will be sharing their thirty years of studying this ancient creature. On their 100 Acre Ashton Biological Preserve outside of Gainesville, they have been testing management techniques and foraging habits of this burrowing land tortoise since 1997. Their new book is a great cross between science and education, with lots of great photos that even the kids will like. There are over 160 gopher tortoises residing on the



Conservation Foundation's preserved lands alone. Last year the Foundation kicked off the first annual Neighborhood Gopher Burrow Count with the goal of finding out the island's total gopher population. Please call 472-2329 for program reservations.



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Charley and "Ding" Darling

By Karen Nelson
Managing Editor

Kevin Godsea, lead ranger for the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge spoke on February 24 about the effects of Hurricane Charley on the Refuge. In fact, the room filled up early and people were turned away, so an additional talk has been scheduled for Friday, March 11 at 1 p.m. This reporter met with Godsea for a recap of the presentation.

Photographs of the impact of Hurricane Charley on "Ding" Darling are a stark reminder of what Charley brought to the islands on August 13. Photos of Periwinkle Way show the effects of toppled Australian pines (they

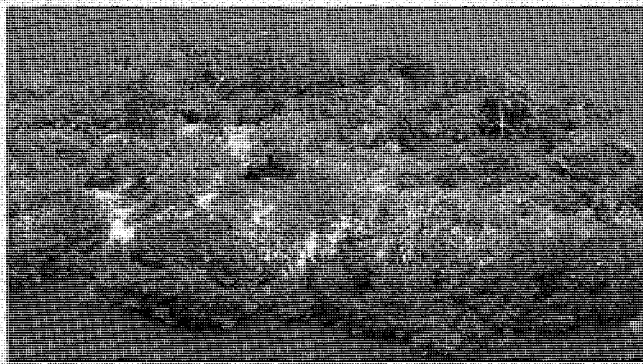
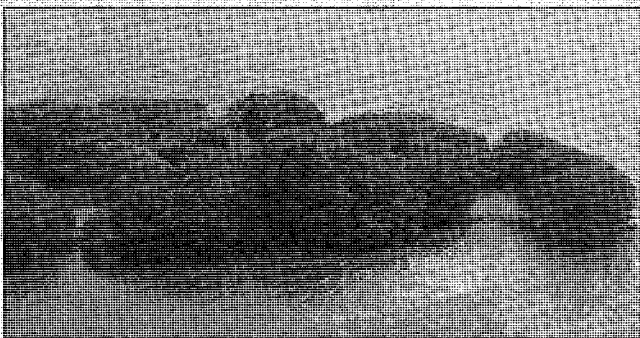
have a very shallow root system) on cars, houses, and power lines; the trees also uprooted sewer and water lines. Facilities at the Refuge were relatively unharmed; roof repair is still needed on the Visitors' Center; the doors were blown off the maintenance shop and work was needed at Tarpon Bay.

The first question asked of Refuge volunteers and rangers is "What happened to the wildlife?" In terms of injuries, there were very few, although CROW did see some patients. "The lack of a storm surge was crucial for the terrestrial species," noted Godsea.

While Refuge personnel were preparing for the storm, they noted that there was not a lot of wildlife in evidence; the birds flew away or hunkered down in the mangroves. Two days after the hurricane, a bald eagle was spotted soaring over the beach at Tarpon Bay and they saw a few pelicans, but the pelicans were not feeding in their normal areas. Fortunately, Charley came in August, before the arrival of the migratory birds. If it had come in October, "there would have been a lot more migratory birds and it would have been much more disruptive," he noted.

Sharks left Pine Island Sound seven hours before Charley arrived; Mote Marine receivers in the Sound picked up readings from tagged sharks as they left the bay waters. On August 14, there were still no sharks in Pine

Left: a nesting cormorant (and great glue in the tree to the right); Below: Lower Bird Key before (left) and after (right) Hurricane Charley.



Photos by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Above: The canopy laid bare at alligator curve; Below: The Shell Mound Trail boardwalk buried and missing its canopy.

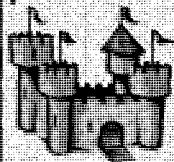


Island Sound; on August 15, they started to come back. The long-term effects on wildlife are still not known.

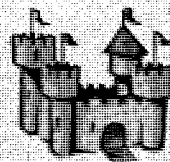
Refuge, see page 14

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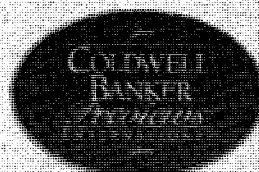


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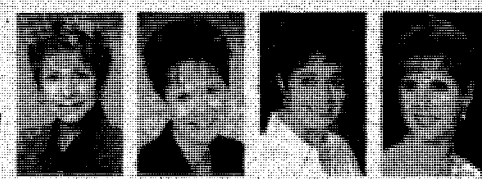
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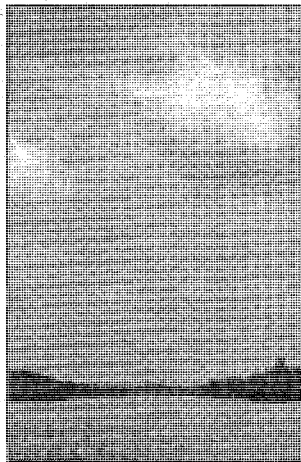
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SCCF's Watershed Adventure to Mound Key

By Karen Nelson
Managing Editor

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's second Watershed Adventure of the season took off for Estero Bay's Mound Key on February 23. Combining on-the-water learning about the estuary with interesting destinations, the trips to Matlacha and Estero Bay have ventured slightly out of home waters. Dee Serage explained that the Conservation Foundation is concerned with lands "on and around Sanibel and Captiva Islands — we are now in the 'around' part of the Conservation Foundation."

While there is still ongoing land acquisition, the Foundation has continued to expand its focus. To better study the factors that affect the estuaries, the Marine Lab was started. The Greater Charlotte Harbor watershed is the largest in the state of Florida, covering 4,000 sq. miles and including three major rivers — Peace, Myakka and Caloosahatchee — eight counties and eight smaller watershed basins. "We will go through three basins today, the tidal Caloosahatchee Basin, the Pine Island Sound basin and the Estero



Bay basin."

Before 1881 the Caloosahatchee was not connected to Lake Okeechobee but numerous revisions of the natural water system began in the 1880s as land acquisitions led to demands to drain the water. "We are dealing today with the effects of those decisions."

Water quality in the estuary is very dependent on what comes down the Caloosahatchee, both too much water and too little. Rather than the historic slow and natural sheetflow and river oxbows (the Caloosahatchee had 42 oxbows), "the sheetflow now comes very, very quickly though the canals, not as sheetflow." The South Florida Water Management District is now trying to mimic the natural flow, "pulsing" their releases in a more natural flow. Too much water means that saline levels are too low; too little water pushes the saline levels too high. The "main problem is... the lack of fresh water in times of drought, because it's being held back to be used for agri-

culture and drinking water." This year, as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) work is starting on a reserve at the north end of the Caloosahatchee to hold fresh water.

Serage pointed out Bunche Beach, explaining that in 1996 the voters of Lee County agreed to use a percentage of property tax to acquire environmentally sensitive lands; Bunche Beach was purchased with those funds and it preserves a solid mangrove fringe.

Megan Tinsley from the Marine Lab took over as the boat headed into Estero Bay. The northern half of Estero Bay was designated as an aquatic preserve in 1966; the southern half was added in the 1980s. It is a small estuary fed by smaller creeks like Hendry, Mullock and the Imperial River. The watershed basin is 300 square miles and begins in the Corkscrew marsh.

Estero Bay consistently scores lower than other local bays in terms of water quality. From 1988 - 2003, Secchi levels (a measurement of water clarity) have been below average; this impacts seagrass beds, which need light to produce oxygen needed by fish and other animals.

Estero Bay has higher turbidity (sediments and particles in the water) than any other preserve. Sediments increase water temperature. Sediments also carry nutrients. Most of the Estero Bay tributaries carry water high in fertilizers and pesticides, and Tinsley showed aerials taken in 1990 and 1999, graphically demonstrating the rapidly urbanizing watershed. Building creates impervious surfaces, with the result that rainwater runs directly into the watershed without any ground filtering.

Pet waste is also a contributor. Sarasota County did a study and found that the county was generating 13 tons of pet waste every day. Runoff water picks it up and pet waste contributes to algae blooms.



The boat stopped at Mound House to pick up archaeologist Corbett Torrence, who spoke about the Calusa Indians. As we headed to Mound Key, which was the Calusa capital when the Spanish arrived in 1513, he recounted the first hostile confrontation between them.



Watershed, see page 16

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Peek at the Unique

Tickets are going fast for the fourth annual The Peek at the Unique, Zonta's tour of unusual island homes to be held on March 12. This year's tour has four very different homes, with something for everyone.

Historic East End Charm:

See East End charm, and a wonderful example of the renovation of an older home built in the 1940's. Speaker Alex Werner. Sponsored by Barrier Island Title.

Native Plant Oasis:

A backyard oasis filled with native plants. Owner Kathy Boone directed the native plant nursery at Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation for 17 years. Sponsors Bob Wigley and Sanibel - Captiva Trust Company.

Clam Bayou Views:

Jack and Lytha Weston Heron's Landing home, built and sponsored by George Parker, Inc. Situated on Clam Bayou the views surround you with light, water, and greenery. Speaker Ginger Parker.

European Modern Beauty:

Sawgrass Road off of West Gulf Drive. As you turn the sharp corner in the driveway that hides this home from the road you the 8,000 sq ft. home to have two independent and complete living areas, linked by one central large and well-used kitchen and family dining table built in 1991 by a Munich architect. Speaker Architect Toni Ferrell. Sponsored by Susan Dunn & Company.

Get tickets now for March 12; \$45 donation per person including light refreshments, bus transportation to each

house and presentation. If you have not already made reservations, dial the ticket line today at 395-9176. Tour busses will leave from the Schoolhouse Theatre every half hour. Call now to reserve your preferred time.

Have a meal at one of our sponsoring restaurants, and take in the performance afterward at the Schoolhouse Theatre. Make a day of it using the coupons provided by our sponsoring businesses!

The Peek at the Unique is a project of Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva; donations raise money for Southwest Florida Addiction Services, Girls Making it on Purpose, Partners For Breast Cancer Care, and outreach programs to prevent modern day slavery and human trafficking. Additional information about Zonta and The Peek is available at www.zontasanca.com.

Kiwanis San-Cap Revue - March 19

% "It's all about community spirit and having fun"

Submitted by Bob Wimbush

Although the community has barely recovered from last weekend's spaghetti dinner, Kiwanis is at it again: gearing up for the fifth annual islands talent show, the intergenerational San-Cap Revue, March 19 at BIG ARTS.

Looking somewhat distinguished and slightly pinched, perched high on his toes with cigarette holder and beret, Producer/ Director Lee Derleth (quoted in the headline),

who fortunately only sports this affectation in March, predicted this year's show would be "simply mah-vey". The rest of the club will be so glad when it's over.

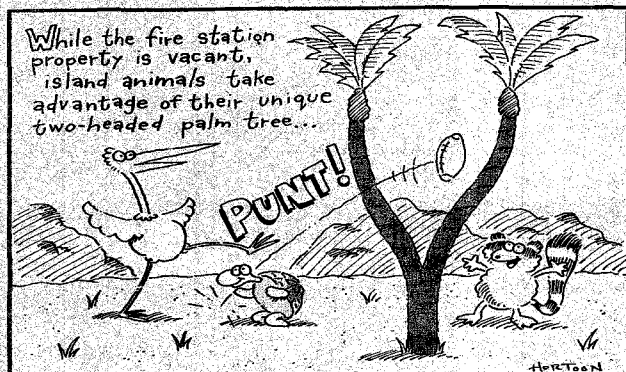
Derleth, whom the club must tolerate only because he always produces winners, predicts his fifth consecutive sell out, and is quick to extend praise and thanks to the events sponsors: Sanibel-Captiva Trust Company, Island Graphics, Johnny's Pizza, Bank of the Islands, the *Islander*, and the *Island Sun*. Sponsors supply publicity and financial support and feed the troops, the Islands supply the talent, and Kiwanis makes it happen. And it's just, plain fun.

And quite a production it is: The acts have to be good, because the first and only rehearsal takes place from 2-6 in the afternoon and the first and only performance, closely choreographed and tightly organized by Master of Ceremonies Stan Kucaba and Stage Manager Joel Soobitsky follows two hours later. A large hook ensures acts will run on or ahead of schedule, and was first

demonstrated much to the amazement of a Kiwanis president who ran long in welcoming the crowd. He was hooked off stage occasioning the evening's first standing ovation. The talent is astonishing, standing ovations are frequent, and the evening is - well - a great time for everyone involved. Even the stage crew gets applause.

Included among the 14 variety acts are the Sanibel Chorus, Honey and Buddy's dance and comedy routine, singer Christy Melvin (looking once more to stop the show), and poet Joe Pacheco. Diva Bonnie and Dapper Dan are back by popular acclaim as is raconteur Steve Mullins. Cindy Lee will be back on stage, and it wouldn't be a show without magic man John Cestaro, whose comic routines cause both tears and pain. That's all the space they'll give me even if this paper is a sponsor, so I'll tell you the rest next week.

Buying tickets now would be a good investment. Because seating is limited, and there's only one show. So call BIG ARTS at 395-0900 to reserve your seats. When they're gone, they're gone. Adult seats are \$10, and any kid 10 or under who brings a ticketed adult is free, but to be seated, every one must have a ticket. That puts a smile on the fire marshal.



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CalusaFest and Symposium on March 12

When the Spanish arrived in Florida in 1513, the Calusa Indians dominated south Florida. Who were they and what happened to them? Find out at the CalusaFest and Symposium on Saturday, March 12 at the Collier County Museum. From 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. there will be exhibits and demonstrations on the grounds of the museum; from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. there will be a mini-symposium featuring five leading Calusa scholars. The day-long event is free and refreshments will be available. At 4 p.m. there will be a reception and book signing, which is open to the public.

Exhibitor highlights: Calusa tool replication, Calusa re-enactors, making fire with a bow, using hot coals to burn out a bowl, ethnobotany and Florida Native American use of plants, and atlatl throwing. Replicator Dick Workman, archaeologist John Beriault and Robin Brown, author of Florida's First People and The Crafts of Florida's First People, will be on-hand, as will

replicator David Meo, whose replica Calusa tools can be seen in museums throughout the state. There will be Calusa artifacts and replicas from the Randell Research Center and from the Shell Mound Trail Tour of the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel. The Mound House will have information on an excavation beginning mid-March to create an exhibit allowing visitors to "walk into" a Calusa shell mound. Randell Research Center will have information on their Calusa Heritage Trail, a new self-guided tour of the Pineland site. The Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum will have information on their exhibit "Calusa: The Original Shell People." Also exhibiting will be the Craighead Archaeological Laboratory, Marco Island Historical Society, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Calusa Nature Center, Calusa Land Trust, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The mini-symposium, Florida's Fierce People: Tracing the Calusa Indians from Dominance to Demise, will begin at 11 a.m. and there will be a Q&A at the end of each session. At 4 p.m., the public is invited to a reception and book-signing.

- 11 a.m. - *In Search of Missing Ancestors* - Dr. Michael Russo,



**Symposium leader
Jerald A. Milanich**

National Park Service - Around 4,500 years ago, people in south-west Florida lived in villages on man-made U-shaped shell mounds like those on Horr's Island and other sites. Who were these people and were they the ancestors of the Calusa?

- 12 noon - *The Origins of Calusa Complexity* - Dr. Randolph Widmer, University of Houston - The Calusa developed a degree of sociopolitical complexity unmatched by any other aboriginal group north of Mexico - and without agriculture for subsistence. How was this achieved?

- 1 p.m. - *The Pulse of Power: Physical Expressions of Social and Political Relations* - Corbett McP. Torrence, M.A., The Mound House, Town of Fort Myers Beach - There was a class of elites in Calusa society. Was this a regional development or a response to a broad geographic network and ideologies shared by much of Eastern North America?

- 2 p.m. - *The Road to Cuba: Demise of the Calusa* - Dr. John Worth, Randell Research Center - The Calusa fled to the Florida Keys by the early 1700s, and the few remaining Calusa left Key West in 1760 for Cuba. What factors led to their demise?

- 3 p.m. - Discussant Dr. Jerald Milanich, Curator in Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History - How do all of these questions relate to the prehistory and history of Florida and the southeastern United States?

- 4 p.m. - Reception and book signing
- The CalusaFest and Symposium are made possible by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council, the state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society, the Collier County Museum and the Friends of the Collier County Museum have organized March Archaeology Day. Additional sponsors include: SunStream Hotels & Resorts; Collier County Museum; friends of the Collier County Museum; Southwest Florida Archaeological Society; Mariner

Properties Development, Inc.; Randell Research Center; The Mound House; Law Office of Thomas W. Franchino; Marco Island Historical Society; Calusa Nature Center; Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation; Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Explorations, Inc.; Sanibel Historical Village & Museum; Southwest Florida Museum of History.

The Collier County Museum is located at 3301 Tamiami Trail North in the Government Center, corner of U.S. 41



A Calusa re-enactor

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Author Charlie Sobczak at ABWA

The Wednesday, March 9 meeting of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) will feature an informal talk with local author and realtor, Charlie Sobczak. His latest smash novel *Choice of Angels* is a contemporary Romeo and Juliet novel that has a rebellious son of a Baptist minister eloping with a Muslim from Istanbul. Always an entertaining speaker, Charlie will talk about his book and the joy of being a self-published author.

The mission of ABWA is to bring together women of diverse occupations to

help them grow personally and professionally through leadership and education. Membership information is available from Fay Carney at 395-1767.

The March dinner meeting only will be held on Wednesday evening, instead of the usual second Tuesday of every month. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Sanibel Community House with a cocktail hour, and is followed by a short business meeting, dinner and speaker. The cost for the dinner is \$18. Guests are welcome, call Deb Stone for reservations at 770-7253.

Anne Joffe shelling in Chile

By Laura Nickerson
Staff Writer

Anne Joffe, owner of She Sells Sea Shells and chairperson of the Sanibel Shell Fair & Show, took time out of her busy pre-shell fair schedule to treat Shell Club members and guests to a slide show and talk on Tuesday evening, February 22. She spoke about her most recent vacation in Chile.

On Joffe's Chilean tour, which was geared towards the avid shellseeker, she and 15 others, including several people from Sanibel and the Fort Myers area, hoped to further pursue their life passion, shelling.

Joffe began her presentation with a map of Chile, and pointed out the areas she visited. Chile is a very long narrow country with extensive coastline, almost all of which the tour covered.

Beginning in Santiago, Joffe's group traveled to the northernmost waterfront Chilean shelling spot at Iquique, in the Norte Grande region, then did an about face, and traveled most of the length of the country down to coastal towns in the south. Finally, they visited two islands off the coast, again leaving from Santiago.

Joffe described Chile as a wealthy,

modern country, with cities that embrace European style.

She showed slides of the various hotels and cityscapes the group visited and also slides of Chile's mountains, lakes, and forests. Joffe was extremely conscious of the natural beauty of Chile and the many wildflowers.

Chile's climate and terrain are extreme, running from the lush fertile seaside of Puerto Montt and the mountainous beachless coastline of Isla Grande de Chiloe, near the center of the 2700-mile-long country, to the extreme conditions of the Atacama Desert in the north, and almost to Tierra del Fuego in the south.

Joffe featured slides of the Magellanic penguins of Isla Grande during the evening, and highlighted that area's unusual architectural styles. Not only did those islanders build hundreds of churches, all of which have shingles resembling scallop shells or fish scales; they also erected narrow waterfront cottages, built up on stilts, similar to Sanibel's own early fish shacks.

Joffe illustrated the commerce, industry, and agriculture of various regions,

showing slides of mussel banks, which feed all of south America, and salmon farms, which extend for miles along the coast, and have become a huge international business. She even showed a few pictures of inland farms and forests.

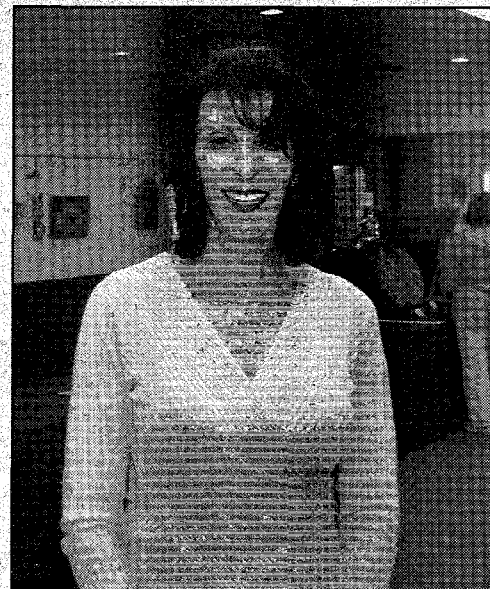
Chile's coastline is not its wealthiest area, and unlike the United States, real estate is not highly valued simply because it is waterfront. Along much of the extensive coast, the towns are small, the surrounding areas very rural. Thousands of Chilean residents and tourists spend entire summers camped right on the beach in primitive tents, camper vans, or other homemade camping arrangements, and according to Joffe, nobody seems to care. Although there are waterfront hotels, and tourist gift and shell shops, there are also stretches of empty beach that seem to go on for miles, and in most cases, access appears to be open to everyone.

In the north, where the desert meets the beach in a long line of sand dunes, Joffe's slides of the beach dwellers appear like a camp of nomadic gypsies just arrived at the oasis.

And everywhere there are shells. Each stretch of beach, each section of rocky coastline has its own special finds, and according to Joffe, everything is free for the taking. Several places offered mountains of unusual species of mussel shells, and even the rare sunflower starfish could be found.

The group spent many days undergoing hazardous and painful rock climbing conditions over wet, slimy stones covered in barnacles and algae, because underneath almost every rock was a treasure from the deep.

When they had undergone almost more than they could bear, with group members



Anne Joffe

falling out of boats, and walking down miles of sandy mountainside, they discovered an actual shell dumping ground, where fisherman leave the waste of each day's catch, and mountains of shells could be chosen like candy in a candy store, with almost no work at all.

A four hour flight out over the Pacific brought the group to the Juan Fernandez islands, an archipelago of four major islands which are very remote, with only 550 residents, probably 1% of whom collect shells.

Joffe recommended the trip for any serious shellseekers hoping to totally immerse themselves in shelling. Her breezy and occasionally humorous style made the evening entertaining as well as educational.

Sanibel Fishing Club meets March 7

This coming Monday, March 7, the Sanibel Island Fishing Club will be holding its March monthly meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the north room of the Sanibel Community House at 2173 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.

The presentation begins at 7 p.m. sharp. There is no admission charge for the event and the angling public is invited to attend.

This month's featured speaker will be Norm Ziegler, who will be doing a combination book signing and slide presentation. The slide presentation is titled "Fishing Far And Wide with Norm Ziegler." It includes saltwater and freshwater fly fishing throughout Europe and the United States. Places covered will range from Poland to Spain, Florida to Oregon. Locally, Norm will speak about his experiences fly fishing for Sanibel

beach snook in the early spring.

Norm will also be signing copies of his new book, *Rivers of Shadow, Rivers of Sun*. Released in 2004 by Countrysport Press, this engaging book covers Ziegler's fly fishing expeditions across Europe over the past twenty years. Norm Ziegler has written articles for *Saltwater Fly Fishing*, *Grays Sporting Journal*, and *Florida Sportsman* to mention just a few. He is past president of the Sanibel Fly Fishing Club and inventor of a very effective saltwater fly called Norm's Crystal Schminnow (available at the Bait Box).

For information on joining the club please contact Vern Frankwich at 395-7616. The Sanibel Island Fishing club has been an active social club for over 20 years on Sanibel. We sponsor fishing outings with the members, do volunteer work and have an annual Christmas Banquet.

Upcoming Audubon outings

- Saturday, March 5 (tomorrow) at the Bailey Tract/Sanibel Gardens. South (left) on Tarpon Bay Road from Bailey's, approx. 1/2 mile. Entrance on right. Free parking. Meet in the parking lot at 8 a.m.
- Saturday, March 12 at Bunche Beach, across the Causeway approx. 2.5 miles (third light); right on John Morris Road to end. Meet at 8 a.m. Be sure to wear shoes that can get

wet.

- Saturday, March 19 at "Ding" Darling Refuge. Meet in the overflow parking lot near the trolley stop at 8 a.m. Entrance fee is required.

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



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TO YOUR HEALTH

Holistic Health Notebook: Kids and sugar



Carol Simontacchi

Consider these facts: the incidence of obesity is increasing rapidly, especially among children. The incidence of adult-onset diabetes is simultaneously increasing, particularly among children. Did you read that sentence thoroughly? I said, "adult-onset diabetes is increasing in children." Type I diabetes is also on the rise. That is not good news.

According to a Consensus Report written by the American Diabetes Association, "If the incidence and prevalence of type 2 diabetes in children are increasing and if this increase cannot be reversed, our society will face major challenges. That is, the burden of diabetes and its complications will affect many more individuals than currently anticipated, and the cost of diabetes to our society will cause us to consume enormous resources. Also, many more Americans will be taking potent medications, which have attendant risks, for most of their lives."

We are, as a culture, getting heavier, and the increasing weight is leading to greater increases in both type 1 and type 2 diabetes in children.

The diabetes is bad enough. The prognosis is tough, including increased risk of cardiovascular disease, vascular disease, loss of visual acuity, and so on, but diabetes becomes a problem of co-morbidity, affecting the thyroid, adrenals, and other organ systems.

It is best to prevent diabetes from ever happening in the first place.

According to a press release by Nutrition 21, the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles will conduct the first double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial to study the effects of

chromium picolinate supplementation in overweight pediatric patients with poorly-controlled type 1 diabetes. The protocol includes adding 600 mcg of chromium as picolinate to the daily diet of patients from 12 to 18 years of age, hoping to improve blood glucose and body weight.

I personally think this is a fine study, and badly needed in this population. More than 15 scientific studies already support the safety and role of chromium in improving insulin function and glucose metabolism in people with type 2 diabetes. However, we can't isolate nutrients from a healthy diet. Chromium cannot work without cofactors of vitamin B complex, for example.

And chromium alone, regardless of how effective it may be in helping normalize blood sugar or potentiating the effects of natural insulin, cannot significantly reduce body fat that is a natural consequence of poor dietary choices. How about starting with a really good diet, and adding the nutrients to help compensate for years of malnutrition?

If diabetes or other blood sugar disorders runs in your family, protect both yourself and your children by getting the processed sugars out of your diet, including lots of fresh vegetables and healthy proteins, and supplementing with the full spectrum of nutrients, including magnesium, zinc, and chromium, all three of which are important to the maintenance of blood sugar and the metabolism of sugars.

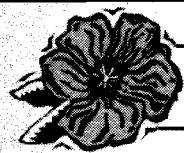
If you need help putting this type of diet into practice, talk to me and we'll work on it together. A healthy diet could be the most important gift you give to your family.

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

FISH Friendly Faces luncheon

Friendly Faces Luncheon will be held Tuesday, March 8th at 12 O'clock noon. All Residents and/or guests are invited. Reservations must be made by Friday,

March 4th at 5:00 PM. Anyone wishing to attend please call Charlene Timothy at 472-5187 ext. 222. Come and join us.



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Artist Leoma Lovegrove (left) and auction chairperson, Spring Rosen (right) next to Lovegrove's "Lost."

Lovegrove painting donated to CROW

Original artwork, valued at \$5,000, was donated to the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), from Matlacha artist and friend of CROW, Leoma Lovegrove. The painting will be auctioned at CROW's annual donor dinner March 14.

Lovegrove has rescued injured wildlife through the years on Pine Island and brought them to CROW for care. The painting "Lost" was inspired by CROW, and Leoma's thoughts that the wildlife patients are truly lost when they are injured, orphaned or sick, and they find their way to CROW and their hoped for release back "home".

Lovegrove has gained a national reputation for her unique artwork. Her work hangs in private collections around the world and most recently, Lovegrove's portrait of President Jimmy Carter was accepted personally by Carter to be placed in his Presidential Library in

Atlanta. Lovegrove has been profiled among other Pine Island artists and writers in a Southwest Florida PBS special and she and her gallery have been featured in the *New York Times*, *Southern Living* magazine, *Florida World*, and the *German Florida Journal*.

"Our wildlife shares the earth with all of us. They have nowhere else to go, and it is our responsibility to share our space with them. I am inspired by our wildlife, and this is my way of helping CROW," said Lovegrove.

"Lost" is currently on display at Bank of the Islands, located on Sanibel and will be at the bank until the day of the auction March 14, 2005.

All proceeds from this auction go to benefit the work of CROW and helping wildlife. To learn more about the auction, please contact Birgie Vertesch, at CROW at 239.472.3644.

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February 27, 2005

Dear Newspaper Reader & Friend,

Introduction of my self: I am Charles Bradford Sobczak, real estate agent and author living on remote island in Gulf of Mexico, Florida. For security reasons I must not state the name of this island but it is nearest to Captiva. That is all I can say at this writing.

With much sincerity of purpose I am compelled to intimate you on a mutual business relationship involving considerable funds (U.S. dollars: \$12.4 million - \$12,400,000) which I have come into possession of through channels that must, for the sake of all involved, remain strictly confidential. I trust you will extend me the same confidence and not make mention of this article to anyone, not even your spouse if you have same.

In recent years I have befriended prominent officials in powerful positions in the region of the mainland across a causeway to my island. Because of very fortuitous and huge increases in tolls to my island these officials have surplus monies that are in need of transfer and safe keeping. They have asked me to write you for your help and

kindness in placing these monies in your secure hands.

For your help in doing so I am willing to pay you a fair commission of 20% or in excess of \$2.4 million U.S. dollars (\$2,400,000) to deposit into your account as custodian of the entire sum which I will make arrangements for at a later time. I assure you this transaction is 100% risk free through we must proceed with the strictest of confidence.

Also it is vital to mention that my island is experiencing months of recent political instability. Cause for uneasiness is for vote on referendums that have turned normally sweet island peoples to behave like cannibals. After much mudslinging and contentious election has my self worried about night raids, death squads and possible harm coming to me and my family.

This will hopefully not come to be but my self cannot be too careful and have barricaded my wife and two sons into home using leftover hurricane shutters from last years most unpleasant hurricane season. Half the island wants to do me harm because of my real estate allegiances while my real estate

friends want to do me harm because I vote independently and have certain close ties to conservation groups who

I will not mention. Once this transfer is completed I must think about relocating to a safer place like Baghdad or the Bronx.

It is extremely dark in my house as I write this plea for you my friend to come to help me out of this conundrum. I grow afraid that now that the election is over things will continue to deteriorate and must implore you to help me find safe haven for these surplus funds. There are also some in our community who have become aware of these oversupplies of cash and are attempting to reduce tolls soon. I fear this pipeline of cash for all of us may then come to an untimely end. This is bad. I am in dire need of a reliable partner in this enterprise.

All I need from you my friend and newspaper reader is access to your bank accounts, social security number and confidential financial information. Please do so at once and we will have long lasting business relationship. Once you contact me I will give you further information and details as to

how this transfer will take place. You must not notify anyone that you have read this, not even if it made you laugh. We all are in great need of laughter at this point and to be reminded that we all love this island and let that be what binds us together in this great resolve to preserve and protect it.

Thank you for your help in the disposition of this great sum of money and I look forward to your contacting me soon. Please write to me at indigo-press@earthlink.net and I will contact you with additional information to expedite most urgent action.

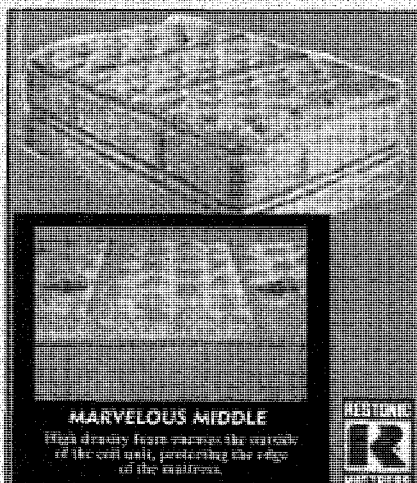
I awaits to hear from you presently.
Charles Bradford Sobczak

Charles Sobczak is a Sanibel author whose books include *Six Mornings on Sanibel*, *A Choice of Angels*, and a twisted hurricane novel about a category five hurricane hitting southwest Florida (which we all know never happens) called *Way Under Contract, a Florida Story*. His books are available throughout the island.

Editor's note: Hopefully it does not need to be said that this column is a humorous take-off on certain e-mails. It is NOT a solicitation of personal information from readers.

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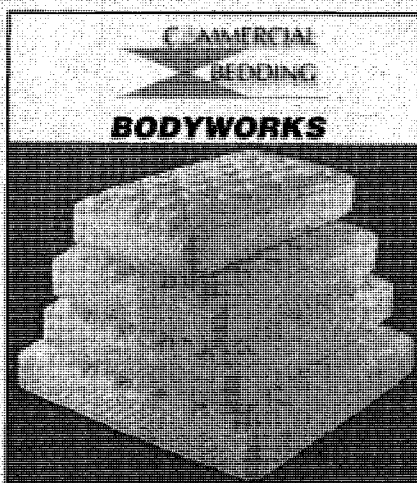


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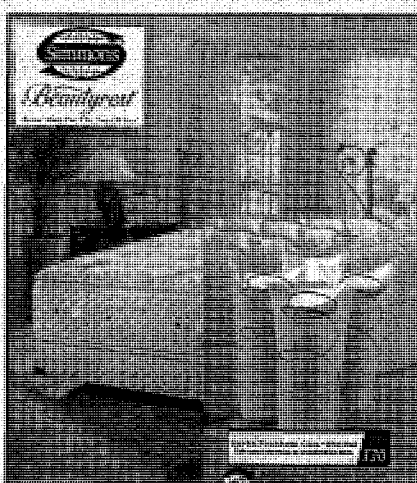


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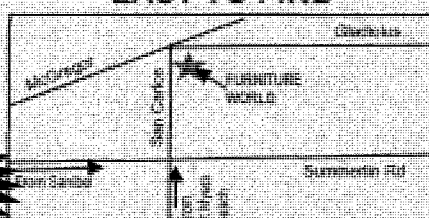
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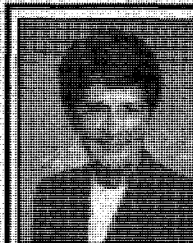
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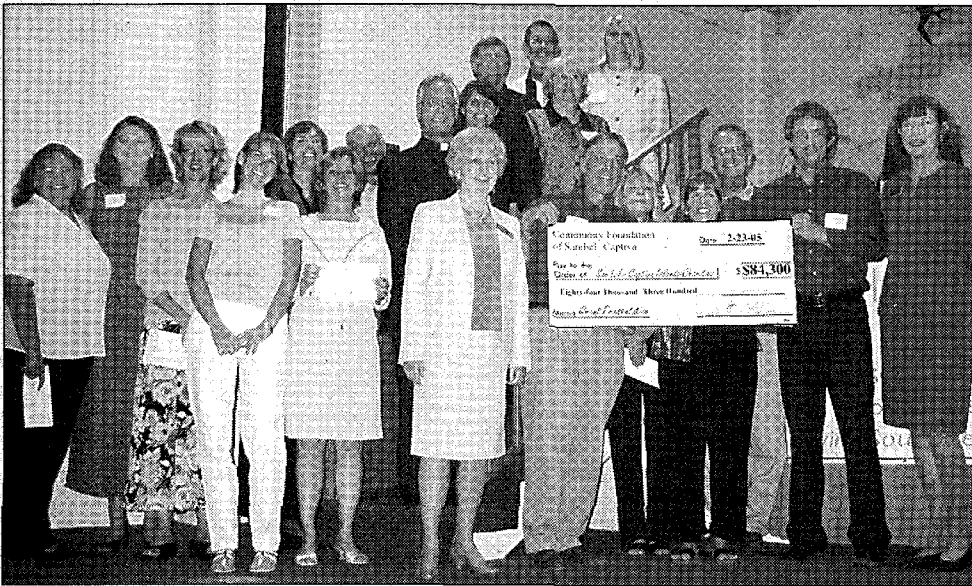
IS OWNER FINANCING A GOOD IDEA?

If you are selling a house in which you have significant equity and you don't need all of that equity to buy a new home, providing some of the financing coverage yourself may benefit both you and your buyers.

Seller-financing arrangements usually involve the buyers securing the majority of their funding from a mortgage company and getting a much smaller second mortgage from the sellers. For example, they may finance 75% from a lender, put up 15% in cash, and ask the sellers to finance the remaining 10%.

Second mortgage interest rates are significantly higher than those offered on 5 year CD's or treasury notes. But you must understand your risks as a second mortgage holder and verify the buyer's income, credit history and job stability before making your final decision. You will need good financial and legal advice. In some situations it may be better to step back and let the commercial finance industry take those risks rather than you.

But don't forget to ask your Realtor and tax advisors about using seller financing to defer your Capital Gains. That's one of the strongest arguments for considering it! Margie specializes in Sanibel, Captiva and Ft. Myers real estate. She was named Realtor of the Year by Sanibel and Captiva Assoc. of Realtors in 2000 and 2002. Her new book, "How to Make Your Realtor Get You The Best Deal - South Florida Edition" is now available if you are thinking of buying or selling. Call Margie at FMR 472-1311, or e-mail her at Margie@MargieDavison.com.



San-Cap Foundation gives \$84K to island non-profits

By Kevin Duffy
kduffy@breezenewspapers.com

Twenty non-profit agencies with direct ties to the islands have received grant funding from the Community Foundation of Sanibel-Captiva.

Foundation Chairwoman Ginny Fleming announced the disbursement of \$84,300 during a cocktail mixer and awards ceremony held Feb. 23 at the Sanibel Community House. Donations ranged from the \$8,000 awarded to the Sanibel Community Association for a new air conditioning unit to the \$1,000 given to the Sanibel-Captiva Audubon

Society for a digital projector.

The sizable grant award was made possible largely due to the Sanctuary Golf Club, which raised \$43,750 during a golf tournament recently.

"This year, we're giving out more grants than ever before due to the generosity of the Sanctuary Golf Club," Fleming said.

Also of help was the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, which contributed \$50,000, she continued.

"Ginny was the first one to really react as a leader," Paul Flynn, foundation president

Foundation, see page 15

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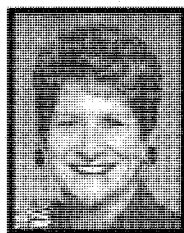
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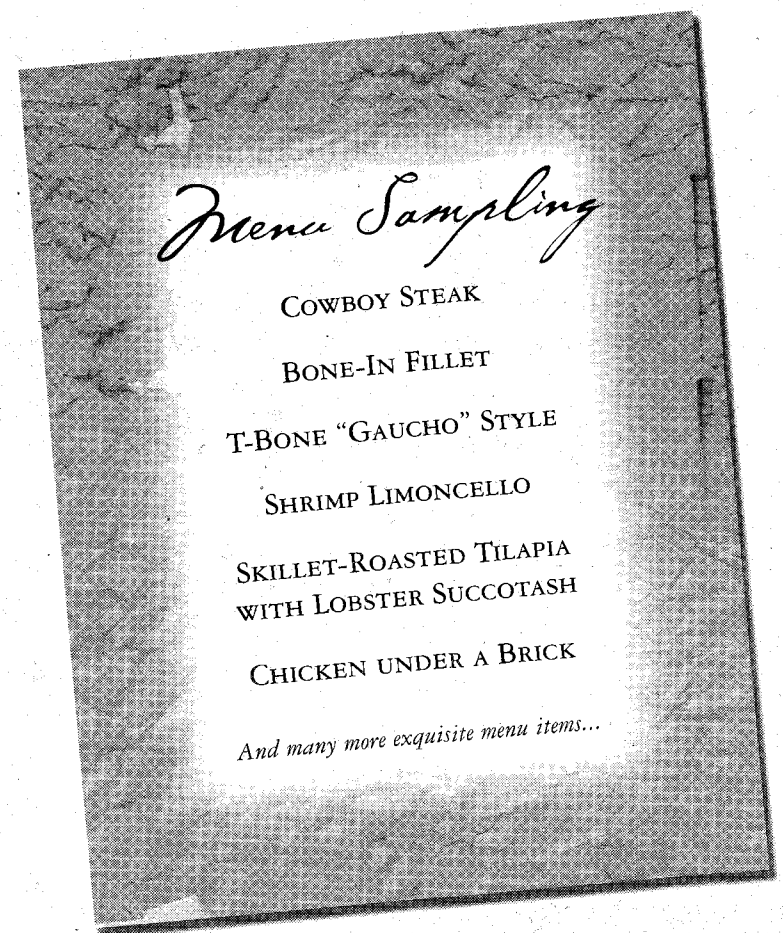
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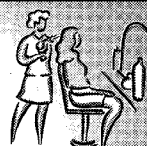
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José Leal at Audubon

Dr. José H. Leal, executive director of the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum, graciously agreed to pinch-hit for the February 24 Audubon presentation with schedule speaker Charles LeBuff was forced to cancel.

Leal opened by noting that he would get the audience "away from a bird and vertebrate perspective" as he spoke about the "Seashells of Southwest Florida," a project of the museum which now includes 260 species.

Leal noted that "Sanibel as the perfect place for a shell museum - it is surrounded by multiple environments and habitats." The main focus for the museum is education and that is multidimensional, with more than 30 thematic exhibits. The museum also has a web site (www.shell-museum.org) (with 700 pages) which is updated daily by Tina Yorgey; the web site gets 10 times more visitors than the museum.

The "Seashells of Southwest Florida" is a "bird field guide" to shells except you "can't say it's a field guide unless you can take your laptop to the beach," he quipped. However, the museum has plans to publish the collection, like a Peterson guide. The project began "for the casual visitor to the island who wants to know the name of the shell... Not a single day goes by that someone doesn't walk in with something they found or a picture of something they saw." He showed a picture of a quahog valve that someone brought in: it had a pearl, not very smooth but about a half-inch big.



José H. Leal

Every shell is photographed from two or three different views with a Nikon D100 digital reflex camera and a 60 mm or 150 mm lens; tungsten lights were used for larger shells while Leal used a bellows he has had for 27 years for the small shells. A recent donation of a photo tube and eyepiece for a Leica microscope gives the ability to photograph micromollusks.

Leal encouraged audience members to pick up a handful of sand and look at it with magnifying lens to find the micromollusks, shells up to 13 mm (1/2 inch). Volunteers say "it's addicting, sorting through them, very relaxing."

"This area famous for wentle traps," he noted.

"Mollusk shells grow by accretion. The old shell never goes away, it's always there, you have a record of growth." He showed a juvenile lace murex, which looks very different from the "lace" adult shell: it is red and without the "lace." However, the tip of the adult is pinkish red, which is the juvenile shell.

The mantle of the animal, the skin, makes the shell. The shell itself is dead and it is a combination of layers of calcium carbonate crystals and protein in an organic matrix. Specific regions on the mantle make each element and species can be identified by the protein in the shell. He added that shells in deep sea trenches — where the water is more acidic — have almost no calcium carbonate and as a result, they're soft. The color in shells comes from the protein; ultraviolet light fades shell color.

Mollusks can also mend their shells. Lip damage can be easily mended; cowries and bivalves can mend the entire shell. Most mollusks, however, cannot mend a break at the top of a long coil.

When asked if there has been a decrease in shells, he said there is "no scientific data to back that up," and added that there are a lot more people on the beach now. "I know people who are out there at 3:30 in the morning if there's a low tide. You wake up at 7 a.m. — that shell is already on someone's shelf in their living room." However, he acknowledged that there are species in the museum's collection that are now very difficult to find.

Refuge, from page 6

primarily because the impact of Hurricane Charley on Refuge vegetation was enormous. Much of the red mangrove canopy is gone. "We are just now into the nesting season. The rookery islands were hit hard and the canopy is gone. Pelicans, cormorants and great blue herons are nesting now; the egrets and spoonbills will begin in April and May." Without the protective canopy, the chicks are vulnerable to predators (someone reported seeing a crow carry off a great blue chick) and the eggs and chicks also have no shade to protect them from the sun. Pelicans, cormorants and great blues nest on top of the canopy,

while the snowy egrets nest in the mangrove. It is still unknown whether they will be able to nest here, or if they will have to go elsewhere.

Another concern is the secretive mangrove cuckoo, which needs large tracts of unfragmented mangrove and canopy. They have had more sightings this year than in years past, but that may just be because there is no canopy to hide them. It is not known whether they will be able to nest; on the other hand, will the downed vegetation mean

Refuge, see page 15

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Foundation, from page 13

and CEO, said of Fleming's activities following Hurricane Charley. "She's a very caring person and she feels very deeply for the islands and their people."

Not all of the foundation's activities have been a success, however. Fleming said the \$84,300 in awards was only a portion of the total requests for funding that had poured in — \$156,000 in total. Most

requests were in some way linked to Hurricane Charley, she said.

"So many people still need help with hurricane relief," she said, mentioning resorts such as South Seas and the Sundial that remain closed for repairs. "The single mom who waits tables that hasn't worked since the resorts were open, for example."

Community Foundation member Vern

Frankwich said the organization grew from a small group of dedicated individuals to the large entity that it is today.

"They're dedicated to making this become so beneficial to the island," he

said. Among the recipients of grant awards are the J.N. "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society, Sanibel Community Church, CROW, and the Children's Center of the Islands.

Refuge, from page 14

that there are more insects to feed on?

Nesting birds have been monitored for some time, so there is a baseline, but previous data was collected by viewing only. Most likely, those counts are low because of the inability to see into the canopy. Scientists from the University of Florida were out at the Refuge two weeks ago, working with Biologist Kendra Willett to develop new methods of collecting data.

Alligator curve was hit hard and the canopy was completely destroyed. Including the Shell Mound Trail area, this

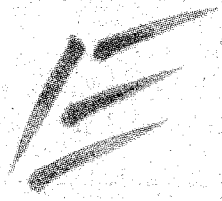
section had mangroves that were over 250 years old. There are mangrove seedlings in other areas of the Refuge but not here. Since the impoundment and building of Wildlife Drive, the water has become less saline and tidal flow may need to be restored to the area. Without restoration, this section — covering several hundred agencies — could turn into an open water system, which would have a serious impact on the Refuge overall. They are currently doing some hydrology studies of the area.

MOLD PROBLEMS?

Mold Issues?

Hurricane Damage?

Water Damage?



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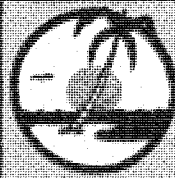
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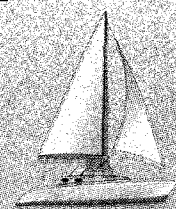
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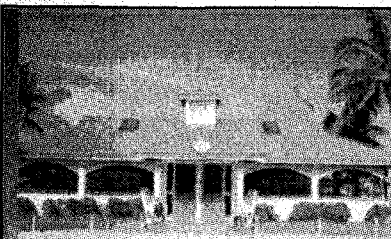
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Watershed, from page 7

The Calusa summoned a force of 80 war canoes and at least 800 men in less than a day and met the Spanish with force.

The incident is important because of the insight it gives into the Calusa, who vanished from history in 1760. The Calusa had the organization and the resources to summon a considerable fighting force; they had already decided that they would resist the Spanish and they also shouted obscenities (in Spanish) at the Spaniards, meaning that they were

familiar with the language.

As our boat neared Mound Key, Torrence directed the captain a little out of the way to point out the original entrance to Mound Key, a stately passage through mangrove islands that would have led to the impressive main canal. The two largest shell complexes in the region are at Mound Key and Pineland on Pine Island; both are over 400,000 cubic meters. The Wightman site on Sanibel was about 12,000 cubic meters; the site at Useppa

was about 14,000. Both Mound Key and Pineland were important Calusa centers.

The Spanish returned in 1567 and set up a fort at Mound Key, which lasted for a couple of years before the Spanish abandoned it. Fortunately for history, there are Spanish records that give a fair amount of insight into the Calusa culture and religion.

Their diet was primarily fish, along with shellfish, some mammals and birds, fruit and plants.

The "rivers were highways and the estuaries were their supermarkets, where they got the bulk of their subsistence." As the

salinity varies, so do the shells available. Torrence noted that, just as we "target the resources in the supermarket," the Calusa "got into their canoes and targeted the 'isle' that had the resource they wanted." Barrier islands sites have higher salinity shells, while the back bay is lower salinity.

His point was to make an argument against viewing the mounds as primary garbage dumps, where the Calusa "ate and threw their garbage over their shoulder" and into their living area. Rather, the jumbled nature of the shells in the mounds seems to indicate that the shells were first

tossed as garbage in one location and then later moved for episodes of mound-building. In refuting what he calls the "sanitationally challenged Calusa" model, he emphatically argues that "they didn't live on their garbage."

Torrence worked on Mound Key in 1994 with Sam Chapman, mapping, conducting some excavations and surface collecting. He paused where he believes the Spanish fort stood as the group made its way to the top of one of the two large mounds that dominate the site. Intrepid trekkers followed him down the mound, past some beautiful old gumbo limbo trees, to what is called the water court. The large canal that bisects the front of the island originally terminated in the water court but the open area is now host to an old stand of black mangroves. The canopy has been trimmed a bit by Hurricane Charley but it is still a magical place.

After reboarding and heading north, the boat stopped off at Mound House in Fort Myers Beach, which sits atop a Calusa mound. Work on a "walk-in" shell mound exhibit is beginning this month at Mound House.

Mound House has an interesting history, including rum runners and a think tank responsible for the invention of frozen concentrate orange juice and fire-resistant building materials, among others. Co-directors Torrence and his wife, Theresa Schober, are overseeing restoration of the house.

On April 23, as part of the Trail of the Lost Tribes celebration, there will be talks at Mound House as well as pontoon boat trips to Mound Key. For more information on April 23 events, call the Mound House at 765-0865.

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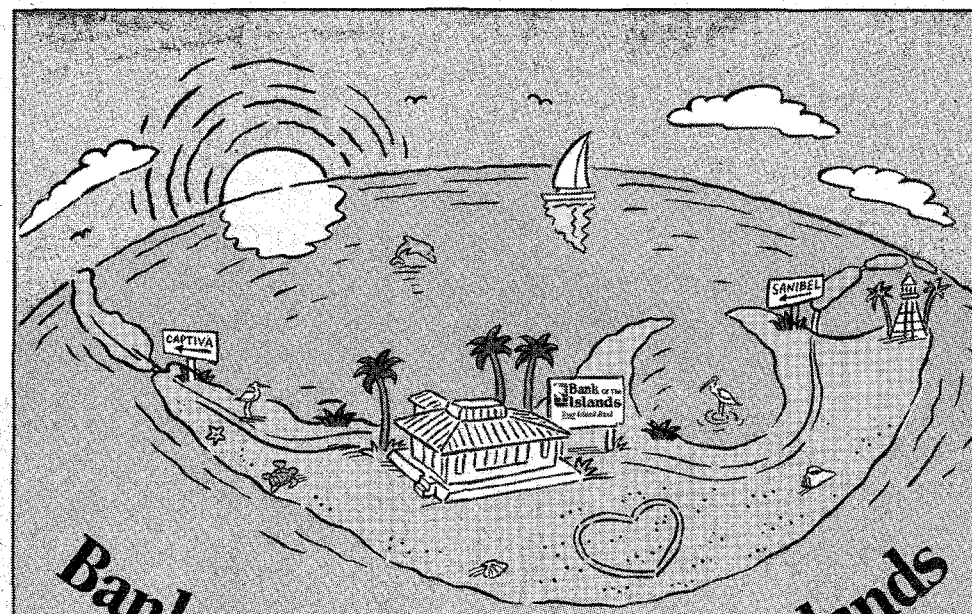
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Pirates of Penzance at Barbara B Mann

The Gulf Coast Symphony performs a full production of Gilbert & Sullivan's much beloved *Pirates of Penzance* on Sunday, March 6 at 8 p.m., under the baton of Maestro Andrew Kurtz as part of its 2005 Symphonic Sensations series at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. Tickets are on sale now at the Barbara B. Mann Box Office, and can be bought in person, or by calling 239/481-4849. Ticket prices range from \$16.50 to \$30, with half-price tickets available for students.

The cast includes Graham Fandrei, Ilana Davidson, Paul Houghtaling, Janelle McCoy, Warren Kaplan, Veronica Chapman-Smith, Teresa Hernandez, Dina Martire, and Jeff Chapman as Samuel. This production of *Pirates of Penzance* is being directed by Jonathon Loy,

the General Director of the Center City Opera Theater, with lighting, sets and costumes being provided by a variety of local professionals.

The Gulf Coast Symphony's Music Director and founder is Andrew Kurtz, who is also the Artistic Director of the Center City Opera Theater of Philadelphia.

Rita Tarr McLain exhibit

Opening at the Sanibel Public Library is a one-woman show by Rita Tarr McLain. Her show consists of 46 watercolor paintings of florals, tropical landscapes and coastal scenes. A local resident and member of the Sanibel-Captiva Art League, Rita's paintings capture the lush landscapes and brilliant color of her locations in Sanibel, Fort Myers, Naples, the Bahamas and Rockport, Massachusetts.

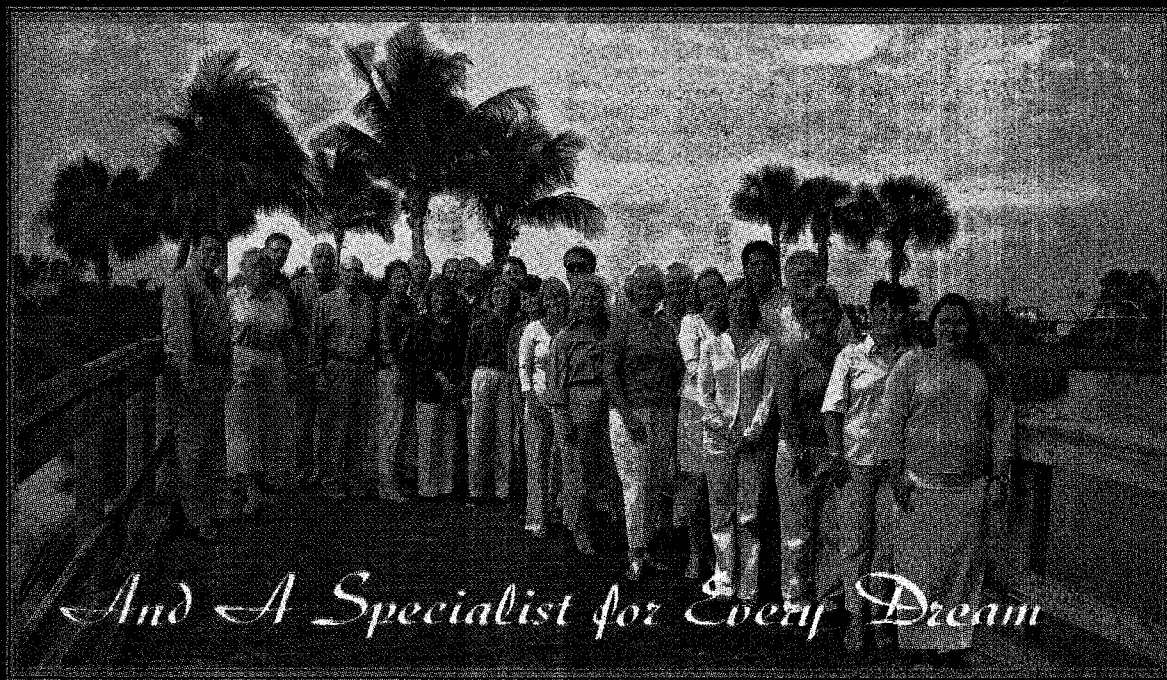
Rita, originally from Rockport, Massachusetts has resided in Florida for most of her life. She is an award winning artist attaining an invitation to the winner's circle of the Art Council of Southwest Florida.

Rita has exhibited her paintings in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Panama Canal Zone; Rockport, Massachusetts, Winter Park Arts Festival; and in galleries in Jacksonville, Orlando, Fort Myers, Naples and Sanibel Island.

The show runs through April 1st during library hours. Sanibel Public Library, 770 Dunlop Road.

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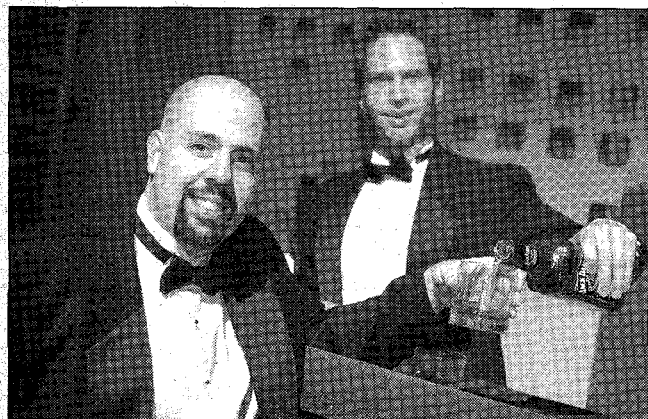
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At the Schoolhouse



Schoolhouse Theater Artistic Director Victor Legarreta (left) with Geoffrey Nelson in *Come Fly With Me*, a tribute to Old Blue Eyes himself.

Come Fly With Me is playing at the Schoolhouse Theater through March 5.

The phrase, Old Blue Eyes, is synonymous with one of the great entertainers of all time, Frank Sinatra. This Schoolhouse Theater production pays tribute to the man and his music through song, dance and laughter. For tickets, call the box office at 472-6862 or stop by at 2200 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.

Cabaret at NDT

Naples Dinner Theatre presents Kander and Ebb's *Cabaret*. Loaded with classic songs like "Wilkommen," "Cabaret," "Marriage," and "Two Ladies" the score is a winner. But the real star of *Cabaret* is the book. Based on Christopher Isherwood's novel, *The Berlin Stories*, and the play by John Van Druten, *I Am A Camera*, *Cabaret* is set in the underworld of pre-war, deep-in-the-depression Berlin, with the emerging Nazi threat.

Cabaret stars newcomer Sarah Nasto as Sally Bowles, with Marc Ginsburg (Billy in *Anything Goes*) as Clifford

Morning's at Seven

Florida Repertory Theatre is pleased to present company members Neils Miller, John Newton, Betty Madonna, Carrie Lund and Dick Westlake in Paul Osborn's Tony Award winning comedy, *Morning's at Seven* playing through March 6.

Morning's at Seven, Paul Osborn's charming love letter to just plain folks, chronicles the gentle saga of four Midwestern sisters and their quirky assorted kinfolk, all of whom are deeply involved with each other in comically claustrophobic fashion. Set in the backyards of two adjoining houses,

Directed by popular regional theatre director John R. Briggs (Georgia Shakespeare Festival; The Asolo; Alabama Shakespeare Festival), Florida Rep's production of *Morning's at Seven* stars many familiar Florida Rep company members.

At play's end, audiences will long for the time described in Robert Browning's poem, "Morning," where Osborn took his title: "The year's at spring / And day's at the morn / Morning's at seven... / God's in his heaven / All's right with the world."

Morning's at Seven is sponsored by Mrs. J. Howard Wood. It plays at Florida Repertory Theatre through March 6. Tickets range from \$15 - \$32. Call the Box Office at 239/332-4488 or visit Florida Rep online at www.floridarep.org.

Gypsy at Broadway Palm

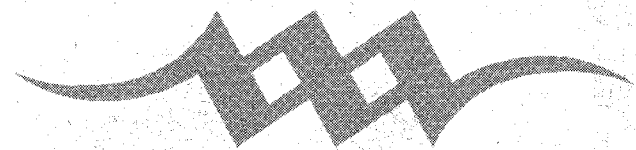
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre brings you one of the greatest show biz sagas of them all. *Gypsy*, playing February 24 through April 23. This blockbuster musical is based on the true story of Gypsy Rose Lee and her climb from humble beginnings in vaudeville to stardom in burlesque. Gypsy Rose Lee was pushed into stardom by her ambitious stage-mother, Mama Rose, whose spirit and unquenchable energy kept the family together.

Gypsy features some of the finest songs ever created for theatre with music from Jule Styne and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The songs include "Let Me Entertain You," "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Some People," "If Momma Was Married," "You Gotta Get A Gimmick" and "Together, Wherever We Go."

Gypsy makes its third stop in Southwest Florida after critically acclaimed productions at both of Broadway Palm's sister theatres; the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, PA, and Broadway Palm West in Mesa, AZ.

The creative team behind *Gypsy* includes Rob McKercher as set designer, costumes by John P. White, and lighting and sound design by Russell A. Thompson. All three recently designed Broadway Palm's smash hit, *42nd Street*.

Everything's coming up roses at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre with *Gypsy*, playing February 24 through April 23. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday with selected matinees. Ticket prices range from \$22 to \$46 for adults. Tickets are now on sale and can be reserved by calling 239/278-4422, by visiting the website at www.BroadwayPalm.com, or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.



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




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CENTER STAGE

Tappin' at BIG ARTS

My ears are still resonating with the rhythms of last Saturday's SRO concert of *Tap City* at BIG ARTS. Joy Schein once again has brought to this Island's audience cutting-edge tap dance entertainment, which left last week's audience both flabbergasted and smiling. Tap — once considered an endangered species or nostalgic kitsch by some — was proven to be alive, well and even thriving, thanks to two master tap dancers, devotees and teachers, Tony Waag and Brenda Bufalino and their latest endeavor *Tap City*. *Tap City* came to Sanibel direct from NYC (where it will perform again later this spring at the famed Joyce Theater). This NYC Tap Festival Company featured dynamic performances by the two legendary tap masters Tony Waag and Brenda Bufalino with contemporary soloists, up and coming performers Kendrick Jones, Max Pollak and Karen Callaway Williams. And if that weren't enough *Tap City* is backed by a trio of great jazz musicians Larry Ham (piano), Bernice Brooks (drums) and Lee Hudson (bass). *The Village Voice* stated that: "*Tap City* delighted some of the warmest dance crowds I've ever seen. These performances reflected racial, cultural, generations, physical and stylistic diversity that much of the dance world would do well to emulate. The show celebrates tap's history, its worldwide reach, and the influence on choreographic fancy of everything from post-modernism and social satire to classical music and Latin jazz."

The jazz trio opened with a cool version of "My Romance," featuring some of the hottest tap seen and heard at Schein Hall. Three improvisations introduced up and coming young artists: Max Pollak performed "Body Percussion," lighting up the evening with a scintillating Afro Cuban choreographic hybrid, a sort of Rumba tap. Karen Callaway Williams improvised "Swing" showing off her mastery of her tap shoes as musical instruments as well as a fresh-faced delight in performing. Kendrick Jones blew the audience away with his improvisation "Swing". The

improvisation proved Jones to be an innovator, bridging the gap between two styles of dance: Broadway's show tap, which emphasis visual presentation, and hoofing or jazz style, which emphasizes the music rhythm. The result is awesome cool and hot at the same time. "Crazy Rhythm" brought out master dancer Tony Waag looking very straight and preppy in tux and horned rimmed glasses. In this number he blew us away with a blend of complete technical mastery and a relaxed easy style.



Marsha Wagner

As the evening's MC he punctuated his intricate rhythms with comments and jokes to the audience. Waag explained the goals for creating *Tap City*: to introduce the great variety of tap that is happening here and now, linking jazz to Latino and Afro Cuban and mixing it with whatever it takes for each dancer to express their authentic selves. A tall order, but if last Saturday's performance is any example, one that is not only enjoyable but the key to keeping tap alive and viable for many generations of dancers and audiences alike.

Kendrick Jones, a spitfire performer, attacked the surface of the stage, treating the rhythm of "On a Clear Day" as if it were something he was driven to both conquer and create. Man, oh man, can this dude dance, in a word WOW! Karen Williams appeared to shine with light and brightness in her delightful rendition of "On the Street Where You Live." You just know this girl loves to dance. Max Pollak's "Invitation" filled the Hall with complex driving, layered rhythms. It was as if rhythm consumed not only him but the entire audience, we were compelled to be completely engaged and absorbed by sound. Amazing is the only word available to describe this fireworks display of sound and rhythm.

They saved the best for last as Brenda Bufalino proved once again why she is considered by her peers to be "the greatest female tap dancer that ever lived." This consummate artist and teacher, has gone deep inside to find her real voice.

It isn't just masterful technique; Bufalino has musicality that tells stories with her tap shoes. Her smoky singing voice can really torch a lyric as she did in her "Mingus Medley," a splendid tribute in story, song and dance to Charles Mingus. This dancer/singer is also a born story teller with a fine sense of humor, a fantastic musician whose instrument just happens to be her tap shoes.

Act II was a series of tributes starting with Bufalino in "Sweet Sue" a pure rhythm tap tribute to her teacher and mentor Honi Coles. Austrian born drummer, dancer Max Pollak took stage in "Rumba Tap" a dance number that inspires me to write the following adjectives to describe the piece: Afro Cuban sensual, hot, passionate, primitive and absolutely exciting. Kendrick Jones performed a mesmerizing tribute to the late Gregory Hines in "A Capella." He laid down a tower of sound unlike anything I've ever heard before. A right-on, eccentric-styled dance tribute to Donald O'Connor's famed "Make 'Em Laugh" followed, by funny man Tony Waag. Karen Callaway gave an on-target, bright tribute to Ann Miller in "Shaking the Blues Away." The ensemble's tribute to the late Honi Coles and the Copasetics featured the famous "The New Low Down" and the Copasetics Chair Dance, which brought down the house. The surprise ending of this fantastic evening of tap dancing brought up on stage all the tap dancers sitting in the audience, including BIG ARTS tap teachers: Joy Schein, Vanessa Stocker and Lee Scholl in a full out, knock 'em dead, version of "Shim Sham Shimmy."

Tap City proved to be not only a wonderful evening of experimentation, improvisation and education, it also confirmed the fact that tap can be wildly entertaining. The ovation at the end of this exciting evening of dance really drove home the point — tap is alive and well and, thanks to Joy Schein, has found a fantastic following and home here on Sanibel.

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MUSIC NOTES

Tap City-Music and Dance At Schein Hall

On Saturday, February 26, Tony Waag's, *Tap City, The New York City Tap Festival*, drew a sellout crowd to Schein Hall. Sponsored by The Ferguson Foundation and in part by the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts, a gala evening of tap dance, vocal, body percussion and instrumental music was warmly received by the appreciative audience.

Instrumental music was provided by pianist, Larry Ham, bassist, Lee Hudson and drummer, Bernice Brooks. As a mood-setting overture, the trio opened the show with a tasteful version of Rogers and Hart's, "My Romance." Pianist Ham's improvisation was well crafted and nicely articulated with fine jazz movement. Acoustic bassist, Hudson did not overwhelm the trio's sound but tastefully played and supported the members with an "implied-time" and contrapuntal approach, similar to the late bassist, Scott LaFaro. Drummer Brooks also played with sensitivity and tastefully added to the group's tonal color with just the right percussive touch.

Another and most unusual sound source was provided by dancer and vocalist, Max Pollak. While singing, what sounded like an African song, he created percussive

sounds by slapping his hands on various parts of his body. Distinct pitches were created depending upon which body part he slapped. What was amazing was that while singing, slapping and tap dancing, his sense of time and rhythm was so steady that he resembled a human metronome. He also performed an unusual version of, Bronislau Kaper's, "Invitation." The trio's arrangement was in a very brisk tempo in a meter of 6/8. Impressive was Pollak's dexterity in clapping and superimposing a 4/4 rhythm against the trio's 6/8 rhythm thus producing a complex polyrhythm. Pianist Ham's "Bill Evans" type of introspective interludes were also quite effective.

As a tribute to the late Ann Miller, vivacious dancer and vocalist Karen Callaway Williams performed Irving Berlin's, "Shaking The Blues Away." Couched in a moderate tempo, her pleasant voice and gorgeous stage presence added greatly to the number. Also, her version of Lerner and Loewe's, "On The Street Where You Live" was most impressive with her ballet type movements and tap dancing so one could hear the song's melody emanating from her taps.

Master of Ceremonies, dancer and vocalist Tony Waag danced and sang, "Crazy Rhythm," "Just In Time" and as

a tribute to the late dancer, Donald O'Conner, "Make Em Laugh." With the aid of a simple prop hat, his choreography and vocal rendition was most effective. His mobile facial expressions range from a sad/happy clown to a striking resemblance of Yankees' owner, George Steinbrenner.

Introduced as, "The Red Hot Momma" of tap dance, Brenda Bufalino danced to three Charles Mingus' compositions, "Pithecanthropus Erectus," "Reincarnation Of A Lovebird," and "Free Cell Block F." Typical of the composer's compositions, frequent tempo changes and odd meters of 6/8 and 4/4 were masterly executed by the trio and Bufalino. She also danced and sang an uptempo version of, "Sweet Sue." Like a "hip" Ella Fitzgerald, she sang a chorus and then segued into a scat version displaying a good sense of rhythm and time.

Dancer Kendrick Jones II added his vocal efforts by effectively rapping to a stop-time version of Fields and McHugh's, "The New Low Down." The show's conclusion was a glorious sight to see and hear with so many happy people on stage, including Schein Hall's namesake, Joy Schein, as they tap danced intricate and well rehearsed steps. It was visually and musically a most professional production and was rewarded by thunderous applause from a most appreciative audience.



Harold Lieberman

BIG ARTS Broadway Bound Raffle

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Raffle tickets are available at BIG ARTS, Office Hours 9 - 4, Monday - Friday, 9 - 1, on Saturday. Tickets are also available at all performances and events and at the BIG ARTS' kiosk at Jerry's Supermarket. BIG ARTS, 395-0900.

Maybe it will be your lucky ticket that is drawn March 7 at Marvin Hamlich In Concert, one night only!

Habitat Quilt at Broadway Palm

"Hurricane Confetti" is the name of a king-sized quilt made by 15 members of the Bonita Bay Quilters. On March 10, from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. the quilt will be on display at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre where raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 each. The quilt is in a pattern called "Jack's Chain," comprised of more than three thousand individual pieces. The quilt

was dedicated to Habitat for Humanity of Lee County, after Habitat spent \$10,000 and it is the goal to contribute at least that amount. This quilt will be raffled off on March 14 and three local quilt shops are also selling raffle tickets: Three Crafty Ladies on Sanibel Island and two off-island. Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

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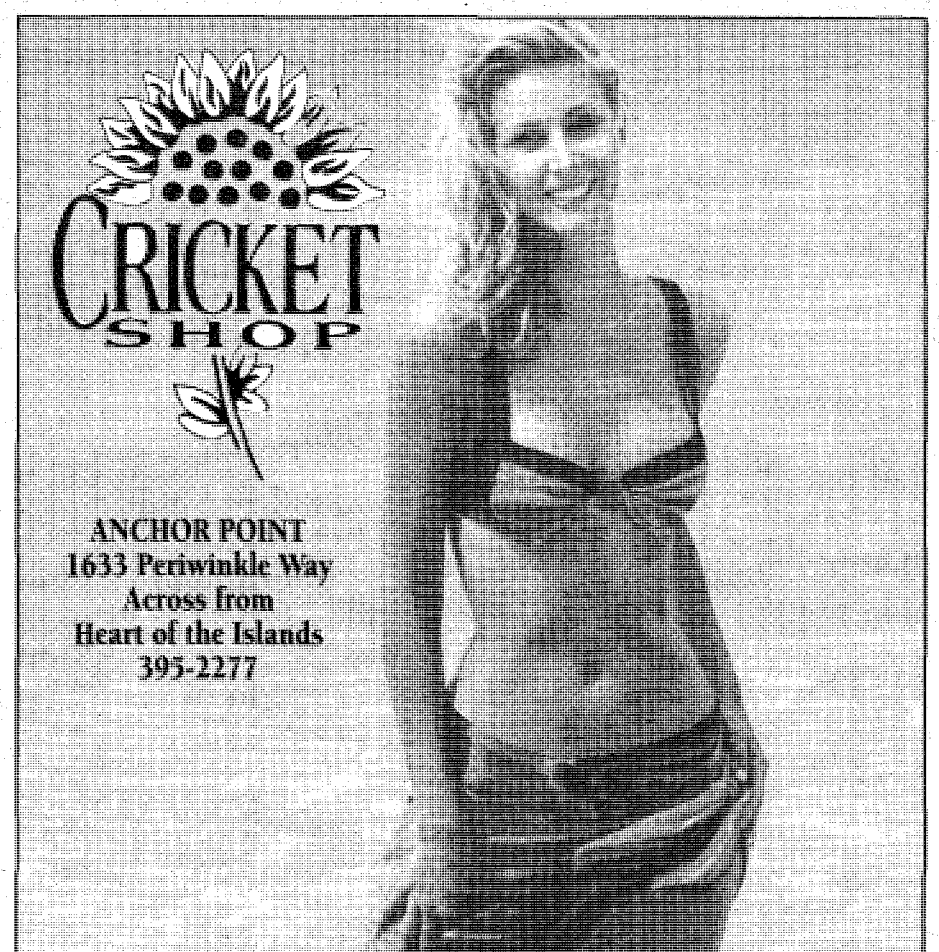
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MUSIC NOTES

The return of a master cellist

Thanks to the generosity of the Ferguson Foundation and BIG ARTS Angels, cellist, Laszlo Varga and pianist, Lise Frank presented a cello and piano recital at Schein Hall on Tuesday, February 22. Mr. Varga, who retired from an illustrious career as a performer serving as Principal Cellist of the New York Philharmonic for eleven years, continues to exalt his mature musicianship and knowledge by performing with chamber ensembles, as a cello soloist and master teacher. Lise Frank holds degrees in piano performance from prestigious institutions and has recently returned to the United States from Colombia, South America where she appeared as a piano soloist, teacher and chamber ensemble musician.

While a student at Juilliard in the late 1950s, I still remember hearing Laszlo Varga performing with the New York Philharmonic and also have a vivid remembrance of Mr. Varga's premier performance of Prokofiev's, *Cello Concerto*. It was with great reverence and awe that I saw and heard this distinguished artist once again. For over fifty years, his name and reputation have been synonymous with greatness.

The recital began with "Toccata" by the great Italian Baroque organist and composer, Girolamo Frescobaldi. The slowness of tempo and minor tonality

allowed Varga to display warm and expressive cello passages. This mood however, quickly segued into a fast, contrapuntal texture highlighting the technical prowess of both cellist and pianists. The second work, "Ciaccona" or "Chaconne" by the Italian Baroque composer, Tomaso Vivaldi, allowed Varga to exhibit his mature and sensitive phrasing. I am not positive but I feel that the work was originally written for violin and continuo as Tomaso Vivaldi was a violinist. The cellist's exquisite use of proper embellishments and vibrato together with the great balance between piano and cello was a pleasure to hear.

The third selection was, *Seven Variations on a theme from Mozart's Magic Flute*, W. 46 by Ludwig van Beethoven. Variation #1 had a familiar theme that unfortunately, I cannot identify. The duple time #2 led into #3, played in a waltz tempo allowing Varga to capture the full sound of the cello's lower register. The minor tonality and the slow tempo of variation #4 again enhanced the cello's poignant sound, while #5, in a fast triple meter, showcased Frank's dazzling piano runs. Throughout the concert, her tone quality and musicianship were impeccable. Variation #6 in a slow tempo led into the final fast waltz of variation #7, allowing Varga to play with well placed and exciting pizzicatos.



The last work before intermission was the very romantic, *Fantasy Pieces, Opus 73*, by Robert Schumann. All three movements, including the catchy triplet figures between the cello and piano in the second movement, were played with assurance and sensibility.

Throughout the concert, Varga's demeanor showed a love of performing which he subtly communicated to the audience. After intermission, he announced that his instrument is a French cello made in 1846. It certainly was well suited for the next work by French composer, Claude Debussy. His *Sonata pour violoncello et piano* brought forth the cello's mesmerizing, liquid movement framed in Debussy's chromatic impressionism. Surprisingly, the cello's pizzicato passages were strikingly similar to passages in Leonard Bernstein's, *West Side Story*.

Adagio con variazioni by Ottorino Respighi sounded modal in tonality with melodies that were not only romantic but — given the harmonic background — impressionistic. Varga was most adept and facile in covering the composer's wide range of themes, frequent double stops and rapid jumps from the upper register theme to the lower register arpeggios.

Intermezzo from Goyescas by Enrique Granados, a Spanish pianist and composer, was inspired by the famous painter, Goya. He composed this Spanish-flavored work with typical adornments and embellishments performed most convincingly by both artists. The last of the program was *Requiebros* by Gaspar Cassado. The composer was a cellist and contemporary of the famed cellist, Pablo Casals. Before playing, Varga surprised the audience as he got into the spirit of the piece by shouting the Spanish expression, "ole!"

It was an emotional experience for me to once again hear an artist that I revered during my impressionable school days. Perhaps at eighty years of age, Varga's sound is not as vibrant and powerful as I once had heard forty seven years ago, but his musicianship, phrasing, intonation and technique remain as masterful as ever.

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

Joe Pacheco at Stories for Grown-ups

Don't be late. It will be a full house for Joe Pacheco on March 4, at 2 p.m., at the Sanibel Public Library.

Pacheco began writing poetry on Sanibel, the island to which he had retired in 1996 after forty years as an educator in New York City. The former school superintendent published his first book of poems in September 2002, *The First of the Nuyoricans/ Sailing to Sanibel*.

Pacheco has performed and told these

"poetic tales" at BIG ARTS and the Orlando Kerouac Festival with David Amram as well as on local and national NPR and Latino USA. His favorite tales are those about his grandmother, "Mama Carmen." Pacheco writes a poetry column for *The Islander* and moderates the monthly Open Mic readings at the Bean.

The Sanibel Public Library is located at 770 Dunlop Road, Sanibel. For more information call the library at 472-2483.

Presenters for Angels of the Arts

In support of all Lee County's arts organizations, Alliance for the Arts has announced the names of 171 local artists and supporters of the arts nominated for one of the 2005 Angels of the Arts Awards. The top three finalists and the final recipients of Angels Awards in 17 award categories honoring top local area "artists and supporters of the arts" will be formally announced during the second annual Angels of the Arts Awards Ceremony, from 5 - 8 p.m. on Sunday March 6, at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Craig Wolf, Senior News Anchor of NBC-2/WBBH-TV, will be officiating as Master of Ceremonies for the gala event, assisted by a long list of area celebrities and personalities who've volunteered to serve as Awards Presenters.

The list of currently "confirmed to date" presenters includes: Gale & Cello Bennett, Artist and Singer; Ron Bishop, Bob Rauschenberg Gallery at Edison College; Terry Brennan, WGCU Public Media; Stephanie Davis, Downtown Diva, *The News-Press*; Jan Egeland, Gulfshore Ballet; Kat Epple, Flautist; Liz Fowler, BIG ARTS; Danny Gonsalves, Angels Awards Designer; Jim Humphrey, Mayor, Fort Myers; Carrie Lund, Florida Repertory Theatre; Barbara B. Mann, Community Concerts; Geri McArdle,

Professor of Education; D. T. Minich, Lee County VCB; Paul Nadler, SWFL Symphony; Melinda Roy, Gulfshore Ballet; Ellen Sheppard, Artist; Jim Sprinkle, Sculptor; Drew Sterwald, *The News-Press*; Amy Tardif, WGU Public Media; Marsha Wagner, *The Islander*; Greg Welch, *Aesthete*. Additional presenters are planned to assist at the Awards Ceremony, which this year includes a brief video production featuring comments from last year's Angels Award recipients, such as Barbara B. Mann and Jennifer Benton.

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Manhattan Rhythm Kings at BIG ARTS

On Saturday, March 12, at 8 p.m., The Manhattan Rhythm Kings will live up Schein Hall at BIG ARTS. The trio has established a unique character with a combination of close harmony singing, virtuosic instrumental work and spectacular tap dancing. From humble beginnings on the sidewalks of New York City in the 1980's, to the top night spots with the greats, the Manhattan Rhythm Kings have made their mark. Known for their polished performances of American popular music from the '20s, '30s and '40s, the trio has gained a large and enthusiastic following across the country.

Broadway's Tommy Tune asked them for help assembling an act based on songs written by Fred Astaire. Their collaboration continues with the song and dance review

White Tie and Tails, at the Little Shubert in New York City. The act has performed together in venues as diverse as Carnegie Hall and Atlantic City's Trump Plaza and they commanded standing ovations in Russia.

The Manhattan Rhythm Kings are favorites at symphony pops concerts and have performed with over 80 orchestras including, the Boston Pops, National Symphony and the orchestras of Baltimore, Detroit, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Seattle and many others. They have been seen on television most notably *Evening at Pops*, the Emmy Award-winning *Celebrating Gershwin*, and have starred in their own special for Nebraska Public Television. They have shared the stage with Bob Hope, George Burns, Leonard Bernstein, Judy Collins, Bette

Midler and Gregory Hines and appeared at Radio City Music Hall with the Rockettes as part of Peter Allen's Easter Spectacular and were last on Broadway in *Crazy for You*.

This concert is sponsored by Fifth Third Bank and Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. Tickets available at \$37 per person. BIG ARTS, 395-0900, 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel.



Jean Grastorf at the Sanibel-Captiva Art League

By Amy Fleming
afleming@breezenewspapers.com

BIG ARTS is about to host the 29th Annual Juried Art Exhibit of the Sanibel-Captiva Art League. This year's guest juror is noted watercolorist Jean Grastorf, a member of the National Watercolor Society, the American Watercolor Society, and the Florida Watercolor Society, to name just a few of her achievements. She is the author of several books on that medium, including the upcoming *Layering Light: Pouring Transparent Washes*, to be published this year by North Light press. While on the island, Grastorf will be teaching two watercolor workshops.

In addition to selecting 80 paintings out of 138 entries for the show, Grastorf also addressed the artists, giving an overview of what she looks for in a successful work of art. Beginning with rhythm and movement, cool and warm

palettes, she selected pieces from the show to illustrate these qualities.

"Warm or cool?" she quizzed the audience, while holding up a small landscape. She pointed out the rhythmic quality of the line of trees, and how the unified color scheme worked to make the painting successful.

Moving to a portrait of a young woman, Grastorf explained how the use of color and light drew the eye along the subject's blue shirt and up to her face.

The use of shape is another element important to a good painting. "What intrigues me is how a group of flowers becomes a shape," she said, of a picture of a house with a front garden. "She didn't try to do tiny little blossoms—and all the shapes relate to each other."

Moving on to a square canvas filled with numerous figure drawings and sketches, Grastorf congratulated the artist on her

skill. "To take so many different things and place them in one format—you've done that extremely well," she said.

The next piece, a colored pencil drawing of a woman in a kimono, contemplating a nautilus shell, garnered first place. Pointing out that it was drawn on tinted paper, Grastorf encouraged the other artists to try beginning with a colored, rather than pure white surface.

"This one is a little bit different," she said, bring out an abstract collage. "I have a weakness for abstract. Not too many get submitted, so when I see one that works, I get really excited."

Grastorf first placed the picture right side up, then turned it on its side to demonstrate how looking at an image from a different angle gives the artist an insight into the images strengths and weaknesses.

Composition was the next subject, as illustrated by a pastel drawing of potted

geraniums. "Always be aware of that underlying skeleton, the bare bones," Grastorf said.

A painting of palm fronds served to illustrate light, use of transparent watercolor, and presentation. She pointed out the use of light and shadow, as rendered in classic watercolor technique, contained in a plain mat and frame.

"A simple mat in a simple frame—its beautiful. This is a very successful presentation," she said.

Grastorf held up a small rice-paper collage of three boats that incorporated texture, color and a flattened perspective to bring out the use of shape in an image's composition.

Last, a large still life of a teapot and flowers demonstrated the use of a full value range, or the range of light to dark. "It's the full value range that makes for an extremely strong painting," she said.

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Elizabeth Kensek, a Chicago native and Magna Cum Laude graduate of Wesleyan University, has toured the country and has been in many Regional Musical theater productions. Returning to The Schoolhouse Theater is Funny Girl, Danielle Vetro. Audiences will remember Danielle in the hilarious "Vitameatavegamin" sketch in *Make 'em Laugh*, our first show of the season. Ken Johnson makes the third star of this five star cast. Kenny is a Fort Myers favorite, having performed in MANY productions at the Broadway Palm, and is sure to

become an Island favorite. No stranger to Sanibel is Bobby Logue. Bobby is our fourth cast member and has been in quite a few productions at The OLD Schoolhouse Theater. You might remember him in his incredible roll as Jesus in "Godspell" a few years back. He is excited to bring his talents to The NEW Schoolhouse and is ready to perform his heart out for our amazing audiences. Finally, Island favorite Victor Legarreta makes the fifth member of the "Fabulous Five". He is very excited at the chance to sink his teeth into a plethora of Broadway material. You will get a journey through 75 years of musical theater. *Now THAT'S Broadway* is a show you will NOT want to miss. All-Star cast, Broadway caliber talent, incredible music. Who could ask for anything more?

Now THAT'S Broadway opens at the Schoolhouse Theatre on Thursday, March 10. For tickets, call the box office at 472-6862 or visit 2200 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.



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POETIC LICENSE

Not A Pursey-Kind of Woman, a condo poem

By Sidney B. Simon

At the funeral for her mother, the daughter from up North didn't seem sad, sat there grim, like people stuck in traffic when the roads haven't been sanded, and trailer trucks are jack-knifing.

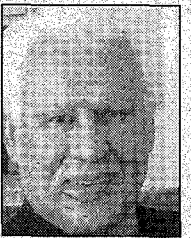
I asked her, "Do you have a picture in your wallet of your mother when she was young?"
She answers, a coldness like ice on the skating pond,
"She was damn attractive even at eighty."
"But I'm not a purse kind of person. I carry no picture."

Most of us had picked up that the mother and daughter didn't quite get along, even though her mother had charmed most of us, someone who listened, fussed a little, dropped off a casserole as needed. The Northern daughter, flew down rarely, stayed only a day or two, and never brought any of her own children with her, now all grown up.

In the lull of the chorus assembling for the morning music, she turned to me, and said, "Why do I know you want to ask me if I ever liked her?" I said, "Are you a witch? Yes, I want to know." As if they had just turned up the heat, she fanned herself with the program, the funeral parlor's logo danced. "She was mean. An artist at put-downs, stingy with validations, and the queen of unilateral decisions. Is that enough?"

The music conductor tapped his music stand, and "Amazing Grace" burst out. I've heard it sung better, but I had never sat next to anyone at a funeral who I wanted to know better than I wanted to know this
"I'm not a purse kind of person." I took her to lunch and learned what I wanted to know, including that I wasn't her type. I've never seen her again yet sometimes, I've wanted to.

Sidney Simon will read "Not a Pursey Kind of Woman" at the Island Writers Read next Tuesday, March 8 at Phillips Gallery. He is a theater reviewer for this newspaper and a catalyst for the revival of "Stories for Grownups" at the Sanibel Library.



Joseph Pacheco

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Orion Weiss at Sanibel Music Festival

While still a teenager, Orion Weiss stepped in with less than a day's notice in March 1999 to replace Andre Watts in a Baltimore Symphony performance of Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No. 2*, conducted by Jeffrey Tate. He was immediately re-invited to perform the Tchaikovsky Concerto with the Symphony in October of that same year. Now at 24, Weiss has estab-



hardly believe your ears," said the *Cincinnati Enquirer* about Weiss. He will perform Liszt's *Mephisto Waltz No. 4*, Scriabin's *Piano Sonata No. 9*, Bach's *French Suite No. 1 in D minor*, and Beethoven's *Major* ("Hammerklavier") at the Sanibel Music Festival.

In addition to his solo work, Weiss has developed a keen interest in chamber music

repertoire. In June 2003, he attended the Amelia Island Chamber Music Festival on a fellowship and performed with cellists Lynn Harrell, Alisa Weilerstein, and Christopher Rex and clarinetist David Shifrin among others. He has performed with the Georgian Chamber Players alongside members of the Atlanta Symphony and has performed the last two movements of Brahms' *F minor Quintet* with Itzhak Perlman at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall as part of a benefit for the Perlman Music camp in 2001.

Weiss is a recipient of the 2002 Avery Fisher Career Grant, a winner of both the Gina Bachauer Scholarship at Juilliard and the Mieczyslaw Munz Scholarship competition. In 1999, he received the prestigious Gilmore Young Artist Award, an honor granted by the Irving S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival to promising young American pianists. He is also a member of the Chamber Music Society Two program of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. "Every so often, a talent comes along that is so natural, genuine and exciting you can

A native of Lyndhurst, Ohio, Weiss attended the Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with Paul Schenly. He currently studies with Emanuel Ax at the Juilliard School in New York. Previously, he received first prize honors at the Cleveland Institute of Music concert competitions, was awarded four consecutive years of scholarships at Interlochen Arts Camp, and has participated in the Sergei Babayan International Piano Academy.

The March 8 selections have been carefully chosen by a panel representing each of the four groups; admission to the Read will be a three dollar donation to BIG ARTS. For further information, call Joseph Pacheco, 472-1280.

Pacifica Quartet at Sanibel Music Festival

One of today's most dynamic string quartets, the Pacifica Quartet has been called "brilliant" and "astounding" by the *New York Times*. The *Los Angeles Times* wrote, "There's no point in predicting future greatness for the young Pacifica Quartet. That future has arrived." Pacifica will perform at the Sanibel Music Festival Tuesday, March 8, at 8 p.m. at the Sanibel Congregational Church, 2050 Periwinkle Way. Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased by calling 239/336-7999 or by check at Bailey's, MacIntosh Bookshop or Sanibel Island Bookshop.

Pianist Wu Han returns to the Festival for her third appearance to join the Quartet for an unforgettable performance of the Shostakovich *Piano Quintet in G minor, Op. 57*. Other works to be performed are Haydn's *Quartet in D Major, Program 71 No. 1*, and Carter's *Quartet No. 5*.

First violinist Simin Ganatra, born and raised in southern California, initially played with cellist Brandon Vamos and violinist Sibbi Bernhardtsson while they were all teenagers. Sibbi later brought his good friend Masumi Rostad to the group.

Rising to prominence soon after its creation in 1994, the Pacifica swept top prizes in three of chamber music's most important international competitions for young ensembles: the 1996 Coleman Chamber Music Competition, the 1997 Concert Artists Guild Competition, and the 1998 Naumburg Chamber Music Competition. In 2002, the Quartet was further honored with Chamber Music America's prestigious Cleveland Quartet Award, giving them concerts in eight of America's most important venues.

The Pacifica is an ardent advocate of contemporary music, commissioning and performing as many as eight new works a year. In the past two seasons, the ensemble has distinguished itself with concerts of Elliott Carter's complete string quartets at Miller Theater in New York City, the



University of Chicago, UCLA, the Cleveland Museum, and the Edinburgh International Festival. In the fall of 2003, the Pacifica Quartet became Faculty Quartet in Residence at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, while continuing as Quartet in Residence at the University of Chicago, where it is the first resident ensemble in the history of the institution.

Illustrating its dedication to musicians and music lovers of the next generation, the Pacifica Quartet was instrumental in creating the Music Integration Project, an innovative program that provides musical performances and teacher training to inner-city elementary schools. In addition, the Quartet regularly teaches at summer festivals including Interlochen Arts Camp, Madeline Island Music Festival, and the Britt Festival in Oregon. The Quartet is celebrating its 10th anniversary in the 2004-2005 season with its first tour of Japan, its first appearance at Wigmore Hall in London, a concert at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, and more than 60 concerts across the country.

Island Writers read

The Sanibel-Captiva Island Writers will perform selections from their prose and poetic works on Tuesday, March 8, in the Phillips Gallery, BIG ARTS from 7:30 - 9 p.m. The evening "Reads" have been an island tradition since 1987.

The March 8 selections have been carefully chosen by a panel representing each of the four groups; admission to the Read will be a three dollar donation to BIG ARTS. For further information, call Joseph Pacheco, 472-1280.

Purdue Varsity Glee Club at Shell Point

Shell Point Retirement Community proudly hosts the Purdue Varsity Glee Club on Saturday, March 19 at 7:15 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Village Church on The

Island. The public is cordially invited to attend this exceptional concert and may reserve tickets, at a cost of just \$10 each, by calling 454-2054.

Quintus at Chapel

Quintus will be performing outside on the grounds of the Chapel by the Sea on Sunday, March 6 at 3 p.m. This five-piece ensemble combines a soaring soprano voice with the resonance of cello, the vibrancy of oboe, the haunting sound of flute, and the richness of piano. The program will feature a repertoire of classical, semi-classical, Broadway, and opera. Then join in favorite sing alongs to finish

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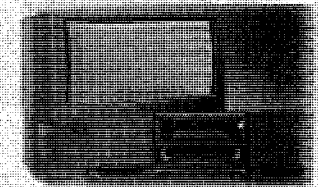
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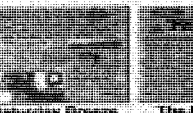
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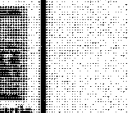
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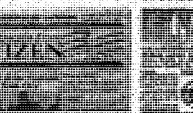
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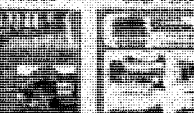
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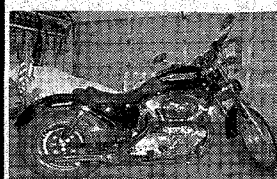
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FISH Volunteer luncheon

FISH will hold its annual volunteer luncheon on Tuesday, March 15 at 12. The lunch buffet will be held at the Dunes Country Club.

All FISH volunteers and their spouses are welcome. Please make reservations by March 7 to Kay Fulmer at 395-0162.

Shell Museum fundraiser

Don't miss this shelluva week, with the annual Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club Show, which runs from March 3 to 5, and "Under the Sea," an evening fund-raiser to benefit the museum, on Sunday, March 6, beginning at 6:30. It will be held under a tent on the museum grounds at 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel.

"There will be dinner, dancing, entertainment, a silent auction, oral auction,

raffle, and lots of surprises," says trustee and event chairwoman Anne Joffe.

"Tickets to the event are an affordable \$75 each, and tables seat 10," she explains. "Parking for the event will be at The Sanibel School down the street, with trolleys shuttling guests to the museum."

For more information, please contact Joffe at 770-8248 or e-mail UndertheSea30605@aol.com.

UU's meet March 6

Brandon Hollinsworth, FGCU Senior and communications environmental studies major, will be the speaker at the Unitarian-Universalist of the Island Service on March 6 at 7:30. Brandon was one of the student organizers who protested the withdrawal of the university invitation of Terry Tempest Williams Open Space of Democracy tour last fall. He and other students organized and negotiated her appearance as a non-university event and participated in her appearance at St. Michael's And All Angels Church on Sanibel in October. He has recently been

admitted to the University of Utah, where he will be studying with Tempest Williams. Brandon will be speaking on the theme of "Re-inventing our Niche in Nature," based on the works of Mary-Evelyn Tucker, Thomas Barry and other environmental writers. As a voice of the next generation entering adulthood, he will give another perspective on the theme of finding ethics and values in our relationship to nature, this year's theme of the UU's of the Islands. All are welcome to the service.

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Friendship Singers at Sanibel Community

Friendship Singers will be bringing an international cultural and gospel music concert to the Sanibel Community Church on Sunday, March 7 at 7 p.m. The members of Friendship Singers are from across the U.S. There will be special guests in the group from Chile, Hungary and Romania dressed in traditional folk costume, sharing some information about their countries. All of the members of the group are vibrant 55-plusers who love life, have a message to share and come from various areas of the U.S. They will be performing a variety of styles of music which will include group selections,

solos, trios and southern Gospel quartet.

Many who have heard Friendship Singers have commented that it was truly a "breath of fresh air." All are invited to attend; there will be a free-will collection for the group taken at the end of the concert.

Worship services at Sanibel Community Church, a multi-denominational community church, include Traditional Services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., and a Contemporary Service at 9 a.m. Sanibel Community Church is at 1740 Periwinkle Way, next to Jerry's Market.

Sanibel Community Spring Yard Sale

The Women's Guild of the Sanibel Community Church will be holding its annual Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, March 12 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Church, 1740 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.

Breakfast and lunch will be served and the highly acclaimed bake table will be well-stocked with delicious home-made treats.

Donations of household goods, clothing, electronics and small appliances, books, toys and treasures may be dropped off at the rear of the church any time before March 10.

For heavy or bulk items and furniture that needs to be picked up, please call Red at 395-2015 as soon as possible to make arrangements.

At the Legion

Sunday jam sessions

Come join the fun Sundays 3 p.m. - Close — bring an instrument and jam with other local musicians or come just to listen and enjoy.

Spaghetti dinner

On Thursday, March 10 from 5 - 9 p.m., the Chaplin of the American Legion Post 123, Ray Bini, is hosting the first of what will be a monthly event — an

Authentic Italian Spaghetti Dinner. These events will be held every month — stay tuned for details — and proceeds from the dinner will be used for the restoration and repairs of our Post Home. Live entertainment will fill the hall as you enjoy dinner.

The Legion is located at 4249 Sanibel-Captiva Road at the Mile Marker #3. Call for more information at 472-9979.

Island Seniors - Coping with Life Challenges

Island Seniors is presenting the second annual series of lectures on Coping with Life's Challenges. "We decided to do another series due to the interest in last year's series generated," said Sandi McDougall, the Senior Center's coordinator. The speakers are well qualified in their respective fields. All lectures are at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays:

- March 8 - Macular Degeneration - By Trevor Elmquist, D.O., Ophthalmologist
- March 22 - Living with Long Term Illness or Pain by Connie Stegall, Therapist of the Center for Life Transitions

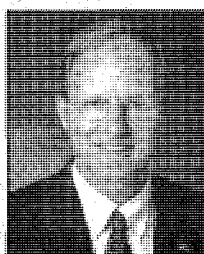
The lectures are free and open to everyone, but seating is limited and reservations are required. Call the Center at 472-5743. The Center is located at the corner of Library Way and Palm Ridge Road.

Area Ophthalmologist, Dr. Trevor Elmquist of Associates in Eye Care will speak at the City of Sanibel Senior Citizen's Center on March 8.

Dr. Elmquist will discuss the latest treatment for age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of severe visual loss in persons over 65 years old.

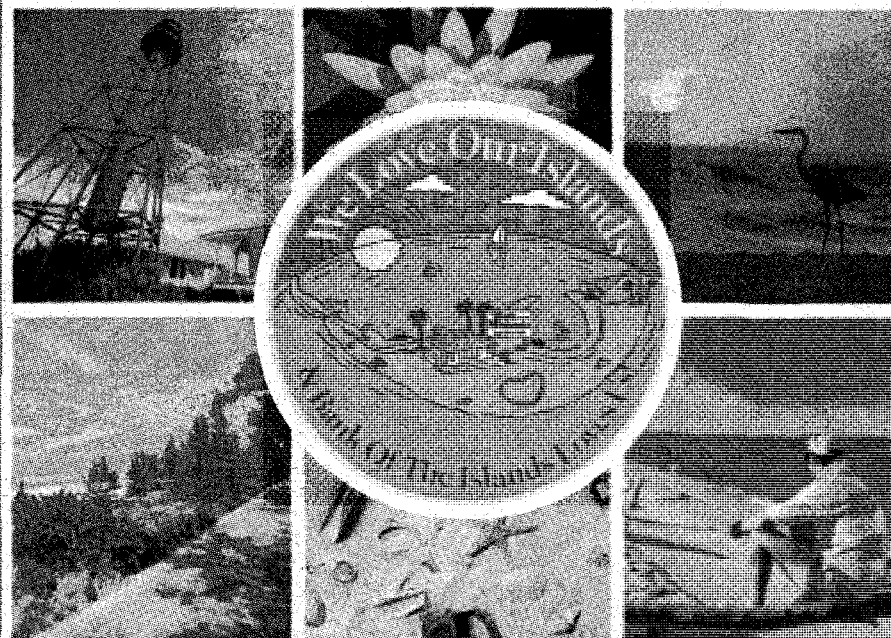
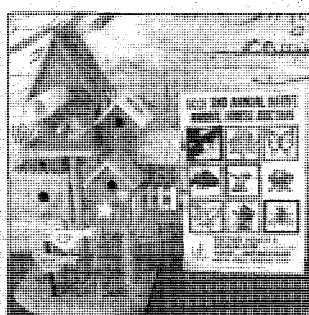
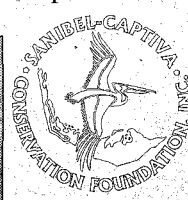
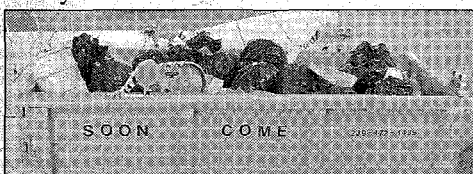
Perhaps no other potentially therapeutic target for age-related macular degeneration has received more attention in the last decade than vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), a strategy to treat the wet form of the disease.

Elmquist is an experience licensed Ophthalmologist, Board Certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and Otorhinolaryngology. He has been in practice in Fort Myers since 1990.



SCCF Animal House Auction

Don't miss SCCF's Second Annual Native Animal House Auction on Tuesday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m. at the Sanibel Community Center. Admission is \$15 per person and there will be a live and a silent auction. Open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres.



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If the weekly prize is not claimed, the \$100 donation will be added to the winnings for the following week.

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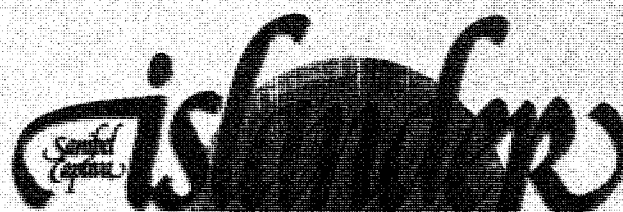
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 PO Box 56, Sanibel, FL 33957-9986
 695 Tarpon Bay Road (#13), Promenade Center



FORECAST FOR MARCH 5 & 6

SATURDAY
 6 AM 10 AM 2 PM 6 PM
 Sunny, 75-85°F

SUNDAY
 6 AM 10 AM 2 PM 6 PM
 Sunny, 75-85°F

Beach weather today with
clouds in the afternoon.

WEEKEND TIDES				
City	Sat. High	Sat. Low	Sun. High	Sun. Low
Cape Coral Bridges	3:41 a.m. 6:44 p.m.	12:21 p.m. 10:51 p.m.	4:07 a.m. 6:46 p.m.	12:04 p.m. 10:05 p.m.
Captiva at Redfish Pass	1:31 a.m. 4:34 p.m.	9:05 a.m. 7:35 p.m.	1:57 a.m. 4:36 p.m.	8:48 a.m. 6:49 p.m.
Fort Myers	4:34 a.m. 7:37 p.m.	1:03 p.m. 11:33 p.m.	5:00 a.m. 7:39 p.m.	12:46 a.m. 10:47 p.m.
Melacha Pass	3:09 a.m. 6:12 p.m.	11:47 a.m. 10:17 p.m.	3:35 a.m. 6:14 p.m.	11:30 a.m. 8:31 p.m.
Pineland	2:07 a.m. 5:10 p.m.	10:45 a.m. 9:15 p.m.	2:39 a.m. 5:42 p.m.	10:28 a.m. 8:29 p.m.
Point Ybel	12:36 a.m. 3:39 p.m.	9:07 a.m. 7:37 p.m.	1:02 a.m. 3:41 p.m.	8:50 a.m. 6:51 p.m.
Punta Rassa	1:25 a.m. 4:28 p.m.	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	1:51 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	8:43 a.m. 6:44 p.m.
St. James City	1:56 a.m. 4:59 p.m.	9:35 a.m. 8:05 p.m.	2:22 a.m. 5:01 p.m.	9:18 a.m. 7:19 p.m.

PORT CHARLOTTE
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

PORT MYERS
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

LEE COUNTY

CAPE CORAL
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

CAPTIVA ISLAND
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

SANIBEL ISLAND
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

PORT MYERS BEACH
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

BOHITA SPRINGS
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

ESTERO-SAN CARLOS
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

COLLIER COUNTY

MARCO ISLAND
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

NAPLES
 75-83 Sat
 76-84 Sun

Gulf of Mexico

BOATING FORECAST
 Wind: N/A
 Seas:
 Bay & Inland:

FOX 4 CAST
 AT 10:00

FOX 4
 AT 10:00

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

STATE FORECAST SATURDAY

Fort Myers	75-83
Fort Myers Beach	75-83
Sanibel	75-83
Captiva	75-83
Port Charlotte	75-83
Port Myers	75-83
San Carlos	75-83
Marco Island	75-83
Naples	75-83

SATURDAY SUNRISE 6:47 AM

SUNDAY SUNSET 5:31 PM