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Commercial real estate on the barrier island remains scarce. P 70

Cantor's voice rises in song at Vero Beach synagogue. P 18

Gaining strength: The Vero Beach Christian Business Association. P 42

32963 Insider Painting over power problems

As you drove across the 17th Street Bridge this summer, on your way to pay your astronomical electric bill, we trust you cast an admiring glance at the shiny new coat of paint on the fuel tanks and stacks of the Vero Beach Power Plant.

That paint job this summer cost you – and every other barrier island electric customer – an extra \$10 spot on top of one month's already outrageous electric bill.

In May, the Vero Beach City Council approved \$236,000 plus time and materials to paint the power plant. May, you may recall, was the same month the city started hiking your electric bills.

At the same time the City Council was approving lipstick on the ... er, a new coat of paint on the plant, the city was delaying inspections and repairs on the plant's Unit 5, the most efficient of the five generating units. The Council approved \$28,330 for a thermal study of Unit 5, and proposed deferring action on fixing problems that had caused bending and melting of piping.

Not that anyone seemed very concerned. According to a memo to City Manager Jim Gabard, the city has "deferred this project every year since 2003," when an inspection first revealed the problem.

On Sept. 21st, Unit 5 was forced offline due to the overheating. On Nov. 3rd, the City Council approved another \$200,000 to repair it.

FPL to Vero: 'We want to be of help'



City Council members (left to right, above) Kevin Sawnick, Tom White, Brian Heady and Charlie Wilson question FPL's Amy Brunjes. Stephen Faherty, Glenn Heran and Lee Regan (left to right, below) listen.

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

Even as FPL says it is interested in Vero Beach's aging power plant, or at least, the 33,000 electricity customers it serves, the city may be stuck in an iron-clad contract with the Orlando Utilities Commission at least until 2017.

Or not.

The contract's validity remains uncertain, even after five hours of testimony Monday in a special meeting sought by new Council member Charlie Wilson to hash out how to move forward with the electric utility dilemma.

The options seem pretty limited for the immediate fu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Beach replenishment politics: Sand miners pay to play

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

While barrier island residents worked to get sand pumped this winter onto a 6.6-mile stretch of eroded beach

from Treasure Shores Park to John's Island, few were aware that this has been a political quest for local sand mine interests for nearly a decade.

Seeing coastal communities spending tens of millions

of dollars to pump sand from offshore — and paying an Illinois company to do it — got under the skin of Sebastian dentist and real estate developer Dr. Henry Fischer.

Fischer's sons, Hank and

Eric, run the family sand mining and land clearing business, Henry Fischer & Sons, and "Doc" Fischer, as he's known around town, had felt

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

November 19, 2009

Vol. 2, Issue 34

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News 1-8
Arts 18-23
Books 47-48
Calendar 74-76
Classifieds 77
Dining 64

Faith 63
Food 65-67
Games 49-51
Health 24-28
Insight 29-52
People 9-17

Pets 62
Real Estate 70-80
St. Ed's 68-69
Style 56-61
Travel 53-55

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Nine pages of social coverage begin on Page 9.

Electric

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ture. The consultants and attorneys got the old Council to sign the city onto a contract with the soonest exit opportunity — accompanied by at least \$20 million and up to \$50 million in penalties — in 2017.

Mayor Kevin Sawnick called the OUC contract a done deal and said we would have to wait to see what happens, but no matter what, it was good to get things out in the open.

“Asking questions is always good and if we’ve made decisions in the past that people weren’t happy with, then we can learn from them, to dot our i’s and cross our t’s next time,” Sawnick said.

Wilson took it further. He asked the OUC representative whether they could revisit the penalty, and she said the city would need to request that in writing. Wilson’s hope is that by reducing the early-out penalty, the city could begin laying the groundwork to sell the electric utility or possibly to assign its power contract, and at least have the possibility of getting out of the power business open to it without a crushing \$50 million penalty.

Former Electric Utility Director R.B. Sloan, who was brought in to answer questions, defended the existence of the penalty, no matter who asked for it.

“Our intent was to write a solid contract,” he said. “The idea is to make both parties perform what they say

they’re going to do and to do that you need to make it a number that will get their attention.”

Wilson claims the insertion of the penalty was a deliberate way to make sure that the city retained ownership of the power plant, control over its revenues and jurisdiction over the 100-plus jobs that depend on the City of Vero Beach Utilities.

If the city was able to unload the electric system — which Finance Director Steve Maillet asserts takes up an inordinate amount of staff time in various departments — Wilson said the city might have to cut its staff, but that there would also be time and resources freed up to accomplish other things.

“Once we’ve dealt with these divisive

utility issues and provided relief to our customers who have so suffered over the summer, we can get back to being the wonderful city full of friendly neighbors,” Wilson said.

Vice Mayor Sabe Abell discounted Wilson’s arguments that the process by which Vero Beach arrived at a contract with Orlando Utilities was part of a plot to preserve city territory and big government.

He said the entire process was fully vetted and City Council members were informed by staff of all the details, every step along the way. He chided Wilson for poking so hard into how and why things were done.

“To me, it’s almost a no-brainer,” Abell said. “And Charlie, for your information, this stuff has been talked about and the information is out there. There are answers here to any questions you may have and they can be backed up with documents.”



Earlier in the day, FPL’s statement that it would have looked into purchasing the Vero Beach utility made a splash, not for the fact it was interested but because Monday was the first time anyone had asked them.

“We want to be of help to you wherever we can,” said Amy Brunjes of FPL’s Treasure Coast division. “We have some 55,000 customers in Indian River County and it’s an important county to us.”

Brunjes and an attorney accompanying her said that if the city expressed a genuine desire to sell the electric utility, FPL would bring in a team to “conduct a comprehensive evaluation to assess the value” of the city’s power system at no cost to the city, but “we would need the full cooperation of the city and the city staff.”

New Council member Brian Heady assured the FPL officials that, should such negotiations be entered in earnest, any city staffer not participating fully would “find themselves among the unemployed 15 percent we have in the county.”

So, why didn’t the city just sell the electric utility to FPL when the City Council made the decision back in 2005 to get out of the FMPA contract? That is one of the burning questions Wilson and Heady wanted answered.

Vero Beach city leaders, it now appears, put preservation of jobs and revenue above the interests of residents and ratepayers when they traveled down the road to entering into the 20-year, \$2 billion contract with the Orlando Utilities Commission, said critics of the negotiations.

Lack of curiosity, or ulterior motives?

The City Council, led by Mayor Sawnick and prodded by Council members Wilson and Heady, have

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bitten off huge chunk by trying to un-earth all the events that have brought us to the shape we're in today with the electric utility.

Monday's special meeting felt like a Senate hearing with all the "experts" seated at a table in front, and various "witnesses" providing testimony.

Flash back to 2006 for a moment. With FPL territory abutting Vero Beach Electric Utility customers to the north, south and west, and the city coming out of its experience with FMPA with serious electric hangover, it would seem to be a natural solution to just sell the whole shebang to FPL.

Natural, that is, to everyone but the 2006 Vero Beach City Council, which voted to enter into another long-term, murky power arrangement with an unregulated utility.

Only Bob Solari, who served on the City Council from 2005 to 2007 and later went on to win a seat on the Board of County Commissioners, voted against the proposed plan to provide power, because, he said, he "didn't like what was going on at that point."

Consultant Sue Hersey said there were six options on the table for the council to choose among, and that each one had a price tag just to study it. Option 6 was selling the entire electric utility and the price tag was \$300,000 for Hersey to delve into that option.

"Was there any data compiled on Option 6 to sell the utility so the Council had the advantages and disadvantages of Option 6?" asked Heady. "Did the Council have any idea what the value of these assets were?"

Hersey replied, "I don't think I made a guess," and informed Heady that the Council did not authorize her to study that option.

City Attorney Charlie Vitunac explained why the city did not include examining the "sell" option in Hersey's scope of work.

"Miss Hersey made a presentation with prices associated so we would go into it with our eyes open and the City Council after looking at the proposal decided that no one here is really interested in selling the power plant," he said. "And no one wanted to spend \$300,000 to pursue an option that no one was interested in doing."

Hersey gave the sitting Council members at the time the pros and cons of each one of the options. Among the "pros" listed under the option of selling the power plant, Hersey pointed out that the sale would:

- Provide large, one-time cash flow to the City of Vero Beach
- Ability to reduce costs to customers
- Reduce operating costs
- Possible franchise fee

On the "cons" side, Hersey listed:

- Loss of annual contribution to general fund

- Longer reaction time after storms, power outages
- Possible loss of jobs for city workers
- Shared City of Vero Beach information technology system would need to be separated

Even after seeing the potential benefits to the city and to customers, City Manager Jim Gabbard asserted that there was still no impetus from the City Council to commission the study.

"There was really no interest on the City Council and, knowing how much

it would cost to study the options, it was premature because there was no interest in selling, we didn't want to go that route and spend that kind of money if there was no interest in selling."

Then Council Member Solari remembers things a little bit differently. Solari said he distinctly remembers asking Hersey if the city could find out the value of the power plant.

"She told me that the only way to find out how the power plant was worth was to put it on the market," Solari said. "In any industry, you don't

have to put an asset on the market to get a value."

Wilson said he feels that the information was kept from the City Council on purpose, to preserve the jobs of city workers and to ensure that the city's cash cow would continue to provide the estimated \$8 million in steady income to the General Fund for the foreseeable future.

"I think we suffer from selective disclosure," he said. "I'm sure there was no interest because the comparative good was never disclosed to the City Council."

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Sandmine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for years that his company could do these beach jobs for a better price.

“Doc” Fischer tried to get in on the bidding for these beach jobs years ago, but the political climate on the Indian River County Commission, led by Chairwoman Fran Adams, was not receptive to the idea of tens of thousands of dump trucks hauling upland sand onto the beaches.

But politicians come and go, and — with a little help — officials more amenable to sand miners’ needs have been elected.

This spring, commissioners voted to give local sand miners a chance to bid on such projects. On Sept. 8, Ranger Construction was chosen to do the project for \$7.2 million using material from three local sand mines.

Original estimates using offshore sand were \$19.7 million and the county was short about \$6.5 million. By allowing the upland miners into the process, the county saved money although no one knows what the impact will be of 15,000 dump trucks carrying sand up and down A1A for several months.

The downside of turning to the sand mines is that regulators will only allow sand to be placed on the south half of



Pete Summerlin and Jimmy Thomas climb out to the end of the dredge to remove a large rock from the teeth of cutter head at the Ranch Road Lake Sandmine. Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

the project this season, with the north half to be done next year if it turns out

that nesting sea turtles like the upland sand.

When the permitting schedule looked precarious a few weeks ago, it was time for political pressure. Fischer — who makes his private plane available during election season to the Florida Republican Party to fly candidates around the state — admits calling Rep. Ralph Poppell to remind him of the doors that could be opened to Florida companies if and when this project got its permits.

“Sure I called Ralph, this kind of thing is his job, keeping these contracts and these jobs in Florida,” Fischer said. “That’s what our representatives are up there to do, to build the local economy. He understands why this is important.”

Fischer said sand from his mine

has been shoring up buildings on the barrier island for years and it has performed well and protected millions of dollars worth of property from falling into the ocean.

“That’s our sand under the Ocean Grill, we’ve been putting sand out there at those pilings for a long time, the Ocean Grill wouldn’t be there if it wasn’t for upland sand,” he said.

Sand mines - deep pits, deep pockets

The average person doesn’t think of Indian River County as a place where mining occurs, but sand mining is a little bit different.

Plots of land are first strip-mined for the fill dirt needed to stabilize road projects and parking lots and to raise homes in flood-prone areas. That kind

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of dirt makes up about the top 12 to 14 feet of material under the surface.

Beneath that is basically beach sand, a mix of sand and shell that, when properly washed and filtered, comes pretty close to what you walk on at the beach.

Sometimes these mines are dedicated mines and other times they are future real estate developments acting as sand mines. We have both kinds participating in the island renourishment project.

All told, about 472,000 cubic yards

of sand will be placed on the beaches from these mines over a two-year period.

The upcoming beach project, while touted as crucial to the local economy, is a matter of survival for the sand mine owners. With the dearth of new

construction drastically reducing the need for fill dirt and road aggregate, the sand miners are banking — and betting big — that this and future beach renourishment projects will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Sandmine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

bolster their business.

"If we don't do this project, we'll be out of the beach sand business," said Stephen Smith, co-owner of Ranch Road Lake LLC.

Ranch Road Lake LLC owns a mine on 82nd Avenue which will be providing the more coarse sand for the flat part of the beach. The dredge at Ranch Road Lake costs \$40,000 per month to operate and, based on the promise that they're getting the work, Smith has been running the dredge for months, processing sand for our beaches.

"You can't mine the fill dirt that we have on top and the beach sand at the same time," Smith said. "So we've had to choose to devote our operation to the beach sand and nothing else."

The co-owners of this property are real estate developers-turned miners. They plan on building luxury homes on the property someday. Meanwhile, the sand dredged from the property is forming the community's lake.

Owners Stephen Smith and Douglas Hazel are also partners in Quail Ridge LLC, which owns and is developing a plat of land adjacent to the Quail Valley Golf Course on 69th Avenue.

Smith is a long-time barrier island resident who recently moved west of town, and a St. Edward's dad. Hazel is a barrier island resident — when he's not running his businesses in Washington, Mo. — and currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Marine Bank and Trust.

Through Ranch Road Lake, Quail Ridge and Hazel's Missouri investment and agricultural companies, one of which is called Good Luck LLC, the owners of this sand mine contribute thousands of dollars per election cycle to local and state candidates.

In the last round of county commission races, the Ranch Road Lakes sand mine backed Wesley Davis, who won and now chairs the commission, with \$3,000 from the various entities owned by Hazel and Smith, including \$500 from "Good Luck LLC," which shows up frequently on lists of contributors to political campaigns.

Bob Solari listed a \$500 donation on Sept. 6, 2008 from Quail Ridge LLC, whose office is in his district in the Transocean Office Center on the corner of East Causeway Boulevard and S.R. A1A.

The Ranch Road folks also backed Sebastian City Councilman Jim Hill (\$500) and Tom Lowther (\$1,500) in their bids for county commission, though they lost to Joe Flescher and Peter O'Bryan, respectively. Ranch Road Lake and its various Doug Hazel entities have contributed \$4,500 to the Common Ground PAC, which was

formed to counter the anti-growth efforts of the Indian River Neighborhood Association.

Fischer contributed \$500 to Davis and \$250 to Solari. Fisher also gave \$500 each to failed candidates Jim Hill and Tom Lowther. Henry Fischer & Sons has contributed \$500 to Common Ground.

Reports of commissioners Gary Wheeler, O'Bryan and Flescher showed no contributions from sand mine interests.

"The commissioners in office now are doing a great job," Fischer said. "I regret not supporting the other ones last time."

Whenever decisions came before the dais on the sand project, Davis recused himself because his brother, Brian Davis, owns a sand mine and was involved in the bidding. However, Davis was a vocal supporter behind the scenes of including upland sand in the bid, and he encouraged sand miners to get into the act.

"If I had voted, I wouldn't have done anything differently than what was done," Davis said about the commission's choice of bidders on the job.

Davis said he's been listening to sand miners' concerns about the future of their business since the 2007 battle over the mining moratorium and Fischer has been a staunch supporter of Davis since he was on the School Board prior to becoming a commissioner.

Moorings resident Nick Stewart owns Nick Stewart Mining, a long-established company with its mine located in St. Lucie County which will provide the balance of the sand for the replenishment project.

Stewart has spoken at a few meetings, but has not been as up-front with his advocacy of pushing upland sand on the county. Records show he has not made any major political contributions to local candidates.

According to Smith of the Ranch Road Lake mine, Fischer's two biggest contributions to the effort have been giving his top manager Chuck Kramer the time off the job site to become what amounts to a full-time lobbyist for the sand mines, and by getting the various mine interests to work together to influence the commissioners and members of the Beaches and Shores Preservation Advisory Committee.

Over the past few years, Kramer has knocked on doors at the county, meeting with staffers and commissioners and letting them know that the sand miners were not going away quietly. Kramer said he's confident that the upland sand will prove more than adequate for the job. He hasn't enjoyed all the meetings and the lobbying, and is looking forward to working on the project very soon.

"This is not what I do, I dig in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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Sandmine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

dirt for a living every day," Kramer said. "But I know our sand is the best sand and we've had to prove it, the commissioners did not take our word for it, they made us do the hard work of proving it to them that we could do the job."

Kramer agreed with his boss that upland sand has served the barrier island well.

"Every house out there on the ocean is sitting on sand from a sand mine that was brought in during construction," Kramer said.



Stephen Smith holds out a handful of freshly dredged sand.

Florida: Paved with Ranger Construction projects

Ranger Construction will be employing these three sand mine sub-contractors to provide the material for the project, but Ranger is top dog as the general contractor.

Thought of as a "local" company, Ranger is actually part of the behemoth Vecellio Group of companies, a multi-state consortium of road and bridge contractors.

"Ranger's operations include one of the largest excavation, grading and asphalt equipment fleets in the state. We own and operate seven asphalt plants strategically located throughout our market areas, which extend from the greater Orlando area through Daytona and south through the Florida Keys," the website states.

In addition to a reputation for getting jobs done on time and under budget, Ranger and owner Leo Vecellio help contribute significant sums of money to political campaigns throughout the state.

On top of the contributions made to local officials by the sand miners, Vecellio owners have also added to the campaign funds of Florida state legislative officials – the same officials the county is banking on to grease the wheels of a massive permitting bureaucracy to get the project through.

Though pricey beach renourishment projects would be a drop in the bucket in terms of revenue for Ranger, should the tide turn and more municipalities begin using upland sand, it would open up a whole new market.

Bidding this initial project with Indian River County at only \$7.2 million to get the job could mean big bucks down the road, as Ranger has tentacles just about everywhere that Florida has beaches.

Bob Schafer, vice president of the local Ranger division, did not deny that Ranger has a great deal of clout with Florida's elected officials and he doesn't apologize for the fact that his company is the leader in getting public works projects around the state.

If putting Ranger's reputation on the line helps achieve a sea change in provision of sand to future beach renourishment projects in Florida, and brings more than 100 jobs to Indian River County, that's a good thing, he argues.

"It's not only good for business, it's good for the state to keep this money and these jobs local," Schafer said.

Schafer said he did not feel the need to call in any of Ranger's political chips to get this contract.

"I don't think it's right to go over peoples' heads like that and I didn't need to," he said. "But they all know who we are, and if the county would have asked me to do anything to help get the permitting through, I definitely would have made the calls."



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Land Trust fundraiser a feast for the senses

BY SAMANTHA BAITA
COLUMNIST

A clear, chilly night. A giant, boogly-eyed tree frog. A solo violinist matching the crisp air with his bracing melodies. Beguiling bird, bug, amphibian and butterfly creatures offering greetings. A multitude of tiny white lights dressing the amazing dreamscape. A winding cobblestone path leading through an other-worldly garden to bright oases of food and drink.

or refurbish their garden landscape, but often just to spend a few hours wandering through the botanical wonder Tom and Rhonda Lowe have created. In daylight, it is always a feast for the senses and the soul. But at night, it is transformed into a magical place. Tom and Rhonda offered this treasure to the Land Trust for its Nov. 12 event and more perfect

a spot to promote and celebrate the Trust's purpose, accomplishments and goals cannot be imagined (Only McKee Botanical Gardens can compare).

This year's event celebrates the Lagoon Greenway Initiative being spearheaded by the Indian River Land Trust, with construction scheduled to begin next year. "We're ex-

cited," said Ken Grudens, the Trust's executive director, talking with Peter Moor, vice chairman of the board. "The agreement signed last week with Indian River County will help us move forward. We are forging ahead on the design and engineering."

The planned greenway will begin just south of the 17th Street Bridge

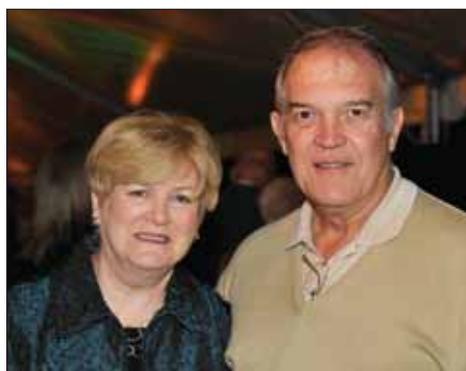
CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Bob Solari, Rusty Banack



John and Debbie Huryn



Sherry and Gene Waddell

With these sensory treats to welcome guests, the Indian River Land Trust's annual fundraiser - Land Water Wildlife: Along the Greenway Trail — promised to be an amazing, memorable and festive evening. And it was. It was.

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People



The grounds at Rock City Gardens

Photos: Mark Schumann

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

and extend along the coast of the Indian River Lagoon: over three miles of elevated boardwalks, trails, picnic areas and observation stations. It will be free and open to the public — not only a recreational opportunity but also an important educational resource.

On this night, Rock City Gardens

had been transformed into a mini-greenway, with three event pavilions representing the Trust's three elements - Land Water Wildlife. Guests were directed through the event along the winding, softly lighted path by a series of signs much like those that will be found along the Lagoon Greenway trails.

As if the event committee had special-ordered the weather, the tem-



Matthew and Vicky Pittman, David and Suzy Osgood

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perature had dipped into the jacket zone, and guests became part of the decoration. Women wore beautiful layers — elegant sweaters, shawls, ponchos, long skirts, boots, wonderful accessories — and the men in suits, jackets, colorful vests and sweaters, everyone relishing the opportunity to pull their cool weather adornment, at last, out of the back of the closet.

Boots Thrower is a Trust Advisor (training to learn all aspects of the organization before progressing on to the board). She brings valuable knowledge and experience to the table - 27 years with the Nature Conservancy and a world traveler's appreciation and concern for the natural world.

She grew up close to the soil, on a North Carolina farm. Conservation was not a "cause" back then, simply a way of life. Boots has worked with the Trust for about a year now and says, "I am delighted to be working with the community. This is the best, most necessary cause." Of the many places on the globe she has visited, Antarctica has moved her the most.

"It is the Earth in its absolute purity."

Along the path, a special display featured a large photograph of a smiling lady.

This is the late Carol Ordway Webb, long time Land Trust supporter, board member and "dear friend." The evening's event was in her memory, honoring her "endless creativity, optimism, enthusiasm and spot-on good judgment." Surrounding the portrait were small terra cotta flower pots from which peeped a cluster of colorful papier mache birds and animals created by Kathy Fornabio's 5th grade art students at Pelican Island Elementary.

By the side of the trail sat a large tree frog, looking cute as only a tree frog can. Throughout the evening, guests would approach to offer a kiss, amidst laughter and "frog-kissing" comments by spouses. Fred Knier gave the frog a smooch and said, "Yep, I kissed the frog. My wife, Paula, is a Land Trust board member. She does the work and I kiss the frogs."

Tom Lowe, venue sponsor and a

People



Rene and Alice Donars

opportunity to interface with a skunk and come away smiling.

The three pavilions offered open bars, locally grown produce featured in beautiful buffets, and plentiful seating throughout.

The Land Pavilion featured a row of canopy tents under which farmers and growers displayed their bounty: fresh eggs, baskets heaped with organic vegetables, tempting citrus fruits and juices.

Louis Schacht represents the current generation of a local citrus fam-

ily (grandfather Henry H. and father Henry F.) and is a Land Trust board member.

For those in today's citrus industry, there can be mixed feelings - sadness for the loss of the acre upon acre of family-owned groves that once defined Indian River County and are now only memory; and hope for the future, through initiatives such as the Land Trust.

With encroaching development over the past 40 years, citrus acreage has dramatically decreased.

Only about 45,000 acres are left, and, through consolidation only a few of the once numerous family-owned groves remain.

"There is a real need for a force outside the government for conservation, both agricultural and environmental," Louis said.

Nancy Heinrich and Arleen Alter were among the evening's volunteers. Nancy is an epidemiologist with a passion for land conservation. "That is the very reason so many of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Bobbi and Kevin Streetman



Keith Phelan

Trust Advisor, sported a tree frog tie, passing among the guests to ensure that everyone was having a great time. Everyone was. Well known on the county's social scene, the Lowes have headed and served on numerous boards and committees over the years, including being instrumental in acquiring the land that is now McKee Botanical Gardens (created when the Land Trust purchased the property in 1995).

Along the event trail, guests came upon some special partygoers: Busch Wildlife Sanctuary had brought an assortment of birds and animals, with handlers who related the fascinating stories of each one's rescue. Tom shared his delight in cuddling a fluffy skunk - an obviously unusual

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People



Stephanie Smith, Ital Veron, Char Higgins



Anita Durham, Jamie Wynn, Tanja McGuire, Riley Maxwell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

us choose to live in Indian River County," she said. "We have the gift of a tropical paradise few people have and we cannot take it for granted. We must actively protect it."

Nancy works with the organization Growing Healthy Kids, and believes it is vital, both for children and for the planet, to "get kids reengaged with nature."

County Commissioner Bob Solari and wife Jackie stood talking with Rene and Alice Donars and David and Suzy Osgood. Bob praises the Greenway project as "a great public-private partnership."

Indian River County has lots of conservation areas that practically

scream for greenways, and this addresses that need and will set the stage for future greenway projects," such as the railroad right-of-way stretch between Fellsmere and Sebastian.

Board member Grant Withers and friend Wendy Eckert also champion the cause, Grant having served in a similar capacity with the Aspetuck Land Trust in Fairfield County, Conn. Grant calls the organization "very, very active."

"There is a real opportunity here," he says. "There's a great initiative with the greenway south of the 17th street bridge as well as a couple of others (initiatives) coming soon I can't talk about just yet."

Angel LaVine, her brother Ken



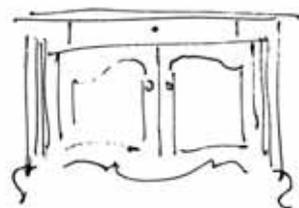
Jody Old, Britain Hogan, Randy Old

and her friend, Linda Johnson, longtime supporters, spoke enthusias-

tically about the evening's cause. "Oh, we're all about the Land Trust. Why wouldn't anyone support it?" said Angel, matter-of-factly. "We are definitely patrons." Linda's husband, John G. Johnson, serves on the Land Trust board.

As the evening progressed and the temperature crept downward, guests warmed themselves around the lustily burning logs of a large fire pit. Around 9 p.m., five dancers dressed as green-and-black caterpillars appeared on the path, surrounding a voluptuous, weirdly regal, green-and-purple creature. Crowds gathered as this curious entourage moved to a spot in front of the large buffet tent. The "queen" was lifted onto a tiny stage as the loudspeaker came alive to introduce the New Century Dance Company, a Miami-based troupe.

At last, the wonderful party wound toward its end. Guests drifted along the pathways to the exits and the garden was left to the night. The Indian River Land Trust had given its loyal supporters a memorable evening and, in return, had received encouragement and resources to press forward in its mission: to help retain and protect the character that makes this county unique.



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'Red Carpet Evening' benefits Homeless Family Center

BY MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

Everyone loves a good mystery, especially when combined with a good cause, as evidenced by the sold-out crowd at Monday night's Opening Night Red Carpet Evening to benefit the Homeless Family Center.

Carroll and Suzanne Bolinger entering into the movie premier on the arm of Antonio Bandaras, aka Tom Nelson. The intrigue surrounding the murder of a Tinseltown agent was solved by engaging the audience, which obtained clues by asking questions. Bill Cairns was the grand prize winner (a gigantic magnifying glass to help solve his next mystery), randomly chosen

An estimated \$50,000 was raised by the event, funds that will enable the HFC to assist homeless families by giving them the tools to achieve self-sufficiency.

The Homeless Family Center provides educational job training classes and other tools to help in the search for wage-paying jobs, with the ultimate goal of families moving into

their own homes and becoming self-sufficient members of the community. A United Way agency, the Homeless Family Center was the recipient of the 2009 Agency Excellence Award.

The event's corporate sponsor was the George E. Warren Corporation and the hard-working event committee was co-chaired by Liz Mayo and Carol Durrant.



Liz Mayo, Jeremy, and Betty Bishop

Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.



Carol Durrant with Bob and Sandy Johnson

Supporters were entertained at the Quail Valley River Club with an evening that began with cocktails and a silent auction and ended with a classic who-done-it.

Volunteer 'ushers' guided guests into the beautifully decorated dining room for a gourmet dinner prepared by Chef Joe Faria, combined with a Sleuths Mystery Dinner Show from Orlando.

The golden age of Hollywood came to Vero, complete with starlets Tracy

from among those who guessed that the director was the evil-doer. The other correct guessers didn't go home empty handed though - they all received smaller magnifying glasses.

On a more serious note, John Moore spoke eloquently about his and wife Lee's commitment to assisting those less fortunate and the critical need for community's support. Guests donated generously in response to his request for them to give from the heart.

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People

Italy's flavors come to Riverside Theatre's Friends Luncheon

BY MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

The Riverside Theatre Friends Luncheon broke with tradition this year to give guests A Taste of Italy with The Singing Chef, Andy LoRusso. This is the first time in its history that the annual event has not featured a fashion show. According to Anna Bain Slater who co-chaired the event with Mary Ellen Brophy, they wanted to offer something completely different — and they did. Grand sponsors for the event were the Lillian and Richard Becker Foundation, courtesy of Barbara Hurley, and California Closets.

Guests at the sold-out event were handed sumptuous Bellinis to sip on as they entered the Theatre, and had an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets in hopes of winning an Italian fantasy vacation, donated by Destinations Travel, a gorgeous 18-K gold-and-diamond bracelet, donated by Le Classique Jewelers, and a gift basket with a \$750 gift certificate donated by California Closets.

The theater lobby and Waxlax Stage area were colorfully decorated in traditional Italian red, green and white tablecloths, with a stage area set up between the two for the cooking demonstration. Chef LoRusso was assisted by Chef Scott Varrichio, whose new



Chef Andy LoRusso, Chef Scott Varrichio Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.



Judy Schneebeck, Barbara Hurley, Nancy Johnson and Shirley Pruitt

beachside restaurant, Citrus Grill-house is expected to open in January.

As Chef LoRusso engaged the crowd, serenading them with songs and dem-



Sharon Silverthorn, Tracy Ginmarino, Dawn Huet, Adriana Gammiero and Tim Greener



Chef Andy LoRusso prepares to the start the show.

onstrating with theatrical culinary skills, guests were served the same Italian dishes. And, so that they could recreate the experience at home, the

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luncheon program included recipe cards for each of the delectable dishes.

The feast consisted of bruschetta with gorgonzola, roasted red peppers and kalamata olives, sweet fennel and orange salad with walnuts, a chicken scaloppini, mascarpone cheese polenta, and a ricotta cheese cake.

A first-time Vero visitor, LoRusso said he was having a wonderful time, visiting with friends he hadn't seen in years. "It reminds me of Santa Barbara where I live. It's the same type of close-knit community with friendly people."

Education Foundation: Rags to Riches at the Moorings

BY MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

Fancy dress met fancy sneakers at the Education Foundation of Indian River County Rags to Riches event at the Moorings Saturday night. The dichotomy brought back memories of New York City during a transit strike as guests happily took a stand for education, while wearing comfy yet creative footwear.



Guests were encouraged to wear sneakers with their cocktail attire.



John Taylor rolls the dice at one of the craps tables.

Teachers demonstrated the hand-held technology recently purchased for the Sebastian River Elementary School, through a grant obtained by the Foundation.

Adriana Olaya, a student at Gifford Middle School, was on hand, proudly displaying the First Place and Grand Prize Awards she received at the 54th State Science and Engineering Fair for her microbiology science project.



Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Although a few holdouts sported stylish heels, many of the ladies thoroughly enjoyed the idea of making their fashion statements from a position of comfort. Guests were greeted at the entrance by board president Sue Tompkins and a bevy of beauties sporting cocktail dresses and fancifully laced, colorful sneakers. An elegant Lee Moore, attired in classic black cocktail dress and cherry red shawl, completed her outfit with zebra striped socks and high-tops adorned with photos of her boys, Jack and Connor. And new board member Pat Donovan was doing more than showing off a shapely ankle – she had Education Foundation spelled out in little beads laced into her glittery silver sneakers.

The Rags to Riches theme, based on the concept that through education people can go from rags to riches, opted for an added sneaker kick in honor of the Foundation's Sneaker Exchange.

Ann Thorpe a board member and event co-chair, noted that 2,200 children received shoes last year through the sneaker exchange and the demand has increased this year by a dramatic 25 percent. Children, identified by Indian River County school staff, are either taken to or given vouchers for new sneakers from Payless Shoes. His voice at times choking with emotion, Board Member Bill Furr remarked on the devastatingly poor condition of some of the children's footwear.

"A child came in last week with the worst I've seen," added Thorpe. "Someone had cut holes at the top of the shoe to make room for his toes."

The Foundation's other core programs were also on display at the event.



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Incoming Tide

Pan Huali: A student of her pupils

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

The electric kettle of water that Pan Huali keeps in a corner of her St. Edward's Upper School classroom is not necessarily for tea, though she may drop in a teabag from time to time. Mostly, though, she is warming the wa-

ter to drink plain, and hot: drinking hot water is the custom in China, where she is from.

The kettle is a constant draw for one particular St. Edward's student — Heshuang Liang, or Shuang-shuang as the kids call her, who arrived two years ago — like Pan, without her family — to study at St. Ed's. She too likes a cup between classes.

As student and teacher share their hot water, the rest of the students filing in and out of Pan's classroom benefit as well. In this week's *Incoming Tides*, we look at story of another newcomer changing the face of the barrier island — if only for the school year.

St. Edward's students are no longer surprised when Pan Huali pours herself a piping hot cup of water, and sips it as if it were restorative and refreshing. After seven years of exchange teachers from China, they are familiar with the preference, common in China, for hot water over cold.

Accepting such an insignificant difference may not seem like much. But over the course of a year, a teacher's impact on her students becomes almost familial, habits and idiosyncracies meshing more over time, not unlike new roommates adapting to each other. While Pan's hot water cup sits on her desk when class resumes, two American girls, five feet apart, toss a single water bottle from one to

the other and take a swig — and who knows what the Chinese might think of that custom.

Indeed, Pan is as much a student as her St. Ed's pupils: as they learn Chinese from her, she is learning English from all of them.

In Vero Beach for the 2009-2010 school year, Pan is part of a teacher exchange program by the non-profit National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, or NCUSCR. The program is funded by the Freeman Foundation, the legacy of the late Mansfield Freeman, a co-founder of the insurance and financial giant AIG, and himself a scholar of Chinese philosophy.

Each year, along with sponsoring public policy discussions and exchange students, the group sends Chinese teachers to U.S. secondary schools to teach Chinese, and American teachers to China to teach English, including in Pan's hometown of Suzhou, an ancient city of about a million people an hour outside of Shanghai.

Since the program began in 1996,



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Incoming Tide

more than 300 teachers have come from China to teach in American schools, and more than 100 American teachers have gone to China to teach for a year.

This is the seventh year that St. Edward's has participated in the program. The strong Chinese language program, reinforced with a summer-guided trip to China organized by teacher Terry Mitchell, has become a signature of the school.

The trips, known for their affordability and excellent accommodations, are open not only to St. Ed's families, but the community at large.

Pan, an English teacher in grades seven through nine in Suzhou, faced stiff competition for the honor of coming to the U.S. to teach.

Each year, participating schools in a number of China provinces nominate one teacher, and a delegate from NC-USCR selects from among those. This year, only 10 Chinese teachers were chosen.

The honor – and the visa that goes with it – had its price: it meant Pan had to leave behind her husband and a 4-year-old son for the duration of the school year.

Fortunately, her mother was able to move in to care for her family in her absence.

To prepare for the switch, Pan underwent a week-long orientation program in Shanghai given by Chinese teachers who had previously participated in the exchange program. They were coached in how to teach Chinese culture to Americans, and how to keep American kids engaged.

"Maybe the classes in China are more serious than in America," Pan says.

Among the suggestions: to organize more activities, to keep students interested. "If I always teach in the same way the student will feel bored or sleepy," she says.

She was also told to forego a common gesture in Chinese schools: the



Hauli Pan answers a question for ninth-grader Sam Moore during her Chinese class at St. Edward's School. Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

pat on the back, or shoulder, to be specific. In China, the gesture can mean "Good job," and it can be a way of waking up an absent-minded student, Pan says. "It's very normal."

But in orientation she was told, in America "you can't touch any student."

Five minutes in her classroom points out the absurdity of that request. The diminutive Pan moves confidently through aisles of students twice her size, all riveted to her lesson that involves flash cards, vocabulary study and pairing off to drill.

In one of her sections last week, a second-year honors class, Pan's style was fast-paced, engaging and energetic.

Arms shot up enthusiastically over the heads of students apparently enjoying the drill, despite the complex set of characters that had to be recognized by sight and forming sounds that don't exist in English for the scrutiny of their fellow classmates.

Pan explained idiomatic usage related to cultural differences – the giving of a compliment, for example, that

instead of eliciting a "thank-you" as it might to English speakers, instead is answered with a denial, often with "Nali, nali" literally "Where?", as in "Where in the world did you get such an idea?"

The diligence of the St. Ed's students took Pan by surprise, she says. "The students really want to learn Chinese," she says. "That surprised me the most."

In China, we have some wrong impressions about American education. We think students here spend a lot of time playing football and playing music and they don't spend a lot of time learning. But I see a lot of students working really hard."

It is the first time Pan, 32, has ever been abroad. So far, apart from the Atlanta airport where she changed planes, Vero Beach is the only town she has seen.

Right away, it seemed to be lacking what she had thought was an essential ingredient in American cities: high rises.

"Before I came, I thought there were a lot of high buildings in every city, but it is seldom you see them here."

Living in an apartment on the middle school campus, Pan talks to her family daily using Skype. She has a TV and a bike, but no car.

When school lets out for summer, she is hoping her husband can fly over and travel with her in the month of July.

Meanwhile, she is headed for Orlando shortly, and says she'll "of course" stop at Disney World. There she'll do some shopping for her son's birthday. "Mickey Mouse is his favorite," she says.

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Arts/Theatre

Cantor's voice rises in song at Vero Beach synagogue

BY MICHELL GENZ
STAFF WRITER

When the congregation of Temple Beth Shalom sees the first candle of Hanukkah lit on the evening of Dec. 11, the deep sense of family the ritual inspires will be enriched by the voice of a new member: Jennifer Werby, the first cantor in the 30-year history of the temple.

It hasn't taken long for Werby to settle in. One week into the job, as she is adding the final flourishes to an article for the temple newsletter, her toy terrier Loulou is scurrying around her desk, a guitar lies on the floor, and the banter with Rabbi Michael Birnholz has the tone of old chums.

Werby assumes the role as ordained clergy, functioning not only as a musical prayer leader for the congregation, but as an adjunct to the rabbi. She will be helping with the synagogue's religious education program which now involves nearly 100 children, including providing some of them with the extensive instruction required for the bar or bat mitzvah ceremony. She will also help older kids prepare for a lesser known rite of religious passage, the confir-



Jennifer Werby, the new cantor at Beth Shalom Temple, leads the gathered in song before Shabbat dinner.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

mation, which takes place at age 16. There was a time when Jewish kids

in Vero Beach had to travel to Miami for that instruction – attorney Sam

Block for example, whose parents founded Vero's first synagogue, had to do just that.

Now, with the addition of the cantor, a paid professional role, the stature as well as the staff of the temple expands. In addition to Werby, Temple Beth Shalom has also just hired a part-time educator. "The temple is at kind of a crossroads," Werby says.

"It's a huge milestone for the temple," says Temple President Mike Swatt. "It's going to add a wonderful new dimension. Before now, we had a bunch of bad voices singing together."

Having beautiful music added to services could be a draw to the congregation, Swatt says.

"It might get people to consider being more actively involved," says Swatt, who moved to Vero's barrier island seven years ago from Boca Raton. "There are many Jewish people in the county who are not members of the temple for a variety of reasons. We want people from outside the existing temple to learn about it."

Swatt was involved in the hiring process along with Temple Secretary Heidi Rose, who along with husband Marc was instrumental in bringing Rabbi Birnholz to the temple seven years ago. The cantor hiring effort

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



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Arts/Theatre

Film teacher finds second career at Vero Beach museum

L. L. ANGELL
COLUMNIST

This season marks the start of the second decade that Warren Obluck has taught film studies at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Taking his customary place on the stage of the Leonhardt Auditorium last Tuesday, the retired career foreign service officer and cultural attaché spoke with authority as he piqued the intellectual curiosity of his audience, as he inevitably does.

The subject, as provocative as any he has taught, was women. Addressing an audience of about 250 film lovers, he was introducing the night's foreign film, one of five in his current course, Trends in International Cinema: Feminine Mystiques.

Just how the intrepid Obluck came out of retirement in Rome in 1996 to reinvent himself as a connoisseur of film is worthy of a short film in itself. He had retired as cultural attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Rome while his wife, Carol Ludwig, also a senior for-



Warren Obluck, film instructor at the Vero Beach Museum of Art

Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

ign service officer, stepped into his job for its last two years.

"I used to read the (*International Herald Tribune*) and order cappuccino in a different piazza every morning," reminisces Obluck fondly. "Having dinner ready whenever Carol got home was a small price to pay."

But when Obluck learned that an aunt living in Vero Beach was critically ill, he left Rome to care for her during the last year of her life.

It was a somber introduction to Vero Beach. Fortunately for the area's film lovers, though, Obluck and Ludwig decided to stay and Obluck discovered the Vero Beach Museum of Art and its ongoing film studies. With his abiding interest in movies, it was an easy decision for Obluck to embrace a second career.

His film courses draw devotees from as far away as Cocoa and Stuart though most participants live in Vero and it was easy to see from the way people hurried to greet one another, that many are old friends. But once Obluck began to speak, the audience was ready to listen.

"These five different films all look at how women are confronting life in the 21st century," Obluck began. "Women want what we all want. Security, love, personal autonomy, fulfillment that doesn't depend on anyone else. What obstacles do they face?"

Last year, there were 1,937 enrollees in the film courses the museum offers from October through March. Each course has a unifying theme and last five weeks. A different film is shown each Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. and again at

7 p.m. Participants must enroll for the full course.

What makes this particular course such a hit every year? First, there are the films themselves. Obluck is very painstaking in his selections. Then there's the man with his unique combination of worldly sophistication, empathy and expertise. The qualities that made him so successful at interpreting American culture for non-Americans all over the world for 30 years make him the perfect interpreter of foreign films for residents of Vero Beach today.

Consider his current class. In essence, the five movies all address the question that Betty Friedan raised nearly 50 years ago when she famously asked why American women had retreated to the "comfortable concentration camps" of their suburban living rooms.

In his course syllabus, Obluck writes that Friedan wondered why the percentage of women attending college in comparison with men dropped from 47 percent in 1920 to 35 percent in 1958.

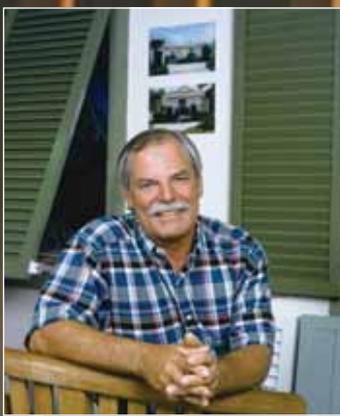
"A century earlier," Friedan wrote, "women had fought for higher education; now girls went to college to get a husband." In Friedan's observation women were in thrall to the idea that "the highest value and the only commitment for women is the fulfillment of their own femininity," in other words, the feminine mystique. Obluck says that he chose the title *Feminine Mystique* to honor Friedan's insight. Her observation may be no less relevant today than it was in 1963.

Each of the five films touches either fictionally or biographically on a situation that stands in the way of a female protagonist achieving her full potential as a human being.

To find the perfect five movies for *Feminine Mystique*, Obluck watched more than thirty different films.

He looks for films that work well together. For example, "Happy-go-Lucky," a 2008 British movie directed by Mike Leigh is the focus of the Nov. 24 class. It stars award-winning actress Sally Haskins as a cheery schoolteacher in the north of England. Her perpetual optimism exasperates her friends. This is followed on Dec. 1 by another British movie, "Housewife, 49" directed by Gavin Millar in 2006. Set in Lancashire at the start of World War II, Nella Last begins writing a diary as part of a public project. She is 49 and afraid she can't cope with her

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Arts/Theatre

son's enlistment and life alone with her domineering husband.

Obluck describes the acclaimed drama as recounting not only Nella's "experience of wartime privations, but also her dawning sense of independence."

"Happy-Go-Lucky" depicts a young woman living a genuinely happier life than the woman in "Housewife, 49." But both women want something more meaningful from their lives.

Says Obluck: "As a group, the films track the stages of a life, from childhood to old age, touching on issues that are not merely personal but universal."

Thus, the first movie, "Treeless Mountain," tells the story of two young girls moving from Seoul, South Korea, to the countryside. Obluck's final selection, the Spanish film "Elsa and Fred," Dec. 8, tells the story of a couple in their late 70's, who fall in love and believe in living to the hilt.

The reach of Obluck's own life may not have stretched from Korea to Spain but it has been an interesting geographical zig-zag. Born in Milwaukee where he lived as a small child, he moved to Miami with his parents in search of the sun. Eventually the family settled in Los Angeles where Obluck graduated from the University of Southern California. Next, he crossed the country to get his Masters in the Pulitzer School of Journalism at Columbia University in New York City.

Upon graduation in 1959, Obluck returned to Los Angeles to discover that the Los Angeles Herald Express had, in Obluck's words, "just imploded."

"Everybody from the Herald was out on the street looking for newspaper work," recalls Obluck. "So I did what no self-respecting Columbia graduate would do. I took a job in PR."

That initial PR job morphed into work for the United States Information Agency, an organization that would be later absorbed by the State Department under Bill Clinton. It was in this capacity, that Obluck became a foreign-service officer.

Over the course of the next 30 years, Obluck would serve extended tours of duty in Venezuela, Mexico, Japan, the Philippines, Washington D.C., and Italy. He served as the cultural attaché to the U.S. embassies in Manila, Tokyo, and Rome.

In 1974, while posted in Tokyo, Obluck met his wife, Carol Ludwig, also a foreign service officer, in the U.S. Embassy's commissary there.

Perhaps the most important part of his work at each embassy was in building relationships with university students, helping them gain a more nuanced understanding of the U.S. than

the one imparted by popular movies, television sitcoms and rock and roll. According to Obluck, that meant being a generalist, not a specialist.

"Although we did organize film and video festivals our work demanded that we be generalists," says Obluck. "We had to be able to work not only with filmmakers but with artists and performers of every kind and with academics in all the social sciences and education."

There were a few distinctly cinematic moments along the way. On Obluck's

second tour in Japan in 1984, Robert Redford came with the Sundance Institute to help the Japanese develop an independent film series.

"He was very easy to talk to," Obluck recalls. "I took him museum-hopping. Some of the museums were closed on the days we visited and they opened them for us. Redford bought art from contemporary Japanese artists as a way of expressing his appreciation."

Obluck estimates between 1750 and 2000 films are produced worldwide every year, including those from Asia,

Africa, Russia, the Middle East and South America as well as the U.S. and Europe. In 2008, 610 movies made in the U.S. alone were released to the general public.

To find just the right mix of movies for a particular course, Obluck may watch more than 30 different ones. For the first course of the season, a Peter Lorre retrospective, Obluck watched 20.

Obluck's next film course, Trends in International Cinema: Relationships, is scheduled to begin Jan. 12.

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Arts/Theatre

My Vero



Rabbi Michael Birnholz and new cantor Jennifer Werby recite the Kiddush prior to Shabbat dinner at Beth Shalom Temple.

Cantor's voice rises in song

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

including raising funds first, then soliciting recorded music from different cantors interested in the position.

"When Cantor Werby came in for her first interview, she brought her guitar and sang for us as part of the interview," says Swatt. "It was obvious right from the start that her voice was very, very appealing. As we've gotten to know her better, we're seeing more and more the bright spots in her talents as well as in her background."

Rabbi Birnholz, who has taken a lot of ribbing for a voice that "is not his strong suit," as Swat puts it, says he's excited to have Werby add to her musical duties the teaching of Jewish culture as well as interfaith and outreach experiences.

A graduate of Indiana University's renowned school of music, Werby holds a master's degree in sacred music from Hebrew Union College, where she was invested as a cantor in 1995.

It is a dramatic shift for a girl whose start in music as a 4-year-old was "belting out torch songs while Dad played the piano."

Werby, 41, was raised in upstate New York, daughter of an advertising executive and a mom who worked first as a teacher then as volunteer coordinator for a vast home for the developmentally challenged.

The family was "totally secular" says Werby. "I was so secular I didn't even know what keeping kosher meant."

Her family rarely went to temple. "My dad put me in the temple choir, and the only time we went to temple

was when I sang," she says.

When she went away to college in Indiana, she became involved in Hillel, a group supporting Jewish life on college campuses, and she found herself growing increasingly religious.

Meanwhile, as a voice major, she was studying a broad range of singing styles, including Broadway show tunes, standards and jazz, along with classical music studies.

From Indiana, she enrolled at Hebrew Union, resolving to become one of only 200 or so women cantors to graduate from their program since the mid-70s; most cantors of reform congregations have gone to Hebrew Union.

On graduation and investment as a cantor, she got her first job at a temple in Armonk, NY.

From there she moved to cantor positions in Colorado, Delray Beach and Boca Raton, where she currently is living, commuting to Vero three days a week until her house sells and she can move here permanently.

The role of cantor, Werby says, is to lead the congregation, not to perform as a soloist. "I sing in a key that people can sing along with," she says.

"I'm not there to sing for the congregation, I'm there to make the congregation sing and engage in prayer."

Her song selection changes from week to week, and the lyrics, or prayers, could be in any number of languages from nations with Jewish populations, but mostly, they are in English, Hebrew, or Yiddish.

"Yiddish was my mother's first language," she says.

No snow, but family friendly festivities gearing up

BY MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

St. Helen's Harvest Festival

The carnival is coming to town with rides, midway games and disgustingly delicious festival foods. The fun takes place at Dodgertown at the Saint Helen's Harvest Festival, Thursday Nov. 19 through Sunday, Nov. 22.

Saint Helen's Parish was established the same year as the City of Vero Beach so it too is celebrating its 90th anniversary. You just know that the festival, now in its 45th year, will be extra special this time around. They've changed the hours on Thursday and Friday nights to a 5 p.m. start so that people can come for dinner; everything from Italian and Mexican favorites to cheese steaks and BBQ.

Festival of Trees

Riverside Children's Theatre officially kicks off the holiday season with its Hands around the World themed Festival of Trees this weekend. The winter



Gina Battle of Faith, Hope and Chocolate, begins work on her tree for the Festival of Trees. Titled 'Christmas in the Arctic,' the tree will contain over 70 hand made chocolates.



Faye Estes shows off her tree featuring rosaries she collected from Italian cathedrals this summer.



wonderland begins Friday, November 20 with a Silver Bells Preview for low-income seniors at 9:30 a.m. and a Gala Preview Party at 6 p.m. Over the weekend, doors are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with vendor booths, on-going entertainment and, of course, Santa. Also on Saturday, bring the kids to Family Night at 6 p.m. for a pajama fashion show and a Reindeer Seek-n-Find scavenger hunt. 234-8052.

Ann Rice, author of the classic *Interview With A Vampire* series of books, might have changed her focus to angels, but teens have sunk their teeth in and continue to hold on to the vam-

pire craze. The latest vampire movie, *The Twilight Saga: New Moon* is set to premier at the Majestic Theatre on Friday, Nov. 20 as a benefit for the Homeless Family Center, thanks to sponsor Stickhead Lacrosse. An atypical boy meets girl love story (teenage girl with 100-year-old vampire boy), the movie is a sequel to *Twilight*, based on Stephenie Meyer's four-book series. The fundraiser is also a palatable way for teens to learn about the homeless problem in our community. For tickets, call 770-0774 or visit www.majesticvero.com.

Tennis anyone?

You'd think that being named King of the Hill would be title enough, but Treasure Coast U.S.P.T.A. tennis pros have taken it a step further. On Friday, Nov. 20 beginning at 5 p.m. at The Boulevard, pros will go racket to racket for the finals of the Masters of the King of the Hill Pro Tennis Exhibitions.

Winners of the previous 14 King of the Hill tournaments will play to determine who among them will be the Master; thus the redundant sounding title. It's all for a good cause though; proceeds will benefit the Youth Guidance Mentoring & Activities Program. Semi-finals were held in both Open and Senior Divisions on Nov. 6 and 13 but the big Kahuna will be crowned on Friday. 770-5040.

My Vero

Carnegie Hall or bust

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice. Sure, but it also takes money. To help get them to Carnegie Hall in April 2010, the talent (and it seems creative) members of the Vero Beach High School Band have come up with an idea that's, quite literally, a crap shoot.

From noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Indian River County Fairgrounds, they'll host a Bulls-Eye Extravaganza. There will also be a 4 p.m. concert and BBQ dinner (\$6), but the Bulls-eye portion is sure to be the draw. Each \$5 ticket that you purchase gets you a square on the field and if your cow "marks the spot" you win. What's the prize? Who knows, but who cares? It will be worth it to watch Veroites waiting for cows to do what they do best. 633-7683

Ship ahoy!

If you've always fancied yourself as "The Skipper," the 26th Annual Vero Beach Boat Show might have just what you're looking for. The show features boats from canoes to cruisers and all the nautical goodies that go along with them. It takes place at Riverside Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the weekend of Nov. 21 and 22.

Turkey Trot

Rise and shine early Thanksgiving morning and bring the family over to Riverside Park to work off a few pre-pie pounds at the Turkey Trot against Hunger 5K run/walk. It starts at the crack of dawn, leaving ample time to prepare your Thanksgiving meal, and it supports the Harvest Food & Outreach Center. For the more sedentary types, they're also serving up a breakfast of Marsh Landing's famous sweet potato pancakes. To register for the walk/run, call 770-2665 or visit www.trotagainsthunger.org.

Holiday Craft Fair

Historic Downtown Vero Beach gives shoppers a stress-free alternative to Black Friday craziness with a Holiday Craft Fair at Christmas in Downtown, 3:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 27. They'll also have children's activities for the little ones, a beer garden for the 21+ crowd, two middle-school rock bands for teens, a motorcycle poker run for the leather clad, and Santa & Mrs. Claus for the ever-hopeful.

After new Mayor Kevin Sawnick lights the official tree, the Florida-based band E.S.P. takes to the stage recreating some of rock's biggest hits. If you're feeling charitable, bring some toys to drop off at the CASTLE booth or participate in Holidays for Heroes by slipping a few goodies to the Mili-

tary Moms Prayer Group, to be packed and shipped to the troops.

It's Christmastime, after all

Is there anybody out there who hasn't seen The Nutcracker at least a dozen times? On the off chance you've missed it, or can't get enough of it, or want to introduce it to the next generation of little ballerinas, Vero Classical Ballet will present The Nutcracker at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center on Sat., Nov. 28, with

performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The ballet will feature both local talent and professional guest artists and just might have you pirouetting out of the theatre. For tickets, call 360-8577 or visit www.VeroClassicalBallet.com.

The extremely organized ladies of the Vero Beach Museum of Art Friends Committee are almost certainly making up and freezing lots of scrumptious cookie dough for the hundreds of cookies they bake each year for the free Christmas at the Museum party on Sat., December 6. They plan on

having all sorts of entertainment by local youth groups, refreshments and children's activities, thanks to the Museum's board of trustees, staff and the Friends committee. Festivities run from 1 to 4 p.m., with Santa arriving at 2 p.m. for the little ones.

And finally, the annual Beachside Christmas Parade at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5 along Ocean Drive is a real slice of hometown Americana. It's sponsored by the Oceanside Business Association and Vero Beach Rotary Club.

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Health

New hope, new technology for lung cancer patients

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

Lung cancer kills more people in the United States each year than any other single type of cancer. Until recently, the surgery to remove it left some patients with a long recovery to face while simultaneously trying to battle their cancer with chemotherapy or radiation.

Dr. Mark Malias of Vero Beach is removing lobes of the lung not through the chest cavity, but via a few small incisions, with the help of endoscopic surgical techniques and a video screen.

"Lung cancer is unregulated cell growth in the lungs and when the cells continue to divide, they create a mass or tumor, which can be benign or malignant," Malias said. "Risk factors include age, genetics and environmental exposure to tobacco, asbestos and radon."

Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery or VATS is used to remove a lobe of the lung to help halt the cancer and



Board certified surgeon Mark Malias gives a presentation on a team approach to treating lung cancer.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

give patients a better chance for survival. Since the VATS for lung cancer

is only about 2 years old, the hospital hosted a seminar last week to inform

the public about what's available. About 50 people showed up to



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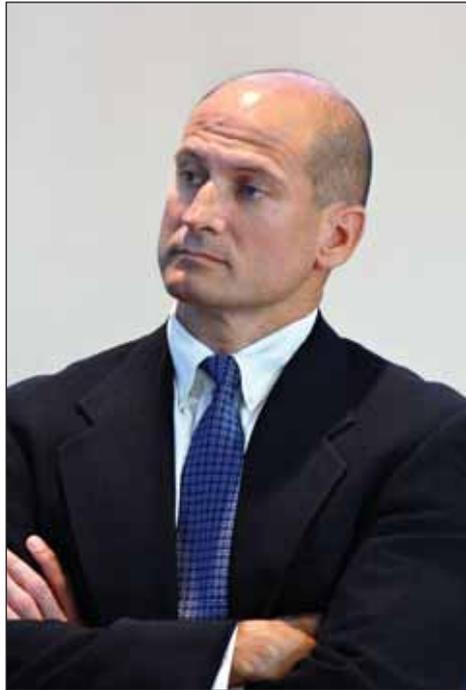
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Michelle Maholtz, board certified pulmonologist

listen. One of them, Vero Beach resident Joyce Horton, attended the meeting to encourage others dealing with lung cancer. A non-smoker who doctors think developed lung cancer after working in a house with mold, Horton had the VATS procedure at

Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville, Va. in the spring of 2007, prior to it being available in Vero Beach.

"I had the lower left lobe of my lung removed on Thursday and was up walking around that weekend,"

she said. "The recovery was quick, I had very little pain and no complications afterward.

Not being tied in any way to the hospital or the doctors presenting the seminar, Horton felt she could credibly advocate for VATS to the

others at the seminar.

"I wanted to give people hope, but not unrealistic expectations. I had no other health problems and I was only 52, so others might not have the same results," she said. "I've learned

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



John W. McDonald, M.D., F.A.A.D.

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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

how important proper breathing techniques and changing your lifestyle are to health and now I teach breathing.”

The traditional way lobes or sections of lungs have been removed is by opening up the chest and bisecting the sternum. This causes weeks and sometimes months of weakness and limited use of the arms while the chest heals. By using VATS, Malias is able to preserve the sternum

intact and go in through a small hole between the ribs. His hands never enter the patient during the surgery, instead using flexible tubes with a camera on one and surgical instruments on the other. The lobe is then removed through the small opening that was used to insert the tubes.

Not every patient is a good candidate for VATS, but at Indian River Medical Center, that decision will be made not by just one doctor, but by

a team of professionals working on the lung cancer case together.

Believe it or not, these team meetings are of no additional cost to the patient, but speed up care and save the doctors precious time.

“We only bill the patient when we see them in the office, not for the team meetings,” said Malias, who devised and hand-picked the team of physicians whom he meets with once or twice a month. About 250

patients have been treated using this team approach.

When the team meets, they have all the patients' records, blood tests, x-rays, CT scans and other documents on hand, plus a radiologist and a pathologist paid by the hospital at the meeting to present, read and coordinate all the information. This saves the patients, their families and the doctors' staffs the tedious task of getting copies of everything to everyone and drafting correspondence.

“Doctors are human and I might see something in a patient's chart and mean to write a letter or note something in a letter to another doctor, but it might slip through,” Malias said. “With the team, we're all in the same room and the ideas and information get exchanged right there, there's no letter-writing back and forth that has to be done.”

The doctors on the panel — a surgeon, a pulmonologist, an oncologist and a radiation oncologist — explained how patients are diagnosed with lung cancer and how a treatment strategy is devised by the team. Biopsies can be taken through a needle, called a trans-thoracic needle biopsy, or using a scope through the nose, which is called a bronchoscopy. If cancer is found, the next step is determining if it is isolated to the lungs or if it's spread to other parts of the body. Since lung cancer is usually asymptomatic until it has spread, doctors go on the assumption that it has spread to other parts of the body unless they find evidence to the contrary. This may involve a PET scan or bone scan.

“Once we get all this information, we stage the patient,” said pulmonologist Michelle Maholtz.

The team then weighs all the underlying health issues to see if surgery is an option. Patients may have to undergo a stress test to see if they can physically tolerate surgery. Other factors that will weigh in are whether or not the patient also has emphysema or other chronic pulmonary disease.

“If it's early stage cancer, we try to get that patient to surgery,” said Maholtz. “If not, we use medical oncology, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or a combination of all of those.”

The team continues to monitor the patient through whatever treatments are deemed necessary and through the follow-up care and testing.

Indian River Medical Center's nationally renowned cancer program is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and by the American College of

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- If caught early enough and patient is otherwise healthy, can be treated with surgery
- Chances of survival to 5 years slim in late stage
- Can be detected by skillfully performed CT Scan
- Smoking cessation reduces the risk of lung cancer

New study questions effectiveness of popular cholesterol drugs; Merck defends medications, says the new research is limited

BY LYNDSEY LAYTON
WASHINGTON POST

A widely prescribed and expensive cholesterol drug is not as effective as niacin, a cheap vitamin, in helping to unclog coronary arteries in people already taking statins, the standard medicines used to lower cholesterol, according to a new study.

The research, which appeared Monday in the New England Journal of Medicine, is sending rumbles through the medical community because it is the third recent study to raise questions about the effectiveness of Zetia and its sister drug, Vytorin, highly profitable pharmaceuticals made by Merck & Co.

"This is the third strike," said

Steven Nissen, chairman of cardiovascular medicine at the Cleveland Clinic. "The studies are telling us that it doesn't appear to produce benefits. This is a drug used by millions of Americans, a very big seller, in a health-care system where costs are a major issue. And the question has to be, is this the right ap-

PROF. NISSEN
CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

proach?"

Vytorin and Zetia are among the most popular prescription drugs. Last year, physicians in the United States wrote a total of more than 29 million prescriptions for them, and worldwide sales totaled \$4.56 billion, according to Merck.

Although the drugs have been shown to reduce cholesterol, there is no evidence that they prevent heart attacks, strokes and other cardiovascular problems.

Top Merck executives are vigorously

defending their drugs and have dismissed the new research as limited.

"I don't think a clinician or a doctor or a patient should use this as the basis for any decision-making whatsoever," said Richard Pasternak, vice president of Merck research laboratories. "I worry that people might unnecessarily come off a drug that is approved and accepted."

He and other critics said the study appearing Monday involved just 200 patients, was ended early, and examined what is known as a surrogate marker — the amount of plaque on artery walls — rather than evaluating the

rate of heart attacks and stroke.

Because plaque can clog arteries and restrict blood flow to the heart and brain, cardiologists view plaque as a good indication for the risk of heart attack and stroke.

The study has been highly anticipated by the medical community and financial analysts, and is the buzz at the annual meeting of the American Heart Association, which began Sunday in Orlando.

Introduced in 2002 and 2004 amid heavy direct-to-consumer marketing, Zetia and Vytorin became blockbusters for Merck and Schering-Plough, which had collaborated on their development. The companies recently merged.

Last year, a study released by Merck showed that Zetia did not reduce plaque in arteries compared with patients taking only statins, which are much less expensive and available in generic form. Although released in January, the study had been completed in 2006, prompting a class-action lawsuit alleging that Merck intentionally withheld unfavorable results of a clinical trial. The company paid \$41.5 million in August to settle the claims.

Another study published last year showed a potential increase in cancer

among patients taking Zetia and Vytorin, compared with those taking only statins.

Taken as a whole, the new research is unnerving, said Harlan Krumholz, a Yale University cardiologist. "The accumulating evidence isn't giving you any confidence," he said. "This is a very expensive drug being used without any strong evidence that it's benefiting patients." Zetia and Vytorin should be "drugs of last resort, if used at all," Krumholz said. "And anyone who uses it should make sure patients are informed that they're taking a gamble."

Statins, such as Lipitor, have long been used to lower cholesterol and reduce cardiovascular disease. They inhibit the production of LDL, or low-density lipoprotein, often called "bad" cholesterol, which can lead to plaque buildup in arteries.

Zetia, the brand name for ezetimibe, uses a different mechanism. It blocks the absorption of cholesterol from food in the intestines. It has been shown by Merck to lower LDL by 18 percent on average. It is designed for patients who cannot tolerate statins, or for whom high-dose statins are not working.

Vytorin is Zetia combined with a statin, simvastatin, in one pill.



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Cognac, France offers heady aromas, centuries-old views

Visiting four major makers of the brandy — Hennessy, Martell, Remy Martin or Courvoisier — offers a blend of delicious sips and an appreciation of taking the long view.

BY ROSEMARY MCCLURE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The sunlit French landscape sliding by my car window captured my attention: crumbling stone walls, tidy farmhouses with red-tile roofs, mile upon mile of low hills and rolling ridges covered with leafy green vineyards.

“You know what you’re seeing?” my guide asked. “The real thing; what Napa and Sonoma wanted to be.”

I laughed at the smugness of the remark. As much as I love Northern California’s wine country, he had a point: The original wins, hands down. Visiting our wine country can’t compare with spending a few lazy days exploring the back roads of France. In fact, a traveler with unlimited resources could while away years getting to know the republic’s wine regions: Champagne, Bordeaux, Burgundy, the Rhone and Loire valleys.

reconsider.

The U.S. accounts for more than 50 percent of Cognac shipments worldwide. We drink about 50 million bottles a year, no small matter, considering that Cognac ranks as one of the world’s most expensive beverages, costing as much as \$28,000 a bottle.

Regardless of price, Americans seem to enjoy the amber liquid, from the Beverly Hills Hotel, where patrons sip Rémy Martin sidecars, to midtown Manhattan’s Brasserie Cognac, which features nearly 100 varieties. Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Busta Rhymes and Devino Fortunato like it so well they rap about it.

The drink’s mounting popularity seemed a good reason to visit Cognac’s homeland. The only thing better than visiting France for its scenery and cuisine: visiting it for its wine, scenery and cuisine, in fall at harvest.



The village of Cognac, in western France, is the heart of the region that provides the rest of the world with the elegant spirit that bears its name. Here is the tasting room at Remy Martin, one of the major Cognac makers.

region may be known for its brandy, but I also tried to focus on its other charms.

I didn’t have to look far. The pace is enjoyably slow, the climate pleasantly mild. The river winds through the countryside, its tranquil waters reflecting images of vine-covered hillsides, small towns, well-tended farms and weathered châteaux framed by geraniums, pink roses and oleander bushes.

My visit began in Cognac, where I spent an afternoon visiting its old town (Vieille Ville). Half-timbered 15th century to 17th century houses line steep, winding streets, and I wandered the

cobblestone lanes, shooting pictures of the Romanesque church of St. Leger and the sprawling Château de Cognac, the birthplace of the 16th century King François I. Then I wandered by a museum that focuses on Cognac and its history. (Musée des Arts du Cognac, www.ville-Cognac.fr, 011-33-5-45-32-07-25)

But the thought of merely reading about the rich, smoky liquid made me impatient. I had come nearly 6,000 miles to drink Cognac. Why wait any longer? With single-minded purpose, I inquired about touring one of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54



Hennessy cellars are filled not only with barrels but also a heady Cognac aroma.

Because my resources aren’t quite boundless, I visit one at a time. This trip took me to western France and the Cognac region, where the world’s most famous brandy originates.

I once thought Cognac appealed solely to aging British army colonels who wore monocles and dressed in tuxedos. But singer Kanye West’s obvious affection for the beverage during last month’s MTV Video Music Awards — you remember his onstage outburst about Beyoncé, of course — made me

Brandy and a view

Technically, Cognac is more than a wine. Its grapes begin their long journey to the marketplace as unfiltered white wine. After being doubly distilled, the liquid ages, sometimes for many years, in oak casks before being blended with other vintages or eaux de vie (French for “waters of life”).

All of this takes place in or near the town of Cognac, on the banks of the Charente River, about a three-hour TGV train ride southwest of Paris. The



An assortment of aged eaux de vie at Courvoisier.

Travel



Riverside in Cognac at Hennessy cellars, visitors head toward a boat.



Tours introduce visitors to Cognac at Martell, one of the large Cognac houses.



A scene along a street in the historic center of Cognac, France.



Glasses are arranged for a tasting of various aged Cognacs at Hennessy's offices.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

great Cognac houses: Hennessy, Martell, Rémy Martin or Courvoisier. Each has tours, and the price — from about \$10 to \$25 — includes tasting.

I was so close I could have thrown a cork and hit Hennessy's tour center and warehouses, on both sides of the Charente (Hennessy Cellars, www.hennessy.com, 011-33-5-45-35-72-66).

hennessy.com, 011-33-5-45-35-72-66).

A small boat delivered me to the tour site, where I joined a group of visitors. As I walked through the well-landscaped grounds, I noticed stonework that was black with mold; I'd seen the same thing on many of the buildings when I walked through the town of Cognac. "The angel's share," I was told. The mold, called black velvet, feeds on

the alcohol vapors that escape through evaporation as the liquid ages.

Does divine intervention play a part in the manufacture of Cognac? "Definitely," the guide said. "God still decides whether a year will be great or not."

We entered a warehouse cellar, and I was struck by the heady fragrance of Cognac. The angel's share takes credit for this too, my tour group was told. "About 2 to 4 percent of the alcohol evaporates through the pores of the oak barrels," the guide said.

No wonder angels always look contented.

Soon I was in the tasting room and looking contented too.

I swirled the liquid in my glass, sniffed it shallowly, and then took a small taste: the smooth, complex flavors included honey and licorice. I tasted a bit more and became even more contented. Especially when I

remembered three more large Cognac houses awaited.

A visit to sleeping kegs

Next up was Martell, where I learned more about distilling and aging Cognacs (www.martell.com, 011-33-5-45-36-33-39). Again I visited warehouse cellars, where thousands of kegs slept in the darkness. I breathed deeply, enjoying the aroma.

The kegs in the cellars were huge — many of them hold more than 100 gallons — and each bore a date: 1900, 1931, 1950.

The process of creating fine Cognac extends well beyond any person's lifetime, the guides explained. Cognacs as much as 200 years old are blended with other century-old brandies to make the house's most prestigious Cognacs.

At Rémy Martin, about three miles outside town (www.remymartin.com,



The village of Jarnac, France, straddles the Charente River and is home to major Cognac house Courvoisier, which offers tours of its brandy-making process.

011-33-545-82-01-26), I hopped on a small train with other tourists, visiting a cooper's shop, where barrels are produced; a vineyard and cellars. I felt happier each time I entered a cellar, despite the damp darkness. I filled my lungs with the angel's share again and considered hiding in the back of the cellar when the tour moved on.

Like the other houses, Rémy Martin's history can be counted in generations. It was founded in 1724 by a young grower, and the company's current master blender, Pierette Richet, is only the fourth in the last 100 years. Her job? "To manage the present and plan for the future," she said.

As my appreciation for Cognac increased, I learned more about how to drink it.

"Use a glass that has straight sides and is not too thick," said Vincent Gere, director of Rémy Martin Cognacs and Estates. "Swirl the liquid to see the viscosity. Then test the nose twice: once from well above the glass and the second time, just above the glass. This will tell you if the spirit is layered or not."

Finally, "sip twice, savoring the texture, thickness, viscosity. Look for a balance of flavors and aromas."

The region's Cognac houses play host to about 200,000 visitors a year, many of them Americans. That night at dinner I glanced around the room. Many people were drinking Cognac, all of them were swirling, sniffing and savoring.

Three down, one to go

Only one of the large Cognac houses remained in my four-for-four quest: Courvoisier (www.courvoisier.com, 011-33-5-45-35-56-16). I drove the seven miles through the vineyard-cov-

ered countryside to Jarnac, the company's home.

The pastoral scene entranced me, just as it had during my arrival in the Cognac region. But this time, I understood what I was seeing.

Beyond the lovely hills and quaint farms, processes were at work that allowed Cognac to be produced and, in turn, gave these farmers a livelihood that had withstood three centuries of change.

The necessary elements had been drummed into my head as I visited the Cognac houses: The light is bright and intense, the soil chalky and full of stones, the climate mild and tempered by the nearby Atlantic.

These ingredients create ideal conditions for the white Ugni Blanc grapes used for Cognac. These grapes "don't make very good wine, but they make excellent Cognac," one of the guides said.

Another pleasant scene awaited in Jarnac, which, like Cognac, straddles the Charente River. The peaceful village, home to about 5,000 people, offers great photo ops of parks, picturesque bridges and boats floating down the river.

Then it was on to Maison Courvoisier, which is set up in a refurbished warehouse next to the Charente. Napoleon visited the Courvoisier warehouses in 1811, and legend has it that he took several barrels of the Cognac with him aboard the HMS Northumberland, the ship that took him into exile on the island of St. Helena. Consequently, Courvoisier calls its spirit "The Cognac of Napoleon."

The tour here is through a museum that reconstructs a blending workshop, which resembles a perfumery;



Riverside views in the village of Jarnac near Courvoisier.

there are also stills and barrels and those wonderful fumes.

After I left the building, I wandered around Jarnac again, watching a mother duck and four ducklings swimming in the Charente in the late afternoon sun. I had visited all the major houses,

and because Cognac can be produced only in the Cognac region, I realized, sadly, that my quest had ended.

I brightened. There are about 300 smaller houses in the region. Perhaps my mission hadn't ended after all. A heady thought indeed.

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Style

Rock Fashion Week L.A.:

Small show celebrating new talents



Seneca Rising

BY ADAM TSCHORN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The new Rock Fashion Week L.A. was supposed to be the game-changer, stepping into the void left when the wheels last year fell off the larger Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week at Smashbox Studio. Produced by New York City-based Rock Media and Entertainment, which stages twice-yearly fashion week events there and in Miami, the Los Angeles installment was envisioned as a fashion and music extravaganza playing out over four days at the historic Paramount Studios and culminating in a huge Halloween party on the studio lot.



ABI FERRIN: Multi-designer line Pink Dress Collection benefits charity.

But, after a venue change and shrunken schedule, RockMedia's sole contribution to the season turned out to be a single night of four runway shows Oct. 30, one of which was a touring, multi-designer Pink Dress Collection to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Despite the downsized debut, Rock Fashion Week L.A.'s co-owner Nicole Purcell considered it successful. "It was smaller because we made it smaller. After discussing it with the designers, we ultimately decided not to conflict with Halloween," she said. "But I'm happy with the result. I think we gave L.A. a taste of what we do, and it's only going to get bigger and stronger each season."

The only other night of Rock Fashion Week L.A. was a perennial, the annual Gen Art's Fresh Faces in Fashion showcase, which



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kicked off the two nights of the “week.” Although Gen Art merged with Rock Media and Entertainment in September, the event unfolded much as it always has, giving exposure to up-and-coming and smaller local designers and labels that might otherwise get lost in the shuffle. This time it included the spring 2010 runway collections of local labels Leyendecker, Seneca Rising, MG Black Label, Valerj Pobega and Rory Beca.

It was a good opportunity to get acquainted with MG Black Label — a new men’s diffusion line that Morphine Generation’s Erik Hart launched earlier this year — and revisit Rory Beca’s flirty florals, pops of pink and darling mini dresses.

The second and final evening of Rock Fashion Week L.A. included labels Tristan and Trista, Boy Meets Girl, the aforementioned Pink Dress Collection and a grand finale to end all grand finales — a parade of panties, bras and assorted intimate wear staged by Los Angeles-based Biatta Intimates, which came across like a trying-too-hard, low-rent, angel-wingless version of a Victoria’s Secret fashion show.

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Style

Women's Shoes turn up the volume this season, with vibrant color and embellishment.

Shoes this fall are bold and daring. Whether they are flats, wedges or stilettos, or strappy, zippered or studded, they don't just sit there quietly waiting to be noticed. They distinctly shout, "Look at me!"

BY MELISSA MAGSAYSAY
LOS ANGELES TIMES



Ask the Hair Guy

Mark Rodolico
Colorist / Stylist
www.askthehairguy.com

A word from The Hair Guy: Ahhhh....The cool air and the smell of turkey, what is not to like about a day on the water in November. Come visit the Hair Guy by boat or by car. Slip #51 is expecting you.

Question: I just moved to Florida and this humidity is killing my hair. It's all frizzy. What product do you recommend?

Answer: Well, Great Question. I think the bigger question is that of your hair type, but on a blind guess based on the question..... Your hair is simply reacting to the H in H₂O. Water in the air in sufficient quantities is no different than walking through a mist machine. If you're hair is wavy or curly or just about any other type than bone straight, what you need is any product that acts as an anti-humectant or humidity blocker. This can be done in many ways. Usually marketed as "straightening" or "control" products, my favorites are in the form of a topical cosmetic. I would use a glycerin or silicone base leave-in conditioner or glosser applied properly in addition to what you already do. One word

of **warning** however, if the condition of your hair is not well balanced it can be like using makeup to hide the circles under your eyes rather than getting a good night sleep. It will catch up to you! So, be sure to get a good deep healing conditioner before you indulge. Come on in and visit me at my place and I'll hook you up with a free one on me. Make sure you do this before using a cosmetic to hide the possible "bigger problem". Good luck.

One of my favorites: A/G Fast Food! Smells nice too.

Thanks for asking The Hair Guy.

Keep them coming:
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Moschino Cheap and Chic

These new styles can instantly update a wardrobe, making even old staples feel new. Among the most prominent trends: ankle boots, punky metal decorations and the color red.

Red is on fire, both in clothing and footwear, and shoe designers are offering it in different shapes and price points. No one does the color better than Valentino, with his red patent leather D'Orsay bow pump, which makes the foot look like the perfect (expensive) little present. On the other hand, Nine West does a version for a fraction of Valentino's price tag. The resemblance is remarkable, but since the style and color are classic, shelling out for the real thing could be a solid investment for shoe fanatics and collectors.

Ankle boots are nothing new, but the evolution of the bootie is astounding. Heel heights have spiked, the peep toe is a common feature and metallic details add some punch to conservative styles. Since it grazes the ankle it is versatile enough to wear with dresses and pants, but not as formal or stuffy as a pump.



Nine West, red shoes



Dolce vita ankle boot



D&G low boot

But be forewarned: Some of the most eye-popping styles might not be for everyone. The navy blue patent leather lace-up oxford-style shoe from Proenza Schouler is perhaps the most intimidating ankle boot this season. At 5-inches-plus, the gold-tipped wood heel is as treacherous as it is amazing, giving a modern feel to a vintage style. For more futuristic footwear, Camilla Skovgaard has added a metal heel so thin it looks like a nail on a gray round-toed bootie. The pewter leather around the ankle of the Skovgaard shoe has a “Mad Max” appeal that fits right in with the 1980s resurgence that is affecting design in 2009.

Punk rock-inspired decorative metals have been a strong embellishment in fashion for several years now and don't look to be going anywhere. Shoes are no exception, especially for Christian Louboutin, who smattered his red-soled pumps and flats with intimidating silver spikes and studs. His Pigalle pump is a high heel with a take-no-prisoners attitude; the wearer would seem to need a fierce personality to pull it off. His somewhat softer approach to the trend is the Candy, which has just a few gold studs on the toe, mixed with feminine black lace and a gold zipper tied in a bow. The mix of hard and soft echoes the aesthetic of collections from Alexander Wang and Balmain, which are informing much of women's style these days.

Metal may be scary and red could feel too intense, but variations on these trends are being done in every style and price, so you can ease your way into trying them. Remember, baby steps.



A new take on an old favorite: Modern vintage ankle boot

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Style

Jimmy Choo – on a shoestring

BY BOOTH MOORE
LOS ANGELES TIMES



Long wrap dress, High-heel zebra print shoe, evening bag, leather bracelet with studs,

Jimmy Choo took the town by storm last week, hosting not one but two parties. Not Jimmy Choo the man (the shoemaker sold his name in 2001), but Jimmy Choo the British footwear brand and its glamorous president and founder, Tamara Mellon.

No stranger to Los Angeles, Mellon lived in Beverly Hills from ages 8 to 14, attending Marymount High School (Camp Beverly Hills was a favorite hangout), before settling in London. She was also one of the first to recognize the power of the red carpet, setting up the brand's first Academy Awards showroom for celebrities and stylists in 1999. She, like the celebrities she dresses, has been tabloid bait since marrying the heir to the Mellon fortune in

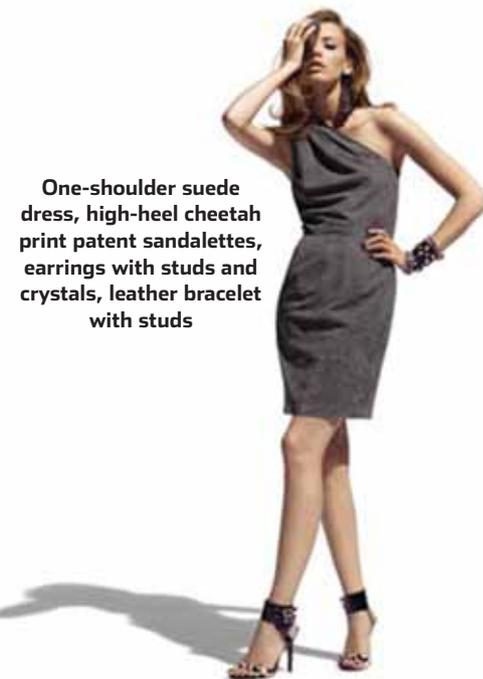
2001. (The two have since divorced.)

So it's no surprise that she came back to L.A. — this time with her own red carpet — to launch her hotly anticipated line for H&M, which hits stores on Saturday.

Nothing in the H&M line is more than \$300, which meant the look at Monday's Hollywood Hills soiree was cheap chic. The Jimmy Choo for H&M shoes are really good — \$129 electric blue metallic leather cage heels; \$129 gladiator-style studded leather platforms; \$199 over-the-knee black leather boots— so good, in fact, that they make you wonder why the real line has to be so expensive. There's the “Made in China” versus “Made in Italy” thing. But that's a difference you can't see.

What about the fit, you ask? Heels are subjective, but flats not so much. So, earlier this week, I test-drove a pair of Jimmy Choo “Witty” flats (\$365) from my closet, followed by the Jimmy Choo for H&M version (\$69.95) with the same zebra stripes, plus silver studding. The last, the cut and the tread details on the rubber soles all felt identical. They were both immensely comfortable.

By now, most apparel designers have dipped their toes into the world of cheap chic— Karl Lagerfeld, Stella McCartney and Viktor & Rolf at H&M alone, but not the great luxury shoe troika of Manolo, Louboutin and Choo. The move is a smart one,



One-shoulder suede dress, high-heel cheetah print patent sandalettes, earrings with studs and crystals, leather bracelet with studs



Beaded dress, high-heel strap shoes with zippers, zebra print bag with studs, wide leather bracelet with studs.

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Suede dress, fake-fur vest, sequin cardigan, leather studded belt, high-heel strap shoes with zippers.



Suit jacket and trousers, dress shirt, leather shoes with zippers.



Leather jacket, fake-fur vest, sequin tank, leather leggings, high-heel peep-toes with studded straps, leather bag with studs.



keeping Jimmy Choo relevant in a time when \$800 shoes seem even more like folly.

The Jimmy Choo for H&M collection is incredibly faithful to the original, right down to the muse — Debbie Harry, for the fall Jimmy Choo and H&M lines. The ad campaigns are similar too, with both shot by Terry Richardson.

Similarities in the two chic punk collections don't bother Mellon. "I don't think it takes away from our luxury business at all, she said over lunch recently in Beverly Hills. "It's very exciting to reach a broader audience."

Here's what a luxury retailer thinks: "There is a woman, and I do think it's our customer, who wants the authen-

ticity of the true brand, and appreciates the quality and workmanship that go into a luxury product," said Colleen Sherin, fashion market director of Saks Fifth Avenue. "But if you are doing a main line and a diffusion line or designing under another brand, it's important to keep the two distinctly different."

One difference is that the Jimmy Choo for H&M collection also includes clothing and jewelry (a chain-link and rhinestone necklace makes a big statement for \$49). Designing clothes was a first for Mellon, who doesn't sketch, but instead works off pieces culled from vintage stores. She enjoyed it so much, she'd consider a future line — under her own name, she said, not Jimmy Choo's.

Judging from the success of past H&M designer collections, this one won't last long, perhaps only a matter of hours. But Mellon, who recently moved to New York City, has other tricks up her sleeve too.

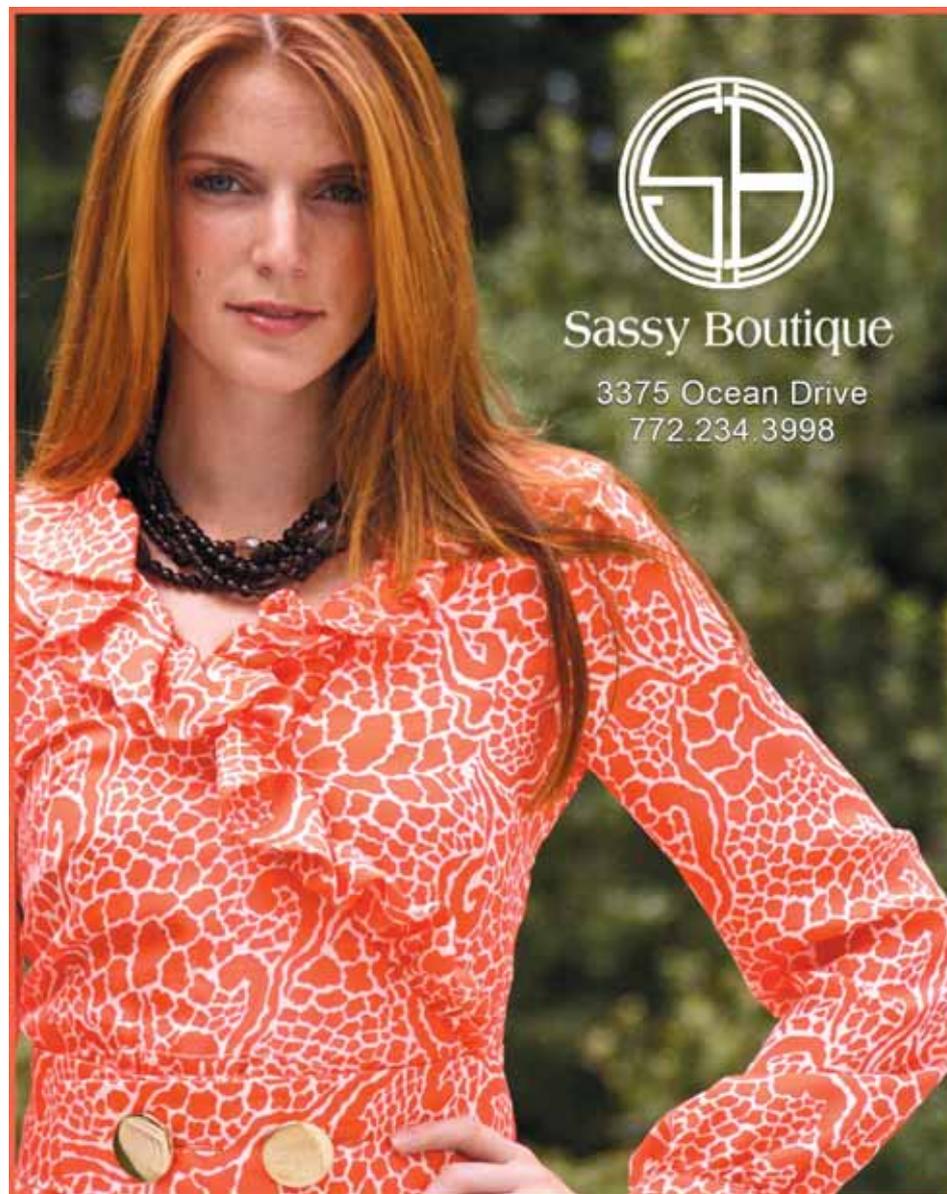
While in town, she also feted the brand's new charity endeavor, Project PEP. Twenty-five percent of net sales of the capsule collection of shoes and bags in a punk rock 'n' roll print (from \$95 for flip-flops to \$995 for a tote) will go toward providing victims of sexual abuse in South Africa with HIV preventive PEP medication (post-exposure pro-

phylaxis) and counseling.

Jimmy Choo recently launched a range of sunglasses, and a fragrance is on the horizon too. Mellon admitted that the economic environment has affected the brand, but said re-

cent sales of this year's Cruise collection had been stronger than expected. "We're finding really fashion-forward pieces are selling out," she said. "People may not be buying a new black dress, but they are updating their closet with cute shoes and a new bag."

Leather jacket, round-neck T-shirt, black denim jeans, scarf, leather belt.



Pets

Meet the 'Scooter' of Scooter's Barkery



Scooter on his Lover Boy Bed.



Scooter and Janice at a recent blessing of the animals at St. Mark's Anglican Church.

BY CISSY SUMNER
COLUMNIST

Janice and Jim Johnston were adopted by a white Toy Poodle named

Scooter Pie XVI in March of 1999. While Scooter is the sixteenth in the AKC registry, he is the first dog of Janice and Jim's lives and hearts. Scooter lives on the island in Central

Beach, but you might recognize him from his job as official greeter at his place of business, Scooter's Barkery in Wabasso.

Janice decided to get a toy poodle after meeting her brother's dog. She said the dog was such a joy, she wanted one of her own. Jim was opposed to the idea, so Janice sent him on a vacation. When Jim returned, Scooter had arrived and was firmly in place in the Johnston's home. Life would never be the same.

For any of us, adding a dog to our lives is challenging. Early on Scooter had some health issues. It took him a while to get Jim and Janice fully trained. However, he persevered. Scooter now has The Johnstons firmly under control.

Scooter and Janice are devoted to each other. Janice says she never knew what she was missing by not having a dog. Scooter has brought great joy and pleasure to her life. Scooter is also the inspiration for the Barkery that bears his name. Janice wanted to provide quality treats for Scooter. After some research, Janice developed dog treat recipes composed of human grade ingredients. Since Scooter approved, Janice and Jim opened the Barkery so all dogs could enjoy their treats.

Scooter greets every customer with a bark and a wag. After Janice



Scooter and Janice at work.

picks him up to say hello, Scooter returns to his bed to await the next guest. Scooter carefully supervises Jim while baking to ensure he maintains cookie quality.

According to Janice, "Scooter brings everything to our lives." They are lucky to have found each other.

Cissy Sumner, CPDT-KA

Do you have an Island Pet? Send your story and photos to me at www.bestbehavioraltraining.org.

YOUR PET'S HEALTH

By Dr. Randy Divine and Associates



Dental Cleanings Contribute to Overall Health

Routine dental cleanings are a very important part of your pet's wellness care but are frequently the most neglected. Dental disease is one of the most common causes of difficulty eating and bad breath (halitosis). Unfortunately, bacteria in the mouth can travel in the bloodstream to distant organs resulting in life-threatening infections in kidneys, heart, lungs and other organs.

Over time, plaque builds up on teeth and gums that allow bacteria to multiply. Bacteria leads to gingivitis which is an inflammation of the gums. The gums appear red and inflamed. Cleaning teeth when the first signs of gingivitis are present is important to prevent progression of dental disease.

Early periodontal disease occurs when plaque and calculus have built up the point that in addition to gingivitis, halitosis is present and teeth are beginning to loosen. In moderate disease, gums are bleeding. The mouth is sore and pets may begin to have difficulty eating and have weight loss as a result. There is a loss of tooth attachment up to 50% and by this time, damage is usually irreversible. When severe disease is present, gingivitis has progressed to the extent that gums are bloody and pus may be visible. Tooth attachment loss is over 50%, bone is being destroyed, and teeth are very loose. Often, by this point, pets are systemically ill.

Other problems can be identified during dentals including abscessed or fractured teeth, dental caries (cavities), oronasal fistulas (openings extending from the mouth to the nasal cavity), and oral tumors. All of these may be treated at the time a dental cleaning is performed.

The interval between cleanings varies with individual pets, severity of disease, and at home care. Owners can extend time between dental cleanings by brushing pet's teeth and giving dental chews. Feeding a dry diet versus a moist one will also help to break up tartar.

Divine Animal Hospital offers complete dental cleanings with Oravet sealant and products owners can take home to continue maintenance. Although owners express concerns about dental procedures, most dentals require only short anesthesia times and pets go home the same day. Every pet is placed on a ventilator and has complete monitoring of cardiovascular function including ECG, blood pressure, temperature, and pulse oximetry. Although discomfort is usually minimal after the procedure, all pets with extractions are given pain medication and antibiotics.



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On Faith

Every one of us needs a true friend

BY REV. DRs. CASEY AND BOB BAGGOTT
COLUMNISTS

This past summer, although we were on vacation for several weeks and away from our dear church friends in Vero Beach, we were able to worship at other churches where the love of the congregations for each of their members was abundantly clear. Witnessing the mutual care of those folks helped us to recognize why friendship is so critical for us all, and why our congregations are among the finest places we know to find, and keep, true friends.

You see, there among God's people, if we struggle or lack faith, the faith of our friends carries us straight to God's arms where we can be made whole again. There, if we find we've lost the melody in our hearts, the voices of friends will rise in song for us. There if we find we cannot pray, the prayers of friends will be there to see us through. There if we feel we have nothing left to give, friends are ready to offer from their abundance.

I hope you have a friend. I hope you are a friend to others. God seems to have given us into one another's keeping because every one of us needs a friend.

Rev. Dr. Robert Baggott is Senior Minister of Community Church of Vero Beach. Rev. Dr. Casey Baggott is Executive Minister. The Baggotts write a regular faith column for Vero Beach 32963.

Are you a loner? Or are you, perhaps, one who's best contented in a crowded room, full of other people? Either way, introvert or extrovert, isolationist or life-of-the-party, we'd venture to guess that every one of us has, and needs, true friends.

Friends are more than casual acquaintances. Friends are more than members of our social set. Friends are more than people for whom we feel an obligation. Friends, true friends, are one of life's greatest and truest treasures. The book of Ecclesiasticus says a friend is the "elixir of life." That's a great image, isn't it? Friendship is indeed a tonic, a medicine, a healing balm.

One of the greatest of all tributes to the healing quality of friendship comes from the mouth of Jesus. You remember the story. Four men wanted to take their paralyzed friend to the home where Jesus was teaching, hoping that Jesus would touch and heal him. But as they approached the house, they quickly changed plans. The house was crammed with Jesus' admirers, and it was impossible for the four men and their paralyzed friend, whom they carried on a mat, to get anywhere near Jesus. So in a daring move, the four hoisted their friend up to the rooftop, dug through the roof, and lowered the paralyzed man on his mat, right into Jesus arms. The story then tells us that Jesus, seeing the faith of the four friends, pronounced the paralyzed man healed. Because of the faith of the friends, Jesus told the man to stand up and walk.

Have you ever found yourself too confused or lost, frightened or ill to go on? Have you ever found yourself paralyzed by what you faced – but finding a true friend, discovered you could stand up to your troubles and fears, and walk on? Many of us have been fortunate enough to learn firsthand that friendship grants us courage, stamina, confidence, hope. Friendship is, indeed, the elixir of life.

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Contact Lawrence Brooks, Executive Director 772.344.4020
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Dining

Restaurant Review

The French Quarter: With Ian in the kitchen, all's well

BY TINA RONDEAU
COLUMNIST

On a couple of visits to the French Quarter this past summer, we left a bit disappointed. Things weren't quite up to what we have come to expect of an Ian Greenwood restaurant; two of Ian's trademark dishes were not exactly right; and Greenwood himself, a long-time favorite of ours, was nowhere to be seen, said to be preoccupied with building his new Mexican hacienda.

So imagine our excitement a week ago when we arrived at the French Quarter early on a Saturday night and found Ian, resplendent (well, maybe not quite resplendent) in chef garb, preparing to embark on an evening in the kitchen. Seemed just like old times. When Ian is presiding over a kitchen, things don't get much better than that.

Based on last Saturday's meal, Vero foodies ought to be hoping that construction of Ian's south-of-the-border retreat moves slowly (not, given the pace of things in Mexico, an unreasonable hope), and that we get another winter of great meals out of him at the French Quarter.

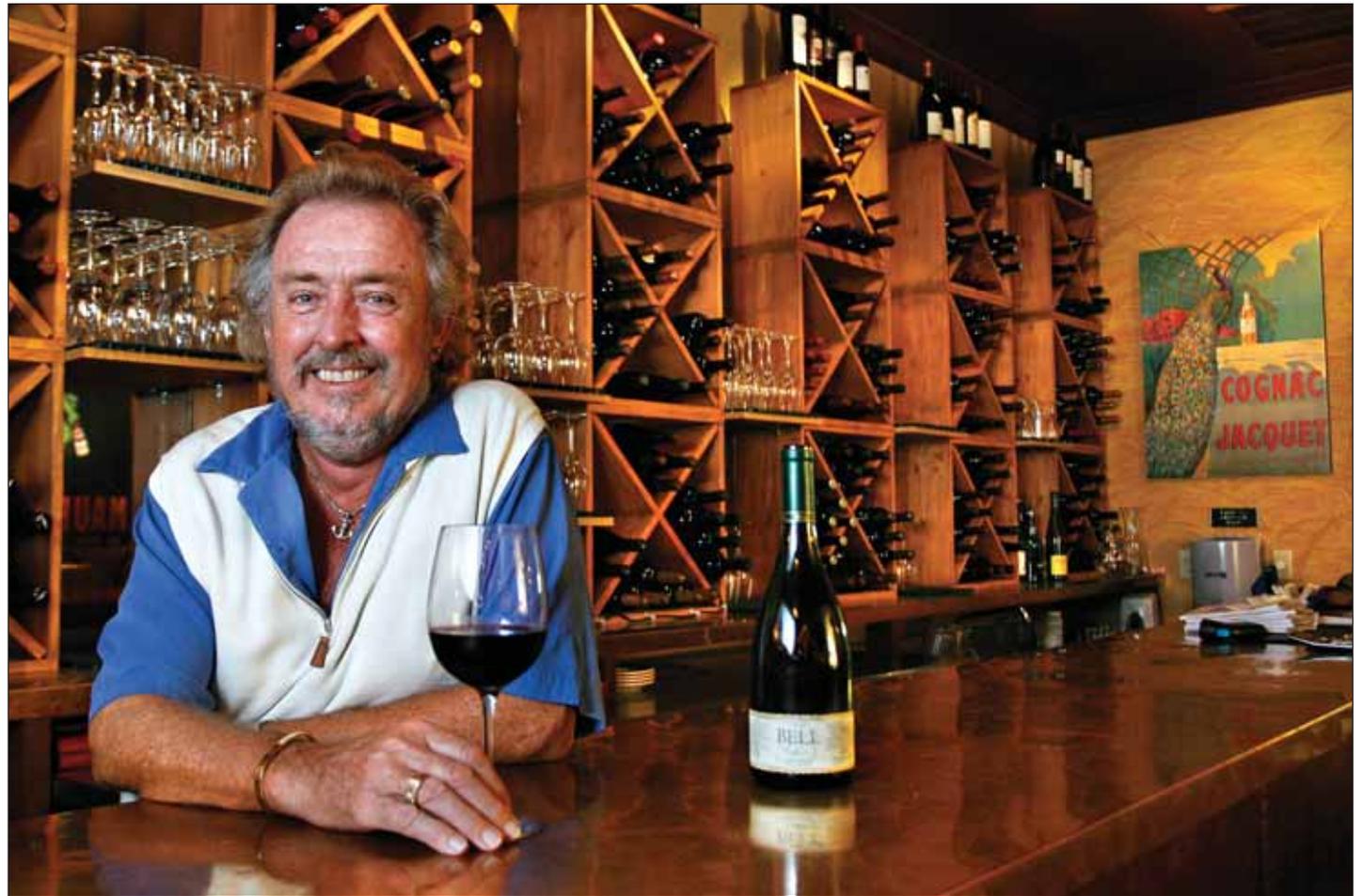
On this evening, our choices for entrees were two items from the list of Daily Specials (\$22.50).

My husband, predictably, had the seared swordfish topped with lump crabmeat. While swordfish can be a hit-or-miss thing in many restaurants, it never is at Ian's. He gets fresh swordfish from a local vendor, and it always comes out cooked perfectly.

Our other choice this evening was the pinenut crusted Yellowtail Snapper in a Crawfish burre blanc. While this is an old standby that we have enjoyed on a number of occasions, on this visit it could not have been prepared better.

While we would like to wow you with the great new dishes we sampled, dinners at the French Quarter tend to see us migrate to the tried and true.

Salads at the French Quarter come in three basic varieties. My favorite is the spinach salad, prepared with



Ian Greenwood, owner of The French Quarter

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.



pears and blue cheese. One of my regular dining companions gravitates toward the classic Caesar salad, which she insists is one of the best anywhere. My husband tends to opt (as he did on this most recent visit) for Ian's "special" Caesar salad, which features bacon bits and red peppers.

For main courses, it is impossible to go wrong with any of the encrusted seafood dishes. These all began, long-time fans will remember, with Ian's now famous onion-crusting grouper in a citrus sauce at the old Black Pearl on south A1A. Over the years, like a New Orleans jazz musician, Ian has riffed off this, preparing a variety of fresh local fish in a variety of crusts.

If the dominant influence at the French Quarter was Cajun, one would feel the need to have the

warm bananas foster or the New Orleans bread pudding for dessert. But the dominant influence is Ian, and for dessert, there really is only one choice – Ian's warm chocolate gingerbread served with a caramel pecan ice cream.

The French Quarter's menu offers an ample choice of non-seafood entrees, ranging from a chargrilled Angus ribeye steak in a shallot and peppercorn sauce to a center cut double Pork Chop with apple pecan stuffing and bourbon sauce. The ones we have had were all good. But once you try Ian's seafood, you will be hooked.

Tucked in a back corner of a strip mall at 1920 14th Avenue, the French Quarter has both a festive bistro-type dining room (usually crowded on Friday and Saturday nights) and a New Orleans-style terrace, a most pleasant option last Saturday given the spectacular fall weather.

It is also worth noting that at the French Quarter, the cost of top-tier dining has always been well below the prices charged by Ian's most highly rated competitors. Dinner for two on this most recent visit, with

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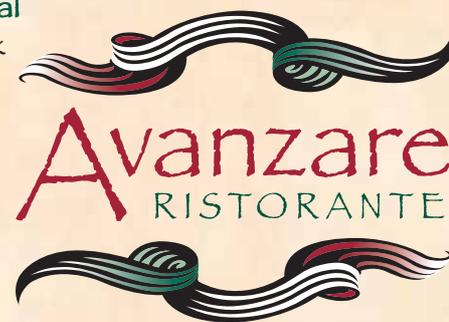
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 64

a more than decent bottle of Char-donnay, came to approximately \$80 before tip.

While Ian's partner, Spencer Craw-fis, does a great job of running the front-of-the-house, it is Ian's pres-ence in the kitchen that makes the French Quarter go. And our advice

to you, if you want to enjoy some of the best seafood Vero has ever seen, would be to go before Ian is gone.

I welcome your comments, and encourage you to send feedback to me at tina@verobeach32963.com.

The reviewer dines anonymously at restaurants at the expense of Vero Beach 32963.

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Food

Let's talk turkey: Three key Thanksgiving components

BY RUSS PARSONS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

After more than 20 years of writing Thanksgiving turkey recipes, I thought I had seen it all. And then came the "Judy Bird."

Inspired by the chicken-cooking technique of my friend Judy Rodgers, chef and owner at San Francisco's Zuni Cafe, it couldn't be simpler: You just salt the turkey a few days in advance, give it a brisk massage every so often to redistribute the salt, and then roast it.

The results are phenomenal. Without the fuss and mess of wet-brining, you still get the deep, well-seasoned flavor. And while wet-brining can sometimes lead to a slightly spongy texture, with dry-brining, the bird stays firm and meaty.

It has become a holiday staple for many of our readers, so we're reprising it again this year.

To find out just how well it would work, The Times' Test Kitchen tested this method two years ago against three other turkey recipes we'd used successfully in the past: steam-roasting (cooking in an old-fashioned covered roaster), high-heat roasting (cooking the bird as you would a chicken, from start to finish at 400 degrees), and the aforementioned wet-brining (soaking

the turkey in a saltwater solution for several days before roasting).

I wish everyone who had ever told me that "turkey is turkey" could have

been there for the judging. These were remarkably different birds, and the clear winner was the dry-salted Judy Bird.

Our readers clearly agreed. The first week the recipe ran, I received more than 200 e-mails about it, many of them saying it was the best bird they'd ever cooked. What makes this turkey so great? It's pretty simple, really: The salt draws moisture from the meat, but then the meat reabsorbs the liquid. So in effect, you're brining the turkey in its own juices.

There have been some questions about the process.

- No, the turkey is not salty. In the first place, you season it only lightly, about a tablespoon of salt for every 5 pounds of turkey — that's only a little more than if you were seasoning it normal-



ly. Then the saltiness is further reduced because the seasoning is absorbed through the meat rather than remaining on the surface as it normally would.

This is also why you don't need to rinse or brush the salt from the skin before roasting—there shouldn't be any there.

- Yes, you can shorten the salting period. The technique is best if you allow three days for salting and then half a day of air-drying outside the bag in the refrigerator. That half-day is mainly to thoroughly dry the skin so it browns and crisps nicely during roasting. If you're pressed for time, you can simply pat the skin dry with a towel. If absolutely necessary, you can even shorten the salting period to two days, although the seasoning won't be quite as effective.

- If you normally stuff your turkey, you can continue to do that, just salt the stuffing a little less than you normally would. (This is a major differ-

ence from wet-brining, which does make stuffing too salty.) Be aware, though, that food safety experts recommend cooking stuffing to a temperature of 160 degrees in the center, at which point the breast meat will probably be around 180 degrees and starting to dry out. But if that hasn't bothered you in the past, this recipe will be no different.

- By the same token, neither are the pan drippings so salty that you can't make gravy from them. But you will want to add salt just to taste and only at the very end.

- You don't need to do anything different during the cooking; this technique changes only the seasoning.

- If the turkey isn't quite as brown as you'd like it, you can return the oven temperature to 450 degrees for the last 20 minutes of roasting for better color. Don't brown for too long or the breast meat will dry out.

- You can adapt this technique to a turkey breast, using the same proportion of salt to weight and roasting the breast as you normally would.

- The one issue still unresolved is whether you can use this technique if you're starting with a frozen bird. Theoretically, the answer is yes. But since we still haven't tried that variation in the Test Kitchen, our recommendation is to start with a fresh turkey.

Choosing sides? Why not have both?

You need mashed potatoes, creamy and soulful, to soak up the gravy — and sweet potatoes, because they taste both so different and so good with the turkey.

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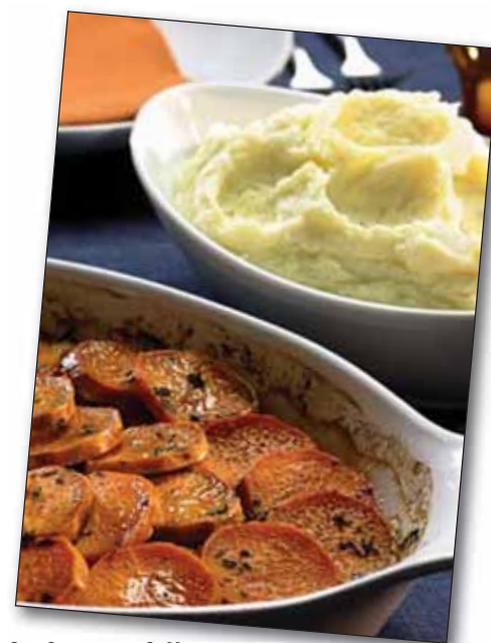
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BY REGINA SCHRAMBLING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Apparently there are people on the planet who actually think you can serve turkey without potatoes. These are the same traitors who would trot out a cheesecake instead of a pumpkin pie. Traditions are traditions, and potatoes are not just an essential ingredient. You have to have them twice in the same meal.

You need mashed potatoes, creamy and soulful, to soak up the gravy — and sweet potatoes, because they taste both so different and so good with the turkey. Because the sweet potatoes are so often mislabeled as yams,



which are a different tuber altogether, it must have been easy for them to slip onto the menu over the nearly century and a half since Thanksgiving became a national holiday.

Because you might eat mashed potatoes at any old meal, they need dress-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 67



Bruleed pumpkin pie

What we like about this pumpkin pie is that it *must* be made ahead — you have to allow the crust to freeze for a minimum of a few hours, or overnight, *and* also let the filling freeze overnight. Here's your recipe for —Rene Lynch

Total time: 1 hour, 15 minutes, plus overnight freezing time for the crust and overnight chilling time for the pie

Servings: 8

Note: From Amy Scattergood. The pie crust is adapted from "Local Flavors" by Deborah Madison.

Pie crust

- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) plus 2 tablespoons cold unsalted butter

- 1/2 teaspoon vinegar
- 1 egg, separated
- Scant 1/2 cup ice water

1. Place the flour, salt, nutmeg and lemon zest in a food processor and pulse to combine. Cut the butter into 1-inch cubes and add the cubes to the flour, pulsing 4 to 6 times to break up the butter.

2. Combine the vinegar and egg yolk in a measuring cup and add enough ice water to bring the volume up to one-half cup. Add the liquid in a steady stream to the food processor, while pulsing, until the flour looks crumbly and damp, 25 to 30 pulses.

The crumbs should adhere when you gather them together with your fingers.

3. Turn the dough out and divide into two equal pieces. Wrap each in plastic wrap and press into a disk; refrigerate for 30 minutes to 1 hour.

4. Roll out one piece into a 12-inch circle, one-eighth-inch thick. Trim the edges flush with the rim of a 9-inch pie pan, place the dough circle into the pan and gently press the bottom and sides to fit. Roll out the other piece to a one-eighth-inch thickness and cut leaf shapes out of it.

5. The leaves can be cut using a leaf-

shaped cutter, or by hand using a stencil (ours was 1 inch by 3 inches) and paring knife. Using the back of a dinner knife, press a pattern into each leaf: Press one crease down the center, and 5 or so on each side of the crease. Mix a little water into the reserved egg white and, using a pastry brush, brush a little of the mixture around the edge of the pie crust.

6. Press the leaves around the edge of the crust, overlapping them slightly and using the wash to adhere them, then brush the assembled crust with the wash. Freeze the pie crust for at least several hours and up to overnight.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 66

ing up for the holiday. But the sweet potatoes, which are less of an everyday thing, actually need to lose a few accessories, starting with the marshmallows and brown sugar.

The best mashed potatoes start at the store. Yukon golds or russets are ideal because of their assertive flavor and excellent texture — buttery in the case of Yukon gold, flaky for russet. But if you find other smooth-textured, full-flavored potatoes at the farmers market, use them. Some taste creamy-rich even before you tear off the wrapper on a stick of Land O'Lakes.

For even cooking, peel them and cut them into chunks (not slices, which turn too mushy). Start them in a big pot of cold water with salt (hot

water keeps the potatoes from cooking evenly from the inside out). Cook them at a rolling simmer until they are just soft, not falling apart, then drain them completely and return them to the hot pot.

Now comes the only tricky part. You can mash in as much softened butter as you find conscionable (this is a good day for an artisanal butter, or at least Plugra). Then start mashing in a mixture of cream and milk (it's a holiday; you need both). The secret here is warming the two liquids so they blend into the potatoes without cooling them down.

No recipe can specify exactly how much liquid you will need for mashed potatoes. The main ingredient varies greatly, not just among varieties but by age, and humidity may even play

a part in how much liquid will turn the potatoes creamy but not watery. A good rule of thumb is to add more than potatoes can handle for a light puree, less if you like a dense mound.

Basic mashed potatoes are perfect for sopping up gravy, but the hyper-creamy kind invented by Parisian chef Joel Robuchon have irresistible appeal.

The other Thanksgiving potatoes can be just as decadent. Too many cooks spoil the dish with a heavy hand on the sugar when lots of butter and good seasoning will turn them into something truly amazing. Try sweet potatoes just once simply roasted, in the skin, with nothing more than butter and salt, and you will never reach for the brown sugar again.

The best sweet potatoes as turkey

partners are the deep orange kind. Long, relatively slender ones are ideal because they are easy to peel and hold their shape when sliced.

And that makes them gratin-ready. Just send them out layered like scalloped potatoes. And instead of sugaring them to compete with cranberry sauce, let them hold their own against turkey and stuffing, not to mention lots of gravy.

Fresh thyme is the perfect herbal partner. It has a grassy liveliness that perks up the underlying flavor. For a jazzier effect, try garlic and chipotle chiles in adobo sauce. The intense sweet taste of the potatoes can stand up to the aggressive seasonings, and the flavor is literally tripled.

And on Thanksgiving, more is better.

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St. Ed's

*St. Edward's looking for hoops turnaround*BY MICHAEL BIELECKI
CORRESPONDENT

There are a lot of new things at St. Edward's this year.



Coach Mike Fedick watches from half-court as the St. Edward's School's boys basketball team runs through a drill at practice. Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

New Head of School Michael Mersky and Athletic Director Jeff Lamscha are two of the biggest additions, while the future sale of the Riomar Campus and a tightening of the school's budget

are the chief distractions.

Somewhere on down the list of changes for 2009 is the hiring of new basketball coach Mike Fedick.

Fedick, 24, is one of three basketball players to ever start all four years at

Vero Beach High School. It was a short-but-specific resume that got him the job at St. Edward's. He has two years of experience coaching seventh and eighth grade AAU Basketball, and four

years of experience under VBHS Coach Chuck Loewendick.

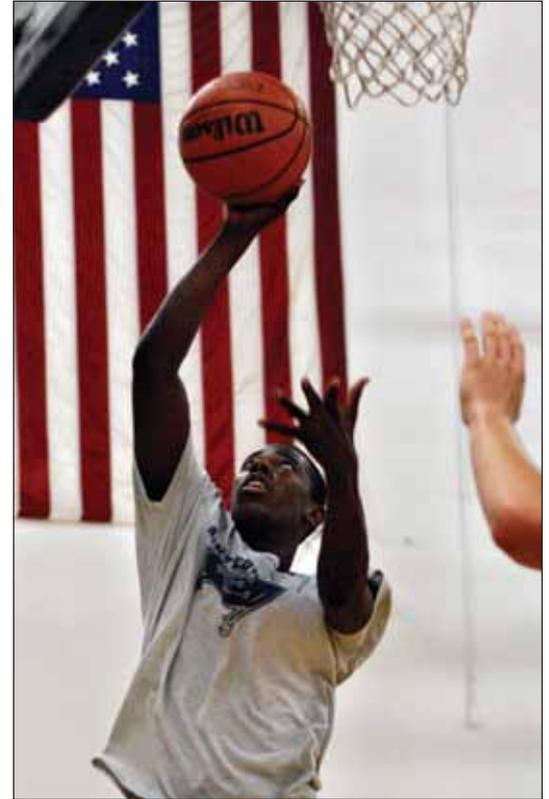
"For three years, who do you think ran the practice?" asked Fedick. "From my sophomore year on, I was like Loewendick's assistant out there as his starting point guard. I didn't need anyone to tell me to lead the team through drills—after awhile I just did it."

Mersky, Lamscha, and associate head of school Bruce Wachter couldn't hold Fedick's age against him during the hiring process because they too were in their early 20's when they started coaching. Having the backing of Loewendick was the ace up Fedick's sleeve, as the VBHS coach's recommendation had two decades of success behind it.

Fedick comes to a program that needs his help, as the Pirates went 1-19 last year. A coaching change during the season was a severe blow to the program, and it was nearly rudderless by the end of the season. What is Fedick going to take from his mentor to help him turn St. Edward's basketball around?

"Everything," said Fedick.

"He's one of the best high school coaches you will ever find. There's no-



Johnny McClendon shoots a lay-up during a drill.

body who puts in more time breaking down film, and he really prepared us for our opponents. I don't care how much talent you have, if you aren't organized and don't have a game plan, you aren't going to win."

Turning around a program that only won one game is a tall order. The young coach has a lot of things working in his favor going into basketball season, with one being a coachable group of athletes. "I have a great group of kids," said Fedick. "They work hard, they listen, and they show respect. They never question why, they just do what you tell them."

The team has an intriguing mix of seniors and underclassmen, with two players coming from Vero Beach High School. The starting lineup is set and it should be a very good unit. The frontcourt has great height and maturity, with three seniors leading the way. Senior center Chris Campana stands at an honest 6-6, and power forward Johnny McClendon is 6-3. Together they provide St. Edward's with a solid inside offensive and defensive game. Senior forward Matt Cauley is an athletic 6-2, and he's effective both inside the paint and out.

The backcourt is young, but skilled. Sophomore Norris Rogers is an explosive athlete with a nice shooting touch. At 6-1 he's the quickest player on the team, and has skills to play either shooting guard or point guard. Freshman Derrell Flowers is tiny (5-3) and

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St. Ed's

really fast. After leading the St. Ed's 8th graders to a league championship last year, he was pulled up to varsity where he showed his mettle against much older players.

Coach Fedick likes what he sees with his starters, and he sees Rogers and McClendon—both VBHS transfers—

100 in the state) will be two of the first players Fedick will turn to for substitutions.

"I appreciate Andrew coming out this year," said Fedick. "He's going to come off the bench and work hard for us in practice. Pickering brings a great work ethic and energy to the court.

pressure opposing teams from tip-off to the final buzzer. "I'm bringing a VBHS-style defense here," said Fedick. "But we'll press even more than they do. I have some really fast players and in our league you can really hurt teams with a good full-court press."

The St. Edward's faithful will be happy to see a competitive team this year, but what should they expect out of this improved unit? Coach Fedick is setting the bar high for himself and his players this year.

"Just to be .500 would be something I wouldn't be pleased with," said Fedick. "Knowing what I know, and having more talent this year, 15 wins would be a successful season. There's no reason why this team shouldn't get out of districts and get into the playoffs. Winning a few games at the beginning of the year will help erase the past and get everyone to realize there's a future."

Fedick insists he's at St. Edward's for the long haul. First and foremost, he wants the players to know that their future is in good hands. "The main thing for them to do is to trust me," said Fedick. "They've had so many coaching changes in this program; I feel a responsibility to give these kids a chance to win.



Norris Rogers lays the ball up during a drill.



Norris Rogers lays the ball up over Johnny McLendon.

as dynamic players. "They're both talented," said Fedick. "Norris could have played on varsity at VBHS this year. Johnny hasn't had a whole lot of coaching, but has all the tools. He's got great footwork, great hands, and he moves well. He can shoot it great from the top of the key and baseline. He's a superstar and he doesn't even know it."

The bench will get an assist from the tennis team this year, as Andrew Butz (ranked number 26 among tennis singles in the country 18 and under) and Conner Pickering (ranked in the top

He's going to be a big factor in our full-court press."

Football players Chris Barbato and Assad Shalhoub will add depth to the bench, and Fedick has big plans for them. "I'll use Barbato's athletic ability when we employ our full-court press," said Fedick. "His ability as a defensive back serves him well on the basketball court, and he'll get a lot of steals in my system. Shalhoub provides me with another athletic forward with decent size I can turn to off the bench."

Defense will be the key to the Pirates success this year, and Fedick plans to

"Long-term, this is something that can turn into a great program. I want to build a basketball culture at St. Edward's."

The Pirates open their season with five straight home games, starting with Covenant Christian School Monday, Nov. 23 at 5:30.

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Real Estate

Commercial real estate on island remains scarce

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

With "for sale" signs proliferating on nearly every residential street on the barrier island, it's hard to believe that there are fewer than one dozen commercial properties for sale in 32963. One is a motel at 807 Azalea, three are retail stores on Ocean Drive and Bougainvillea Lane and the rest are office buildings or office condo suites scattered about the island. The total inventory for sale is less than \$35 million.

"As far as the island goes, there has not been very much action in commercial real estate," said Jay Hart, who will head up Alex MacWilliam Real Estate's new commercial division. "That's what we're trying to do is to develop more of a commercial presence, to bring more of a focus to the commercial side, because there are commercial opportunities."

There has only been one commercial closing this year, and that was a transaction between private investors for an interest in a business property.

Last year, only the Merrill Lynch building on the corner of Beachland Boulevard and Highway A-1-A changed hands from Bill Becker to Warren Schweirin, selling for \$7.8 million. The Vero Beach Inn was taken off the market after being leased and about a half-dozen other buildings were not re-listed after the listings expired.

There was one commercial sale of 969 Flamevine Lane for \$2 million in 2007, none in 2006, one in 2005 and a handful in 2004.

According to Hart, there are some pretty good reasons why there are so



4625 Highway A1A

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

few properties for sale and even fewer selling, as compared to the residential market, not least of which is that prices have not fallen the 30 to 40 percent as they have on homes.

"The sellers are not motivated because most of the properties are generating income, they've owned them for a long time and, unless they are able to sell them for what they think they're worth, they're not going to sell," Hart said.

"They're all beautiful properties and all pretty much generating cash flow,

and everyone's optimistic with what's going on with the Vero Beach Hotel and Resort, Costa d'Este and Ocean Park that they feel like they are positioned well being on the barrier island."

Hart said owners of commercial properties want to keep their tenants and the caliber of boutiques, shops, galleries and eateries that make up the flavor and atmosphere on the beach and they've been willing to compromise to maintain a high level of occupancy.

"There is property available on the

mainland to rent and businesses are tempted to move to save money, so owners have sometimes had to make some rent concessions to keep their tenants," Hart said.

Andrew Kennedy, sales associate with P & S Properties, backed up Hart's analysis. Kennedy spends most of his time working with buyers, sellers and entrepreneurs working on the mainland such as the old Modernage project on Miracle Mile, brokering leases and navigating re-zoning procedures and renovations.

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Real Estate



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807 Azalea Lane

"It's a unique area and many of the commercial properties on the barrier island are virtually irreplaceable, but you just can't justify the prices based on the rents you can get," he said. "If you want to own something out there, it's priced relatively high or at a premium."

So, what will Hart spend his time doing as commercial sales manager? Hart is hoping to use his 30 years of banking and commercial lending experience — combined with Alex MacWilliam Real Estate's 60 years of catering to Vero Beach clients — to change the face of the real estate market not only on the barrier island, but throughout Indian River County.

"I can't stop thinking like a banker and I know how bankers value properties," he said. "There is no emotion in commercial real estate and how it is valued and banks don't want to own properties and are not in the business of owning properties."

Hart explained that the value of a commercial property is based upon the operating income a property generates and the expectations of the owner in terms of investment return. If an office building brings in \$300,000 per year in rent and the owner hopes for a 10 percent return, that building would be worth roughly \$3 million. The high prices of barrier island properties, combined with stagnating rents due to the economic times, place most of the available properties at a 5 or 6 percent rate in terms of revenue. This is not the bargain that today's buyers are looking for, so Hart intends to try to find properties that can be priced to sell.

"I have met with a couple of banks and want to see if we can work with bankers on non-performing assets, some could be foreclosed on or just beginning the foreclosure process."

A graduate of Georgia Tech, former

CONTINUED ON PAGE 72

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Real Estate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

senior commercial lender for Seacoast National Bank and avid volunteer and supporter of the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, Hart brings a great deal of knowledge to the job, though he only joined MacWilliam about three weeks ago.

MacWilliam's new Commercial Investment Services division rounds out its service offerings, which include new home builder counseling, luxury home sales, a seller's agent program and a buyer's agent program, headed up by long-time beachside resident Charlotte Terry.

The brokerage is also keeping an eye out for news of businesses moving or properties not yet listed to give potential buyers an idea of what opportunities might be on the horizon. Buzz MacWilliam and his team are planning to submit a proposal to compete for the listing on St. Edward's Lower School campus property. Another place that will be available will be the current offices of Rossway, Moore and Taylor when they move to the scenic second floor of the soon-to-be remodeled Modernage building.

Hart said the commercial market mid-decade was fueled by what he



Jay Hart is heading up the new Commercial Real Estate Division at Alex MacWilliam Real Estate.

calls "1031" money, referring to an Internal Revenue Service code on capital gains taxes.

The money which was invested in barrier island commercial buildings

five or six years ago were the profits that sellers had in their pockets from turning over other properties — mon-

ers together with sellers and getting sellers to see what the properties are more realistically worth," he said. "It's

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ey that they needed to invest quickly to defer capital gains taxes. With today's prices, not many sellers are coming away with profits that they're inclined to re-invest.

"With that 1031 money gone, people are just looking for really great deals," he said.

Despite the fact that the valuation of commercial real estate is not emotional, as Hart said, there is the factor of the scarcity and exclusivity of being located on the island.

"Certain businesses just want to be on the island because of the nature of their business, the image and their clientele, so it's a matter of bringing buy-

my job to show them that and, if I get a seller who is motivated, the price may have to come down."

Hart thinks he can use his connections built through his banking career and involvement in the community to do what he loves best — make deals happen.

"A good part of real estate is about relationships and that's also what banking is about," he said. "Alex MacWilliam Real Estate has got long-standing relationships and I've got the relationships I had before through banking and I think we can make the best of those in dealing in commercial properties."

Mini-boom in home refinancing continues

BY E. SCOTT RECKARD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Mortgage interest rates are at their lowest levels in five weeks, and not surprisingly more people are seeking home loans, two surveys from big industry players show.

But the Mortgage Bankers Assn. said the increase was driven by people refinancing homes, not buying them.

The closely watched Freddie Mac report on rates last week showed 30-year fixed home loans at an average of 4.91% for borrowers paying 0.7% in upfront points and fees to lenders.

That was down from 4.98% a week earlier with the same points, and the lowest average rate in five weeks for

the survey by the government-controlled loan buyer.

The average rate for 15-year fixed loans fell from 4.40% to 4.36% with 0.6% of the loan amount paid in lender upfront charges, Freddie Mac said.

The surveys assume borrowers have good credit, can make a 20% down payment and take on no more than \$417,000 in debt – the threshold above

which loans are categorized as “jumbo” and the rate goes up.

The mortgage bankers’ survey said 30-year fixed rates averaged 4.90% last week for borrowers who paid just over a point upfront.

It said overall applications for mortgages rose by 3.2% from the previous week, but it was the breakdown by the trade group that was interesting: Refi-

nances were up 11.3% on a seasonally adjusted basis, but purchase loans fell 11.7%.

Refinances made up 71.5% of all mortgage applications during the week, the highest since May, when the average rate for a conventional 30-year fixed-rate mortgage dipped to a record 4.69% in the Mortgage Bankers Assn. survey.

First time buyers make up big share of housing market

BY ALEJANDRO LAZO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

First-time buyers made up a bigger share of the housing market in 2009 than any other year on record, according to a new study by the National Association of Realtors.

The number of first-time home buyers rose to 47% of all home sales from 41% of transactions in last year’s study, and was the highest on record dating back to 1981, according to the NAR.

Home sales have been fueled in recent months by foreclosure properties. Both investors and first-time buyers have jumped into the market to snap up these heavily discounted digs.

For first-time buyers, one major incentive fueling the spree has been a tax credit extended last month by the Obama administration and expanded to include move-up buyers. The Realtors group lobbied heavily for the legislation.

Many independent economists, however, contend that the credits are being given to people who would have bought anyway.

Of those first-time buyers, 55% purchased their home with a loan backed by the Federal Housing Administration.

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With locations in Vero Beach and Ft. Pierce, Harvest Food & Outreach Center is a food subsidy program offering help to those in need. Other services include crisis services, emergency food boxes and cash assistance, Medicaid advocacy and job skills training and job placement assistance. For more information about HFOC or to be a sponsor or volunteer for the Turkey Trot, call 770-2665.

Calendar



NOVEMBER

November 19

Save the Chimps fund-raiser 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the Vero Beach Hotel and Spa. www.SaveTheChimps.org.

November 19 - 22

St. Helen Harvest Festival at Historic Dodgertown, Thursday 5 to 9:30 p.m., Friday 5 to 11 p.m., Saturday noon to 11

p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. 567-5457

November 19 - December 6

Riverside Theatre presents, *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, on the Stark Mainstage. 231-6990

November 20

Tiger Lily Art Studios and Gallery will host its annual open studio, Found Fired

Focused and Framed, 5 to 8 p.m. 778-3443

November 20

The Twilight Saga: New Moon premier at Majestic Theatre to benefit Homeless Family Center. (772) 770-0774 or visit www.majesticvero.com

November 20

Open and Senior division finals of the Masters of the King of the Hill Pro Tennis Exhibitions, 5 p.m. at The Boulevard to benefit the Youth Guidance Mentoring & Activities Program. 770-5040

November 20 - 21

Riverside Children's Theatre's annual Festival of Trees begins with the Preview Gala, 6:30 p.m. Nov. 20. Tickets \$150; \$75 for people under 35. Regular Showcase is Nov. 21 & 22 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., tickets \$7 adults, \$3 children. Family Night is 6 p.m. Nov. 21, tickets \$35 for family of four, \$10 each additional person, children under two free. 231-6990

November 21

Kiwanis Vero-Treasure Coast Golf Tournament at Grand Harbor Golf Club to benefit Hibiscus Children's Center. 8 a.m. shotgun start. \$150 per person; \$500 per foursome. Call Angela Astrup 978-9313 x 313 or Al Sammartino 778-9711.

November 21

Vero Beach High School Bulls-Eye Extravaganza, noon to 5 p.m. at the Indian River County Fairgrounds. \$5 ticket gets you a square on the field - if your cow "marks the spot" you win. 633-7683

November 21 - 22

The 26th Annual Vero Beach Fall Boat Show, featuring boat dealers and suppliers, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Riverside Park. Free parking and admission. 562-7922

November 22

Emerson Center Special Guest Performance of Doug Wilson's *ABC's Wide World of Sports Odyssey*, at the Emerson Center at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. shows with a VIP Cocktail Reception at 5:30 p.m. 778-5249 or www.TheEmersonCenter.org.

November 26

2nd Annual Treasure Coast Turkey Trot Against Hunger, a 5K run to benefit the Harvest Food & Outreach Center. 6:30 a.m. registration, 7:20 a.m. run at Riverside Park. \$20 in advance; \$25 day of event. 772-569-7364 or www.trotagainsthunger.org.

November 27

Christmas in Downtown at Downtown Friday, presented by Main Street Vero Beach and Vero Heritage, Inc. on 14th Avenue in historic downtown. Free admission. www.mainstreetvero.com

November 28

The Vero Beach Book Center's Holiday

Open House with Santa Claus, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Children's Store. 569 2050

November 28

Vero Classical Ballet presents *The Nutcracker* at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center; performances at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 360-8577

November 29

The Vero Beach Art Club presents *Art in the Park - Outdoor Art Exhibit & Sale*, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Humiston Park on Ocean Drive. 231-0303

DECEMBER

December 1

A Holiday Stroll Downtown Dine and Design combines with a Mad Potters Tea Party and a Southeast Gallery of Photographic Art reception, beginning at 4 p.m. on 14th Avenue south of Route 60, the Cultural Council office and lobby of the Theatre Plaza Building, and the Southeast Gallery of Photographic Art on westbound Route 60. 770-4857

December 3

Gallery 14 will host the Vero Beach Museum of Art Contemporaries' off-site Art Around Town event, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. 231-0707 ext. 109

December 3

The Emerson Center Humanities Series presents *Telling' It Like It Is*, with Hank Mattson, recounting the life and times of Florida cattlemen over the past 400 years. 7 p.m. lecture is complimentary. 778-5249

December 4

Author Rusty McClure presents *Cincinnati; The Secret Plot to Save America*, 5:30 p.m. at the Vero Beach Book Center. 569 2050

December 4

Charity Golf Tournament 11:30 a.m. at Bent Pine Golf Club to benefit the Environmental Learning Center. \$300 registration includes golf, lunch, cocktails and awards reception. 589-5050x 101

December 5

LoPresti Aviation Charity Breakfast & Fly In, 9 a.m. at Sebastian Airport featuring LoPresti Fury, Corkey Fornof and Patty Wagstaff. 562-4757

December 5

Vero Beach Art Club's Art Trail, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., presents a tour of 10 artist studios. Tickets \$25 each or \$45 for two. 231-0303

December 5

Illusions Annual Winter Gala, 6:30 p.m. at The Moorings Club to benefit Hibiscus Children's Center. Tickets \$250. Call Angela Astrup 978-9313 x 313

December 5

Pioneer Christmas at the Hallstrom Farmstead, noon to 3 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy entertainment, beverages and dessert provided by the Indian River Historical Society. \$7 IRHS mem-

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12/1- 12/8 (2 Tuesdays) 2:00pm - 4:00 pm	"Cultural Journeys - Egyptian Odyssey & Southeast Asia"	Ruth Kalish, Ph.D.
12/1 - 12/15 (3 Tuesdays) 10:00am - 12:30pm	"Healthcare: Reform, Repair or Ruin?"	Ruth Kalish, Ph.D.
12/15 Tuesday 2:00pm - 4:30pm	"Voyage of the Dammed - Steamship St. Louis"	Ruth Kalish, Ph.D.

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Calendar

bers, \$10 non-members; children under 12 free. 778-3435

December 5
Christmas parade on Ocean Drive, 5:30 p.m., sponsored by Oceanside Business Association and Vero Beach Rotary Club.

December 6
Christmas at the Museum, a free community day of entertainment, refreshments and a visit from Santa. 1 to 4 p.m.; Santa arrives at 2 p.m.

December 9
Gatekeepers of the Garden Dinner at McKee Botanical Garden. 794-0601

December 9
Author Larry Baker presents A Good Man, 7 p.m. at the Vero Beach Book Center. 569 2050

December 11 - 12
Mardy's Tennis & Jake's Music Fest to Benefit the Mardy Fish Foundation returns to Vero Beach December 11 & 12. December 11 features a Kids Clinic 4 - 5 p.m. at Grand Harbor Golf Club and the Jake Owen Concert at 8 p.m. at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center. December 12 begins at 12:30 p.m. with a Barbeque Luncheon, followed at 2:30 by a Tennis Exhibition. (866) 333.7623

December 12
Vero Beach Holiday Home Tour, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. presented by Christ by the Sea United Methodist Church to benefit Homeless Family Center, Indian River Habitat for Humanity and the Source. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 event day. 231-1661, ext. 302 or www.verobeach-holidayhometour.com.

December 13
The Vero Beach Art Club presents Art in the Park - Outdoor Art Exhibit & Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Humiston Park on Ocean Drive. 231-0303

December 13
Author Debbie Macomber presents The Perfect Christmas, 1 p.m. at the Vero Beach Book Center. 569 2050

December 16
Lighting up Our House of Peace Hanukkah Concert, 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Shalom featuring Beth Schafer. 569-4700

December 18 - 21
Holidays at McKee at McKee Botanical Garden. 794-0601

December 19 & 20
40th annual presentation of Handel's Messiah performed by the Treasure Coast Chorale, Atlantic Classical Orchestra and world class soloists, 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church. Free (772) 567-4311

December 31
New Year's Eve Celebration at Riverside Theatre with food, fun and live entertainment on the Waxlax Stage and in

Solutions from Games Pages in November 12/09 Edition, Issue 33

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Sudoku Page 50

Sudoku Page 51

Crossword Page 50 (OATH OF OFFICE)

Crossword Page 51 (LIKE, TOTALLY JAZZED)

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Calendar

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 75

the Orchid Lobby begins at 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$100. 231-6990

December 31 – January 17

Riverside Theatre presents Ella, featuring over two dozen of Fitzgerald's biggest hits, on the Stark Mainstage. 231-6990

JANUARY

January 3

The Vero Beach Art Club presents Art in the Park - Outdoor Art Exhibit & Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Humiston Park on Ocean Drive. 231-0303 or www.VeroBeachArtClub.org

January 7

The Emerson Center Humanities Series presents Gary Mormino's Emmy-winning PBS documentary, The Florida Dream, a history of Florida since WWII based on his book Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams. 7 p.m. lecture is complimentary. 778-5249

January 7

Atlantic Classical Orchestra presents Vaughn Williams Overture to The Wasps, Ravel La Tombeau de Couperin and Mahler Symphony #4 (Chamber Version). 8 p.m. at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts at St. Edwards School. (866) 310-7521

January 7 – 10

18th Annual Antiques Show & Sale to

benefit the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Preview Party is 5 – 8:30 p.m. Jan. 7, tickets start at \$100. Show & Sale is 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Jan. 8-12, tickets \$10. 231-0707

January 9 – 16

Quail Valley Charities Fundraising Week. Jan. 9 - 5K Walk/Run and Kids fun-run, Jan. 10 - Gourmet Wine & Guest Chef Dinner, Jan. 13 - Duplicate Bridge Tournament & Luncheon, Jan. 14 – 16 - Tennis Tournament, Jan. 15 & 16 - Golf Tournament, Jan. 16 - Grand Gala Cocktail Buffet, Auction and Awards Night. 492-2020

January 9

Oceanside Business Association's free beachside concert series, 5:30 – 8:30 featuring Bobby and the Blisters.

January 11

Riverside Theatre's Distinguished Lecturer Series features Washington political insider Vernon Jordon, at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on the Stark Mainstage. 231-6990

January 11

Bass & Birdies Golf and Fishing Tournament at the Indian River Golf Club, to benefit the Education Foundation. Participants play a full round of golf and also fish four lakes on the course. Registration \$300. 564-0034

Jan. 14 – 24

The comedy, Sin, Sex and the CIA will

be performed at the Vero Beach Theatre Guild. 562-8300

January 15– 17

Art by the Sea, an exhibition and sale of artwork by members of the Vero Beach Art Club and the Vero Beach Museum of Art, held at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Reception 5 – 8 p.m. January 15 and show 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. January 16-17 are both free and open to the public. 231-0303 or www.VeroBeachArtClub.org

January 17

Indian River Symphonic Association presents the Brevard Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Christopher Confessore, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Vero Beach. The Singin' and Swingin' themed Pops Concert features vocalist Michael Andrew. 778-1070

January 21

ACS 125 cocktail party to benefit the American Cancer Society, 6 – 8 p.m. at Northern Trust Bank. \$125 per person. 562-2272

January 23

The Emerson Center Speaker Series presents David Brooks, author and New York Times columnist. 778.5249 or www.theemersoncenter.org

January 23

The 8th Annual Sporting Clays registered shoot at the Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee to benefit Sun-Up of Indian River. \$125 includes ammunition. 770-6626

January 25

Bridge for Kids at Bent Pine Golf Club to benefit the Children's Home Society. 489-5601 x 261

January 25

Top Chef Qualifying Event, 6 – 8 p.m. at Pointe West to benefit the Homeless Family Center. \$30 per person. 567-5537

January 30

Indian River Regional Science & Engineering Fair public viewing, 12 to 1 p.m. at Gifford Middle School. 564-0034

January 30

The Indian River Symphonic Association will present a concert by the Moscow

State Radio Symphony Orchestra with Music Director Alexei Kornienko and Guest Conductor Robert Cole featuring pieces by Rimsky-Korsakov and Stravinsky, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Vero Beach. 778-1070

January 30

Viva Las Vero IV Casino Night 6:30 p.m. at the Vero Beach Elk's Lodge to benefit Hibiscus Children's Center, Saturday. Tickets \$50. Call Angela Astrup 978-9313 x 313

January 31

The Vero Beach Art Club presents Art in the Park - Outdoor Art Exhibit & Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Humiston Park on Ocean Drive. 231-0303 or www.VeroBeachArtClub.org

January 31

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Chamber Music Series at the Vero Beach Museum of Art's Leonhardt Auditorium. 231-0707

January 25

Homeless Family Center Top Chef Challenge...slice, dice and spice Qualifying Event, 6 p.m. at the Holy Cross Church Parish Hall. Top five chefs will move on to the main Top Chef Challenge on February 8th. Qualifying Event tickets are \$30 and tickets for the two-evening package are \$195. 567.2766

FEBRUARY

February 3

Atlantic Classical Orchestra presents Strauss Tanzsuite, Sans De la Liberation de las Formas and Beethoven Symphony #6 "Pastoral". 8 p.m. at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts at St. Edwards School. (866) 310-7521 or www.acomusic.org.

February 4 – 21

Riverside Theatre presents 42nd Street, one of Broadway's longest running musicals, on the Stark Mainstage. 231-6990

February 6

Second champagne reception in the Love of Literacy Author Series, 3 to 5 p.m. at the Indian River Shores community room features Stephanie Keating, co-author with her sister Barbara Keating of A Durable Fire and Blood Sisters. 778-2223

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Real Estate

Featured Real Estate Sales on the Barrier Island: Nov. 4 to Nov. 11, 2009



This week's featured real estate transaction on the barrier island was of a new oceanfront home in Ocean Oaks East a bit south of the Moorings.

This British West Indies estate at 2206 Ocean Oaks Lane East has 7,800 square feet under air and is located on a 121-foot stretch of beach.

The home, which was listed in September 2007 for \$7.495 million, was sold on Nov. 6 for \$5 million.

The seller of the home was represented by Clark French of Premier Estate Properties. The buyer in the transaction was represented by Bob Faller of Norris & Company.

Single Family Residences and Lots

Subdivision	Address	Listed Asking Price	Original	Sold Price	Selling
OCEAN OAKS WEST	2261 OCEAN OAKS CR W	8/20/2009	\$1,299,500	11/5/2009	\$1,000,000
PORPOISE POINT	2085 PORPOISE POINT LN N	9/16/2008	\$469,000	11/5/2009	\$405,000
RIOMAR	835 PAINTED BUNTING LN	11/12/2008	\$1,150,000	11/4/2009	\$875,000

Condos, Villas and Town Houses

Subdivision	Address	Listed Asking Price	Original	Sold Price	Selling
ROBLES DEL MAR	5601 HIGHWAY A1A #105N	8/1/2008	\$159,900	11/5/2009	\$145,000
WINDWARD CONDO	2165 GALLEON DR #G7	12/29/2008	\$199,000	11/5/2009	\$175,000

-Data from MLS

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70 BEACHSIDE DR, #202—2,236 A/C SQ. FT.
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920 ORCHID PT WAY—LAKEFRONT ESTATE
Exquisite 3BR/Office/4.5BA estate enjoys lush views of sparkling lake and 3rd green. Delightful outdoor living. **\$2,050,000 New Listing**



80 CLUBHOUSE COURT—GOLF COTTAGE
3BR/3BA golf cottage on corner homesite just steps from the beautiful Orchid Island Golf Club. **\$975,000 (Furn. Avail.) New Price**



10 BEACHSIDE DR, #201—3,810 A/C SQ. FT.
Spectacular 3BR/Study/4BA residence with custom finishes, elegant stone terrace with summer kitchen and ocean views. **\$2,350,000 New Price**



51 CARIBE WAY—COURTYARD LIVING
3BR/Study/3.5BA courtyard home includes separate 1BR/1BA guest cabana. Golf and lake views. **\$995,000 (Furn. Avail.) New Price**



547 WHITE PELICAN CIR—PRESERVE ESTATE
3BR/Study/3.5BA residence on estate-size homesite enjoys scenic views and Intracoastal access via kayak/canoe. **\$1,775,000**



609 HERON PT COURT—GOLF/LAKE ESTATE
5BR/Study/6.5BA residence includes 2BR/2BA guest cabana with exceptional lake and golf views. **\$3,595,000 New Home/New Price**



424 INDIES DRIVE—GOLF ESTATE
Classic 3BR/Study/3.5BA West Indies inspired estate. Spectacular lake and golf views, high-end finishes. Pristine. **\$1,995,000 New Listing**

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Superbly remodeled, fantastic price!
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