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32963 Insider

Local goings – and possible comings

Is a New Year's round of musical chairs in key local government positions about to be set off by the impending retirement of the No. 2 in the Indian River County Sheriff's Office?

What we know for sure is that Undersheriff Tim Elder, 61, who has served in the \$106,000-a-year post for the past year, is going back into retirement on Dec. 31.

At some point before that date, a new undersheriff presumably will be named by Sheriff Deryl Loar.

That's where the speculation begins. If Sheriff Loar was simply going to promote from within, our guess is he would have announced that already.

From what we hear, the Sheriff is giving serious consideration to a local government official who makes more money (approximately \$136,000), but who in recent months has seemed to be enjoying his job less.

This person is none other than Jim Gabbard, who as it happens, has a strong local law enforcement background, and might also be in a position to be helpful if – as is increasingly frequently rumored – Vero's police department ultimately is absorbed into the Indian River County Sheriff's Office.

We also know Gabbard and Loar are close – and Loar can name anyone he wants to this position. Gabbard could not be reached Monday or Tuesday, but if he were to move over, filling his shoes would be a major challenge for the increasingly dysfunctional Vero City Council.

The 'father' of Vero Beach architecture



Architect James Gibson stands with a Steinway concert grand piano that he donated to the Vero Beach Museum of Art. See story on page 4.
Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Electric probe seen focusing on bid-rigging

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

State Attorney Bruce Colton may be looking into possible bid-rigging as part of a Grand Jury inquiry into Vero Beach's contract with the Orlando Utilities Commission, public records show.

The bidder which came in second, Florida Power & Light, a fact that was never disclosed to Vero Beach City Council members at the time the contract was awarded, confirmed to Vero Beach 32963 on Monday night that investigators had contacted it about the bid process, and said its employees were cooperating with the probe.

Email correspondence between Vero Beach and investigators show the State Attorney's office requested from consultant Sue Hersey copies of several documents related to the process by which the City of Vero Beach selected the OUC over FPL to become the power provider to the city's 33,000 customers as of January 1st.

Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor would not comment on the content of the emails obtained by 32963, or on whether the scope of the investigation had expanded to include the bid process by

Consultant bills surprise only to public

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

The whopping \$3 million the City of Vero Beach has paid to consultants and attorneys over six years for work on Vero's electric utility travails apparently didn't come as a big surprise to former Mayor Tom White, but he concedes the **Vero Beach 32963** story last week breaking the news to the public is likely to change how the city

conducts future business.

"We're going to be doing a lot of things different," White said Monday.

In an interview with Vero Beach 32963, White:

■ Blamed former City Manager Rex Taylor for getting the consultants and lawyers started on the work that ultimately cost Vero's electric utility customers more than \$3 million.

■ Accused Taylor of hiding the early expenditures

by paying them monthly fees that were less than the \$25,000 that would have required prior approval by the City Council.

■ Claimed he "just about had a minor cardiac arrest" when he discovered that the consultants and lawyers were billing up to \$600 per hour.

At the same time, White defended the high costs, saying: "They do work for all the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

December 17, 2009

Vol. 2, Issue 38

Newsstand Price \$1.00

News 1-9
Arts 19-23
Books 46-48
Calendar 74-75
Classifieds 77
Dining 64-65

Faith 63
Food 66
Games 49-51
Health 24-28
Insight 29-52
People 10-18

Pets 62
Real Estate 68-80
St. Ed's 67
Style 56-61
Travel 53-55

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Coverage starts on
Page 12.**

Consultants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

big companies and we were going up against the big guys. When we did the OUC (Orlando Utilities Commission) contract, we wanted to make sure that we didn't run into the same problems we had with FMPA. We had to have big-time lawyers to fight fire with fire."

But while White seems reconciled to the \$3 million in expenditures, not so new City Council Member Brian Heady.

Heady said he was not surprised — but was appalled — to see the tally of the \$3 million paid to consultants and lawyers from out-of-state for the dealings regarding the city's electric

utility.

"I brought it up when they rehired Sue Hersey after she failed miserably," Heady said, referring to the city losing its two-year arbitration saga with the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) in 2005 and then rehiring Hersey in 2006 to negotiate a new power deal, which resulted in the contract with the Orlando Utilities Commission.

"I was outraged that they would hire her again, when you have someone like that giving you bad advice," he said.

During the time that the city was racking up bills of tens of thousands of dollars each month, Heady protested three minutes at a time at nearly every City Council meeting.

He's not sure, because he's been arrested more than 30 times for speaking out at Council meetings, but Heady thinks he might have even been carted off for yet another visit to the Vero Beach Police Department for questioning some of Sue Hersey's charges.

"I don't have a burning need to be vindicated, but it feels wonderful to have this information out because the people are finally getting some help on these issues," he said.

Vero Beach 32963 pored over financial statements dating back to 2003 over the course of several weeks and pieced together the \$3 million price tag paid to Boston consultants and lawyers from receipts and records obtained following a public records

request.

In all, the biggest money maker was Hersey who, between invoices from Navigant Consulting and, later, her own firm Energy Advantage Consulting, billed Vero Beach \$1.5 million for her work over the six years.

City Attorney Charles Vitunac had not responded as of press time to questions about the city attorney's office's customary role in oversight of outside legal counsel and its specific oversight role in the FMPA and OUC cases.

Only White, then as now a City Council member, and Heady addressed the price tag figures and other findings — including that some attorneys billed the city lump sums through consultant Hersey in lieu of submitting detailed time sheets showing exactly what services the city was being billed for and when. White said he would ask for detailed bills from the attorneys from now on.

One question that remained difficult to track was how the city came to hire Boston consultants who, apart from being expensive, added to costs by billing for extensive travel to and from Boston, counting among hourly rates their time on airplanes and driving to and from airports.

But White finally shed some light on how these consultants were hired. It was not through a competitive or public process. White confirmed information obtained by 32963 that Navigant Consulting had been retained secretly in late 2002 or early 2003 by former City Manager Taylor to begin studying and negotiating the city's power agreement with the Florida Metropolitan Power Agency.

High fuel costs were being passed along in high electric bills and the discontent was building among the ratepayers.

"The City Manager, not this one but a previous one, in his infinite wisdom hired these consultants to work on the electric problem," White said.

At the time, the city manager was permitted expenditures of up to \$25,000 without prior approval of the city council. So White said Taylor hired Navigant and paid them in increments of \$25,000 per month, until members of the Council found out.

Shortly afterward, Taylor was no longer the city manager, but the city had already invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the services of Navigant Consulting and was deep into secret negotiations with FMPA.

"By then, it was too late and these guys had already been working on it and they knew what was going on," White said. "I don't want to say that we didn't have a choice, but it had gone too far and then the negotiations with FMPA escalated into arbi-

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tration. We had to do something and these people (Navigant) already had their foot in the door.”

White said that, once they found out a consultant was being used, the Council checked Navigant out and found that they were considered to be at the top of their field in utility consulting. He said the attorneys in Boston also came highly recommended.

“These guys are good,” White said. “They’ve always done a good job for us. We looked for somebody local and the problem is that a lot of local companies don’t have the experience working with utilities. That’s what these guys do. They get it.”

In retrospect, White regrets the arbitration, because it not only cost the city a whole lot of money; it delayed the exit from the FMPA All Requirements Project, precipitating this summer’s astronomical electric bills.

“We thought we could renegotiate it, but if we hadn’t gone through the arbitration, we could be out of FMPA already,” he said.

When asked whether he thought the rates charged by the consultants and attorneys were exorbitant, White said that he was shocked to find out what the market would bear for utility specialists.

“I just about had a minor cardiac arrest at the time when I found out what their hourly rates were,” White said.

The other thing that surprised White was the inability of the city to produce detailed time sheets from the attorneys who worked on the bid documents and contract with OUC. The legal tally was about \$225,000 paid to Sue Hersey’s company Energy Advantage Consulting as a single line item on Hersey’s invoices.

“I can’t see the staff going along with paying that much money without a detailed list of their services from the Boston lawyers,” White said.

White said that he would attempt to track down the time sheets for the legal fees, either from Hersey or from the electric department.

After seeing all the bills compiled in last week’s story, Heady was left scratching his head on the nearly \$600,000 the city spends each year on a legal department that outsources most anything complex. The city’s legal staff is only slightly smaller than the staff of the Indian River County County Attorney’s Office, but the county handles the vast majority of its contract and litigation work..

“Most of the things that we hired consultants for are things that we could have done in-house,” Heady said.

Heady does not blame the city attorney or city manager for the mil-

lions spent on consultants.

“I never blame the staff for these kinds of actions because I believe that the elected officials are their bosses,” Heady said. “The council members (a) didn’t do their homework, (b) didn’t ask the questions or (c), they were so disinterested that they didn’t care whether or not there were answers to the questions.”

Heady said the consultant bills were just paid and any failures covered up.

“It was a Houdini act, it just all disappeared,” he said.

The fact that the \$3 million was tacked onto his electric bill and the electric bills of the 33,000 customers of the City of Vero Beach Electric gets Heady pretty steamed.

“I’m outraged, and my wife reminds me of all these things when she opens the electric bill every month and gives it to me,” Heady said. “I’ve switched out my light bulbs and bought a \$10,000 new air-conditioning system to be more energy efficient, and with these consultant fees and everything else that’s in my bill, no matter what I do, it never

reduces what I have to pay.”

The only thing, according to Heady, that will prevent the city from spending another \$3 million on consultants in the near future — considering that Hersey and the Boston attorneys are still on the payroll — is an active and independent Council.

But three actual Council votes are needed to direct staff to make change or to challenge anything. To date, Heady still appears to be the proverbial odd man out when it comes to pushing for open, transparent government.

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James Gibson: The 'father' of Vero Beach architecture

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

If there is a father of Vero architecture, it may well be James Gibson.

John's Island's first resident architect, designer of the original Vero Beach Museum of Art and Riverside Theatre, dozens of office buildings and hundreds of homes, Gibson has left his subtle mark on the island's most defining structures.

From 1969 to today, his vision of orderly elegance has given the neighborhoods of Vero Beach's barrier island a restrained and unobtrusive Georgian-style foundation within the capricious lushness of the subtropics.

It was Gibson, who, in the 45-acre Riverside Park, set the neo-classical museum and Riverside Theatre in the midst of sweeping live oaks, casting ordered lines amidst the wind-hewn landscape.

And when the town of Indian River Shores looked to implement strict building standards, aiming to avoid the high-rise clutter of coastal cities to the south, it turned to Gibson.

Now in his 60th year of practicing architecture, his newest gift to the community is not only a matter of

the visual.

Gibson, an accomplished musician, long active on the boards of Vero's top musical organizations, is donating his cherished 1923 nine-foot Steinway concert grand piano to the art museum. The piano will be featured next month in a concert by the Atlantic Classical Orchestra, long one of Gibson's favorite causes.

The merging of Gibson's gifts – the magnificent instrument he played for three decades, permanently enshrined in the serene space he designed — is sure to resonate through the island's arts patrons as they hear it played for the first time in the museum's Leonhardt Auditorium.

Though an ardent student of urban design, Gibson arrived in Vero knowing virtually nothing about the place he would call home for the second half of his long life. Gibson, then a recent widower, moved from Michigan with his three sons.

"Vero Beach was absolute news to me," says Gibson. "It was very, very small."

The most striking piece of architecture he found was the Ocean Grill. "I've always been intrigued by the pure imagination that went into that build-

ing," he says. "That wonderfully wavy floor. You almost get drunk just going to your table."

Vero, a sleepy town of around 5,000, was just beginning to attract an eclectic island population of warmth-seeking retirees with tastes reflective of the urban centers where fortunes had been made. All seemed intent on safeguarding the natural beauty of the place that added to the air of intimacy and privacy.

The idyllic landscape of the north barrier island had already caught the eye of Gibson's neighbor in Grosse Pointe, Llwyd Ecclestone, who was about to begin developing John's Island. Having finished his first luxury gated community in Palm Beach county several years earlier, Ecclestone hired Gibson to give a unique and unifying character to the first few hundred homes of the now iconic development.

To take in the expanse of ancient oaks, cabbage palms and savage undergrowth blanketing the 3,000 acre tract, Ecclestone took to the air. "We had to view it from a helicopter," recalls Gibson. "There was no way to walk around."

Gibson considered Ecclestone's target audience: affluent New Englanders who wanted to retire to an uncomplicated, leisure-driven, unpretentious life out of the limelight.

In contrast to the Mizner mansions of south Florida that reflected more closely the climates of their Mediterranean designs, Gibson envisioned an understated, more utilitarian style for the homes and clubhouses of the enclave-to-be.

"I didn't see anything in Florida that particularly appealed to me outside of the Spanish style. That was something that had been seen for years in Palm Beach."

Long an admirer of Georgian architecture, with its classic lines and symmetry, Gibson felt that Vero's northern-based winter residents would appreciate the familiarity of the design and "be very comfortable," as Gibson put it.

"I was given carte blanche," he says. "Georgian style is what I like to do. And so, that's what I did."

In addition to the estimated 600 homes, Gibson designed the gated community's original golf and beach clubs, its 105-room hotel and 13 oceanfront condominiums and townhouses.

Over the years, Gibson's buildings went beyond the borders of John's Island to include homes in The Moorings and Windsor, the clubhouse at Sea Oaks, and dozens of commercial buildings along Central Beach.

He also etched the character of the then-newly minted town of Indian River Shores, putting to paper his ideas of how construction should evolve there.

"It was barely there at the time, but I wrote most of the rules about how the town should look, how close buildings were together, how high they could be. I was interested in maintaining what made this a very appealing kind of town.

"That's how we kept from suddenly having a bunch of high rises, like what happened to Fort Lauderdale. It's whoever is at the helm at the particular moment and does what needs to be done to keep mistakes from happening down the road."

Over the ensuing decades, as Vero's population grew, it has continued to remind him of the town he grew up in, a suburb of Portland, Oregon, with a viable Main Street encircled with oaks and a vibrant arts community.

Gibson was born into a highly musical family. His father, an attorney, played trumpet. His mother was a fine pianist, as was his brother, 10 years senior. His sister had a beautiful voice; she went on to become an opera singer.

Like his mother and brother, Gibson also played piano. But his chief instrument was the violin.

When he wasn't playing music, he was drawing houses. He was fascinated with the construction sites of his father's rental properties, and tagged along whenever he could. "I was so intrigued at how they went together," he says, as if they were made of Legos and Lincoln Logs. "I had nothing to do but follow after the workers and kibitz on everything that was being done. I was just fascinated."

His doodles were always of little buildings. By the time he was in high school, his sketches had reached such a level of proficiency that his father used two of his designs.

At the University of Oregon, he chose to study music. On graduation, he joined the infantry, leading to a combat stint that included the Battle of the Bulge. After four years in "the olive drab life" as he puts it, he assumed he would follow in his father's footsteps and become an attorney, and pursued a law degree at Duke.

In the midst of his studies, though, his father announced he had an excellent offer on the family law firm. It was a moment of truth for Gibson, and he told his father to sell.

"I would have made the lousiest attorney in the world," he says, "because I had always wanted to be an architect, from the time I was a little kid."

Fulfilling that childhood dream, he earned his architecture degree at the

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University of Michigan.

For the next two decades, he worked with a Michigan firm specializing in large commercial projects and general architecture, eventually as a partner. In his tenure, he worked on two major wings of the mammoth Detroit Institute of the Arts. He also worked on a

building housing the Department of State in Washington, DC, as well as the Henry Ford Library and a number of buildings at Michigan State University.

When his wife died, his neighbor Ecclestone, who lived across the street from Gibson's Grosse Pointe Italianate

mansion (totally restored by Gibson over the course of 20 years, as was a later purchase: a 200-year-old home in Charleston) suggested he come make his mark on a little place called Vero Beach.

"When I first came here, everybody knew everybody else. It's not a place

where people are social climbers. Although many of them are very social, and very important, they don't try to prove it. I find it a very graceful place to live."

Gibson was immediately embraced

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Electric probe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which OUC was chosen over Florida Power & Light.

As part of the probe, investigator Edward W. Arens was sent via email a copy of the final bid instructions and draft bid documents for the bid request issued by Vero Beach through Hersey's Boston office.

Arens also asked for a copy of the electronic presentation Hersey gave at the special call Vero Beach City Council meeting this past Nov. 16th about electric issues.

The Nov. 16 Powerpoint presentation incorporated a portion of the information which was given to each member of the City Council on April 7, 2008 during individual meetings in City Manager Jim Gabbard's office.

According to Gabbard, Electric Utility Director R.B. Sloan, City Attorney Charles Vitunac and Hersey were present with him at each meeting. Finance Director Steve Maillet was also present for the meeting with then-Councilman Ken Daige, as Daige requested a financial perspective on the contract documents.

On the same date that Arens made his requests of Hersey, Gabbard received from Hersey a requested copy of the market study done by Hersey in 2003 while employed by Navigant Consulting.

The survey targeted 12 regional power providers — but not OUC — to be polled regarding their interest in doing business with the City of Vero Beach Electric Utility.

Survey results were collected from seven providers and the city was given results of the surveys, with the identity of the providers being kept secret. Hersey analyzed each respondent in relation to their assets, their involvement in the local area and their interest in providing power to Vero Beach, as well as their interest in possibly purchasing the power plant and/or the transmission and distribution assets of the city.

What is unclear is why those documents were not already in the city's possession since by law, the city is the record keeper of such documents.

Hersey in April, May, June and July 2007 mailed out the bid packets, answered correspondence and collected bid submissions from her home-office in Massachusetts. It appears from charges on Hersey's invoices for numerous postage expenses for mailing out bid packets and instructions that the city's purchasing office did not directly handle the bid documents.

Though the city maintains a purchasing department with clerical help, it paid Hersey nearly \$300 per hour, plus mileage and expenses, to make copies at Staples, compile and

package correspondence to bidders, and take bid packets to the post office, presumably to keep the documents out of the Vero Beach City Hall and hence out of the public record.

Hersey did not return an email seeking comment or to clarify why she was requested to supply the bid documents to the investigator.

City Attorney Vitunac also did not respond to questions about whether or not the bid documents were being held solely by Hersey, or if the city retained copies of these documents.

The bid evaluation process, for reasons never made clear, was handled in Boston Sloan and Vitunac flying up for a meeting on March 17, 2008 to "review bid modeling," as detailed in an invoice.

Bidders were ranked by some as-yet undisclosed criteria, and OUC was declared the winner over FPL — even though electric customers' rates are expected to be 27 to 35 percent higher than FPL after OUC takes over in January.

City Manager Gabbard and new Mayor Kevin Sawnick drove to OUC a week ago Thursday to ask whether selling the electric utility would trigger the \$50 million penalty clause in the city's contract for service.

Though neither FPL nor the bid process was up for discussion, both topics seem to have come up. That afternoon, Gabbard issued a press release including the following comment from OUC Vice President of Power Resources, Jan Aspuru,

"As a general comment, Mr. Aspuru stated that OUC responded to a competitive bid process, as did FPL. In good faith, OUC entered into the contract, and they plan to honor that commitment."

Rejected bidder Florida Power and Light, which would be the injured party should the bid process be found to not totally be on the up and up, confirmed Monday night that "FPL was contacted by the State Attorney's investigator.

"He recently met with a few of our employees and asked general questions regarding our involvement as a bidder," said FPL spokesperson Jackie Anderson.

South Beach resident Dr. Stephen Faherty has contended, ever since he emailed the confidential bid evaluation criteria and final ranking statistics by Vitunac by mistake this summer, that FPL was not given a fair shake.

"When you set FPL as the standard and evaluate all the other bidders in relation to FPL, how can FPL win?" Faherty said.

"They should have used FMPA as the standard because that's the provider we currently have and evaluated all the bidders in relation to FMPA. FPL would have scored higher, maybe higher than OUC."



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Gibson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

by the arts community, who found the elegant prematurely white-haired gentleman as handsome as his buildings. Modest to his own detriment, many who know him say Gibson appears to take far more interest in the accomplishments of those around him than in his own contributions.

"This dear man says very little and means very much," says Jean McMullen, whose gratitude for her old friend runs deep, in particular for his part in the genesis of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra, founded by her husband

Andrew McMullen.

"All those ads for John's Island real estate that call a house a 'Gibson' house? Those are his," she says.

Over the years, it has thrilled Gibson to see so many interesting residents choose Vero as he did.

"Look at how many authors we have around town, and two Metropolitan Opera singers – it just goes on and on. It's remarkable for a small town like this, that's kind of quiet and laid back. That's its appeal, as far as I'm concerned."

Most impressive was the way so many high achievers, now with time on their hands and a craving for cultural quality, seemed to make grand ideas come to fruition. Things would

sprout overnight, seemingly out of nothing more than idle chatter at a cocktail party, Gibson says.

"That's the way things happen around here," he says. "They all get together and say, 'We're going to do it,' and then they do."

There was also an interested party: his new wife, the late Susan Gibson, herself an artist and mother of four.

"It helps to have someone egging you on," he says with a smile.

Among the institutions to sprout in that manner: Riverside Theatre, built to Gibson's pro-bono design in 1973.

"Once they decided to have that auditorium, they went out and started working for the money to do it. I've never seen anything happen so fast in

my life. It seemed like within a month they raised what they needed.

"Or thought they needed," Gibson adds. Originally built to stage performances by the Vero Beach Theatre Guild, funds ran so low that they ran out of money before a curtain could be hung; exterior steps were built rather than aisles to seat the audience, in order to save on air conditioned space.

"That's part of the fun of being an architect," he says. "It's little bits of solving problems all the time. You respond to the demands and uses and needs of the people who occupy your buildings, not only in a physical way, but in a spiritual way."

One spiritual lack due to low funds was that the theater had no piano.

Gibson was instrumental in bringing in that Steinway too. He was president of the Vero Beach Concert Association when famed pianist Lili Kraus came to town to play, and afterward, gently complained about the instrument she had performed on. Gibson apologized, explaining that it was only a rental, that there were no funds to buy a piano. Kraus offered on the spot to return the next year and perform another concert to raise funds to buy the theater its own concert grand.

That Steinway, which Gibson and others selected from the Steinway showroom in New York, now belongs to Riverside.

Around that time, Gibson was shopping for his own piano, to replace the smaller parlor grand piano he kept in the living room of his John's Island home. Along with two harps, the pianos were used for practice by musicians visiting Vero for various concerts from Gibson's long tenure at the Concert Association, the Treasure Coast Opera Association, and later the Atlantic Classical Orchestra.

When he came across the Steinway concert grand, he knew he had to own it. The piano, built in 1923, had been built for the company's concert division, one of several hundred stationed in cities around the country and used for concerts by top pianists. When at last the piano was retired after 44 years in use, it was bought by a New Orleans piano dealer, from whom Gibson acquired it in 1974.

For the next 14 years, he kept it at John's Island, eventually moving it to Charleston, where Gibson has long kept a second home. The 87-year-old piano is valued at \$50,000 — about half what a new concert grand costs today.

As for the museum that today proudly houses the Gibson grand piano, its look has changed since Gibson designed it, with a significant expansion that turned the building around to face the parking lots instead of the street. But for Gibson, the building is still his offspring.

"It seems like one of my children," he says.



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Charging dogs lead to incident on South Beach

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

If you and your wife were walking along the ocean on Vero's South Beach, and four German Shepherd dogs came running at you barking, would you be entitled to feel a bit frightened?

Ray and Suzanne Visser, a couple in their late 60s visiting Vero, think the answer to the question is 'yes.'

They might have been even more unnerved had they been aware that the City of Vero Beach long has an ordinance prohibiting dogs on the beach – leashed or otherwise – within the city limits.

The Vissers were strolling along the beach at mid-afternoon last Saturday just north of Castaway Cove Wave 6 when the pack of German Shepherds and one smaller brown dog came racing toward them.

"I was carrying a piece of driftwood about 12 inches long and maybe a half an inch thick that I had picked up because my wife was going to paint on it," said Visser, 68. "All we had was that piece of wood and my wife's flimsy beach shoes to fend them off."

Waving the stick and the shoes, the couple tried to shoo the dogs.

At that point, a man yelling 'Don't hit my dogs' came running up from the direction of Castaway Cove. According to Visser, the "very strong man" rushed him, grabbed him, and forced him into the water. While Visser was being restrained for several minutes, he said the dogs continued to circle his wife.

When Visser finally broke free and borrowed a cell phone from a man hitting golf balls 100 yards or so down the beach, he called 9-1-1.

The Vero Beach police soon identified the owner of the dogs as dermatologist Dr. Tim Ioannides, who, according to the incident report, told police "that he let his dogs go on the beach as he always does. The dogs then ran up to the couple on the beach and surrounded them."

The dogs, according to Ioannides, "were not going to bite them – they wanted to play." A most comforting thought when you are surrounded.

The only action the police ultimately took was to advise Ioannides of the dog ordinance. But Ioannides has lived in Castaway Cove the better part of this decade, and has had the dogs for more than five years.

No citation was issued.



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People

Local attorneys in the spirit of giving year round

BY MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

Attorneys, judges and guests gathered at the Grand Harbor Golf Club for the annual Indian River County Bar Association holiday party, showing great cohesiveness and generosity.



Todd Fennell, John Moore and Tom Tierney

and as Peggy Lyons, Bar Association President noted, theirs is a particularly active association whose members frequently donate time and services to the community.

In addition to participation by individual attorneys, she also gave credit to the Young Lawyers Division, co-chaired by Doug Vitunac and Jeff Pegler and to the Indian River County Lawyers Auxiliary, formed in 2004 by Ann Catchick.

The Young Lawyers Division is one of the fastest growing segments of the Bar Association. Members gather at lunch meetings throughout the year and are directed to their various projects through what they term the "big bar." The luncheons are a great way to network with their

peers and also with the judges and other experienced attorneys who are



Judge Paul and Carol Kanarek with Ann and Jim Catchick

Photos: Mary Schenkel



Brad and Becky Rossway with Peggy Lyons, IRC Bar Association President and John McCoy



Doug Vitunac, Lisa Thompson, Bill DeBaal and Clint Lancer

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People



Tiffany Starr with Jeff and Jennifer Pegler

sociation members and purchased \$6,000 worth of school supplies which were donated to Vero Beach Elementary, Thompson Magnet School, Highlands Elementary, Dodgertown Elementary, and Fellsmere Elementary.

Each year the Auxiliary also collects toys for area children;

the large assortment of toys collected at the holiday party will be donated to Childcare Resources. And, at a separate Auxiliary holiday luncheon, the group furnished a host of items for the nine girls who are residents of the Children's Home Society's Baines Hall.

"We had a list of things the girls wanted and we tried to get as many things as possible. They mostly wanted items to make their rooms their own," explained Catchick.

During Law Week in the spring, they

partner with the Bar to place attorneys in classrooms, using the American Bar Association's National Law Day theme. Last year attorneys visited 89 local classrooms during Law Week.

"I have a friend from Grand Rapids who visits auxiliaries all over the country.

"She was amazed when I told her that we don't have any funding other than from the attorneys. They're so supportive; if we need money for charities, they just ask how much we need," said Catchick.

invited as guest speakers.

In January, Vitunac and Pegler will participate in the Florida Bar's Affiliate Outreach Conference, attended by young lawyers from all over Florida, where they will be applying for a grant for funds to purchase English/Spanish children's books.

The goal is to donate the books to the Head Start Program on 41st Street and to Fellsmere Elementary, both of which have high Spanish speaking populations.

"One of the Head Start teachers came up with the idea several months ago," Vitunac explained.

"Funding for their little library was recently cut and they're in desperate need. This would help pick up some of that slack. Parents are encouraged to read to the children and they believe these types of books could generate more reading time."

They also intend to hold a reading day, where some of the Young Lawyers members would read from the books to the children.

The group accumulated more than 125 food items to benefit The Source through canned food drives at the November Bar Association luncheon and this holiday party. During Law Week, they schedule and implement Ask a Lawyer events, where members of the public can get free legal advice, and earlier this year they presented a Wills on Wheels Program at the Indian River County Courthouse, where they provided free simple wills to the public.

Ann Catchick, wife of attorney Jim Catchick, had been president of an auxiliary in Michigan and founded this auxiliary because there wasn't one; in fact there isn't another auxiliary in all of Florida. Its 22 members are spouses of Bar Association members and facilitate various undertakings, including the holiday party, which was co-chaired by Becky Rossway and Carol Kanarek.

One of the Auxiliary's major endeavors has been their Tools to Learn School Supply Project. This past summer they rallied support from Bar As-



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Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest



Jake Owen performs at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center as part of the Fourth Annual Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Hometown hero gives back to his community

BY SAMATHA BAITA
COLUMNIST

The *1812 Overture* and other tunes by Peter T. and his contemporaries were the background music of my childhood. There is clearly a rogue gene in my pool, though, because I also love country music and know the words to an annoying number of country songs. So I wasn't bummed out to be working on a Friday night, covering the Jake Owen concert - the music side

of the Fourth Annual Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest.

The big, black band buses sparked excitement in the parking lot at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center as concertgoers hurried past. Some were there for the cause, some as friends of the Owen and Fish families. And then there were the fans: the cowboy hat- and boots-wearing folks who just love the music of this 28-year-old rising star.

Bob and Wheatie Gibb were there

to support the cause and because "We know both families." Brandy and Danny Brackett and their boys Grady, 9, and Gage, 6, all in country garb, are staunch country music fans.

Hanging out in the Green Room pre-concert, friends, family and special guests chatted with Mardy Fish and Jake Owen and nibbled veggies and cheese. At one table sat a young man in a wheelchair, 13-year-old Dylan Picariello. His grandma, Barbara Borders, explained that Dylan is a quadri-

plegic with an inoperable brain tumor. A huge fan of Jake's, Dylan listens to his music constantly and always dreamed of meeting him in person. Jake's twin brother Jarrod heard of Dylan's wish, told Jake - and special guest tickets were provided. Dylan glowed with happiness as Jake and Mardy signed a guitar for him and talked a while.

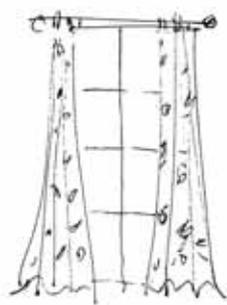
Jake's almost black hair hung in shiny strands, brushing his shoulders and getting in his eyes a little. He wore a tails-out plaid shirt, jeans and some very comfy-looking soft slippers.

With a jam-packed concert tour, does he get home much these days? Jake laughed. "Well, not as much as I'd like. But it's great to be back in Vero Beach and we did get to chill at home a little last night."

Showtime. Applause peaked in the darkened auditorium and out came Jake, still in his casual clothes. Five jeans-clad guys sat on stools across the front of the stage, each comfortably cradling a guitar, like an old friend, in the easy slouch of the late-night jam session. These were some of the best-known names in the world of Nashville song-writers, pals of Jake.

Jake plopped onto a stool and mouthed the lyrics as his pals sang. And we were treated to some of the coolest, best known stuff coming out of Nashville today. There's something about hearing a song sung by the songwriter: You know you're getting it exactly the way it was meant to be heard - each note, every nuance, the small hesitation to emphasize a word.

Jake headed backstage to "put on my superman clothes." His friends sang and played on, bending their guitar strings near to breaking, the notes knifing through the air or pulling up all



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Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest



A quintet of Nashville songwriters join Jake Owen on stage to kick off the concert.



Jake Owen and Mardy Fish pose for a photo with fan Dylan Picariello after giving him a signed guitar before the concert.

soft and smooth, a voice as deep and rich as old merlot, daring you not to feel something. And all five guys foot-tapping to every beat.

During intermission, a brief but fruitful auction was held. Serving as auctioneer was well-known, 16-Emmy-winning TV sports caster Brett Haber. The bidding got pretty hot for some autographed guitars, including one that Jake will take on his world tour and have autographed by every

single musician and celebrity he meets along the way.

At last, the announcer boomed, "and now JAKE OWEN."

Backup musicians took their places at drums, keyboard, guitars; "Jake Owen" in huge letters shone from the backdrop, lights flashed and zapped across the stage and stabbed through the house; and the air was quickly and utterly filled with screams and pounding applause.

As the crescendo of sound battered the ceiling, Jake jogged back onto the stage. Jake was in full, no-holds-barred concert mode, wearing that wicked gorgeous white smile, charcoal grey shirt and painted on jeans. Layin' it on with his mega-hit *Yee-Haw* as the audience clapped and sang along. He

performed another current hit, "a new song I'm really happy about," - *Take You All the Way Home*, which he wrote with another Vero Beach native, Scotty Emerick (best known for writing the award-winning Willie Nelson hit, *Beer for my Horses*.)

As he and his band played on, Jake swapped out one guitar for others, including a sassy black glitter-adorned instrument, followed by a shiny peacock blue. *Swee-eeet*. And, believe me, he can play the stuffings out of all of them.

Take note that Jake is way more than a guitar picker who can rock a pair of

Levi's. He's a solid vocalist with a serious gift for writing lyrics. His first three albums, containing mostly songs he's written, have shown strong on the charts as have his single releases.

Well, it ain't your grandma's country music, but it is true to its heritage. Jake likes to think his lyrics are such that a guy can go, "Yeah, I could say that to a girl.." It's important to him to always be respectful in his music. He hasn't forgotten or forsaken his upbringing and says he believes it's important to give back to the community. His parents and his hometown have a lot to be proud of.

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Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest



Madelaine Rhodes gets a hi-five from Mardy Fish during one of the exercises at the Kids' Tennis Clinic.



Mardy Fish smiles as the Pelican Island Dance Team performs a routine in his honor between matches at the tennis exhibition.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Serving for a cause: Mardy Fish brings out donations

Guests enjoyed luncheon and tennis exhibition to benefit Mardy Fish Foundation

BY MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

With an almost round-robin outpouring of support, members of the community came out Saturday afternoon to support Mardy Fish and his foundation at the Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest weekend of activities.

The two-day event to benefit the Mardy Fish Foundation kicked off with a Kids' Tennis Clinic Friday afternoon where children had the chance to play with, and get some tips from, these top professional athletes. Then, on Friday evening, country music sensation Jake Owen wowed a sold-out crowd with his concert at

the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center.

Saturday afternoon at the Grand Harbor Golf Club, which donated the use of their facility, rain clouds dampened the courts and delayed the exhibition. But that only gave guests at the gourmet barbeque luncheon a little more time to bid on the numerous silent auction items up for grabs.

Many of the volunteers who came out to help Saturday were tennis friends of Mardy's parents Sally and Tom Fish, and have been helping out since the foundation was founded in 2006. The 40-plus volunteers were kept busy covering up their nicely displayed auction items as the rains



James Blake and Mardy Fish meet up at the net following the singles exhibition match, which Blake won, 8-5.

came just moments after they finished setting it all up. After the deluge stopped, they just shrugged it off and began drying the tables, chairs and bleachers, getting it all ready once again.

"It's getting more exciting every year," said Tom Fish. "It's really about the kids. The main focus is on the after school programs; the classes we offer are the classes that are being cut back, like sports, drama and music."

Members of Pelican Island Elementary School, the Foundation's first beneficiary, were at the event representing some of the various ways they've been helped through these events. The Mardy Fish Music Club

and Health and Fitness Club was created at PIES in 2007. Teacher Lori Ford noted that the biggest problems at school are with cutbacks in after-school funding because of curriculum demands.

"This fills the void after school, offering structured programs with individual instructors. They're fun, interesting and academic," explained Ford. A long time friend of Sally Fish, Ford watched Mardy grow up and has followed his career with interest.

"It's marvelous; we're very lucky to have Mardy and Jake. It so helps at our school and now they're also helping other schools."

The foundation has also been pro-



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Mardy's Tennis and Jake's Music Fest



Kendra Osborn, 9, gets her shirt signed by Mardy Fish at the end of the Kids' Tennis Clinic.



Mardy Fish serves during an exhibition match against James Blake.



Spectators look on as Mardy Fish makes a forehand return late in the match against James Blake.

viding funding to the Youth Guidance Foundation, and the local Boys and Girls Clubs. Three additional after school programs and clubs have recently been added at Glendale Elementary School, Sebastian Elementary School and Thompson Magnet Elementary School, in addition to a new Mardy Fish Foundation Kids on Courts program.

As grounds crews dried off the courts, guests gathered under tents to enjoy a bounteous barbeque lunch of grilled chicken, fish and pulled pork with all the fixings, while talking about their famous hometown boys.

"I missed one year, but it was only because my daughter was getting married," laughed Jean Ueltschi. As another long time friend of Sally's, Ueltschi admired Mardy's hard work as he was growing up and the way he is now enabling the next generation of students to be introduced to sports and music.

"I remember playing in a pro-am tournament years ago, with Thomas Blake and the Bryan twins, and all these young tennis players were the nicest young men; they treated us like their moms. There couldn't have been a better group of friends for Mardy to have met in his early years."

Ueltschi also expressed admiration for Jake Owen, saying, "I'm so impressed with him; I thought the concert was great. His voice is developing and maturing and he's the whole package with good looks, talent and a great sense of humor."

"He makes you want to love him; he's a great performer," added Lynn Buford.

Emmy award winning sportscaster Brett Haber was the event's quick-witted auctioneer during the luncheon, selling off live auction items that included a tennis lesson with Ivan Lendl, VIP tickets to a performance by the Dave Matthews Band, artwork by William DeBilzan and several great excursions. Karan and Mark Morein were high bidders on the trips to New York for the US Open and to Beverly Hills.

After lunch, Fish was joined on the court by fellow tennis players James Blake, Dave Martin, Jesse Levine and Thomas Blake for a good-humored tennis exhibition, egged on throughout by announcer Haber.

Fish and James Blake faced off first in a singles match, with the game staying close through the first ten points while the players traded wins, but Blake pulled ahead in the end, beating Fish 8-5.

The entertainment continued with members of the Pelican Island Dance Team, showing off their cheering moves to an appreciative Fish and the fans. Play began again with a doubles match pairing Thomas Blake (filling in for his brother James who had to catch a flight) with Jesse Levine against Fish and Dave Martin. The players joked with each other and Haber, while still showing off their professional skills and some great volleys. Martin was a big hit with the crowd when he did "the worm" on

the court after winning a point, completely cracking up Fish who couldn't stop laughing. Fish and Martin won

the doubles match 8 - 4, but the real winners were the kids who will benefit from the events.



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Incoming Tide

Karen Mersky: New life, possibilities in Vero Beach

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

If the St. Ed's community believes that education got a boost when Mike Mersky was hired last summer as head of school, it is about to get another lift, when his wife, Karen Mersky, Ph.D. a child clinical psychologist, sets up practice here, presumably in the next few months.

While her husband has spent his career in private school administration, Mersky has maintained a clinical practice assessing the learning mechanisms of children struggling in school, and advising on teaching methods and curriculum to best address their needs.

In Incoming Tide, we look at the ways newcomers are impacting the barrier island. As with her influential husband, high hopes may be pinned on Karen Mersky herself to fill a void in serving the educational needs of children here.

In the Mersky family, the school calendar has always ruled, and it's been a long fall semester for Karen Mersky. With one foot still in Pennsylvania where her child psychology practice specializes in learning-related issues, and one foot in Vero



Karen Mersky

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Beach, where her husband Mike is midway through his first year as new headmaster of St. Edward's School, Mersky and her husband are relying on cell phones, emails and their kids' sports events to keep the family as solid as it's ever been.

"Mike and I have 'Elite' AirTran status," she boasts in jest. No doubt she would be happier without it. "We miss each other," she says. "We talk every night. Mike was up many,

many weekends, and I would come down for long weekends."

So far, since July, when Mike Mersky assumed his post, they have managed at least once-a-month visits, including trips north for Mike Mersky to see daughter Katie, a sophomore at Dickinson College, play field hockey and for the lacrosse games of son Matt, a senior at Lafayette University.

It is because of Katie and Matt, and

their respective college tuitions, that Karen Mersky is straddling the eastern seaboard, keeping her clinical practice operational in Pennsylvania while she awaits licensing requirements in Florida.

Education has always been the focal point for their lives, since the day they met as teachers in the same school years ago.

While Mike Mersky eventually earned a master's degree and veered into administration, Karen Mersky, a Smith College graduate with a double major in education and psychology, became a clinical psychologist, earning her master's degree in education from Villanova and a Ph.D. in psychology from Bryn Mawr.

With two toddlers in the house — and a babysitter — she wrote her dissertation on the subject of social self-efficacy and its effects on group learning. In other words, how effective a person thinks he or she is in relating to other people, and how that relates to cooperative learning.

Efficacy was no doubt a timely topic. She had started the program in 1986; six years, two babies and one relocation later, she earned her doctorate in 1993.

"It was a test of persistence," she says with a laugh.

Meanwhile, Mike Mersky had changed jobs twice, from Friends' Central School where he and Karen met as teachers, to The Haverford School nearby, then in 1991, to Sewickley Academy near Pittsburgh, requiring the family to move.

Two years later, the family moved again, this time, to Baltimore, where they would spend the next six years. Ultimately they returned to Lancaster, a small historic town between Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Mersky's ties to the region began in childhood. The daughter of a Philadelphia architect, her father discovered a beautiful 20-acre tract of land a half-hour outside of the city, with a stream running through it, and convinced five other architects to join him in building homes there.

Karen and her two brothers went to public school through sixth grade, then went to Germantown Friends' school for high school.

"It was a very diverse school," she says. "They really worked hard on developing diversity and those values are part of who I am, and they are also part of my family growing up."

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Incoming Tide

She enrolled at Smith knowing she wanted to work with children. "I wanted to teach and I wanted to go into special education," she says. "I found as I was teaching that I was really drawn to the kids with special needs. The ones that had the little differences were the ones I loved working with."

After getting her Ph.D., she counseled in Maryland for a required two years under supervision and finally was able to open her own practice.

Today, her clinical work with struggling young students typically involves a two week-long evaluation process, including six hours of testing to determine a diagnosis, and beyond that, determining "how they internalize the information, how they reason about it, how they store it, and how they get it back out again to show they really understand it." She meets with parents, and depending on the age of the child, does a follow-up meeting with the school to suggest guidelines and approaches for particular subjects in particular stages of the child's education.

"I love it," she says. "It's like a puzzle you're trying to figure out."

Typically she consults again in three to five years, or whenever the child encounters a change in academic scenario, as in the move from elementary to middle school.

"I'm an advocate for the child," she says. "I am trying to figure out how the children learn, what their strengths are and what are the hurdles they face, and how can we help them be successful in school. The challenging part is helping everybody understand the child in the same way: the parent, the teacher and the child."

She is hoping to be licensed to practice in Florida soon. "I'm understanding that there is a need here," she says. "I have heard that families would travel" for evaluations as extensive as hers.

Meanwhile, the exigencies of a head-of-school spouse will include having a household at the ready for entertaining. "Mike and I have always believed that our home is an extension of the school," she says. "And that's a great way to get to know the community."

Prior to April, the Merskys had never seen Florida's east coast, having only visited Disney World when their children were small, as well as Sanibel Island and Longboat Key. "But what's not to love about the beach and the sun? It's a beautiful area," she says.

So far, she has found Vero Beach

"a wonderful community," she says. "People are just very open, with welcoming arms."

Last weekend, the Merskys, who once crossed the country with their children in a pop-up camper, were invited out to the county's hinterlands by Board President Ron Edwards and his wife Kathy to look for wildlife like armadillos and alligators, which Karen had never seen.

Meanwhile, a January deadline is snapping at their heels: all are wait-

ing for a final assessment of whether St. Edward's will be able to retire its debt before the start of another school year. Though Karen Mersky claims not to be in on such conversations, she does offer her own optimism. "I have confidence in the people I've met, that they have confidence in the school. I don't see any other reason to operate other than the premise that it's going to work out."

That said, January will mark a dif-

ferent milestone in her family life: both children are coming down, making it the first time the whole family will be in Vero together.

The following month, Karen Mersky plans on bringing down a truckload of belongings and expects to "finish up over the summer."

"We're really looking forward to just exploring," she says. "My focus is to help get Mike settled and getting the house where it needs to be."


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People

Mixing it up while 'Dancing with Vero's Stars'

BY JULIE TARASOVIC
CORRESPONDENT

Enthusiasm, excitement, and perhaps a bit of apprehension spread across this year's faces of the Vero Star Dancers as they received their instructions for the night of March 13, 2010.

"This is the second year for this event and it has already become wildly popular," said Georgia Irish, board member of the Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition and committee co-chair of this fundraising event. "We raised over \$54,000 at last year's dance competition and we expect to surpass that number this year."

Eight new star dancers will be kicking up their heels to benefit the Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition and at a recent mixer at Marine Bank and Trust, they got to meet and mingle with their professional dance partners.

"It's going to be lots of fun and a little bit of hard work," chuckled Joe Coakley, committee co-chair and president of county Healthy Start Coalition.



Back Row: dancers Don Crisafulli, Kerry Bartlett, Tony Della Porta, Cheryl Gerstner, David Busch, Awilda Revera and Rebecca F. Emmons. Front Row: instructors Joe Tessier, Shari Tessier, James Martin, Pamela Bennett, Bob Kane, Harry Sark and Asya Dimitrov Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

The 2nd Annual Dancing with Vero's Stars will be held at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts at St. Edward's

Upper School.

"We are so excited to have the event at the Waxlax Center this year," said Irish. "It's going to be a real theatre-like production with lots of sparkling lights, very techno, dancers mingling with the audience, and champagne."

"There is so much interest from last year's inaugural event we have people wanting to commit to dance in the 2011 competition," said Leslie Spurlock, executive director of Healthy Start Coalition. "It's a real competition and a challenge. It takes these people who are quite well-known in the community out of their comfort zone and onto the dance floor to raise money and win."

Whether the dancers decide to tango, salsa, mambo or waltz their way into the competition, they will each be scored by a panel of 3 judges. The

overall score of the dancers will be made up of not only their dance performance, but also their ability to raise funds. All dancers will be judged on 50 percent money raised for Healthy Start and 50 percent based on their dancing skills.

"Each star dancer will gather community votes in advance of the evening on the website (dancingwithverostars.com) which will launch in January, and then later at the dance competition itself," said Irish. "Each \$1 raised will equate to a vote for the dancer. There will be a Runner up, Second Place and Grand Prize winner."

"A Glimpse of Dance is a party for all of you dancers to meet your public and get everyone excited about the event on March 13th," said Alice Glaskill, committee chair for the pre-party and secretary of the board for Healthy Start.

"It will give people the chance to know you, dance the night away and enjoy professional dance performances from last year."

Each dancer is asked to raise a minimum of \$2,500 so the more money raised, the better chance dancers have to win the mirror-balled trophy.

"Sell tickets, bring in sponsors or have friends and family donate in your name," said Coakley. "Remember \$1 is one vote for you and if you really want to take home that trophy folks, the \$15,000 presenting sponsor is very possible! It will definitely get your score right up there!"

The rest of the sponsorship is: \$7,500 for Waltz, \$5,000 for Tango, \$2,500 for Swing, \$1,000 for Mambo, and \$500 for Salsa.

For more information, call IRC Healthy Start Coalition at 772-563-9118 or visit the website, www.dancingwithverostars.com.

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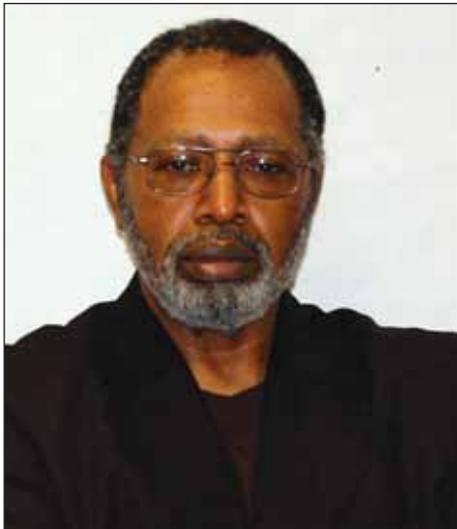
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Arts/Theatre

Terry Hunter: Artist with a point of view

BY L.L. ANGELL
COLUMNIST

A former graduate of what was Vero Beach's pre-integration black high school, Gifford High, returns to Vero



Beach this month with a retrospective collection of his artwork on view at the Vero Beach Museum of Art.

"The Grid Turns the Corner, a Mid-Career Retrospective of Drawings and Prints by Terry K. Hunter" is more than a retrospective of one man's artistic career. It is a cultural and socio-political tour of life in the U.S. from the early 1970s to today. From the Vietnam War to the Civil Rights Movement, this exhibition is a powerful educational experience, a dramatic reminder of a tumultuous time.

The exhibition, comprising 20 pieces of a 52-piece touring exhibition, will be at the Vero Beach Museum of Art through Jan. 3.

Now residing in Orangeburg, S. C., where he has lived since 1977, Hunter, who holds a Ph.D. in art education from Florida State University, graduated from Gifford High School in 1971. He will be speaking at the museum on Dec. 18. He is also the keynote speaker at Gifford High School's 40th reunion the next day. Hunter was the class valedictorian.

The same year that Hunter graduated, Gifford High School was integrated with Vero Beach High School. The coinciding of the two events — Hunter's museum exhibition and his class's 40th reunion, gives the community a chance to celebrate his extraordinary accomplishments as an artist and teacher.

Hunter, who teaches at South Carolina State University, was born in Tallahassee in 1951. His parents, Samuel and Audrey Hunter, were both educa-

tors. In 1965, Hunter and his family moved to Gifford where his father became principal of Gifford High School. In 1971, Samuel Hunter became the first African American county-wide school administrator in Indian River County.

A strong influence in Hunter's teens was Willie C. Reagan, the head of the

art department at Gifford High and a member of the group of local artists known as the Highwaymen. A graduate of Florida A & M, Reagan impressed upon Hunter the idea of being an artist as educator, and an educator as artist. The idea clicked.

Along with choosing a career while in high school, Hunter also met his fu-

ture wife, Gilda Yvette Cobb. In fact, Cobb, as Hunter calls her, was one of the first people to appreciate his art. She would become a central figure in a striking number of his works.

"She epitomized the essence of woman as body spirit, that certain *je ne sais quoi* that spoke to an inner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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Arts/Theatre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

truth and beauty. Also, Cobb was one of the very, very few who actually got it about this art stuff," says Hunter. "I sometimes think that her recipe became, 'the way to this man's heart is through his art.'"

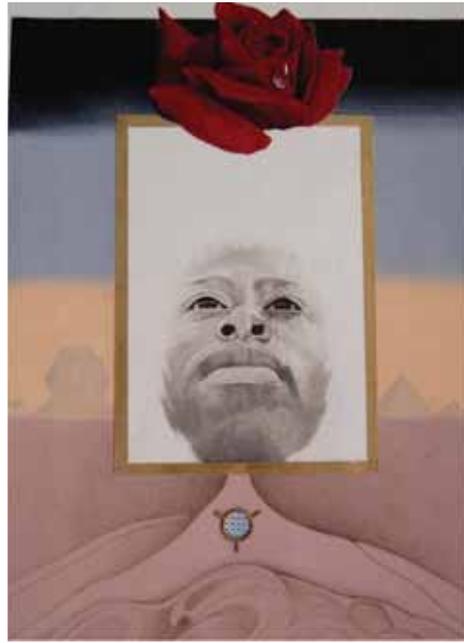
It was a groundbreaking time—the '70s.

Enter Terry K. Hunter, a 1973 graduate of Florida A & M University in Tallahassee, embarking on his life's work. Today, Hunter holds an master of fine arts degree in printmaking and drawing from Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in art education from Florida State University. Hunter is the Executive Director of FACETS, the Fine Arts Cultural Enrichment Teaching Studios in Orangeburg, SC.

Searching for a way to address his angst at the era, Hunter was impressed by Op Art in the late 1960's and 70s. He also began drawing the human figure and portraits. And he became fascinated with printmaking, seeing it as a powerful tool for social commentary.

While pursuing his graduate fine arts degree at Ohio State, Hunter was studio assistant to Sydney Chafetz, head of the printmaking department, who played a key role in the evolution of Hunter's thinking.

"Syd...was probably the first to recognize my passion for wanting to use art as a platform for my social voice,"



Amazing Grace, 1979, Mixed-media/screen print, 26" x 20"

says Hunter.

Chafetz pointed Hunter in two directions. First, he suggested that Hunter turn to his own culture for inspiration and use history as a platform upon which to build. At Chafetz's urging, Hunter enrolled in an African-American art history class.

Second, Chafetz directed Hunter to study two artists in particular: Kathe Kollwitz (1867-1945) the German Expressionist printmaker and sculptor and Francisco Goya (1746-1828) the Spanish painter and printmaker.

In 1977, Hunter accepted a faculty position at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, S. C. This coincided with his interest in Egyptology. We see this influence in Hunter's 1979 mixed media/screen print "Amazing Grace," a haunting mixed media/screen print. In the background, in softest taupe against a sand-colored sky is the Sphinx and pyramids, which bring to mind the Black African pharaohs who are buried in those tombs. In the center is an uplifted, prayerful face and at the top a brilliant red rose.

Hunter chose a student model for the face. It is an interesting, prayerful angle for a portrait. The viewer looks up at the face from below.

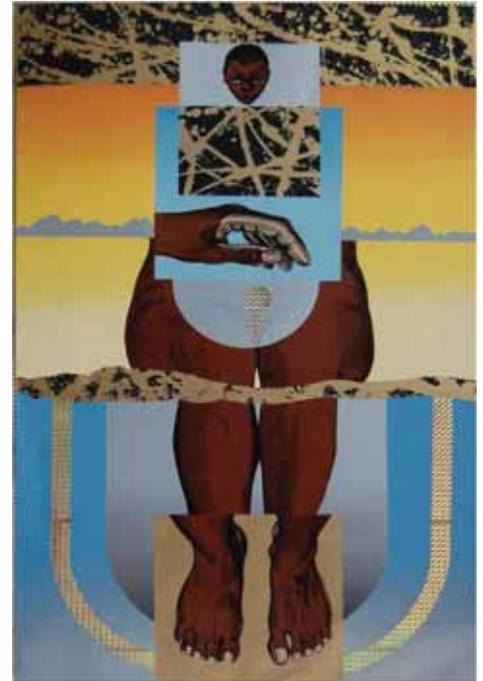
Next is "Strong Root, Good Fruit," from 1981, a dramatic fusion of screen-printing, lithography, collage and hand drawn elements combined into one format.

Reading the work from the bottom up, we see a pair of strong, black feet and running beneath them and up either side of the print, a gold metallic border on a blue background, suggesting underground water. The strong feet suggest the roots of a tree. Above the feet is a seated figure's calves and knees. Above the knees, level with the pelvis is a metallic Ashanti fertility symbol. Directly above the fertility symbol is a poised black hand on a sky blue square and above this is a man's head, small in comparison to

the female subject below. This head may be a self-portrait of the artist.

Hunter explains that when a woman from the Ashanti tribe, a major ethnic group in Ghana, wants to conceive a healthy child she wears a fertility symbol around her neck.

Clearly, this work is addressing fertility and possibly, the healthiness of future generations.



Strong Root, Good Fruit, 1981, Screen print/lithography/collage, 30" x 20"

"The Grid Turns the Corner" is the signature piece of this exhibition. It is also a self-portrait of Hunter's career. But what is the grid?

Starting in the early 1980s, Hunter began developing a unique way of working, one that allowed him to use a myriad of artistic techniques.

He begins by drawing a grid on white paper. Using crushed charcoal mixed with India ink, he layers images over and over, spraying Krylon matte fixative to set each finished layer before continuing to the next.

As he puts in place a layer of images at a time, Hunter uses many methods to achieve the desired multidimensional effect. He outlines the images with white Prismacolor. He highlights by erasing and airbrushes in different images where he wants them. He superimposes figures, buildings and urban landscapes over the basic framework of a grid. In this way, Hunter builds rich layers of images that possess real depth and draw the viewer in.

The exhibition began its tour at Florida A & M University in Tallahassee. It will travel to Clemson University, the Piccolo/Spoletto Festival in Charleston, Ohio State University, Columbia College in Columbia, S. C. and to South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

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Arts/Theatre

Vero writer's work on Hallmark Channel

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

Before she flew down to Vero Beach for the season, there was one last bit of business Debbie Macomber had to tend to in New York: a private screening of the made-for-TV movie of "Mrs. Miracle," one of her 150 best-selling G-rated inspirational romance novels.



In a screening room near the Time-Warner building, Macomber, her husband and family members, joined the star of the movie, Doris Roberts of the TV sitcom "What About Raymond?" and her family, as well as the movie's director and the president of Hallmark Channel to watch the screen adaptation of the book she wrote in 1994. The story revolves around a miserable widower with wild twin 6-year-old boys, a wreck of a house and the sassy new housekeeper who gives him the nerve to go find love again.

"I knew before hand it wouldn't be the complete story," she says, though she was nevertheless pleased with the adaptation. "I was on the set for one day of the shoot. Now the producer is really keen to do other stuff with me, the show was so popular. They were just as surprised as I was."

As if the private screening weren't enough of a kick, there was the conga line of 25 singing Santas that arrived to promote her book as she appeared with Doris Roberts in the Borders bookstore in the Time-Warner building.

"It was hilarious," says Macomber. Two days later on Dec. 5, while Macomber and her family saw the Rockettes' Christmas show, the movie drew a record-breaking audience of over

five million viewers for Hallmark, its producer. It was the fourth largest audience in history for a Hallmark movie, she says. It will air 40 times this month on the Hallmark Channel.

"The show was so popular, they want me to write a sequel," she said.

That means bumping a story in the works set in Vero Beach, her winter home since 2001. Not that there won't be other opportunities. Macomber

churns out at minimum two books a year, rising at 4 in the morning when she's home in Port Orchard, Washington, swimming a half mile, then heading off to her office above an ice cream shop and a knitting store – a serendipitous address, since knitting is a lifelong passion. Here, she's up at a more leisurely 7:30 a.m., but work is still a must, and knitting – never mind the heat — remains her passion.

Last year, a knitting supply company gave a line of notions Macomber's name. In October, Universal Yarn gave her her own brand of yarn.

"It just fell into my lap," says Macomber. "I started writing books about a yarn store and the characters became so popular that people who publish knitting patterns asked me about do-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Arts/Theatre

My Vero

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

ing patterns based around my fiction books.”

Macomber donates her knitting-related profits to charity.

Knitting has been a constant in Macomber's life since childhood, when her undiagnosed dyslexia caused her to feel shame at her underachievement. “I thought I was stupid,” she says. “I couldn't read until the fifth grade, and I never knew I had dyslexia until my sons were diagnosed with it. Knitting gave me self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. Today I keep a whole room in my house just for yarns.”

It's hard to imagine she has time to take her fingers off a keyboard. Macomber has more than a 100 million books in print in 23 languages, many of them rising to the top of best seller lists – including one, “74 Seaside Avenue,” in 2007, hitting four at once: the New York Times, USA Today, Publisher's Weekly and Bookscan.

In Washington, she has a staff of two full-time and two part-time assistants who do research and handle mail an

average of 3000 letters a month from her 130,000-member fan list. That lists serves to recruit attendees to her book signings, like last weekend's at the Vero Beach Book Center: Macomber sends out postcards to fans within 50 miles of the store in which she will be appearing. “I bring everyone a little present for Christmas,” she says.

Macomber has felt the powerful drive to write from her youth. “Every time I would think about being a writer, I throbbed, like when you burn yourself and you throb with pain. I think I was a natural-born story teller, but I had to learn to write, because of my dyslexia.”

With college not an option, and money tight as the babies kept coming, Macomber rented a typewriter and began to work, turning out manuscripts at her kitchen table through five years of rejections before one was finally bought.

By the 1990s, she was selling 150,000 copies of each book she produced, typically two to three per year. Another of her books, “This Matter of Marriage,” was also made into a movie in 1998.

Bring in New Year at Riverside

MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

Antiques and Appraisals

The annual **Antiques Show and Sale**, presented by the Vero Beach Museum of Art and the Friends of the Museum draws antique dealers and antique lovers from all over the country. Now in its 18th year, the main show runs from **Friday, January 8 through Sunday, January 10** and features 38 renowned dealers under the management of Charles Miller, Miller, Hamilton Company, Chapel Hill, NC. Americana from several centuries, including furniture, jewelry, art, glassware, porcelains, and collectibles are displayed throughout the Museum in room-like settings.

There are a few layers of participation offered. A reservation-only Patron Reception (\$150 includes Preview Party) from 5 to 6 p.m. and a Preview Party (\$100) from 6 to 8:30 p.m. both take place on Thursday, January 7

with dealer access, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

The main show continues Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and costs \$10, which includes unlimited re-entry throughout the entire show.

If you're curious about the value of that item you inherited from grandma, bring it in for an appraisal on Friday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Appraisals are \$15 per item with a three-item maximum. This year's show patron sponsors are the Becker Family Foundation, Kay H. Hazel, and Deborah Weise and event co-chairs are Tuny Hill, Story John, and Diane Wilhelm. Proceeds benefit the Museum's education programs.

Theatre Tidbits

Riverside Theatre rings in the New Year with a combination opening night performance and New Year's celebration. *Ella*, opening on December 31, chronicles the inspiring story of Ella Fitzgerald, widely regarded as the



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"First Lady of Song." Ella runs through January 17 on the Stark Mainstage. With a vocal range that spanned three octaves, and known for her improvisational scat singing, Ella Fitzgerald is considered one of the most influential jazz vocalists of the 20th century. The show features over two dozen of her biggest hits, accompanied by an outstanding band.

When members of the Friends Committee, realized that the opening night of the production of Ella was scheduled for New Year's Eve, they decided to double the fun by adding a party immediately after the show (or at 9:30 if you're not seeing the show - tickets are sold separately). Dance the night away to the sounds of the Bus Stop Band, a rocking six member group, and enjoy delicious Tapas-style goodies throughout the night. Festivities will also include a televised Times Square New Year's Eve countdown, complimentary champagne, festive party hats, tiaras, noise-makers and streamers - in short, everything you need for a memorable New Year's Eve celebration. Tickets for *Ella* begin at \$22 and tickets for the New Year's Eve celebration are \$100. 231-6990



Megan Taylor Callahan is Snoopy and Nate Karabensh is Charlie Brown in the Riverside Children's Theatre holiday production of "Snoopy!!!"

The holiday musical *Snoopy!!!*, based on that oh-so adorable Peanuts dog and all his friends, will run from December 26 to January 3 at the Anne Morton Theater at Riverside Children's Theatre. The show is produced by Riverside Children's Theatre with local children playing the parts and working as crew.

Snoopy!!!, directed by Kevin Quilinan, includes cast members Megan Taylor Callahan, Nate Karabensh, Johnny Garde, Shannon Maloney, Samantha Jackson, Kimmy Zerega, McKenzie Moses, Nicole Borisenko, Emma Johnson and Jay Wiggins. The tech crew includes Taylor Beckmann, Theo Blumstein, Hanna Cole, Courtney Jacquilyn Harr, Elizabeth Jellie, Angela Livingston, Cheryl Peek, Lisa Renkel, Patrick Schlitt, Walker J. Smith and

Ryan Terpstra. 231-6990

Musical Interlude

It just wouldn't be Christmas without a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. The Treasure Coast Chorale will be joined by choirs from around the community, members of the Atlantic Classical Orchestra and world-class soloists to present two wonderful performances of this beloved oratorio. This is the First Baptist Church's 40th annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah* so it promises to be particularly special. Performances are at 7 p.m. Saturday, December 19 and Sunday,

December 20 at First Baptist Church (across from the Main Library). Admission is free; an offering will be received. 567-4311

The Treasure Coast Jazz Society has moved its Jazz at Noon concerts to the Vero Beach Yacht Club. On Saturday, January 9, they'll present the Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band, an eight-man group. The band plays a varied collection of music from the 1920's to the present, including songs by Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Bob Haggart, Matty Matlock and Bob Crosby. The concert begins at 12:30 p.m., but doors open at 11 a.m. in case you want

to purchase a little food to go with your music. 234-4600 or www.treasurecoastjazzsociety.org.

Listen and Learn

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) hosts a series of Book Review Breakfasts throughout the year. The first one, on Monday January 4 will feature Tom Manwaring of Indian River State College, who will review *A Course Called Ireland: A Long Walk in Search of a Country, a Pint, and the Next Tee*, by Tom Coyne. The presentation takes place at the Richardson Center on the Mueller Campus.

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Health

Holiday blues and depression

Strategies for a merrier Christmas

BY LISA ZAHNER
STEFF WRITER

For some people, the stress and anxiety started before Thanksgiving — when they saw the first Christmas decorations in the stores around Halloween — a sure sign of the impending doom of the holidays.

Whether it's worry over being able to get everything done, going into debt to create the perfect Christmas for everyone or the angst over seeing family members long avoided, December is the time for an estimated 80 percent of people to experience some form of the holiday blues. When entered in a Google search "holiday blues" returns 42.5 million entries.

Barrier island resident Dr. Daryl Millman, who earned her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Chicago

Medical School in 1990 and has been a practicing clinical psychologist for nearly two decades, said holiday stress is pervasive, but tends to be more prevalent among women.

"It's usually the mom who takes on all the responsibilities for the shopping and the cooking and making everybody happy," Millman said. "And she may need help but may not be getting enough help from her husband or children. She may also not really know how to effectively ask for help."

Millman said she reminds clients that Christmas is not a competitive sport. Some people try to compete with siblings or friends or neighbors. Others try to replicate mom's decorating or grandma's pies and hold themselves to an unattainable standard of perfection.

"If you go at it with the aim of hav-



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Shoppers make their way from store to store at Indian River Mall on Black Friday.
Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

ing a perfect Christmas, you are just setting yourself up for failure," Millman said.

Coping with the party — and when the party's over

The holiday blues may hit men later, in January when all the credit card bills come in and all the hoop-la is over. Recent surveys showed that more than 75 percent of people are anxious about finances this holiday season.

Regardless of gender or financial status, there may be a "let down" period after the party's over, so to speak. The guests are gone, grown children back to college, grandkids scattered across the country, an empty nest all over again.

The Mental Health Association of Indian River County offers help year-round for people struggling with not only depression, but a wide range of mental health challenges.

Licensed Mental Health Clinician Beth Griffin said that, at least in the four years she's worked there, the association's phones definitely light up as the holidays approach. But the problems people face continue and the association stays busy through the anti-climactic period after the New Year.

"Some people do everything they can to hold it all together over the holidays, then when it's all over they fall apart," Griffin said.

The sense of disappointment may

be especially bad if all the effort didn't seem to be appreciated by family and friends or if the holidays yielded arguments or hurt feelings among the turkey and eggnog.

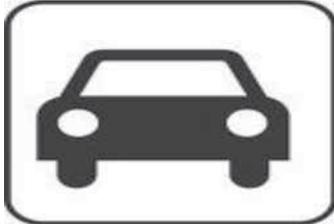
Speaking of the eggnog, it might be best to go easy on the bourbon.

Millman said that alcohol can make the holiday blues worse, so use moderation when enjoying that glass of holiday cheer. The constant presence of alcoholic beverages at parties over Christmas and New Year's can be an

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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

excuse to exceed normal limits.

"First of all, alcohol is a depressant and it also lowers your inhibitions, so you might go looking for a fight or get into a fight," she said.

Anyone with alcoholism or drug abuse in the family probably has sour memories of holiday celebrations spoiled by one or more family members getting too much to drink. These memories could also trigger the holiday blues, especially if you anticipate

that person acting up during or after your "perfect" Christmas dinner.

The ghost of Christmas past

Just as traumatic experiences can cause holiday blues, so can the pressure to "live up to" the idealized holidays of childhood or of the past.

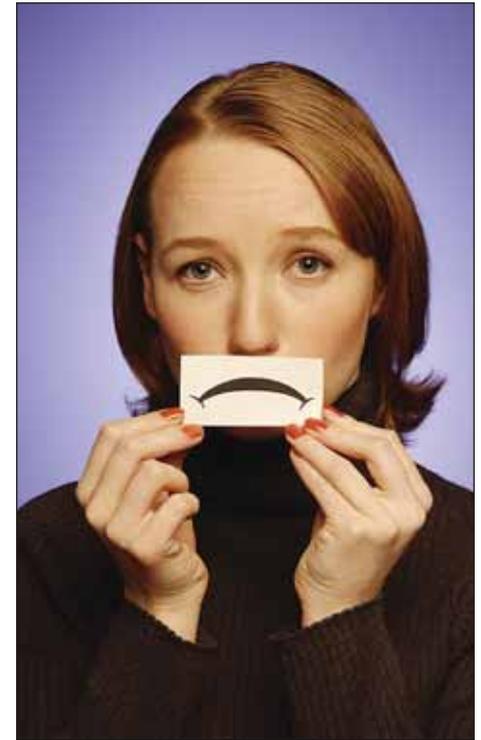
"Don't romanticize Christmases of the past," Millman said.

Millman and Griffin both suggest prioritizing, choosing a couple of special things that you cherish from childhood to do with your own family.

If doing it all seems overwhelming, she suggests passing the traditions along by involving children, giving them a job to do that is tied to carrying forth a custom or ritual.

Childhood memories and family dynamics — for good or for bad — can play a huge role in whether a person looks forward to or utterly dreads the holidays. Sibling rivalries can rear their heads when everyone gets together to report back on the year's triumphs and tribulations.

"No matter how old you are or how



grown up, you're always the baby brother or whatever when you go home for the holidays," Millman said.

New members joining the family through marriage can also be a source of stress, as adapting to someone else's "normal" is not always easy.

"Every family has their own traditions," Millman said. "

Some families are very affectionate, some are more reserved. Some go all out on presents and some draw names and buy just one gift or buy only for the kids. Every member of the family may have a set role or dish to cook and, for a new person, finding all of this out and carving a niche — at least for the first couple of years — may try even the most stable of relationships. There is also the power struggle over who goes where and when, who hosts the dinner, the Christmas brunch, where the presents are opened.

"At some point, young families may just tell the parents that they want to stay home and start their own traditions," Millman said. "That's just a natural evolution of families, but it can leave parents or grandparents alone and isolated. We need to remember the older members of the family who may feel left behind."

In the flurry of activity, Millman said it's crucial to remember that older relative or friend who might be ill, who might not be able to get around or who might have lost a spouse. A little joy from a visit, a bouquet of flowers or even a phone call can go a long way to brighten the holidays of an elderly person.

When Christmas follows a loss or is bigger than the "holiday blues"

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task at a time is especially important if past holiday celebrations included people who aren't in the picture anymore due to death, divorce, military deployment or simply geographic celebration.

"Sometimes people who have lost someone don't want to participate in holiday activities because they don't want to bring other people down," she said. "It's important to acknowledge the loss, but it's also very important for people going through a loss to not be alone during the holidays."

Griffin agreed with Millman's assessment that being alone is the worst thing someone suffering from the holiday blues can do. She said the holidays are the time to make the most of whatever support system you have.

"An important part of what we do with clients is try to identify who are their support system and are they around. If they don't have a support system or they are not around, that's when high-risk behavior can happen."

If having the traditional holiday without the parent, spouse or other departed relative is too much to bear, Millman said it's OK to ditch the holly and the ivy for a year or two and do something completely different.

"Sometimes it's good to get away or go on a cruise, to be in a different place rather than to be at home and have that empty place at the table because that person isn't there," she said.

When the "holiday blues" is triggered by grief over a loss, lasts beyond the new year or gets worse, Millman said it could be a sign of depression (see symptoms of depression box) and it's time to get professional help.

"The holiday blues is that feeling of anxiety that people get around Thanksgiving and starts building and it's all about expectations, the mental list of too many things to do, it's that mental list that causes the problems," she said. "If you find yourself unhappy day after day, that's approaching depression, not just the blues or the blahs. For people with real depression, the holidays can definitely exacerbate the situation."

Talk therapy can help someone who thinks they may be depressed cut through the morass of emotions and figure out what the problem is. Millman said psychotherapy is not rocket science, but is more like applied common sense.

Millman said that people who are currently seeing a therapist often cancel appointments during the busy Christmas season and people on medication for anxiety or depression often get out of their regular routines, skipping or stopping their medication

altogether.

"Christmas is not the time to stop taking your medication," she said.

For those who need help but don't know where to start in finding a therapist, the Mental Health Association offers what they call "bridging" services. When someone calls during business hours, they are patched through immediately to a clinician who then determines what kind of help they need. That clinician can see the client and either help them qualify for need-based mental health services, refer them, or

in the most extreme cases, get them into an inpatient treatment program. If the problem is related to an addiction or to domestic violence, the clinician will both counsel the client on an interim basis and help connect them with someone who can provide long-term help.

Services at the Mental Health Association are open to any resident of Indian River County. Counseling is provided on a sliding scale and are funded through private donations and grants. Outside of business hours, Griffin

said help is always available by calling 211.



Mental and Emotional strategies

- Keep expectations realistic, don't shoot for "perfect"
- Prioritize social and family commitments
- Delegate smaller tasks to family

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

members to pass on traditions

- Don't romantize past holidays
- Agree upon a system for gifts, such as one present each, only for the kids, etc.
- Reconnect with the spiritual meaning of Christmas
- If you've had a major loss and grief is the source of holiday blues, acknowledge it
- Determine if the pressure to create "perfect" holidays is from without or from within
- If you're feeling sorry for yourself, do something to help others
- If it's more than just holiday blues, get help (see signs of depression)

Physical strategies

- Get enough sleep, try not to change sleep schedule
- Don't skip meals while running around on holiday errands
- Say no to that extra latte — caffeine can exacerbate stress and anxiety
- Watch your intake of sweets to avoid a sugar high and the inevitable low

- Keep up your regular exercise regimen, even if busy or traveling
- Escape the overwhelm by meditating or taking a walk
- Don't stop taking any prescribed medications
- Don't overindulge in alcohol
- Give yourself a massage, facial or pedicure for Christmas

Symptoms of depression

- Persistent sad, anxious or "empty" mood
- Feelings of hopelessness, pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, helplessness
- Loss of interest or pleasure in activities that were once enjoyed, including sex
- Decreased energy, fatigue, being "slowed down"
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions
- Insomnia, early-morning awakening or oversleeping
- Loss of appetite or weight loss
- Overeating or weight gain
- Restlessness, irritability
- Persistent physical symptoms that do not respond to treatment such



Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

as headaches, digestive disorders and chronic pain

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, if you experience five or more of these symptoms every day for two weeks, seek professional help.

If you have recurring thoughts of

death or suicide, get help immediately.

The Indian River County mental health hotline is 211.

During business hours, immediate help is available through the Mental Health Association of Indian River County by calling 772-569-9788 to speak with a clinician.

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Leiden: Rich history and a legacy of open arms

SUSAN SPANO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us, the story of the Pilgrims – and their connection not to turkeys but to tulips, windmills and wooden shoes – can be told.

from England, later known as the Pilgrims.

The town of Leiden, 25 miles southwest of Amsterdam, gave the Pilgrims refuge from 1609 to 1620 before they crossed the Atlantic Ocean aboard the Mayflower, landed on Plymouth Rock, suffered through a

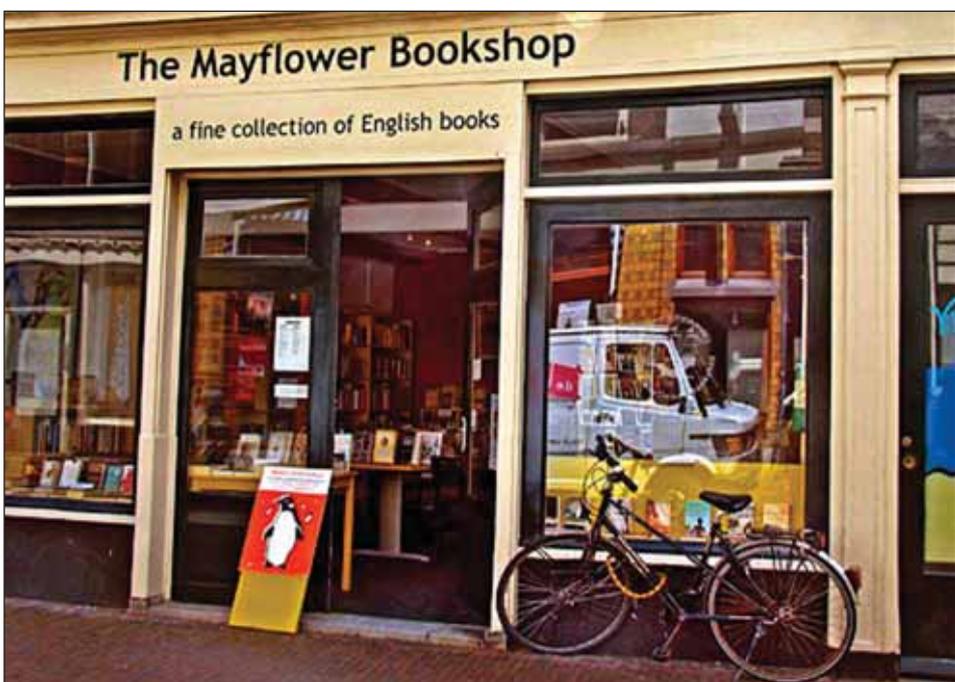


Snow dusts trees along a canal in Leiden. The city, about 25 miles southwest of Amsterdam, was a refuge for the Pilgrims, who eventually came to America.

For a brief golden moment in the early 17th century, people in Holland of disparate faiths could worship as they saw fit — French Huguenots, Roman Catholics, Jews, Quakers, Lutherans, Dutch Mennonites and a small group of religious dissenters

brutal winter and then plucked the first Thanksgiving turkey to celebrate their survival.

Although the Pilgrim story is hard-wired into the American soul, its Leiden chapter has gone largely unnoticed, except among historians



The Mayflower Bookshop carries English-language tomes. Some historians believe American tenets such as free-market capitalism and the separation of church and state stemmed from Pilgrims' time in Holland.



The Latin School, founded around 1600, was where Rembrandt attended classes during the time when Pilgrims lived nearby.

who say that many bedrock values attributed to the Pilgrims, such as free-market capitalism, civil marriage and the separation of church and state, stemmed from their time in Holland.

A Protestant debate

There wasn't a whiff of fall in the air when I left the Leiden train station in late summer. Headed on foot toward the Hotel de Doelen in one of the distinguished 17th century mansions along the lime tree-bordered Rapenburg Canal, I quickly discovered that Leiden is compact and richly detailed, like a painting by native son Rembrandt, born here in 1606, three years before the Pilgrims arrived.

Near the mouth of the Rhine River, Leiden is a maze of lily-padded canals, graceful old bridges, quiet squares and alleyways leading past windmills, loftily steeped churches and step-gabled houses where cats sleep on the ledges of lace-curtained windows.

Several blocks south of the hotel I found the University of Leiden's enchanting Botanical Garden (or Hortus Botanicus), which cultivated some of Europe's first tulips and was already thriving when the Pilgrims arrived. Their pastor, John Robinson, enrolled in the renowned university's divinity school, studying many of the theological issues that ultimately fragmented Calvinist Protestantism.

The Pilgrims were one of the splinter groups. Then known as Separatists, they believed the Anglican Church of England, founded by Henry VIII in 1534, had been ruinously corrupted by false practices inherited from Ro-

man Catholicism.

But unlike the Puritans, fellow dissenters who wanted to reform Anglicanism from the inside, the Pilgrims felt bound to break away to establish their own democratically governed church founded on a literal interpretation of the Bible.

The theological issues that divided Protestantism into myriad strands may seem arcane now, but they were hotly disputed in 17th century Europe.

At the university's handsome Academy Building, adjacent to the botanical garden, Pastor Robinson took part in a series of widely followed debates, arguing that a man could not be saved by free will because God had predetermined his fate, a belief, known as predestination, that the Pilgrims embraced.

From Rapenburg Canal, I walked east toward St. Peter's Church (or Pieterskerk), a huge Dutch Gothic place of worship now deconsecrated and under renovation, partly to combat infestation by wood-boring insects known as death watch beetles. Peeking through the scaffolding, I saw a memorial stone dedicated to Robinson, buried here in 1625, reaching paradise, perhaps, but never the New World.

Haven for refugees

During the 1609-21 truce in the ongoing war between Holland and Spain, religious refugees of all kinds flocked to Leiden, then one of the most liberal cities in Europe. They worshiped in churches scattered

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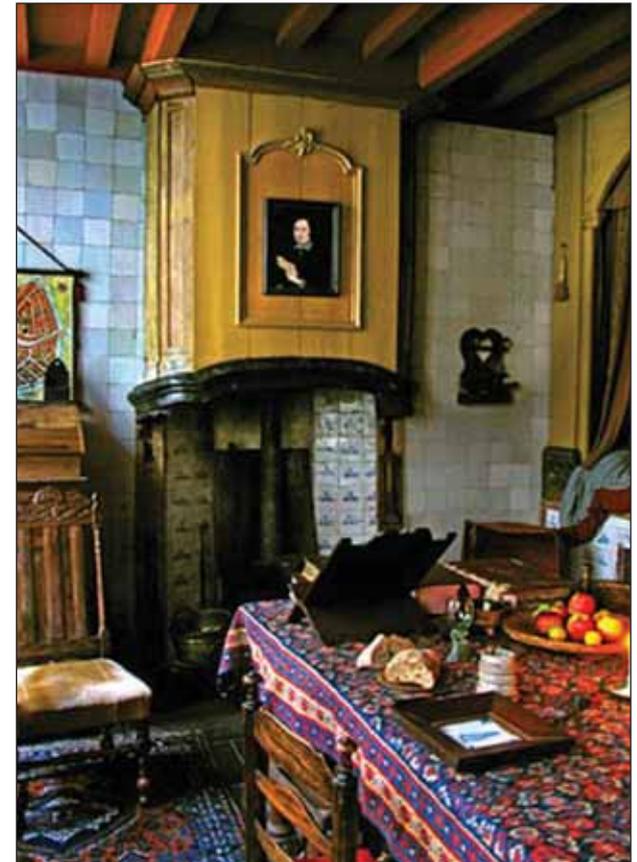
Travel



Some architecture is as it was when the Pilgrims lived in Leiden in the 17th century.



The Leiden Pilgrim Museum is one of the oldest buildings in town, decorated in the style of a 17th century dwelling.



A snug, 17th century home interior re-created at the Leiden Pilgrim Museum.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

around town, but the Pilgrim congregation held services in Robinson's home across from the bell tower of St. Peter's. I easily found the house because it bears a plaque and passed through the white portal to the courtyard in back where about a dozen Pilgrim families lived.

Many others found accommodations in the leafy neighborhood around St. Peter's, including William Brewster. He lived with his family on nearby Choir Alley, where he operated a religious printing press that was shut down in 1619 because of pressure from English authorities. A year later he sailed to Plymouth on the *Mayflower*.

As if by gravitational pull, I found my way to the historic center, where I stood on commercial Breestraat admiring Leiden's *stadhuis* (or city hall). Consumed by fire in 1929, the interior was rebuilt in modern style, but the building's long western facade was salvaged so that it still displays 17th century gargoyles that testify to the goofy Dutch sense of humor.

Shortly after the small Pilgrim band left England for Amsterdam in 1608, Robinson applied to *stadhuis* officials for permission to settle in Leiden. Burgher Jan van Hout answered by letter, saying the town would not "refuse honest persons permission to come and take up residence," a response that must have thrilled the congregation.



A worker tends a pond containing giant *Victoria* lilies in the Hortus Botanicus, founded in 1594. The botanical garden cultivated some of Europe's first tulips, a flower emblematic of Holland.

Back in England, where the state-sponsored Anglican Church held sway, they had been persecuted, imprisoned and forced to worship secretly. James I, titular head of the English theocracy, commissioned a landmark translation of the Bible but had no sympathy for dissenters. In 1604, he said, "I will harry them out of the land, or worse."

At the time England and Holland were allies, united by trade, Protestantism and opposition to Catholic Spain, which had ruled the Neth-

erlands since the 16th century. But even when the English ambassador in Holland requested the group's extradition, Leiden's welcome to the Pilgrims did not falter.

The *stadhuis* was well-known to the English refugees. The marriages of several Pilgrim brides and grooms were registered here, including that of William Bradford, who later became a governor of the Plymouth Colony in North America. Civil marriages like his were deemed necessary in Holland because almost half the popula-

tion did not belong to the state religion, the Calvinist Dutch Reformed Church.

The square in front of the *stadhuis* is a wide and convivial marketplace, bisected by one of the Rhine River's several channels.

People pass the time here at cafes perched on platforms over the water or rummage through shops such as Simon Levelt, a 200-year-old tea and coffee purveyor. In a nearby bookshop I found "Newcomers in an Old City: The American Pilgrims in Leiden, 1609-1620," by Joke Kardux and Eduard van de Bilt, and cracked it open over a strong, rich espresso at Coffee-Star, served with a sweet tucked on the saucer.

It was a short walk to the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, where director and founder Jeremy Bangs showed me around.

The museum occupies a house built in 1370 for *vergers*, or caretakers, at nearby St. Pancras Church and consists of three snug rooms with tile-lined fireplaces, low-beamed ceilings and mullioned windows. When visitors arrive, a docent shows them Pilgrim-era antiques — jugs, bottles, books, glass trading beads manufactured in Amsterdam — assembled to suggest how the refugees lived in Leiden.

Bangs himself is a remarkable resource, the author of a recent scholarly volume titled "Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners: Leiden and the Foundations of the



Pedestrians come upon a square in Leiden near the castle of the Count of Holland, dating from the 13th century.



Leiden, which is like a compact Amsterdam, is also laced with canals.



Motorboats and rowboats make their way along one of the city's numerous canals.

Plymouth Plantation," a title harking back to lines written in 1622 by Pilgrim Father Robert Cushman: "We are all, in all places, strangers and pilgrims, travellers and sojourners."

Bangs explained that the Pilgrims believed everything human, including religious creeds, imperfect and therefore avoided dogmatic religion imposed by political authorities. Thus they carried the principle of the separation of church and state with them in their torturous passage to the New World.

At neighboring St. Pancras Church (also known as the Hooglandse), where a child born in 1609 to William Brewster was buried, I found a paving stone thought to mark the graves of two Pilgrims. The magnificent late Gothic church has a massive organ and an early 17th century clock, re-

cently restored to expose its inner workings.

That night I had spicy shrimp noodles at Sabai-Sabai, a funky Thai place near the university. It is one of many ethnic eateries around town that testify to a new wave of decidedly non-Protestant immigrants from such places as Morocco, Thailand, Ethiopia, Iraq and Vietnam.

Their growing presence, which has sometimes created tensions, has forced the Dutch to revisit the idea of religious tolerance in this post- 9/11 world.

The next morning I toured the city museum in the Lakenhal. The old Cloth House was a center for an industry that fueled Leiden's prosperous 17th century golden age and employed many Pilgrims. Mill owners preferred them for their honesty

and diligence. But the long, sunless hours in textile factories, the fear of assimilation and a missionary spirit eventually prompted them to leave Holland.

My favorite thing in the museum is a painting by Jan Lievens, a contemporary of Rembrandt's. It depicts a pilgrim who committed suicide to evade Satan, disguised as St. James,

on the way to the shrine of Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Then I headed back to the train station. But along one of the canals that took Robinson's congregation out to sea and thence to the New World, I saw a woman in a chador and stopped, remembering that Robert Cushman thought of everyone as a stranger and pilgrim.

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Style



Kate Hudson — Boho curls

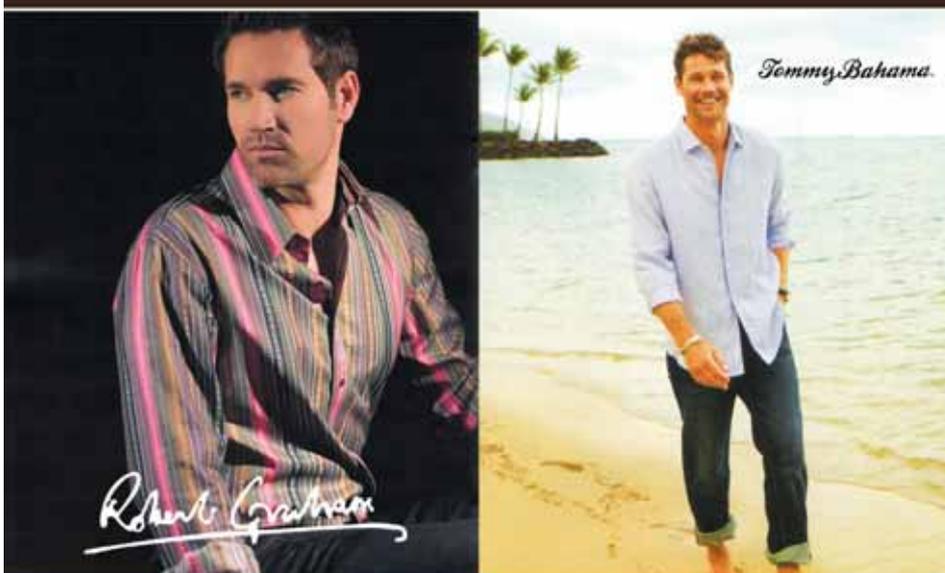
This winter, blondes are going blonder and brunettes are getting darker

BY ALEXANDRA DROSU
LOS ANGELES TIMES



Megan Fox — Modern-day Veronica Lake

Single-process or solid color with subtle tones gives hair color added dimension and are easier on the budget than highlights.



The forecast for snowfall in Florida may be remote, but you can expect to see frosty weather reflected in hair color instead.

“Winter whites and snowy blonds are in style this season,” says Clay Patane, owner of the salon Loft Hair Lounge. “It’s as if [women] want to brighten their hair color as a means to shine away the bleak economy.”

Brunettes, by contrast, are embracing richness through deeper, darker shades in lush caramels and warm chocolates. In general, color is a great way to revive dull, sun-damaged hair, plus added shine makes locks look party-worthy during the holiday season.

“We’re seeing the slow death of highlights,” says Stuart Gavert of Gavert Atelier in Beverly Hills. Instead of highlights, single-process or solid color combined with subtle tones gives hair color added dimension without obvious streaks. Plus, Gavert adds, single-process color requires less upkeep than highlights — perfect for budget-conscious clients.

A consultation with a colorist can help you determine the right color to suit your skin tone, but it’s always a good idea to bring in pictures of the look you want (the more, the better) to ensure the best results. Describe what you like about the image so the colorist can really understand what you want to achieve. It may be the color, technique or both. Salon colorists can also add depth and dimension to single-process color that is more difficult to achieve at home.

Added depth with balayage

Lea Journo of Lea Journo Salon, who tends to the tresses of stars like Portia de Rossi, likes to use a technique called balayage, in which color is painted onto dry hair to avoid distinctive foil lines. Applying multiple shades creates texture and subtle hints of depth. Another technique favored by Reyad Fritas, lead colorist at the Frédéric Fekkai Salon, adds subtle dimension to color by applying highlights to wet hair. The water on the hair shaft dilutes the dye to create a more natural effect, reducing damage to the hair. Gavert creates a soft, golden glow on his light blond clients — such as “90210’s” AnnaLynne McCord — using underlights, painting on a copper- or sand-colored shade directly underneath foils.

If a salon visit strains your wallet, most experts agree you can achieve good results with single-process color at home. Regardless of fashion trends, the key to great hair color is determining what looks best on you, and experts agree



Natalie Portman – Dark locks in a messy bun



Madonna – Blond tresses in 1960s sex kitten style

that finding the right shade is the biggest hurdle.

Marco Pelusi of Marco Pelusi Salon offers this tip: Take two pieces of fabric — one silver, one gold — and place them on either side of your face. If the silver looks better on you, you should stick to cooler shades such as dark browns, bright, cool reds and light, ashy blonds. If you look best in gold, choose warmer shades — coppers, golds and chocolates. Also, consider your age when determining shades, especially if you're over 40. Going too light can wash out features, while going too dark can make the face look too harsh.

Fritas suggests using your eye color as a guide. While blue eyes can go with any shade, brown-eyed women going darker should choose one shade deeper than their eye color. Also, stay within one to two levels of your natural hue to avoid color mishaps. Indoor lighting can cast blue or green light onto hair, making it hard to identify your natural shade, so evaluate hair with a mirror outside. Lastly, don't match your hair color to your skin tone, Patane says: "It washes out the whole canvas."

Select an ammonia-free, demi-permanent hair color such as Natural Instincts by Clairol, Gavert says. Demi-permanent formulations do not lighten or strip hair, instead depositing richness and tone for a more natural look that fades gradually. Also, keep in mind that natural-looking color is darker at the roots than the ends. "For best results, apply color only to the roots," Journo says. Apply the remainder of the dye through to the ends during the last three minutes of processing time.

Keep the color going

To preserve your color longer, use a specially formulated shampoo, such as Rene Furterer Okara Protect Color Radiance Shampoo, and avoid products containing harsh sulfates that can strip color. Blondes should try a product such as L'Oréal Colorist Collection White Violet Shampoo and conditioner, which prevents brassiness and maintains brightness for pale- and white-blond hair.

Also, salon gloss or glaze treatments can extend color between visits and give hair added shine. Gavert uses Wella Relights at his salon to give locks a silky shine that helps keep color more vibrant and adds up to four additional weeks between hair color visits. For similar results at home, try Fekkai Salon Glaze.

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Style

A holiday book list for the fashion-minded

A how-to on becoming a designer, the history of models' roles in changing the industry and much more will delight connoisseurs of style.

BY JULIE NEIGHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Acerbic writer and social critic P.J. O'Rourke once advised that you should always read something "that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it." Tongue tucked in cheek? Sure. Still, it's a constructive

axiom for the intelligent fashion and style connoisseur. Think of it this way: A book is like an outfit. You don't want to be seen reading the Members Only edition when you could be spotted thumbing through something catwalk

cool, do you?

Following is a holiday literary gift guide that focuses on the chic, the cheeky and the unusual. Each book is as full of substance as it is stylish. O'Rourke may have been on to something. Would you really want to be caught dead reading anything else?

how to conceive a garment to how to market it. Calderin writes clearly, using easy-to-follow text and pictures that explain the route to the runway. A new fashion bible for designers, aspirers and the just plain curious, this tome contains all the secrets.

"Model as Muse"

by Harold Koda and Kohle Yohannan



Suzy Parker, Twiggy, Beverly Johnson, Christy Turlington and Kate Moss. These are just a few of the sirens who have influenced and enlivened the designs

of the world's top couturiers. You'll be fascinated by the manner in which models have influenced high fashion and how, through them, our notions of beauty and style have evolved over time. Photographs by, among others, Steven Meisel, Mario Testino and Richard Avedon.

"One Hundred Years of Menswear"

by Cally Blackman

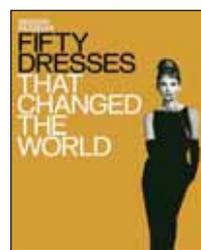


The last century has been anything but boring when it comes to menswear. In fact, history (and author Cally Blackman) demonstrate that men have been at least as fashion-

conscious as women. It was, after all, men's fashion that produced what could be described as the most dynamic and versatile garment ever — the suit. Handsomely illustrated with rare photos, this book examines everything from the elegant tailoring of Savile Row to the progression of jeans and khakis. Celebrity icons, such as David Bowie and Mick Jagger, abound. There's also a fascinating comparison of the styles of Pierre Cardin, Ralph Lauren and Giorgio Armani (among others) with the street fashion of the 1960s, punk and clubbing scenes. With 12 sections, including titles such as "Rebel," "Worker and Soldier" and "Peacock," "One Hundred Years of Menswear" analyzes varying genres and scrutinizes the stylistic influence of the gay community as well as the manner in which the media have steered trends.

"Fifty Dresses That Changed the World" and "Fifty Shoes That Changed the World"

By Design Museum



Can you imagine life without the flip-flop? Well, before 1962 it didn't exist. And did you know that a doctor's ankle injury launched a boot — the eponymous

Dr. Marten. And if it hadn't been for former Vogue editor Diana Vreeland's suggestion that Mr. Blahnik try shoe design rather than couture, Carrie Bradshaw would be a very different gal indeed. These are just three of the 50 delightful stories about shoes, designers and their history in "Fifty Shoes That Changed the World." And with a splendid array of photographs featuring some favorite kicks, you'll be inspired to stock your closet with some must-have heels.

"Fifty Dresses That Changed the World" is equally essential, but this time it's all about the frocks. Who could forget Elizabeth Hurley in the Versace that adrenalized her career — the now famous safety pin dress? Or the Mary Quant mini that helped make London the most happening spot of the '60s? You know this book is going to be good when you see Audrey Hepburn perched on the cover in her iconic little black Givenchy from "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

"Form, Fit and Fashion"

by Jay Calderin



If you know someone who's studying to be the next McQueen or McCartney, or who's simply eager to know more about what's behind the seams of the fashion industry, this is the instruction manual on how to become a designer. You'll learn everything from



Ask the Hair Guy

Mark Rodolico

Colorist / Stylist

www.askthehairguy.com

A word from The Hair Guy: *Has anyone else noticed all the cool new places opening up around town? Here is a shout out to my new friends at Café Mojo. What a cool scene! We could use more of this vibe around town! And fellas', come check out our pre-built or custom gift packages for your girl. We made it easy for you! Don't pick up something stupid.*

Question: *The sun is brutal on my hair color. What can you do to keep it from fading and sometimes it looks like it is reddish.*

- Andrea F. of Vero Beach

Answer: Well, I would need to know more about you and your hair to really answer this one. So I invite you to stop in and visit me, let me look at you and nail down the root problem and cure. Meanwhile back at the ranch, this is how I see it. Hair color is 50% formulation and 50% application, one without the other is useless! Generally speaking, the reddish you speak of is a direct result of under processing. As we hair colorists' learn early on, the natural fade out process of natural hair color is built like a house. Pale Yellow is our foundation, Red orange are the walls and Blue is the roof. When the storm comes (Lifting action of the sun, hair color or lighteners) the first thing to go is the (Blue) roof. The next things to go are the (red and orange) walls. Finally, (if done properly) we are left with a foundation of pale yellow. Ok, my point, if the

technician does not formulate properly and does not lift out enough of your natural hair pigment, the underlying color can be those (brassy) walls. That said, no matter how perfect your color looks walking out of the salon, when the artificial color fades (it always will) you are left with whatever natural base, that was left as a foundation by your technician, peaking through. So, it sounds like a formulation change is in order. Making you, the client, look good walking out of our salon is our job. Learning you and your life style and properly formulating you to stay looking good between visits in various states of fade out, that is the work of a true hair color master!

Thanks for asking The Hair Guy.

Keep them coming:
www.askthehairguy.com

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Jewelry that's faux and fine

Jewelry designers are mixing materials to make statement pieces at a more affordable price.

BY MELISSA MAGSAYSAY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Long before the economy slipped into its current swoon, stylish women understood the joys of high-quality costume jewelry.

Coco Chanel made the look of luxury accessible by reproducing the fine jewelry from her personal collection with faux materials. Former First Lady Barbara Bush famously donned a Kenneth Jay Lane faux pearl choker to wear to one of her husband's inauguration ceremonies. And on recent red carpets, celebrities have been wearing costume pieces that make a statement just like the real thing, and sometimes even better.

Now some of that quality is coming to the masses. Indeed, "faux" is far from the four-letter word it used to be.

"I love costume jewelry," says celebrity stylist Nicole Chavez, whose client, Rachel Bilson, recently wore a striking, jade-enamel necklace from Chanel's costume jewelry collection. "I find [it] to be a great accessory for the red carpet, because it's less formal and more accessible." Chavez, who also dresses Kristen Bell and Scarlett Johansson, favors costume jewelry from Marni and House of Lavande when styling her starlets for movie premieres and parties.



Miriam Haskell semiprecious stone necklace, Melinda Maria Amy Magic cuff, Melinda Maria Amy Magic earrings.

Designer Melinda Spigels' costume jewelry line applies the same techniques in setting and stone cutting as those used in making fine jewelry. Her series of costume pieces, called Melinda Maria, has been a favorite of celebrities, including Vanessa Hudgens and Julia Roberts.

Spigel started her collection as a fine jewelry line but quickly realized that she could design more pieces and be more creative by cutting back on her use of precious materials. The result is a series of earrings, cuffs and large necklaces that blur the line between faux and fine, stumping even some of the most seasoned jewelry connoisseurs.

"Some of my private customers come in and start putting on costume pieces right next to their \$150,000 bracelet," Spigel says. This season, it should be easy to brighten a holiday look. Vintage-inspired baubles can add character to a simple black dress or blouse, and striking offerings include elastic rhinestone bracelets, which are especially eye-catching when mixed with gold bracelets.

Though these pieces sell for \$60 to \$150, prices can certainly climb much



higher. Necklaces from Miriam Haskell sell for closer to \$1,000, but those who own them believe they are the ultimate statement makers. The pieces have a strong vintage inspiration, with a feeling that is reminiscent of styles that were popular when the company was founded — in 1929. The creations are heavily textured, with mixed materials and unexpected flourishes on pieces that include bracelets and brooches.

To duplicate these pieces — or any of the current, stylish offerings — with platinum, gold or precious gems would place them out of reach of most holiday revelers. It's good to know we can still sparkle and pay the mortgage.



Style



Golden age of perfume in the air?

Niche fragrances are breaking away from the pack to create scents driven by aesthetics.

BY SUSAN CARPENTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The most popular season for fragrance buying is upon us, and with it, the clouds of perfume that mark the entrance to many department stores.

Looking for a whiff of Marc Jacobs' vampy new Lola? How about Thierry Mugler's Alien Liqueur de Parfum, which is aged in oak casks?

Even if most shoppers aren't actively seeking the stars of the fragrance world,

they will get a sniff as they run the gantlet of atomizer-armed perfume girls who gleefully spritz shoppers and keep stores joyfully aromatic.

Many shoppers will undoubtedly be drawn to traditional favorites. In the higher-end prestige market, Chanel's Coco Mademoiselle and Estée Lauder Beautiful are among the top sellers.

In addition to the breakout scents that capture the attention of shoppers each season, the most notable trend in the industry comes from the growth in niche products.

"At the end of the day, fragrance is a sociological phenomenon," said Michael Edwards, creator of Fragrances of the World, a decades-old retailer's guide that now includes 7,000 perfumes and colognes. "On the one hand, perfume is a commodity," dominated by global multinationals such as L'Oréal, which makes fragrances for Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren, Diesel and Yves Saint Laurent," Edwards said. "But on the other side we're in a new golden age of perfume," driven by artisans who "seek to create experiences rather than brands" and who are finding an enthusiastic audience via the Internet.

Of course, the \$3.4-billion fragrance industry, like so many others, has been hard hit by the recession. U.S. sales are down 10 percent heading into the holidays this year compared with 2008, according to the NPD Group, a market research firm. While 50 percent of all fragrance is purchased between October and December and 1 in 5 consumers plans to buy perfume or cologne this season, the question remains: How much?

"We've never gone into the holiday season as down as we are this year," said

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Karen Grant, NPD's global industry analyst and vice president of beauty.

Many fresh choices

"The positive is that going into the holiday this year, a lot of the new launches are just hitting," Grant said. "Whether it's Lola [by Marc Jacobs] or Flora by Gucci, they're getting more attention. The hope is that with some being so new, they'll drive some traffic and energy and excitement."

About 600 new perfumes are released every year, compared with 150 per year in the 1990s and 50 in the 1980s, according to the Fragrances of the World database. Most of those releases occur in the fall, to appeal to women who are already in stores updating their looks, and to shoppers whose wallets are open for the holidays.

Yet amid the hundreds of fragrances released each year, only a handful of hits rise to the surface. And many perfume industry insiders lament that successful launches such as Dolce & Gabbana's citrus-y Light Blue and Thierry Mugler's Angel are then copied for years by their competitors. Breakout hits of recent years such as Ed Hardy for women and Viva La Juicy from Juicy Couture are "likely to inspire copycats," Grant said.

One leading perfume expert has concerns about perfume ingredients. "The formula cost in the mainstream brands has gone steadily down so the perfumes are simply cheaper in composition than they were 10, 20 or 30 years ago," said Luca Turin, a biophysicist and perfume expert. He is also the author of several books including "The Secret of Scent" and "Perfumes: The Guide" (written with Tania Sanchez), which offers critiques of more than 1,800 perfumes.

"If you're talking fine fragrance, if you don't put cash into the composition, you won't get anything wonderful," said Turin, adding that the best scent he has smelled recently was Tiare, from the small London-based perfumer Ormonde Jayne. He also noted the soon-to-be-discontinued B Never Too Busy to be Beautiful range of fragrances, saying they are "honest, high-quality products at sensible prices in fun packaging. What's not to like?"

"What's happening now," said Turin, "is there's a lot of diversity, which is a good thing."

Niche fragrances from small independent players, such as the Morocco-based Frenchman Serge Lutens, account for less than 10 percent of the market but are pushing the envelope of creativity, appealing to a small, fanatical and growing clientele. Niche

fragrances have experienced double-digit growth this year, according to Grant of the NPD group. "They're really small in their overall penetration in the marketplace, but they seem to be an area where consumers are gravitating," Grant said.

L'Artisan Parfumeur's Vanille Havana, Kilian's Pure Oud and Une Rose Chypree from Tauer Perfumes are among the favorites touted by Elena Knezevic on her website fragrantica.com. Part encyclopedia, part community forum and part magazine, the site was founded by Knezevic in 2007 in her home country of Serbia. Now based in New Jersey and supported only with Google ads, [Fragrantica](http://fragrantica.com) boasts a monthly readership of 600,000.

"The most important thing to be successful is to start from the art, not from the profit, because people will recognize your real intention very quickly, especially now when people use the Internet to find out things," Knezevic said.

Niche perfumers typically devote more money to the formulation, less to bottle design and nothing, for the most part, to advertising. Instead of a blanket approach, small perfumers prefer word of mouth; they target a mere handful of outlets frequented by aficionados.

That's the strategy at Etat Libre d'Orange, a niche French perfumer that puts 40% of its budget into the fragrance and attributes 100% of its inspiration to sex, or the pursuit thereof. The company's offerings include scents with ribald names and "dirty" notes such as leather.

"We at Etat Libre give freedom to the perfumers and feed them stories to get them creating an emotion. The idea is to be carefree in all aspects except the quality of the scent," said creative director Etienne de Swardt, who employs Albert Camus' grandson as a staff perfumer.

Even traditional perfumers are getting "fed up of smelling the same thing," said Pierre Aulas, olfactive consultant for Thierry Mugler, who also runs his own fragrance line, Ego Facto, on the side.

While Aulas says Thierry Mugler is different from other major perfume brands in that it "does not launch a product if it has not at least a hint of something new," he adds, "people who really like perfume want more creative, more daring things, and in the niche fragrances that's what you're finding."

Many of those niche fragrances can be found in Scent Bar, a tiny Beverly Boulevard storefront with a small, brown awning. Its 320 square feet is home to more than 400 rare perfumes that are set up like a cocktail bar. The



shiny white counter is cluttered with bottles of exotic new releases such as Nasomatto's Black Afgano (a scent made from smuggled hashish) and

Tribute from Amouage (the Omani perfumer whose signature notes are frankincense and rose petals). On the wall behind it are hundreds more bottles divided by category — fruity florals and woody exotics. A wall of men's fragrances and a section devoted to Commes des Garçons fill out the boutique's collection.

"Fragrances are little luxuries," said co-owner Franco Wright, who also runs the niche fragrance website luckyscent.com, which offers twice as many perfumes as the store. Unlike many perfumers, Wright says he's been "super blessed" that the economy "hasn't had a huge effect on us," a situation he attributes to products that feel "very couture" without costing a fortune. The perfumes at Scent Bar cost between \$40 and \$400 per bottle.

"In this economy, when you can't afford that expensive handbag and shoes, fragrance has become the go-to accessory. At the niche level, there's some exclusivity. . . . And the cherry on top is smelling fabulous all day long."

An advertisement for Sassy Boutique. It features a woman with dark hair, wearing a grey wrap-style top over a pink long-sleeved shirt and a grey skirt with ruffles. She is looking down and to the side. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting. In the top right corner, there is a circular logo with a stylized cross and the text "Sassy Boutique". In the bottom right corner, the address "3375 Ocean Drive" and phone number "772.234.3998" are listed.

Pets

Take your pet to see Santa at the Vero Beach Hotel & Spa



Sadie tugs at her leash, held by owner Matt Kelley, after getting a photo taken with Santa Paws. Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.



Shih Tzus Souling and Sable cuddle up for a portrait with Santa Paws.

BY ALINA LAMBIET
STAFF WRITER

The Vero Beach Hotel & Spa has assured its standing as the pet friendliest hot spot in town.

Don't believe me? First, they are pet friendly – all types of pets are welcome, from feathers to fish to paws to claws. And if you're traveling sans a pet, and just need that feeling of company – check out their

"Guppy Love" program. They'll provide a Beta fish for your room during your stay.

And if you're still not convinced, check out their "Santa Paws" benefit for the Humane Society which has been going on during the past few Saturdays and concludes this Saturday, Dec. 19.

For the past several weekends, the hotel, on Ocean Drive, has hosted complimentary photos of local pets with the big guy in the red velvet suit.

The idea comes from Kimpton Hotels (the parent company), which hosts pet-friendly events at its locations around the country, said Jo Bayley, director of marketing and sales for the Vero location.

Of course, there is always Oliver, the dog-behind-the-scenes and director of pet relations here in Vero Beach, who reminds the hotel's staff that the furrer, the merrier, especially at Christmas. Oliver's pet is hotel General Manager Marco Scherer, who adopted the lhasa apso from a shelter.

So every Saturday until Christmas, the hotel has opened its doors to locals and their pets from 2 to 4 p.m. for pictures. And while the photos are free,

the hotel hopes pets and their friends will bring a donation for the Humane

Society. So far, some 40 pets have been photographed with Santa.

Bayley said they've received a lot of donations – including food and pet bedding.

Don't have a pet? Remember the "Guppy Love" program? The hotel will let you take a snap with one of their Beta fish, or if Oliver is around, he'll do the honors.



Bulldogs Emmy and Opus strike a pose with Santa Paws.

YOUR PET'S HEALTH

By Dr. Randy Divine and Dr. Laura Baldwin



Q. There is a small growth on my dog's abdomen and I'm concerned. He's an older dog and I'm not sure if I should put him through surgery.

A. It's true that older dogs can develop growths like fatty tumors (lipomas), warts, and cats. Unfortunately, they are also at risk for many forms of cancer. Divine Animal Hospital offers many options for pets with masses. We recommend that pets see the doctor as soon as possible as a malignant mass can often look similar to a benign one. The only way to definitively diagnose a mass is through diagnostics like fine needle aspirates and biopsies. A fine needle aspirate is a procedure in which a needle is inserted into the mass in order to obtain a sample of cells. This is the least invasive way to scan cells for signs of inflammatory or infectious response or signs of malignancy.

The next step is to perform a biopsy under sedation. If the mass is small, the entire mass may be removed. The sample is submitted to a histopathologist to determine what type of growth it is and in the case of removal if the entire mass was successfully removed. Malignant tumors should be removed as soon as possible as they can metastasize (spread to distant tissues like the lungs) especially if located near major blood vessels or lymphatics.

Many small growths may be removed with mild sedation or just local anesthetic since many owners worry about putting older pets under anesthesia. If a more invasive mass is present, Divine Animal Hospital offers state of the art cardiovascular monitoring of cardiovascular function with each patient placed on a ventilator to reduce the chance of anesthetic complications. Mass removals are routinely performed with emphasis on complete removal and achieving a cosmetic result. Even if a mass is cancerous, chemotherapy and stem cell treatments are available without traveling to a referral center. Even benign masses can sometimes grow to the extent that they become uncomfortable for pets. If a mass is in a location that interferes with motion (axilla), is irritated for ulcerated, or the pet is self-mutilating, it should be removed even if benign.



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On Faith

The year's greatest gifts: Giving more than receiving



BY REV. DRs. CASEY AND BOB BAGGOTT
COLUMNISTS

Michael Lindvall has written a humorous novel about a pastor's years of work in a little church in a small town in Minnesota. One incident from the book that particularly stands out in our memory occurred one morning during Sunday worship. As the choir sang its well-rehearsed anthem, the collection plates were quietly passed through the congregation. Back and forth, front to back the plates went,

until they contained the tithes and offerings of the faithful flock gathered that day in worship.

By the conclusion of the anthem, the ushers were waiting expectantly at the back of the church to bring the day's offering forward. At the appointed moment, as the organ struck up the familiar Doxology, the ushers walked forward to present the offering, and the minister descended the three steps from the chancel area to meet them and receive the offering plates. Then the minister turned and began walking back up the steps to place the offering on the altar and ask God to bless the day's gifts.

Here's when the unexpected occurred. As the minister walked back up the stairs, an offering plate in each hand, the toe of one of his shoes caught the hem of his clergy robe. He stepped again and the next shoe caught in the

hem as well. His hands were both full with the day's offering, and he found himself precariously balancing on the stairs, caught in his clothing and in imminent danger of toppling over. Somehow, as he tried to right himself, both arms flew up and he tossed the entire contents of the two offering plates backwards over his head, showering the congregation with little white envelopes and bills and coins. Front to back, side to side, the day's collection was sprayed wildly around the church to the surprise and great amusement of the congregation members, who found themselves the happy recipients of everything they had just given away, in fact, sometimes more than they gave away!

God's response to generosity is not usually so direct, but it is, we think, just as real! When we give, we can count on receiving – often far more

than we gave in the first place. Take a look back over this year. Compare what you have given to what you have received. Even most of us whose bank accounts and investments have suffered recently can surely claim we have received generously, nevertheless! If you are one of these, we hope that in this holy season, you will stop to count the extraordinary blessings that are yours and give thanks!

And as you look at the gifts with which you have been showered this year, we hope you will count as dearest the gift of God's Child to you. Merry Christmas!

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.

Life after death: What does the evidence show?

BY DINESH D'SOUZA
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Is there life after death? I don't think there is a thoughtful person alive, whether believer, atheist, or seeker, who hasn't pondered that question.

For me, the question seriously arose a few years ago when my dad died. And then a year ago my best friend was diagnosed with cancer. "What I have learned from this," he told me, "is that the apparent normalcy of our everyday lives is a sham." To him and others, death is the great wrecking ball rolling down the corridor, threatening to wreck all our past accomplishments, present projects, and future plans.

It seems impossible to figure out what comes after death, since none of us can return from the other side.

Yet belief in life after death is both timeless and global.

Atheists who deny both God and an afterlife may be vastly outnumbered, but they think they occupy the intellectual high ground on this question. That's because religious believers typically affirm the afterlife on the basis of faith, while atheists regard themselves as denying it on the basis of science and reason.

Setting aside religious convictions, what does reason alone say about life after death? That's the question I sought to answer in my latest book "Life After Death: The Evidence."

I began by leveling the playing field between atheists and believers. Sure, the believer hasn't been to the other side or questioned any dead people, but the atheist hasn't either. So what information does the atheist have that the believer doesn't? None. The absence of proof is not proof of absence, so the atheist's denial of life after death, like the believer's affirmation of it, is ultimately a faith-based position.

The evidence that does exist mostly cuts the other way. Consider the only empirical evidence we have, which is near-death experiences. In these cases, patients were clinically dead; their hearts stopped. Yet tens of thousands of such people around the world report that consciousness and experience continued even when their body ceased functioning.

From a scholarly compendium of articles on the subject, "The Near-Death Experience: A Reader," edited by Lee Bailey and Jenny Yates, we discover that these accounts are remarkably similar.

Subjects report being drawn through a tunnel and seeing a bright light. They often experience their whole lives flash before them, what scholars terms the "life review." In many cases, they encounter deceased relatives and friends. Frequently they are in a presence of a celestial being.

When near-death experiences were first reported by Raymond Moody

in the 1970s, they were written off as anecdotal and unverifiable. But now these experiences are so widespread from across cultures that they cannot be easily dismissed and there is a whole body of scholarship devoted to studying how they come about and what they mean.

Alarmed by the obvious implication of near-death experiences, atheists have been laboring assiduously to explain them away. Today, the best atheist explanation is that near-death experiences are the result of a dying brain.

There are several problems with this theory but one fatal one is that many survivors of clinical death are now going to work, looking after their families, and functioning just fine. So much for an "irreversible" breakdown.

In my research I also explored evidence from physics, biology, and brain science to see if life after death is consistent with or even corroborated by these fields of study.

Consider the evidence from physics. For the Christian conception of life after death to be viable, there have to be realms beyond the physical universe that are quite literally outside space and time.

But in Newtonian physics these concepts made no sense, because time was presumed to extend indefinitely into the past and the future, and space was presumed to stretch unendingly

in all directions.

Today scientists routinely speak of hidden dimensions, multiple realms, and even multiple universes. What do we know about multiple universes? Not a lot.

One of the direct implications of the Big Bang is that not only did the physical universe have a beginning, but space and time also had a beginning. Space and time are properties of our universe. This means that in realms beyond our universe, if such realms exist, there might be no space and no time. Suddenly the Christian idea of eternity is rendered intelligible.

In considering the question of life after death, I moved from why it's possible to why it's probable to why we should embrace the idea.

Since we are dealing with a future event, I acknowledge that we cannot have certainty. I don't claim to prove my case beyond a reasonable doubt, but I do claim to prove it by a preponderance of the evidence. In the end, we have to resolve this residual uncertainty by asking a practical question, "Is it good for me to believe?"

For me, the clear answer is yes. If there is no life after death, we are like passengers on the Titanic: We can rearrange the deck chairs and turn up the music, but we are ultimately doomed. By contrast, if there is life after death, we can face death with serenity, viewing it is a gateway to another life.

Dining

Restaurant Review

Pomodoro Grill: Still very good, but . . .

BY TINA RONDEAU
COLUMNIST

As we have noted before, Vero Beach has no shortage of very good Italian restaurants – and the Pomodoro Grill located in the Atrium Building toward the southern end of Cardinal Drive has long been among them.

For more than a decade, Peppy Amelio and family have been serving up tasty veal, chicken and seafood entrees (along with brick-oven pizzas) in this attractively decorated Tuscan trattoria.

A year ago, we gave the Pomodoro Grill raves, describing it as matching up favorably with the best of the area's upscale restaurants. Our most recent visit, however, would lead us to dial back our enthusiasm a bit.

This time, in an effort to save room for dessert, we decided to pass up the appetizers and start with the field-greens-and-tomato salads which accompany each meal, while munching on Pomodoro's addictive, olive-oil-basted garlic rolls.

In foregoing a first course, we passed up two of our longtime favorite appetizers — the pepperoni abbracciati alla Italiana (\$8.95), a very nice assortment of fire roasted color bell peppers marinated with extra virgin olive oil, capers, calamata olives and fresh herbs, and the prosciutto di Parma con grana (\$9.95), thin slices of a very tasty prosciutto di Parma topped with thin shavings of Parmesan cheese.

For an entree on this evening, I had the gamberoni alla "imperiale" (\$19.95), shrimp sautéed with garlic, shallots and fresh spinach finished in a sherry wine pecorino Romano cream sauce. Gamberoni generally are jumbo shrimp or prawns; the shrimp served in this dish were succulent and



The dining room at Pomodoro Grill

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

juicy, but a bit small — and the sauce was a speck heavy.

One of our companions had the vitello marsala (\$20.95), veal scaloppini sautéed with portabella mushrooms finished in a Marsala wine sauce. The veal was very tender, and our friend raved over this dish. Another companion had the penne alla Nona Rosa (\$15.95), a tasty pasta dish in which the penne is tossed with grilled eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash, portabella mushrooms, basil & tomatoes finished with crumbled Gorgonzola.

My husband had what we all felt sure



A 12 oz. Tuscan veal chop with green peppercorn dijon chardonnay cream sauce.

would be the *pièce de résistance*, Pomodoro's veal chop (\$36.95), a highly popular item often sold out fairly early in the evening. This time, the waiter said, we were in luck. We could order a "huge" veal chop. Alas, this selection proved a bit disappointing.

While the chop was tender, perfectly grilled medium rare, served in with a green peppercorn dijon chardonnay cream sauce, the meat-to-bone ratio was not what one would expect (*there*

turned out to be relatively little meat on a huge bone). How often do you come away from a veal chop with more on your plate than in your stomach?

I fear we may have been the last table to get one of the chops on this evening. It would have been preferable for them to have told us that, as so frequently is the case, the veal chops were gone.

For dessert, we enjoyed Pomodoro's delicious tiramisu (\$4.95) served in

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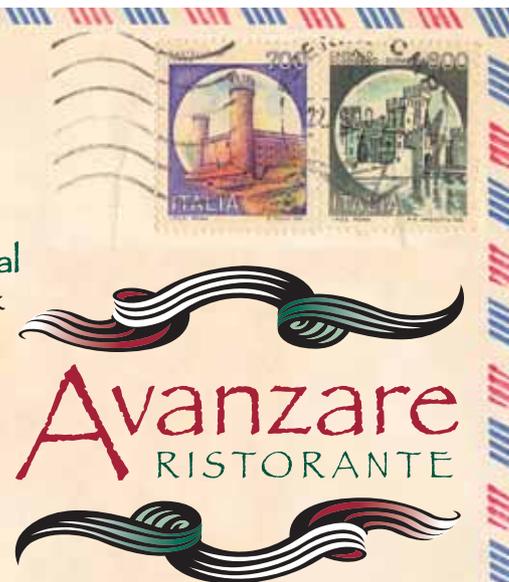
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a goblet, accompanied by espressos (\$2.95). The tiramisu is among the better of those found in Vero Beach. Pomodoro also has a small but more than adequate list of wines to choose from which pair well with their food.

Dinner for two, accompanied by a modest bottle of wine, typically comes to about \$100 before tip.

In addition to its colorful dining room, Pomodoro has an attractive outside garden that is perfect for dining al fresco (or enjoying a cappuccino after dinner) on a warm winter evening.

Any restaurant still going strong after 14 years is clearly doing something right, and for excellent veal scaloppini dishes - whether prepared as veal marsalla, Picasso, picatta or "Nonno Antonio," all of which I have enjoyed - I have no hesitation in continuing to

highly recommend Pomodoro.

But with restaurant competition in Vero Beach growing ever stiffer, even a venerable restaurant with many fans - like Pomodoro - cannot afford to coast.

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

There's a 'cookie snob' in the kitchen

BY JANE BLACK
WASHINGTON POST

Tiffany MacIsaac is, by her own admission, a "cookie snob." An extra minute or two in the oven, in her opinion, can spell ruin. If cookies are no longer warm — any more than 10 minutes out of the oven — MacIsaac just isn't interested.

Pastry chefs are renowned perfectionists. MacIsaac, 28, fits that description. It's not only the elaborate desserts that consume her, but cookies, too. "Cookies are easy to make, but they're not easy to make great," she said. "People at home read a recipe and it says eight to 10 minutes. But it could be eight; it could be five. There are so many factors, and every oven is different."

MacIsaac, a bright-eyed blonde with a bubbly laugh, didn't always aspire to cook. In Maui, where she grew up, her family rarely cooked or sat down to dinner together. At 18, she moved to New York and landed a job as a hostess at Michael's, a midtown media power-lunch spot. For fun, she spent a few



days in the kitchen and, there, found her passion. Soon after, she enrolled in culinary school.

After graduating, MacIsaac made the rounds of New York's elite restaurants. At each, she tried to master one type of dessert: ice cream, cakes, breads. It was at Union Square Cafe, her first job, that she tackled cookies.

"That's where the snobbery began," MacIsaac said. The cafe's pastry chef at the time was Deborah Snyder. "I had never worked for anyone or met anybody who was so particular about cookies," MacIsaac said. "I realized then how much went into them."

In July, MacIsaac and her fiance, chef Kyle Bailey, were getting ready to leave for their wedding in Hawaii. They had left jobs at Lower East Side restaurant Allen & Delancey but had not decided

what to do next.

About a week before the wedding, they got a phone call from someone they had never heard of: Michael Babin, chief executive of Washington's Neighborhood Restaurant Group. Babin was looking for a chef for Birch & Barley. There was just one catch: The chef would need to start almost immediately.

With fewer than 100 hours to go before their flight, MacIsaac and Bailey decided to audition together. They headed to a 24-hour grocery store, then went home and cooked all night. On little sleep, they drove to Washington.

Babin offered MacIsaac and Bailey jobs just before they boarded their flight. The weary couple accepted, then headed for Hawaii to begin another round of cooking, this time for the wedding. Instead of a cake, MacIsaac baked cookies.

Birch & Barley has an elegant yet homey vibe that fits MacIsaac's vision for dessert. She likes to remind diners of childhood with elevated versions of sweets such as Hostess cupcakes and pudding pops that have layers of fla-

vor the originals lack.

Case in point: Her French toast dessert is designed to mimic the experience of the crunchy, buttery, soft-all-at-once French toast sticks from Burger King she ate as a kid. But MacIsaac makes hers with brioche moistened in a rich batter, then deep-fried in clarified butter. The dessert is served with caramelized banana, homemade oatmeal ice cream, bacon-infused caramel and pecan granola.

And then there are cookies. MacIsaac turns out ginger molasses, chocolate shortbread and chocolate chip cookies, plus graham crackers. Some are made just to be ground up as a garnish for ice cream.

Soon, MacIsaac hopes to launch a late-night cookie bake. Just before the restaurant kitchen closes, she will make about 60 cookies that servers will sell for \$1 apiece in the upstairs bar, ChurchKey.

"Think about it. You've been drinking and you're thinking, 'Wow, I wish I had a snack,'" she said. "And then the smell of warm cookies wafts through the room. Wouldn't that be awesome?"

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Lady Pirates: A force on the field with iron-tough defense

BY RON HOLUB
CORRESPONDENT

With an impressive string of nine straight victories leading into the holiday break, the St. Ed's varsity girls soccer team should be itching to get back into action in 2010. After defeating Florida Air Academy 6-0 in the 2009 finale on Dec. 11, the Lady Pirates will carry a record of 11-2 into their inaugural match of the New Year against Master's Academy at home on Jan. 6.

Mindful of a holiday lull that will last 26 days, the coaches and players will vigorously guard against a disruption in the momentum that has been established. Their opponents, however, will be assigned the even more daunting task of figuring out how to score a goal on a defense that has shown signs of being nearly impenetrable.

That stalwart defense forms the backbone of a team that recorded eight shutouts during the nine game winning streak, including a stretch of zeros served up in six consecutive outings. Junior goalkeeper Liz Sockol has stopped just about everything in sight, but the defenders in front of her have simply not allowed many good scoring chances. The same holds true for 8th grader Brett Thomason when she is brought up from the junior varsity to sub for Sockol. The best example of miserly defense occurred in a 3-0 mid-November triumph when the Lady Pirates outshot the other team 28-0.

The offense averages nearly 3.5 goals per game. Junior Cory Deal leads a balanced attack with 10 goals. The short list of other contributors indicates that scoring talent extends from the 8th grade through the senior class. Seniors Sydney O'Haire and Haley Rivero, Junior Sarah Brown, and 8th graders Morgan Falkenhagen and Alli Walsh have all found the net on multiple occasions so far this season.

"I'm really excited about this team," Head Coach Jeffrey Lamscha said. "There were some question marks coming in. We lost our top goal scorer when Aubrey Greene graduated. We knew we had some major holes to fill. The three 8th graders on the roster are excellent players, but we were concerned how well they would blend in with the older girls. The six seniors have shown great leadership. Quite frankly, since day one the team chemistry has been excellent."

Since team unity was evident as far back as the workouts conducted last spring, Lamscha was able to focus on



St. Edward's defender Sydney O'Haire halts a counter attack by John Carroll Catholic High School en route to 3-0 shutout win at home.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

the main pillar of his coaching strategy once this season began. "The first priority for me is always defense. We are playing good, solid overall team defense," the coach said, in a mild understatement. "I am really pleased about that right now."

The game plan for offense counts on scoring opportunities

"A good foundation on defense actually starts our offense," Lamscha observed, borrowing a page from other team sports. "I'm still working on the offense as we go along. We are just scratching the surface to build our team offense."

If the other team doesn't score, those three plus goals-per-game can be a luxury.

Lamscha's approach to coaching has been crafted carefully over the 20 years that he has directed the girls soccer program at St. Ed's. His varsity teams have claimed five district titles, the most recent two years ago. Assuming the position of Director of Athletics for the middle and upper school this year has clearly not distracted the soccer coach from guiding the varsity girls through an exceptional run in late 2009.

Despite sticking to the 'one game at a time' mantra and understanding that it is wise not to look ahead, the team has come to grips with rising expectations. "The confidence level has risen dramatically," Lamscha acknowledged. At practice and when the whistle signals the start of serious competition, the seniors strive to make the team concept a living reality.

"We have a real sense of togetherness, of being almost like sisters out

ends."

Senior Mamie Lamscha has a unique perspective on the relationship between the head coach and his players. "Our coach respects us as people," she said of her dad, recognizing that hard work also comes into play. "He pushes us to the ultimate limit so we can give our best performance."

Hughes and Lamscha are two of the defenders who consistently strive to make their teammate in goal a spectator while the action takes place on the other side of the field.

Senior forward Haley Rivero was speaking for the group when summarizing the only resolution for the New Year that matters. "We definitely have our eye on the district championship," she stated with conviction.

The opening round of district playoffs is set for Jan. 19. The Lady Pirates can shake-off any rust from the holiday layoff with six games over a 10-day period going into the postseason. The home game on Jan. 15 has been designated Senior Night.

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Real Estate

It's a club life! And one that draws members to 32963

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

From The Moorings in the south to Windsor in the north, the barrier island is dotted with elegant and stately club communities, each with its own variation on the members-only lifestyle.

Behind the gates lie private roads, golf courses, tennis clubs, spas, fitness centers and, of course, epicurean delights and endless opportunities for social interaction amongst the club members.

"When most people think of a country club, they commonly have in mind a multitude of values and images, conceiving it as a lush landscape separate from everyday life," stated author James Mayo in the introduction to his 1998 book, *The American Country Club: Its Origins and Development*.

American country clubs arose out of the desire of European immigrants — accustomed to golf clubs, dinner clubs and gentlemen's clubs of the old world — to have a sanctuary in which to mingle with the upper crust of the new world.

Country clubs take advantage of the natural resources and recre-



The Moorings clubhouse and pool at night

ational opportunities of their particular location, with big-city clubs

often focusing on dining, socializing, racquet sports such as squash and

fitness.

Suburban and rural clubs feature golf as their primary obsession and many line each manicured hole of the course with residences. In Florida, and specifically on Vero's barrier island, clubs are a mix of private beaches, sunny verandas, upscale dining and entertainment venues and luxury amenities — all very close to home.

"The members have everything at their fingertips, with the golf, tennis, the spa and the beach club, you really don't have to leave," said Bob Niederpruem, President/Broker at Orchid Island Realty since 1996.

It's the job of Realtors like Neiderprum to sell the whole package of the properties and the club lifestyle — or, to be more precise, to sell their *particular* club lifestyle.

The Riomar Country Club started it all in 1920 by building the area's first golf course, a Joe Lee-designed par 70, which is still the only ocean-front golf course within the city limits of Vero Beach.

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Real Estate



The Christmas tree at the Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club stands surrounded by donations from members to the Toys for Tots program. Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.



Bill Troxel stretches to backhand a return during a doubles game in the second round of a Pro Am tournament at Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club.

focuses on the major clubs built during the past 40 years.

Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club

At the Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club, the lifestyle offered up to potential buyers combines the laid-back feel of an intimate island resort with Anglo-Caribbean architecture.

To General Manager Rob Tench, what sets Orchid apart from other clubs on the island are the people who live in the 376 residences, along with the social members who do not live on the property.

“Our members are collegial, they love being with each other and there are no cliques,” Tench said.

Some of what brings the Orchid members together is their philanthropic efforts.

“They take on a myriad of charitable projects, including raising \$1 million to refurbish the lobby at Riverside Theatre; it’s a community that makes philanthropy a very high priority,” Tench said.

Tench said the Beach Club is “second to none” and that it attracts

many repeat visitors.

Developed on 600 acres — 100 acres of which is a natural preserve — running from the Indian River Lagoon across A1A to the Atlantic Ocean, Orchid Island offers gracious estate residences, luxurious ocean-front condominiums and maintenance-free cottages which, according to the community website, “are tucked away on cul-de-sacs and winding streets to maintain open views of the championship Arnold Palmer golf course, sparkling lakes, ocean and preservation areas that surround this one-of-a-kind community.”

Should members overindulge in the gourmet dining opportunities available at the club, personal trainers, various yoga, Pilates and spinning classes and state-of-the-art fitness facilities with Cybex equipment are available at the Tennis and Fitness Club.

The eight Har-Tru courts, including an exhibition court where spe-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 70

by numerous historic homes with Spanish, Mizner-style architecture — many of which have recently been restored to their earlier grandeur. The original country club building

was housed in parts of the current St. Edward’s Lower School campus, which will soon be going on the market.

This overview of club life in 32963



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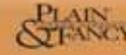
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Real Estate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 69

cial events such as the recent Pro-Am tournament was held to benefit the Indian River Tennis Association,

Beach Club. The course is as beautiful as it is enjoyable, offering challenging play from the Palmer tees (measuring in excess of 7,100 yards).

dominiums, single-family homes and home sites. Prices range from \$55,000 for a cabana at the Beach House (available to Orchid Island

The 820 members of The Moorings Club hail from ports of call all over the world, but they choose the South Barrier Island as their safe harbor when in the Vero Beach area.

The majority of the members belong to country clubs in the Northeast or wherever else the fair winds may blow them throughout the year, according to Marsha Sherry, broker at The Moorings Realty Sales Co.

What sets The Moorings apart from other country club communities, Sherry said, are "the extensive amenities, both on land and water and the fact that 18 holes of golf can be played on the challenging par 64 course in little more than three hours. This is a true plus for busy professionals as well as busy retirees."

The Moorings is the ideal club for someone who wants the best of sand, surf and turf all in one place, as it's the only club community that offers an on-site Yacht Club in addition to its 56,000-square-foot clubhouse, large enough to hold even the most elaborate occasion.

"The Moorings is the only ocean-to-river club community with eight miles of deepwater bulkhead. We offer more waterfront residences than any other Vero Beach country club community," Sherry said. "To have a home or condominium with your private dock at your back door is a true rarity and luxury."

When showing buyers around The Moorings, she said they love the comfortable and friendly atmosphere that the community and club project.

"Our buyers are attracted to the fact that we offer a superb variety of living choices from single family homes, as well as low density condominiums, villas, cottages and town-



The golf course at Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club

offer plenty of opportunities for a private, challenging match. An on-site boutique-style pro shop offers fashion choices to make sure members' tennis attire is as sharp as their game.

For those who have a passion for golf, the magnificent 18-hole Arnold Palmer golf course serves as the centerpiece for the Orchid Island Golf &

With multiple tees, the overall course distance is flexible and ranges from 4,962 to 7,131 yards.

After a good workout or round of golf, members can enjoy a massage, facial and other special treatments at the Orchid Island Spa, without leaving the community.

Orchid Island Real Estate lists 63 properties for sale, including con-

Golf & Beach Club property owners only) to homes up to \$3.7 million and an oceanfront homesite at \$5.9 million.

The Moorings

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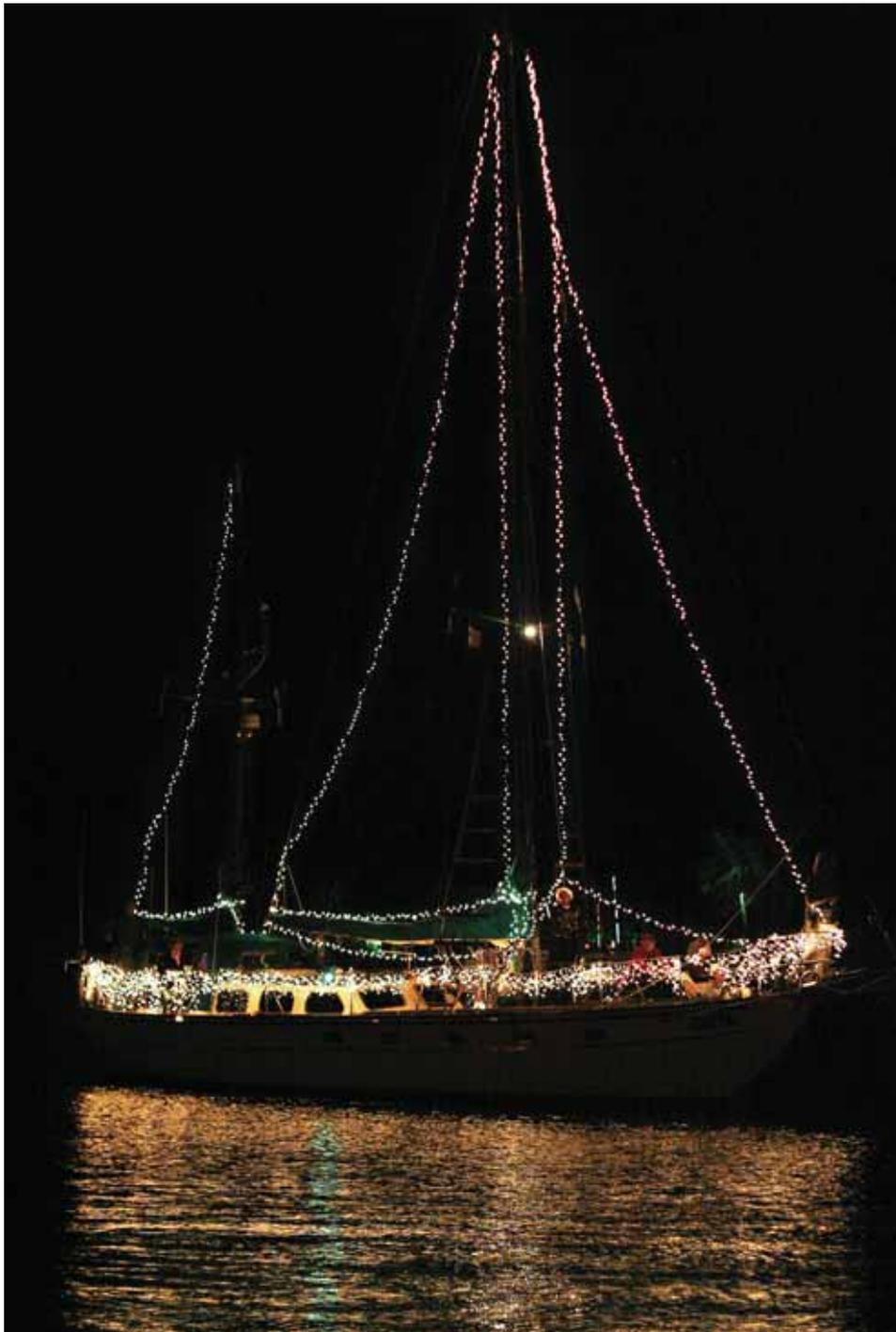
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Real Estate



Rob and Lauren Dehaan's 52-foot wooden ketch Arita cruises in The Moorings' boat parade.
Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

homes," Sherry said.

Under the direction of manager Craig Lopes, the Moorings Club is a true haven of social and sporting activity. Along with dining, top notch tennis, golf and yachting facilities, The Moorings Club boasts a state of the art fitness center and last year added the Oasis Spa.

Residents and members gather for festive events throughout the year, including the annual Christmas Boat Parade and the Commodore's Ball.

The Moorings was founded in 1973 and has grown to 1,160 residences over the years. Sherry said the people who work at The Moorings are part of the family, and have been there long enough to see member families grow up.

"The club is known for its friendly and courteous staff. Our golf and tennis pros have been here for over

20 years."

The Moorings also has an extended reciprocal agreement with Bent Pine Golf Club year round, and with a half dozen other local golf clubs during the summer. The Moorings Yacht Club members further enjoy reciprocal privileges at more than three dozen of the top yacht clubs in Florida.

Membership is open to residents and non-residents, subject to availability and approval in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bylaws of The Moorings Club.

John's Island

John's Island is truly the standard-bearer among Vero's elite clubs, known for its casual yet sophisticated lifestyle. The John's Island Club is currently ranked in the top 100 Platinum Clubs of America, which are the

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Real Estate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

most highly regarded private clubs in the United States.

The John's Island Real Estate website lures buyers with a vast list of things to do while inside the gates, including active sports, special events, movie nights, galas, lectures, holiday extravaganzas and even camps for the kids.

"Members enjoy three 18-hole championship golf courses designed by Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus and Tom Fazio, 18 Har-tru tennis courts, air-conditioned North American doubles squash court, state-of-the-art health and fitness center, professional croquet, fishing, boating and over 20 miles of private shaded roads for walking, running and biking."

Located within the quaint and immaculately maintained Town of Indian River Shores, which boasts its own Public Safety department, the river-to-ocean John's Island compound spans 1,650 acres of some of the most gorgeous property on the Treasure Coast.



Cassie Kilsdonk and Ruth Barratt join in the singing of Jingle Bells at The Moorings' Christmas tree lighting.

The architecture is described as "exquisite English, Georgian, and West Indies" with the club inviting members to enjoy "games of golf and sport, waterfront and dining amenities — all gently wrapped in the abundant natural landscape, where access is carefully controlled and

security is provided around-the-clock."

Proud of its history of being "established by three generations," John's Island hosts 1,300 families who "share the casual elegance and unparalleled way of life in this tropical paradise." Membership in the Club is by invitation and subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

There are more than 100 residences but only a few home sites listed for sale, with prices ranging from \$199,500 for a 550-square foot oceanfront efficiency to \$8.9 million for a 10,000-square-foot estate on Gem Island, the crowning jewel of John's Island. Options in-between include condominiums, cottages, townhomes, and single-family homes.

Windsor

When most people think Windsor, they think of British royalty, polo ponies and possibly of the location of the famous Treasure Coast Wine

Auction for two years earlier this decade.

The Windsor website describes the community as "a New Urbanism development that embodies the ideals of renowned town planners and architects Andrés Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk. Every detail is designed for life — for each member, their family, and their community. The seaside Village of Windsor features architecture and landscape design that celebrates local history, climate, ecology, and traditional building practices."

Though the hosting of polo matches at Windsor has pretty much disappeared from its 416-acre expanse, it still maintains the fields, which provide a lush backdrop for the homogeneous architecture of the community, featuring "simple structural elements and details."

Founded in 1989, the Windsor community is limited to 350 homes. With its own chapel, shopping, post office and museum in the Town Centre, Windsor residents have very little reason to leave once they've entered the gates and stepped back into a simpler, more gentle time.

Described as a "family oriented sporting community and private club" on its marketing materials, Windsor bills itself as a peaceful village and offers serene vistas even from the Fitness Centre, and a meditation room where members can opt for a relaxing massage.

Picturesque Windsor has the feel of something out of a Jane Austen novel, right down to the horse-drawn carriage traversing the streets selling fresh produce to the locals. The amenities at Windsor strive to keep all the traditions of old-world club life very much alive.

Windsor not only invites members

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OLD ORCHID

Oversized, premium lot, SE front faces long lake & fountain. Deep, densely treed backyard. 3/2, heated pool with spa & aqua link, custom features thruout!
\$435,000 Macy Barcia 766-2777 (#105291).



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\$490,000 Karen Smith 559-1295 (#80206)



OCEAN TOWERS

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\$345,000 Jane Johnson 559-3520 (#101792)



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Real Estate

to enjoy fine dining, golf and tennis, it also encourages some of the more “country” sports of the country club, offering an off-site Gun Club and the only Equestrian Center on the barrier island with 18 stables, 14 paddocks and 4.6 miles of riding trails.

Residents can board their own horses at Windsor or use the horses provided there for members’ riding enjoyment. Riding lessons are also available for the young and the young at heart.

Membership in the club is by invitation only and is limited to 350 memberships; of those, 295 are golf memberships. Twenty-three residences are currently listed for sale on Windsor’s website, ranging in price from \$1.3 million to \$14 million. Homesites range from \$300,000 to \$4 million, with 24 currently listed as available.

Quail Valley

The Quail Valley River Club on A1A in Central Beach — and its golf counterpart west of town — have changed the “club scene” since it opened less than a decade ago.

Quail Valley is not entrenched within the walls of a residential community, so it attracts people who live all over Indian River County, as well as visitors who want a club-away-from-home. Long-time Central Beach residents have adopted Quail Valley has their neighborhood club, many of them walking the few blocks for lunch, dinner or cocktails.

Members can put their guests up in style in one of the eight suites at the Riverhouse Lodge and then challenge them to a vigorous round of golf on the 280-acre, 18-hole course designed by Tommy Fazio and Nick Price; a shinnecock-styled Clubhouse elevated 50 feet overlooks rolling fair-



Boats docked at The Moorings

ways and more than 60 acres of waterways.

Quail Valley members often belong to another 32963 club where they live, but frequent Quail for the business networking or for the plethora of events such as the Quail Valley Charity Cup held each January.

Quail Valley is known for being a friendly club of young professionals and new retirees.

A great number of people have experienced the inviting Quail Valley atmosphere, its cuisine and its people as it plays host to many charity events, seminars and to weekly meetings of one of Vero Beach’s Rotary Clubs.

From tennis and golf to fitness equipment and aerobics classes, Quail Valley definitely serves up enough ways to stay busy. Most social occasions at Quail Valley are tie-optional and the poolside deck, boathouse and 40-slip marina offer

up a laid-back style.

But don’t let the casual atmosphere fool you — Quail Valley is one place where deals are brokered and important social and business connections are made. Particularly during the season, Quail Valley has quickly be-

come the chic place “to see and be seen” on the barrier island.

Quail Valley Golf Club & River Club is an exclusive family club offering memberships on an invitation-only basis. Membership is limited to 285 Charter (Golf) Memberships and 500 House (Social) Memberships. House members enjoy golf privileges during the summer months.

Realtors who sell in Central Beach and elsewhere on the barrier island call Quail Valley the “great equalizer” where old and new money combine, where establishment meets entrepreneurship.

Having a non-residential club like Quail Valley available allows home buyers to belong to a great club while enjoying a wide variety of housing choices.

The bottom line is that, no matter what kind of club and community buyers are looking for, Vero’s barrier island offers a wide range of possibilities — not to mention some pretty good real estate bargains in today’s market.

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Calendar

DECEMBER

Through January 3

The Indian River Photo Club 2009 Print Exhibit, on display at the Vero Beach Museum of Art's Studio Gallery.

December 18 - 21

Holidays at McKee with thousands of twinkling lights, a large scale model train and miniature Christmas Village, 6 to 8 p.m. Adults \$9, seniors \$8, children \$5, members free. 794.0601 or www.mckee garden.org

December 19

6th Annual WinterFest at Heritage Park in Pointe West, 2 to 6 p.m., hosted by the Recreation Department and Pointe West with 25 tons of snow, ice skating rink, Santa, children's activities, entertainment and a grand finale fireworks display at 6 p.m. Free. www.pointewestflorida.com

December 19

Free Furry Holiday Fun 2 to 4 p.m. at Vero Beach Hotel & Spa and photos with Santa Paws. Free, but donations of pet beds, blankets and food will be collected and donated to the HSVB & IRC.

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 20

Pearl Restaurant – enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres in exchange for a donation or unwrapped gift, 2 to 5 p.m., to benefit Habitat for Humanity, Hibiscus Children's Center, Homeless Family Center, Youth Guidance and Gifford Youth Activity Center.

December 26 - January 3

Snoopy!!! A musical sequel to You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, at Riverside Children's Theatre. 231-6990

December 31

New Year's Eve Celebration at Riverside Theatre with food, fun and live entertainment on the Waxlax Stage and in the Orchid Lobby begins at 9:30 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 2

Saturday in the Park with Authors and Artists, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Heritage Center.

January 3

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

January 4 - 30

The Artists Guild Gallery presents A Natural View, works in watercolor by Lillie Taylor. Opening reception Friday, January 8, 5 to 7 p.m., is open to the public.

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. Weekend 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

Jazz at Noon with Bill Allred's Classic Jazz Band at the Vero Beach Yacht Club, doors open at 11 a.m.; concerts start at 12:30 p.m. 234-4600 or www.tjazzsociety.org

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

January 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 16

Race for The Source, 5K Run/Walk at Riverside Park. 1 mile fun run/walk at 8 a.m.; 5K race at 8:30. \$20 pre-registration or \$25 race day. 569-7364 or www.iamthesource.org

January 16

See 30 life-sized dinosaurs in a whole new light at Dino Nights at McKee Garden, 6 to 8 p.m. Adults \$9, seniors \$8, children \$5, members free. 794.0601 or www.mckee garden.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 19 - 31

Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris, a musical based on the music, lyrics and commentary of Jacques Brel, at Riverside Theatre's Waxlax Stage. 231-6990

January 20

Travel with the Vero Beach Museum of Art to the Boca Raton Museum of Art for two exhibits, The Magical World of M.C. Escher and Mary Cassatt: Works on Paper. Lunch at Max's Grille, Mizner Park followed by Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll and Hyde Play at the Caldwell Theatre Company. Tickets \$210 or \$180 for ASFTA members. 231-0707 ext 109

January 20

Vero Beach Museum of Art Distinguished Professor Series - Brown University, Richard Fishman, M.F.A., "The Power of Imagination and Collaboration: The Elm Tree Project." 2 p.m. lecture followed by tea reception, \$15 members, \$20 non-members. 231-0707, ext. 136

January 23

Golf Antiques and Collectibles Show and Sale, with dealers from the International Golf Collectors Society and free appraisals by former Golf Roundup owner Bob Stevens. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sandridge Golf Course.

January 23

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



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Calendar

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 Challenge Qualifying Event, 6 - 8 p.m. at Pointe West to benefit the Homeless Family Center. \$30 per person. Top five chefs will move on to the main Top Chef Challenge on February 22nd. Tickets for the two-evening package are \$195. 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

"Extinct" Motor Car Exhibition at McKee Garden with 30 classic cars. Adults \$9, seniors \$8, children \$5, members free. 794.0601 or www.mckee garden.org

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

FEBRUARY

February 1

Bridge in the Garden at McKee Botanical Garden with catered lunch. \$65 per person or \$100 per patron includes lunch. 794.0601

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.

Solutions from Games Pages in December 10/09 Edition, Issue 37

3	2	1	7	6	4	5	8	9
5	6	9	3	8	1	2	7	4
8	7	4	2	9	5	3	1	6
1	4	2	8	3	9	7	6	5
9	8	7	1	5	6	4	2	3
6	5	3	4	7	2	1	9	8
7	1	6	5	4	8	9	3	2
4	3	8	9	2	7	6	5	1
2	9	5	6	1	3	8	4	7

Sudoku Page 50

4	5	9	6	1	7	3	2	8
6	1	3	4	2	8	9	7	5
7	8	2	9	3	5	6	1	4
8	3	1	7	4	2	5	9	6
2	4	7	5	9	6	8	3	1
9	6	5	1	8	3	2	4	7
5	9	6	3	7	4	1	8	2
1	2	4	8	5	9	7	6	3
3	7	8	2	6	1	4	5	9

Sudoku Page 51

E	A	R	L	L	A	V	A	L	A	P	S	E	
S	L	U	E	O	C	A	L	A	M	O	O	T	
P	O	S	T	M	O	R	T	E	M	O	S	L	O
Y	E	T	A	M	I	S	B	A	R	T	O	N	
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C	O	S	T	C	R	A	V	E	F	O	N	T	
A	T	T	E	R	O	S	E	C	A	U	S	E	
P	O	S	T	D	A	T	E	M	O	U	S	E	R
C	I	N	C	H	M	E	A	N					
K	A	R	N	A	K	P	O	D	S	A	D	S	
E	R	I	S	P	O	S	T	A	T	O	M	I	C
R	I	P	E	O	R	I	E	L	R	A	M	A	
N	A	T	L	T	E	S	T	S	T	H	E	N	

Crossword Page 50 (AFTER THE FACT)

G	O	C	A	R	T	U	M	P	I	R	E	A	L	D	E	N			
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B	U	T	T	O	N	M	U	S	H	R	O	O	M	S	B	O	R	G	E
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P	I	T	A	P	O	C	K	E	T	S	S	L	A	G					
K	I	R	K	W	A	S	A	R	S	A	U	D	I						
C	A	B	A	N	A	C	A	E	S	A	R	D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G
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R	D	A	G	L	O	B	E	F	R	E	N	C	H	S	I	L	K		
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Y	E	S	E	S	T	E	T	O	N	S	A	R	L	E	N	E			

Crossword Page 51 (FASHION PLATE)

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Real Estate

Featured Real Estate Sales on the Barrier Island: Dec. 3 to Dec. 9, 2009



The first week of December, as often happens right after Thanksgiving, was a quiet one on the barrier island real estate scene, with only five sales recorded.

Our featured sale was of a renovated residence on the west side of A1A just north of Summer Place and south of the Orchid Island Golf and Beach Club.

The home at 2070 Spring Place, which was listed in July for \$549,000, closed on December 4th for \$450,000.

The seller of the home was represented by Bill Glynn of Thorpe Sotheby's International Realty. The buyer in the transaction was represented by Anne Frost of North Beach Realty.

Single Family Residences and Lots

Subdivision	Address	Listed	Original Asking Price	Sold	Selling Price
CASTAWAY COVE	1370 SHOREWINDS LANE	10/15/2009	\$269,000	12/8/2009	\$255,000

Townhomes, Villas and Condos

Subdivision	Address	Listed	Original Asking Price	Sold	Selling Price
HARBOR INN II	2135 WINDWARD WY #109	12/9/2008	\$259,000	12/4/2009	\$193,000
RIVERSIDE GARDENS	200 GREYTWIG RD #306	11/29/2007	\$389,000	12/4/2009	\$225,000
SOUTH COVE CONDO	1480 OCEAN DR, 3E	7/28/2009	\$329,000	12/4/2009	\$300,000

-Data from MLS

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