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**Canapés and camaraderie at
Cancer Society fundraiser. P14**

**Vero Beach painter conveys
emotions in landscapes. P22**

**New Vision Eye Center unveils
plans for new facility. P28**

32963 Insider

Harry L. Buck Jewelers closing after 33 years

After 33 years of selling fine jewelry to Vero retirees, the owners of Harry L. Buck Jewelers are retiring themselves.

Donna Buck Wilcox, daughter of the late founder Harry L. Buck, and her husband David plan to close the doors of their Roberto Coin Boutique in a matter of weeks, and move to a house they bought five years ago in the north Georgia mountains.

It was on a vacation break at that home that Donna and David decided to advance their retirement plans, and transition out of the jewelry business.

Donna has arranged for Veranda on Ocean Drive to take over the Simon Pierce line of handblown glass and handmade pottery which Harry L. Buck has featured for the past nine years. And while Donna and David are leaving Vero, it seems likely a Roberto Coin outpost will remain.

When they opened the Roberto Coin Boutique here two years ago, and moved their jewelry business over to Bourganvilla, it became only the third boutique licensed by the Iconic Italian jewelry designer in this country.

There now are five Roberto Coin boutiques in the U.S., along with five others in Rome, Dubai, Macao, Baku and Venice. So what's the future of the Roberto Coin Boutique here?

Said Donna: "We hope to be able to share that news with you next week."

Riverside's biggest show ever



Scenic carpenter Andy Anderson carries a marquee sign for "42nd Street" which opens next month at the Riverside Theatre. Story, page 19.

Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Does Vero Utilities see fewer future customers?

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

For the first time, the City of Vero Beach seems to be engaging the inevitability of defeat, and trying to spin it as a victory for city utility customers.

At a number of public meetings and in statements from top city leaders, Vero appears to be reconciling itself to the idea that come 2017, it may no longer be providing electric and water service to county and Indian River Shores residents, instead retreating to serve only customers within

Vero Beach city limits.

"Six months ago, they said this would never happen," said Indian River County Utilities Director Erik Olson. "Now they're finally coming to the realization that it probably will happen."

When the issue is fully studied over the next few months, Olson said, a clear direction will emerge.

"I can imagine what it's like over there. They are probably thinking, 'The elephants are coming, let's save what we can,'" Olson said.

Some say the strategy of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Sand trucking to cost us extra \$1 million

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

The long-awaited barrier island beach replenishment project is set to begin in about two weeks, but even before a grain of sand is trucked across the Wabasso Causeway, the price tag is going up by almost \$1 million.

The contractor hired on a \$7.27 million contract to place some 200,000 cubic yards of sand onto the beaches between John's Island and Golden Sands Park says it needs \$984,000 more to do the work.

About half of the added charge is for spot testing of

sand, and demobilizing and restarting crews over the two seasons it is now going to take to complete the job. But the other half, about \$470,000,

consists of fees to "process" sand, and that is likely to become a point of contention for a cash-strapped county.

"They said they could pro-

duce beach-quality sand," said Public Works Director Chris Mora said. "That's what they bid on and that's what

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

What a stink!

BY ALINA LAMBIET
STAFF WRITER

One of the biggest environmental disasters in recent Indian River County history wasn't man-made.

The past weeks' fish kill, a result of record-setting cold temperatures over nine

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Dead fish on shores of Bethel Creek.

Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

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**Riverside Bank cops plea on
Kay Clem's checking account.
Full details on Page 8**

Sand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the contract provides for, so we need to make sure the extra cost is justified.”

Commissioner Bob Solari expressed skepticism about such a large change order, and said he wants to see the costs broken down before approving more money at at scheduled Feb. 2 commission meeting.

“At the last commission meeting, I was very clear that I wanted a very detailed financial analysis as to where these costs are coming from and why they were necessary,” Solari said.

All this leaves a bit uncertain the plan to have thousands of dump trucks in two weeks begin the steady march over the Wabasso Causeway, shoring

up the beaches with trucked-in sand in what will be a two-phase project, with the season being Nov. 1 to May1.

Commissioners, including Chairman Peter O’Bryan, who serves as commission liaison to the Beaches and Shores Preservation Committee, will be looking closely at this nearly half-million dollar add-on to make sure it’s not designed to compensate sand miners for things that should be figured in as a cost of doing business — especially if those things were done only in hopes of getting the contract and not as a result of getting it.

Mining beach sand was a gamble that local sand miners took, banking on calling in political chits and appealing to angst over unemployment to keep the lucrative contract on the Treasure

Coast and not have the money go to Illinois-based Great Lakes Dredge, the company which completed the last two beach sand projects with piped-in sand from off-shore.

The gamble seems to have paid off as the project is going forward, but the opportunity cost meant keeping mining operations pristine, keeping dredges digging deep and keeping lands devoted to mining beach sand instead of garden-variety fill sand for roads, parking lots and drain fields.

Ranch Road Lake sand mine owner Steve Smith, for example, set aside all other types of sand mining at his site and began dredging sand for the county project as early as the fall of 2009. He brought in a dredge and a crew to operate it at a cost of about \$40,000

per month, several months before the county had made even the promise of a permit.

Now, Smith is claiming that he needed to bring in a second dredge to produce the quality and quantity of sand the county needed to meet specifications. He also had to excavate an area of his land — the future site of an upscale, lakeside housing development when the real estate market turns around — to mine the right type of sand.

“Does that need to bring in a second dredge to process the sand justify a change order?” Mora said. “We’re just not sure.”

The Gamble

In September, the Board of County Commissioners decided to hire Ranger Construction to handle the job, which is the largest-scale beach construction project using upland sand ever attempted. In two phases over nearly a year’s time, Ranger will be getting nearly 472,000 cubic yards of sands from the Ranch Road Lake Sand Mine off 82nd Avenue and 69th Street and the Henry Fischer and Sons sand mine off Oslo Road west of town.

The original plan called for trucks going over all three causeways. A change in logistics coupled with angry complaints from the City of Vero Beach and the Town of Indian River Shores has helped channel the truck traffic of about one dump truck per minute exclusively over the Wabasso Causeway. Staging areas will be Wabasso Beach Park, Golden Sands Park, Turtle Trail beach access and Seagrape Trail beach access.

Only 202,000 cubic yards will be placed this year in the southernmost part of the renourishment zone. Before the second phase is approved, the trucked-in sand will have to pass muster with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Phase two extends from Golden Sands Park north to Treasure Shores Park and encompasses part of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge.

The whole area being replenished is of vital importance to the sea turtle population, not only in Florida, but nationally, according to the county’s turtle expert, Rick Herran of the Coastal Engineering division of Public Works.

Herran and coastal engineer James Gray will be taking the lead on the beach sand project.

“There has to be a member of the county engineering staff there 10 hours a day from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. to inspect every truckload of sand,” Mora said. Without Gorham, Mora said he can call on engineers from other divisions of Public Works to make sure that requirement is fulfilled.

Now that the county has a draft per-

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mit and has advertised the impending project, it must observe a 14-day mandatory waiting period, during which public comment will be sought.

“Hopefully the comment period will be uneventful, but if a comment is received which has some merit, DEP will evaluate the comment and it could potentially go to an administrative hearings and could delay us getting the notice to proceed,” Mora said.

The public comment period expires on Feb. 5. On Feb. 8, the county must host a Preconstruction Conference. If all goes well and FDEP signs off on a notice to proceed, Mora said trucks are expected to start dumping sand on the beach on Feb. 9.

This schedule gives Ranger Construction a total of 56 weekdays to get the work done. The total could increase to 65 days should Saturdays be included in the schedule. Ranger has stated that it needs 47 perfect days with no weather concerns or equipment failures to complete this year’s work on the project.

“We don’t plan to use Saturdays,” Mora said. “But if it gets toward the end and we’ve had a lot of bad weather days and it’s getting tight, we may have to expand to Saturdays to meet the May 1 deadline.”

May 1 is the last day when, by environmental standards, construction can be done on the beach without causing undo hardship on the nesting and hatching of sea turtles.

Barrier island residents have been waiting for more than five years to get sand on their badly eroded beaches, but they’re not the only ones watching this project very closely.

Mora explained that there are “just a lot of eyes looking at this,” referring to the fact that the county will be using upland sand from sand mines on a large-scale renourishment project and therefore embarking on relatively untested environmental and engineering territory.

“We’ve had interest from Ft. Myers and from Broward County in what we’re doing here because it’s the largest truck fill project ever been attempted on the beach,” Mora said. “A lot of people are looking at how we’re doing it and how we’re satisfying the Army Corps of Engineers and Fish and Wildlife.”

Traditionally, beach renourishment in Florida has been accomplished using off-shore sand pumped in by a dredge, but the county opted to use local sand miners for this project to help boost the economy and provide much-needed jobs for construction workers and truckers.

To ensure that the use of upland sand does not negatively impact the off-shore reef or the sea turtles that call Indian River County home, state and federal regulators have mandated that the county implement what’s be-

ing called the turtle “test plan,” which involves more intricate data collection and analysis than the standard three-year monitoring regimen, which was already figured in the cost of the project at about \$1.1 million.

Over the coming weeks, Mora said he will have to bring yet another new pricey item to the commissioners, this one a work order for consultant Coastal Tech to conduct and oversee the turtle “test plan.”

Should the Ranger contract with the full change order be approved, for

a total of \$8.25 million, the new work order for Coastal Tech could up the cost of dumping upland sand over two seasons to about the same as the \$8.9 million it would have cost to hire Great Lakes Dredge to pump off-shore sand for about 45 days to complete the entire project.

If the Commissioners had gone this route, there would have been no need for exceptionally stringent monitoring, no extra paperwork for county staff and no mid-project approval needed by regulators to proceed with the final

phase – and the project would most likely already be completed.

The hundreds of high-paying jobs promised by sand miners during the emotionally charged debates over upland vs. off-shore sand also have turned out to be overwhelmingly temporary, contract trucking jobs with no fringe benefits.

Due to the seasonal nature of the project, this county contract will leave workers without paychecks and back amongst the 14 percent unemployed again in about three months.

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City utility

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pulling back into the city's borders is an effort to mollify critics, hoping they'll drink their county water, pay their lower electric rates and never come back to a Vero Beach City Council meeting.

County Administrator Joe Baird, a vocal opponent of the way the city runs the utilities, said the plan to abandon customers outside the city just might work.

"I think that will make everyone happy," Baird said.

Instead of fighting to the last gasp to preserve its current water, sewer and electric service customers, Vero Beach appears to be thinking about what it would mean to shrink its systems when franchise agreements with Indian River Shores and the county expire in October 2016 and March 2017, respectively.

No one in the city is calling it a defeat, however.

"We like to think that Vero Beach is a cut above," said Finance Director Steve Maillet, during a recent presentation to the city's Finance Committee, outlining how the city could "pull back within the borders" to keep providing personal, first-class service to city residents.

Although some 61 percent of its util-

ity customers and 38 percent of its water base would be gone, Maillet said the taxpayers of the city would be better off, should this occur.

He did not say exactly how the city would be able to afford this, in light of summer studies by consultants which predicted a whopping 54 percent increase in water and sewer rates to meet operational costs and maintain the aging systems should the city lose the major part of its customer base.

A city resigned?

The first indication that the city was contemplating the possibility that it might one day serve only Vero Beach customers came on Jan. 5, when the City Council decided to add a seat for a representative from Indian River Shores to its Utility Advisory Commission. At the behest of Councilman Brian Heady, the council included a clause that the seat would evaporate should the Shores no longer fall within city utility territory.

The Shores would have to notify the city by October 2011 whether it intends to continue buying water, sewer and electric services from the city. The county must issue its five-year notice by March 2012.

A county committee which deals with utilities in September approved a resolution asking commissioners to give the city notice, within 45 days,

that the county intended to serve its own customers come 2017. But in the interest of diplomacy, commissioners tabled the resolution and instead pursued a joint meeting billed as the "Utility Summit" in October.

A joint commission of six with equal participation from Vero, the County and the Shores has been working on the issue and this week is scheduled to choose a firm to study the situation and make recommendations.

Vero Water and Sewer Director Rob Bolton is one of the city's representatives on that committee, and has been a staunch opponent of any kind of consolidation with the county.

On Jan. 19 during a meeting of the city's Utilities Advisory Commission, Bolton announced that he would be proposing that the city freeze any capital projects outside the its limits until Indian River Shores and the County renewed their franchise agreements.

Over the summer during the water and sewer rate studies, Bolton had estimated all the capital projects on the slate to have a price tag of about \$110 million. Construction of the \$10 million deep-well injection facility to dispose of treated wastewater and wet-weather discharge is going forward, leaving about \$100 million in capital improvements on hold.

When asked to provide a list of which projects he considers "must dos" and which ones would be kept on hold pending the 2011 and 2012 franchise notice deadlines, Bolton replied that he was working on it and would bring something to the City Council soon.

Finance Director Maillet, in touting the option of keeping the city's utility systems under city control, equated the premium that city customers would pay for service to insurance that protects city customers from lapses in service sometimes experienced by customers of other systems.

"All of you are city residents," Maillet told the Finance Committee. "This is an opportunity to ask the people of Vero Beach, what do you want your city to be and how do you want it to be managed? Do you want to supply the citizens with water, sewer and electric?"

Maillet said preserving the utilities is not only a way for the city to control its own destiny, but also to have the flexibility of a revenue stream apart from property taxes. He said Vero residents have been dehumanized in all the talk about selling the power plant and consolidating water and sewer services with the county.

"Vero Beach city residents have been excluded from all the discussion of all these things," he said.

It is unfair, Maillet said, that the tenor of most of the proposals on the table requires the city residents to "give up" elements of their assets and their system.

"We should have Rob (Bolton) come in and speak about what would be involved in just pulling back inside the city limits," Maillet said. "A lot of the future capital needs lie outside the city limits."

Ownership and cost

Big questions remain about the details of consolidating or potentially breaking up the system, the stickiest of which might be who owns all the equipment that carries the water, wastewater and electric to customers.

The issue is clear-cut when it comes to Indian River Shores, according to County Attorney Will Collins. The attorney negotiating the franchise agreement for the Shores shrewdly insisted on a clause providing that ownership of the infrastructure reverts to the Town at the expiration of the agreement.

The county's agreements, however, negotiated by then-County Attorney Charles Vitunac, are missing such a proviso.

On Oct. 7, 2009, Collins read and interpreted the water and sewer franchise agreement at the request of Commissioner Wesley Davis and stated that the infrastructure would be owned by the City of Vero Beach upon expiration of the county franchise agreement.

"The infrastructure is the city's unless we acquire it. Though they would no longer have the right to use it," Collins responded in an email to Davis.

When asked by 32963 to go a step further in his analysis of the language as to whether the county would be required to purchase the infrastructure, Collins responded that the county could decide it was more prudent to start fresh and lay its own pipes, etc., and could require the Vero Beach to come out and dig up all of its lines and equipment — at the city's cost.

This wrinkle might mean it would be less costly for the City to give the county the infrastructure.

County Commissioner Bob Solari, who served one term on the Vero Beach City Council, said the city should not look at the potentially saleable infrastructure as a solution to its financial problems going forward.

"Everything is coming to the end of its useful life," Solari said. "What the city doesn't understand is that, if the county should buy it, we would pay depreciated value, not replacement value."

Solari agrees that getting out from under the city system — even at a cost — would be the best deal for county and Shores customers, considering the rate hikes already imposed, plus those coming down the pike.

"There are bigger financial issues that the city is facing, and they don't have a pro forma to show what exactly the city is going to be facing," Solari said.



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If the day comes when the city's utility enterprise funds are not subsidized by ratepayers outside the city, city customers and their elected representatives will need to decide whether they want to pay higher utility rates or higher property taxes.

Currently, the water, sewer and electric utilities pump nearly \$11 million into the city's general fund each year

through direct and administrative transfers.

Something is going to have to give, Solari said, and it will be left to the city to figure that out. Councilman Brian Heady called a "brainstorming" meeting of the city's Finance Committee to begin planning for tough times ahead and, in Heady's words, "steer the ship in the right direction."

The city is already facing a crisis involving its employee pension fund, which is underfunded by millions of dollars, not to mention rising health care costs for city employees. Potentially losing infusions of money from 20,000 county and Shores' utility customers could significantly increase the strain on the city budget.

At that Finance Committee meet-

ing where a variety of cost-saving and revenue-raising suggestions were discussed, former Mayor Warren Winchester opened the door to looking at the city's revenue stream a different way.

"I think there's a value to raising the (property tax) rate, which people can write off on their federal taxes, and

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City utility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

lowering some of the other things, the electric rates and utility rates."

Winchester added, "It would be very significant if we had to withdraw water and wastewater to the city limits of the City of Vero Beach."

Solari sees considerable challenges on the horizon.

"If you look at the numbers from their own consultants, they're already raising sewer rates 52 percent and water rates 33 percent over the next five years, and from the numbers I've looked at, I would not be surprised if they had to double the rates again in years six through 10," Solari said.

"The idea that the county is going to leave its customers in the lurch with those kinds of rates ahead isn't reasonable and the Town of Indian River Shores is going to work to negotiate a franchise agreement that is good for the residents of Indian River Shores."

As a city water customer, Solari said there's nothing that unique about the city service that would justify such higher rates.

"Wherever I go, whether I'm in the city or in the county or in New York, I turn the faucet on and the water is there," he said. "But it's not something I'd be willing to pay double for just because it's coming from the city."

Fish kill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

days, was the worst in some 30 years, decimating an entire generation of some warm-water fish, and likely taking local snook off dinner plates for years to come.

"This is the worst since '77," said Grant Gilmore, an ichthyologist (fish biologist) and researcher who has studied our local waterways for decades, including with the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. He believes it will be years before snook will come back, and he fears we may have lost at least a generation of tarpon.

All it took last week was a drive off State Road A1A to smell things just weren't right.

Rotting fish, belly up, washed up along shorelines or were floating in canals on the island side of the Indian River Lagoon. Along the barrier island beach, walkers had to pick their way among rotting fish, crabs – even moray eels.

Aside from the dead fish, hundreds of stunned turtles – mostly green but a few Loggerheads – were rescued by good Samaritans between here and Melbourne and sent to rehabilitation centers.

And so far, Florida has lost some 22 manatees from cold stress, including a calf in the Indian River Lagoon at Sebastian. However, that figure is likely to rise.

Because all dead manatees are necropsied, those numbers reflect the state's official count as of Jan. 15. Local Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokesman Lenny Salberg said he and fellow officers had picked up some 11 dead manatees between here and Brevard as of last Friday.

The situation was so serious that Florida Fish and Wildlife decided to close snook season (except for catch and release) until September; it was to open in February. Tarpon and bon-

efish are also off limits until the end of March.

The sheer numbers made an impact on locals who live with and off our waters.

"I was born here and this is the worst I have seen," said Jens Tripson, a vice president with Vero's Audubon Society and a grandson of Waldo Sexton. Tripson recalls a freeze in 1989 where there were dead fish everywhere even though the cold didn't last long.

"I think with snook and tarpon, it will be years. After the '89 freeze, I noticed it was about seven years before we saw the larger size snook again," Tripson said. "This time, with this many dead, I think this time it will be seven to 10 years before the snook come back."

What surprised him the most were fish like tarpon, which normally survive colder temperatures, and the dead turtles.

Dead turtles mean they couldn't find warm water anywhere, "not even in the Gulf Stream" said Tripson.

And eels?

"That's a first. The fact that the ocean got cold enough to kill them, it's just phenomenal," said Tripson. It likely means waters on the reefs got cold too, and more tropical species were killed off.

Gilmore, the researcher who likely knows our waterways best, said the 1977 fishkill happened when it snowed all the way south to Homestead and the cold temperatures lasted for a week. He and his colleagues at Harbor Branch published a study on that kill, he said.

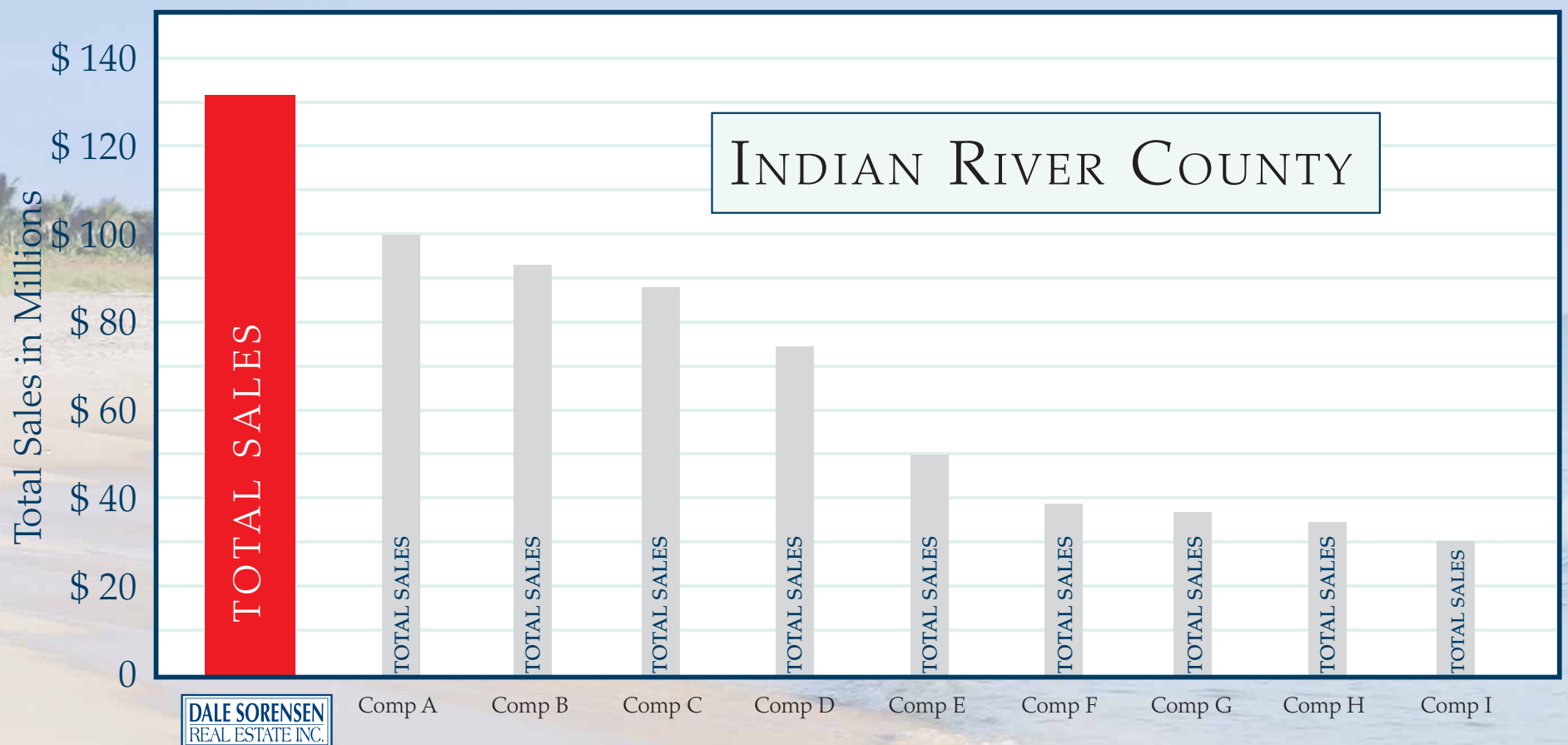
At the time, he said, they noticed that some warm-water fish appeared to be able to survive in colder waters. They, in essence, had adapted. Some species took off after, while it took others more time to recover.

It works this way: when local waters drop below 60, warm-water fish metabolism slows down and they don't feed. The longer the cold lasts, the

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Data for this graph obtained from the Realtors Association of Indian River County for sales of all property types in Indian River County during the period 1/1/09 thru 12/31/09. Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Data maintained by the Association may not reflect all real estate activity in the market. Graph reflects activity by top ten brokers participating in the MLS.

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Riverside Bank cops plea on Kay Clem's bank account

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

An independent auditor recently discovered that almost \$4,000 from a Supervisor of Elections' account was transferred into Supervisor Kay Clem's personal bank account.

It took four months for someone to catch the error, which has been explained by Riverside Bank — which handled both accounts — as a “bank error” that “in no way was requested by Mrs. Clem.”

According to top county officials,

auditors Harris Cotherman & Associates, P.A., who are currently reviewing the county's books for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, reported to County Administrator Joe Baird that \$3,950 went missing from the Supervisor of Elections' coffers and ended up in the personal bank account of the department's top officer, Kay Clem.

The funds were transferred to her accounts in four different transactions in December 2008, January and February 2009. After the error was discovered, the funds were returned in March 2009.

What happened is complicated, to say the least.

What is surprising is that no one appears to have been balancing the checkbook at Clem's office. Clem admitted that her bookkeeper “was behind and was not reconciling the accounts in a timely manner.”

Clem and her attorney-husband, Chester Clem, both have accounts at Riverside Bank, which at the time employed our newly hired County Attorney Alan Polackwich, who incidentally is Chester Clem's former law partner.

The Supervisor of Elections Office has 10 accounts at Riverside, including one opened for the purpose of segregating federal funds which subsidize elections activities.

Clem's bookkeeper requested that Riverside give her online banking access to this Federal Elections Activities account. The bank gave the bookkeeper access to an account with a balance of just more than \$16,000, but it turned out to be Clem's line of credit account with the bank, not the county account for the federal funds. The line of credit was switched over to the Supervisor of Elections batch of accounts and mislabeled.

Conversely, Clem said the Federal Elections Activities account was linked to her personal batch of accounts, though she never sought to access those funds.

“The balances were about the same so I didn't notice,” Clem said. “I do all my banking online, so I never looked at the paper statements to see that anything was wrong.”

Commissioner Bob Solari said he was very concerned when he found out about this and questioned Clem, whom he said offered no suitable explanation. Clem was instructed to find out what happened, how it happened and to report back to the top brass at the county.

Solari said it was worrisome that the accounting controls at the Supervisor of Elections office did not catch such a mistake.

“Those were my concerns exactly,” Solari said.

Clem said after 13 years of clean audits, she was incensed at the bank for making such a mistake. When asked what her instructions were to Riverside's Assistant Vice President Michele Knight, Clem responded, “I don't think I want in print exactly what I said.”

Clem said the account discrepancy was revealed to auditors on the telephone, but that the team of CPAs has not yet made its way to the Supervisor of Elections to examine the documents in person. Clem said she is unaware of any requirement to report the comingling of her personal funds with federal funds and that she has, so far, not relayed the details of the incident to anyone outside the county government.

“I will take the auditors' lead on that,” she said.

Measures have been taken to ensure that a similar mistake doesn't occur going forward and the bookkeeper, who has since resigned from the county, has been replaced.

The complete audit report is expected to be bound and released in early March.



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Fish kill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

more likely it is for the fish to die. If they go too long without feeding, and with a slowed metabolism, the fish experience oxygen depletion. For some species, like tarpon who go to the surface to get oxygen, breathing in that cold air over time is a death knell.

For tarpon, however, he believes the fish that died tended to be juveniles, and he expressed hope and the older fish will reproduce and, hopefully, the numbers will rebound.

"The tropical fish will be the ones that will decline, and the temperate fish, they will probably increase in numbers. So there will be other species the fishermen can fish," Gilmore said. "That's the one thing about Florida; it has a very diverse fish fauna so where one population goes down another will come up."

Any predictions?

"More mullet in the future," he says.

Captain Mark Yanno sees it much like Gilmore. A former U.S. Fish and Wildlife officer who runs his own fishing charter company out of Vero, he saw lots of floating dead fish first hand.

"This just really had a tremendous impact on some species," said Yanno. "It is a tremendous kill. But the reality is that our lagoon has over 600 species. It was the warm-water species that got it the worst."

He points to snook and ladyfish, "lots and lots of ladyfish," he said.

"But a lot of our species did just fine - black drum, grouper, snapper, red fish, trout," he said. He and his clients will simply go after other types of fish.

Gilmore says snook has been moving up along our coast to more northern water as the ocean's temperatures warm.

In 1977, he said, there were no snook in Jacksonville. He thinks they'll continue to move up. But, there is a big difference between now and 1977.

"I95 stopped at Vero Beach," he said. More humans means more impact on our natural resources, including our waterways. It has meant big homes on the water, more seawalls, more docks. He refers to each dock that's put in as a "death by 1000 stabs" to some species.

One of these is snook, whose larvae feed off the shallow waters right behind homes. In 1977, it took some five years for the snook to recover, "but how much longer will it take now because of water pollution, sea walls and other stuff? Snook got really hit and they depend on shallow water."



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People

Green thumbs abound at Gardenfest

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

Years ago, when Bonnie Veron was looking to sell her 16th floor high-rise condo in downtown St. Louis, the real estate agent suggested she brighten the place up by putting some potted plants around.

Veron played it safe: she rented them.

"I didn't know anything about plants," she said.

Next weekend, she and her Garden Club co-chairs Barbara Russell and Karen Vatland will host an estimated 20,000 people at the 9th Annual Gardenfest in Riverside Park. The festival has become one of the best in the state, Veron says, drawing plant lovers from a 100 miles away and more.

Garden shows are judged by the quality of their vendors, and those who have signed on with the Indian River County club are among the best, she says. They are also grateful. "We get notes that say we treat our vendors better than any other show,"



Bonnie Veron, once lacking a green thumb, is one of the chairs of the 9th annual Gardenfest, and a founding organizer. Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

says Veron, who proudly points to the solicitous treatment including bring-

ing vendors cold drinks during the festival, and a vendor breakfast Sunday morning prepared from scratch by club members. "There's a reason: we want them to come back."

From the first, attracting vendors was the club's biggest challenge. It took cajoling, pulled strings and multiple contacts to persuade 40 to come.

With no track record, the club needed to reassure vendors that a crowd would show up: no one wants to haul his or her goods from far away and spend a weekend sitting outside unless they are assured of customers.

To that end, the club had help in the form of Toni White, a friend of Gardenfest organizer Jennifer Sauter.

White had run the popular Mounts Botanical Garden plant sales in West Palm Beach, and she personally added a note to all the vendor invitations destined for people she knew. "That helped tremendously," Veron says. "No one wants to do to a first-year show."

For that first show in 2001, vendor contracts went out on Sept. 1. Ten days later came 9/11. Veron says perhaps people turned to living things for solace. In any case, that first year, the event was a huge success.

With a carefully scheduled publicity blitz and perfect weather, Veron says they were thrilled with the results. "They did phenomenally," she says. Many vendors sold out the first day, she says, and were driving back



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People

to their nurseries, some as far as Fort Lauderdale, get more plants to sell the next day.

Those vendors talked up the show to their friends and more and more applied for the following year. "We treat our vendors well," says Veron. "Keep your vendors happy and you will have a good show."

There is no risk of no-shows next weekend. Toting wagons for their finds, with volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club at the ready to help with hauling, people come to stock their gardens to draw butterflies or hummingbirds, others seek rare orchids or topiaries or bonsai.

For lovers of colorful foliage, there are vendors specializing in bromeliads, caladiums and crotons. One vendor grows only bamboo, dozens of different varieties.

There are tropical fruit specialists and herbalists, palm tree growers, fern experts, and cactus connoisseurs. A rose specialist offers Florida-tolerant root stocks. There is even an olive tree grower from Dunnellon, who claims to have a Florida-ready fruit-bearing tree.

As for garden accessories, one vendor specializes in waterfalls; another from Tennessee brings a load of driftwood. The list goes on and on.

"The vendors really like our show because we have a well-rounded show. We don't have too many of this and too many of that. We don't allow people to bring the same products."

All have been carefully screened by garden club members who scout shows across the south for the top products. "We go looking for them, and they look for us," Veron says. "It's competitive. They have to apply to get in."

Veron's interest in the garden club was piqued soon after she moved to Vero and happened on a flower

show in the then-newly renovated Old Courthouse building downtown. "What they were doing was outstanding," she says. "They took over the second floor and made a butterfly garden and I remember being extremely impressed with the floral designs."

That was 15 years ago. Thought not typically "a joiner," she called the club, wanting to participate. In turn, the club's various circles invited her to visit and she chose the group that fit the best: Poinsettias. That fall, she was asked to contribute plants to the annual plant sale. "I thought, nothing I could grow would sell for anything," she says. "I don't remember what I came up with, but I know I tried."

Like a graft on a great root stock, Gardenfest grew from that annual plant sale. All 230 members of the club participate in one way or another, with myriad committees and meetings making it all happen over the course of the year.

Meanwhile, Veron, a retired telecommunications executive married to retired architect Ital Veron, is on the board of the Indian River Land Trust. Ital Veron is on the city's Architectural Review Commission.

She still laughs at a few averted disasters of the early years. There was initial resistance at holding it at Riverside Park ("But it's so big!"); some wanted it held in the tiny Garden Club parking lot downtown.

And an even more terrifying suggestion: that garden club members provide all the food for sale. A Fort Lauderdale vendor now handles enough for 20,000.

Meanwhile, Veron prepares for the event from her home in Peppertree, looking out through floor-to-ceiling windows on a beautiful garden designed by husband Ital. In their garage, Ital himself built a handsome

horizontal arbor, now covered in vines, that serves as a backdrop to statuary around the pool. Two huge bougainvilleas were purchased at one Gardenfest.

But apart from monitoring the chicken-wire fencing protecting the jasmine minima from the thriving island rabbits, Veron seems more preoccupied with everyone else's garden through Gardenfest, rather than her own.

"I actually don't do much here," she says.

Gardenfest takes place in Riverside Park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6 and 7. Golf carts are available to ferry goods to cars and guests to the show; wagons are suggested. There is no admission per se, though purchase of a \$1 raffle ticket is required. Proceeds support a number of civic projects and organizations. Visit www.gardenclubofirc.org or call 772-567-4602 for information.

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People

Education Foundation reels them in at 'Bass & Birdies'

MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

The addition of a fishing component to the usual standard golf tournament has made Bass and Birdies one of the more challenging golf tournaments, but the players wouldn't have it any other way.

Adding the fishing twist was the brainchild of then Education Foundation board members Jay Campana and Lanse Padgett, and Joe Kern, Indian River Club's head golf professional.

"Joe and Lanse and I were sitting at the Sugar Shack. Joe said that the bass fishing had been really good and we thought - we ought to do

something with that."

This is the fourth year for Bass and Birdies, held at the Indian River Club, to benefit the programs and services of the Education Foundation of Indian River County.

In some ways the fishing portion of the game can even out the playing field as participants compete using both their golfing and angler abilities.

If no fish are caught, a point is added to the golf score.

On the other hand, points are taken off the golf score based on the number of fish caught (and released of course).

The Club is an Audubon Signature Sanctuary with certain criteria which must be adhered to because of that distinction.

The basic premise (I won't even attempt to go into the scoring) is that every player must actually cast a reel at two different fishing holes and must play golf at 16 holes.

The fishing time allocated at each pond varies based on the length of time it will take to play the hole. Volunteers man each fishing spot, measuring the fish and keeping play moving along.

Some of the more advanced anglers bring their own gear, but rods and lures were supplied for the novices at each of the four fishing holes. Volunteer guides, including David Lyons and his son Chris, were also on hand to give a few pointers.

"Chris is an avid fisherman; he's helped a lot of people catch some really big fish today," Lyons said proudly. "He just picked up fishing on his own and loves it."

When I ran into Charles Croom on the course, he said he hadn't yet caught any fish. Croom is a new Education Foundation board member, and this was his first year playing in the tournament.

"We got skunked on the fishing front, but more importantly, we're having fun."

An awards party followed the tournament with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and some great music by guitarist Terry Dobson.

A live auction presided over by auctioneer George Blythe included a cozy cottage get-a-way, donated by John and Lee Moore, a Link Lovers package, a Sports Lovers package and a Chef Dinner with Chef Joe Faria.

Fish tales abounded as players related their successes and lamented the big ones that got away.

Dan Bockhorst told me that he'd caught three fish, with one of them being over 20-inches.

"I don't normally fish; that was the downfall for our group."

A few players used the recent cold snap as an excuse for reeling in less than their normal catch. Still others echoed Chris Baggett, who admitted to not being much of a fisherman

BILL AND LAURA FRICK ARE HELPING TO BUILD A STRONGER INDIAN RIVER COMMUNITY THROUGH DONOR-DRIVEN PHILANTHROPY

BILL AND LAURA FRICK recently established two donor advised funds at the Indian River Community Foundation. The Fricks are Kansas City natives, have lived in Vero Beach for the past eight years and are Florida residents.

"We have been long time supporters of numerous charitable causes in both Kansas City and Vero Beach," said Laura. Bill adds, "Our funds in The Greater Kansas City Community Foundation demonstrated to us how efficiently and simply we could be connected to various local needs from healthcare and the arts, to human services and the environment."

The Fricks are among the fifty two Founders who pledged to support the Indian River Community Foundation's operating costs for five years. Additionally, Bill serves on the Board of Directors and chairs the Governance Committee.

Bill notes, "Laura and I coordinate all our giving through our donor advised funds. These funds offer us flexibility in meeting our philanthropic goals and provide maximum tax benefits with no annual giving requirement. We also receive comprehensive quarterly fund statements."

Laura further observed, "Most importantly, the Indian River Community Foundation is a conduit to nearly 200 local nonprofit organizations. While Bill and I have given and will continue to support those needs we are aware of, we now are learning more through the Indian River Community Foundation about many other nonprofits that provide important community services and deserve our consideration."

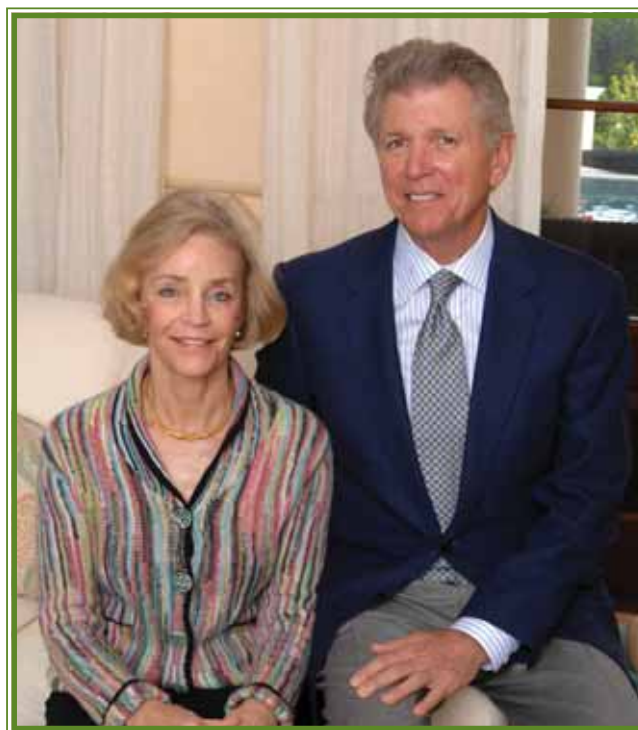
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Photography: Martina's Photography

People



Ron Chesley stands by after reeling in a bass on the 18th hole as Chris Lyons and his father David Lyons measure the catch. Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.



Education foundation board member Bill Furr casts his line into the water hazard along the 15th hole of the Indian River Club Golf Course.



Dr. Ralph Rosato putts on the 18th hole of the Bass and Birdies Golf and Fishing Tournament while other members of his golf group try their luck at fishing.

and said, “I usually buy my fish coconut encrusted.”
Avid angler Jay Campana caught 16 fish, which was more than any of the other players.

“It’s a good tournament every year and the fishing makes for an exciting game. We’re all good friends; we’ve played four consecutive years.”
Randy Riley was non-committal

when asked how he fared, saying simply with a smile, “It was a nice afternoon.”
Lynn Hall, who had chaired last year’s Bass & Birdies, was very pleased with the event.
“It’s one of the most unique fundraising events; to be able to combine the two sports and to come to a club like this is fabulous.
“The support of the Indian River Club means a lot. These guys go out of their way to do this for us. To close the club on a weekend during season

is very special.”
Bass and Birdies was chaired by Darren Sylvia, leading committee members Vinny Olmstead, Jose Prieto, Charles Croom, David Savage, Lynn Hall, Debbie Biedenharn, Dan Bockhorst and Bill Furr.
The Education Foundation of Indian River County is unique as the only one in Florida that supports all schools in the county, public, private, parochial and charter, and 90 percent of its funding comes from private individuals and foundations.

DAVID YURMAN



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People

Cocktails, canapés, camaraderie and \$125 to help fight cancer

BY MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

The American Cancer Society 125 has become known as one of the best cocktail parties on the beach, and it's all for a great cause.

It's a laid-back affair, without fancy decorations or auction items to bid on,

just cocktails, canapés and camaraderie. The first party 30 years ago was the brainchild of Denny Gordon and the late Jack Taylor as a way to raise funds for the local chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Their idea was to invite a group of friends to a social gathering at John's Island and ask them to pledge an annual donation of \$125 to the Ameri-



Alma Lee Loy, Jane Schwiering, Sereta Bryant Gregory and Nancy Bryant Photos: Mary Schenkel

can Cancer Society, thereby becoming members of what is known, in short, as the ACS 125.

The concept took off, as did the membership, which has continued to

grow over the years. In 1996 Northern Trust Bank began hosting the event where it was held once again Jan. 21.

Judi Beaumont, an estate administrator at Northern Trust Bank and an



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Denny Gordon and Bill Waag



Marcia and Dr. Robert Loewinger



Scott Alexander, Regional President for Northern Trust, and Kay Brown



Wallace Cole and Lawrence Brashears

American Cancer Society board member chaired the American Cancer Society 125 with help from fellow Northern Trust employees Susan Chenault and Andy White.

Virtually everyone in attendance had been touched by cancer in some fashion and as they visited with one another, sipped on cocktails and nibbled on the hors d'oeuvres, guests gladly shared their personal stories.

I caught up with dermatologist Dr. Robert Loewinger and his wife, Marcia, who have been ACS 125 members for more than 15 years.

"My father and grandfather had cancer and our daughter, Lisa, is an 11-year breast cancer survivor," said

Marcia. "We didn't think she'd be able to have children after all her treatments, but she had twins; they're our miracle babies."

Barbara Becker Hurley, a supporter of the American Cancer Society since her days in Darien, Conn., moved to Vero Beach in 1988 and has been a major contributor here as well.

"My parents moved here in the 1950's and I would often visit; it was my second home. So, when my late husband retired, it was the natural choice."

Her parents, Lillian and Richard

Becker, were founding members of ACS 125 and when they passed away, she made a pledge of \$50,000 in their honor.

Her only request was that a poster listing the founders' names be displayed at the event; needless to say, the organization was happy to comply.

Charter member Ann Marie McCrystal, a sponsor of the event, related a story about the days when she worked as a nurse here in the 1970s.

"I have pictures of Pat Moore, Helen Brackins and me traveling around

the county in a van doing pap smears for the American Cancer Society. We would take the van to Fellsmere and park outside Publix."

When I asked new member Kathleen O'Brien Joachim why she had joined, she credited her mother-in-law Lee Watts, who passed away last year at age 91.

"She was one of the founding members and introduced me to the group. And then my mother was just diagnosed this year. There is a lot I'd like to do."

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People

Incoming Tide

Legal eagles living a simpler life in Vero Beach

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

It used to be that when attorneys Jorge and Mayra Colon told their Miami friends they were visiting Vero, no one had a clue where they were talking about. Today, when they mention they have moved here, there is nearly universal awareness: "Oh, isn't that where the Estefans live?"

Colon has visited Vero since his brother went to FlightSafety in the '90s, living in the Pocahontas Apartments downtown; their mother moved here in 2002. Last year, the Colons decided to rent a condo on the ocean, and call Vero home. In Incoming Tide, we take a closer look at the seeds of change taking root on the barrier island. Jorge and Mayra Colon are thriving. Here is their story.

Minus a few prepositions, Jorge Colon's prediction about his new hometown reads like a headline in the *National Enquirer*: "Influx from



Jorge and Mayra Colon, both attorneys, have made Vero Beach their home, finding a peaceful life, and new challenges. Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Miami Unstoppable; Well-to-do Cubans All Headed Here."

Colon himself could have lawyered that proclamation: he worked as in-house counsel for the Boca-based tabloid for three years. He fervently believes that his affluent Hispanic friends in south Florida all have their eye on the tranquil little town two hours to the north.

As proof, Colon mimes their collective dropping jaw when they witness his workplace: a second-floor Central Beach condo, overlooking the ocean and a nearly deserted beach, from which he telecommutes to clients around the world.

"Vero is like an oasis," he says.

"It's manicured and posh. It's like a paradise," says Mayra Colon. Board certified in labor and employment law, she now works for Harris Corp. in Melbourne. That does mean a 50-minute daily commute. But she's driving along the riverfront up U.S. Highway 1, at a stress-free 40 m.p.h.

"It's a very different commute in terms of quality of life," she says. "Here you're actually going somewhere, you're driving 40 miles down the road, and you're looking at birds flying and boats and water. In Miami you get stuck in traffic for an hour and you're already right where you need to be. You want to get out and walk but you have to just sit there."



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Both Jorge and Mayra Colon were born in Puerto Rico. Though they didn't meet until both had graduated from law school, they lived at one point only blocks apart in San Juan. While Mayra grew up there and went to both college and law school at the University of Puerto Rico, Jorge left the island when he was only 3, following his newly remarried mother to London. Educated in boarding schools in Switzerland and London, he moved away from home at age 16, renting an apartment in the home of a family friend as he worked in a deli and took college courses, until deciding to start college in the U.S. He eventually earned his law degree from Georgetown University.

Both Jorge and Mayra Colon won clerkships with federal judges in San Juan after law school. Mayra Colon is the daughter of lawyers. Gradu-

ating from the University of Puerto Rico in psychology, she went on to the university's law school, and won a post clerking for a federal judge at U.S. District Court in San Juan. That was how she met Jorge, who had just graduated from Georgetown with his law degree, and was clerking for the district's chief judge.

"Mayra and her judge were the most productive on the court," Jorge says. "So I was always having to roll these carts of files to Mayra and say, 'I'm sorry but the chief judge wants you to work on these,'" he says.

"I was always getting dumped on," says Mayra.

For seven months, they flirted. "She was the funniest law clerk by far," he says. "She had that bubbly energy."

Finally he invited her to dinner. "And that was that," he says.

After both finished their clerkships, they moved to Coral Gables, and opened up a practice with one other partner, she focusing on immigration and employment law, while he began to specialize in corporate and technology law.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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Incoming Tide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Opening their own firm was exhilarating, Mayra Colon says. "I don't even consider it a job, it was such a blast," she says.

"All our staff was young, hip and fun. Friday afternoons, we would party and dance and bring pizza. Or the partners would go to the movies. And it was fun in the sense that it was an experience to have our own business."

Then immigration laws began to change. "There were not as many solutions for our clients," she says. "When we started, there were very good remedies and our immigration clients, who were Colombian, Haitian, Venezuelan, had procedures they could follow to get to stay. You don't have that anymore."

It also had become stressful to work together as a couple. In 1997, Mayra Colon took a job as senior assistant attorney for the city of West Palm Beach, just as that city was undergoing a massive urban transformation. Then, a number of neighborhoods were undergoing gentrification, the Clematis district was already in full swing, and CityPlace was underway – it opened in 2000.

That year, Jorge Colon went to work as in-house counsel for the Boca-Raton-based parent company of the *National Enquirer* and the now-defunct *Weekly World News*, known

for stories like the three-legged skater trying out for the Olympics.

Jorge Colon remembers his first day on the job. "They handed me a paper to review for them, and I started marking it up like crazy, thinking, 'Oh my God, they could get sued for this, and this, and this is libelous.' And finally I handed it back and said, 'You guys, you can't print this. This is all lies.' And they started laughing, and pointed to the tiny print on the front page that said, 'This is a work

ing if he had any explanation for a bizarre discovery: nine anthrax "hot spots" had been found in his former office.

Colon, who had been in Europe at the time Stevens was believed to have opened a letter full of anthrax spores, was dumbfounded. Eventually, they traced the exposure to the ventilation system, which flowed directly from the mailroom into Colon's office.

Unsettling as the incident was,

"All our staff was young, hip and fun. Friday afternoons, we would party and dance and bring pizza. Or the partners would go to the movies. And it was fun in the sense that it was an experience to have our own business."

of fiction.' "

But the humor dissipated a year and a half later, when the company's new \$10 million headquarters was targeted in the first wave of anthrax attacks.

Following the death of photo editor Bob Stevens, the building was shut down never to be reopened; the staff lost all possessions in the building including files and personal mementos. Relocated to a warehouse, the FBI came into Colon's office, ask-

Colon had plenty to think about. Charged with not only AMI's six celebrity and news weeklies, he also supervised Weider Publications's fitness magazines when AMI acquired that company in 2002, giving him 2,000-plus trademarks in 140 countries under his purview.

He ended up leaving AMI three years later, in 2003, recruited by NBC Network as senior media counsel, including the sports division, the station's owned-and-operated sta-

tions and two large affiliates, including Miami's WTVJ.

He was named head of media law for the Spanish-language Telemundo network, and worked to negotiate alliances with cable and broadcast outlets in Latin America.

During his tenure there, he was invited numerous times to lecture on media law at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg.

Mayra Colon, meanwhile, moved out of government and into the private sector for the next four years, as senior attorney with Chubb & Son, the insurance group.

By 2002, the Colons were looking for a weekend retreat to escape the pace and congestion of South Florida. They invested in land in a rural development near Yeehaw Junction, intending to build a country home.

That same year, Jorge Colon's mother, Lydia Silvestry, bought a house in Vero on Mockingbird Lane. Silvestry, a journalist turned beauty expert (locally written about for designing the "infinity" jersey wrap dress), she has since moved to Pittsburgh.

That leaves Mayra and Jorge on their own here in Vero, since deciding to move here permanently in 2008. Anxious to create a network of friends here, they are volunteering with various efforts. Jorge has signed on for a second year to help organize Indian River County Day of Service in late April, where volunteers from civic organizations and churches gather to work in the community.

He is also continuing an effort to unite attorneys working on-line, with a group called the On-Line Bar Association.

They retain close connections to the circles of friends in Orlando and Miami, organizing dinners by remote then joining a dozen or more people at restaurants, followed by various concerts or other events.

He's thinking he could do the same here, and is tossing around the idea of a merengue party at Costa d'Este.

Guests might want to bear in mind one item left off his official CV: as a kid, he won numerous dance contests in Puerto Rico, and nearly toured as a back-up dancer with Puerto Rican singing legend Ednita Nazario. "I rehearsed, and I was just about to go, when my parents said, 'Hey, do you want to dance, or do you want an education?' "

He went to college instead. But he still recalls with pride winning breakdancing competitions in San Juan.

"And I was always the only white guy."

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Arts/Theatre

Lavish '42nd Street' Riverside's biggest production everL. L. ANGELL
COLUMNIST

Tapping into the generosity of a small group of devoted theater-lovers, Riverside Theatre is pouring its all into a lavish production of the Broadway musical "42nd Street."

Last year in a bold move, Allen D. Cornell, Riverside's producing artistic director, approached a handful of Riverside's most ardent patrons and asked for their help. Sixteen couples and individuals graciously said yes.

The result: a production that will be the biggest and longest-running show in the theatre's 37 years. The numbers are staggering: more than 6,000 lights, 3,000 sequins, 120 taps on shoes, and a cast of 30, in an unprecedented 5-week run, opening Feb. 4.

As one of theater's longest running musicals, "42nd Street" has a reputation as quintessential Broadway. In Cornell's opinion, it's the perfect musical for right here, right now.

"We knew we needed another musical blockbuster this season," says Cornell, the show's director. "We were so encouraged by audience response last season to 'La Cage aux Folles.'"

The spectacle with its large cast, thrilling dance numbers, glamorous costumes, and popular musical score, was the perfect choice, Cornell says.

The production's design run-through had just taken place when Alan Cornell met with the cast and designers last week.

It was after 4 p.m.; carpenters, painters, costume designers and tech crews were everywhere. From the scene shop came the high-pitched whine of a buzz saw ripping planks of wood; the smell of sawdust filled the air. In the rafters above the stage of the Stark Theatre, workmen adjusted lights on the fly rails, the rods running the width of the stage that are raised and lowered by a system of pulleys and counterweights.

Meanwhile, in one of the larger rehearsal studios, Cornell wrapped up the day's full performance, critiquing what he'd seen and outlining what still needed work.

The design run-through is a dry run when a play is performed for the first time from beginning to end. All the different designers involved in a production watch to see how the myriad pieces fit. In this case, that meant Allen Cornell, the director, as well as Ken Clifton, musical director; Patrick Boyd, choreographer; Randi dell'Aqua, costume designer; Craig Beyrooti, sound

designer and more.

Seated just behind them were the "patron producers," the 16 couples and individuals who have contributed to make this lavish production possible, in turn, earning the right to an insider's view of the process.

According to Oscar Sales, Jr., Marketing Director at Riverside who managed to see Act 1, it was thrilling.

"No sets, no lights, no costumes —

and I was carried away," said Sales. "I saw David Merrick's Broadway production in the '80s as well as the Broadway revival in '91. Our production will have the same energy as the Broadway shows. There is a wave of energy from the dance and music that reaches out into the theater and envelops everyone."

Laurie Welles, who plays leading lady Dorothy Brock, put it this way: "

'42nd Street' is one of those shows that everybody loves. It's funny, it's fast, and it's got an all-star cast."

"This is not a show that just anybody could do," said Susan Masur, who plays librettist Maggie Jones in the show. "These are extremely talented dancers who've been dancing all their lives."

As one of the 16 patron produc-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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Arts/Theatre



Costume designer Randi Dell 'Acqua and costume shop assistant April Bowman work on dresses for the upcoming production of "42nd Street."



Scenic technician Hal Jameison attaches castors to the bottom of what will be a train in the upcoming production of "42nd Street" at Riverside Theatre.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

ers of the show, Judy Schneebeck was seated with other contributors directly behind Cornell and the production's various designers.

"Allen had his designs for each of the scenes on huge draft paper," said Schneebeck, remarking that Cornell had designed the sets for the show. "We could see how he'd mapped everything

out. It was fascinating. Someone had a computer and they were working together, blocking it — you know, who stands where."

Schneebeck and husband William have been closely involved with this particular production from the start. She recalled how such an expensive enterprise came about.

"Last year, the former president of the board, Marty Gibson, and Allen



Paint assistant Caitlin Beacham applies another coat of white paint to what will be an oversized dime in the Riverside Theatre production of "42nd Street."

came to several of us who are close to Riverside. You know how much it costs to produce a Broadway musical, they said. Would you be willing to ask your friends to help us get this production underway? We were happy to and in the end 16 people contributed," said Schneebeck. "Allen told us there'd be some great perks."

That included some unexpected coaching.

"During the intermission, Laurie Welles, who plays the diva who breaks her ankle on opening night, came up to me," said Schneebeck.

"She asked me if she was being mean enough and I told her yes, you're being wonderfully mean," Schneebeck laughed.

Schneebeck raved about the show's two biggest stars: Shannon O'Bryan playing Peggy Sawyer, the aspiring actress who steps in and saves the day

and Jeremy Benton playing Billy Lawlor, the dancer who becomes Peggy's beau.

"The two leading performers are superb," Schneebeck says. Both have extensive Broadway experience. "They dance so beautifully and not only do they dance but they sing and act."

The first perk for the patron producers came early last December when the Schneebecks joined other patron producers in New York City for three days of auditions in a building on West 26th Street in Chelsea. They arrived to find the hallway already filled with performers waiting to try out.

In the room with Cornell were a piano and a pianist and the show's choreographer, Patrick Boyd. They were there from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. as the performers streamed in and out.

"The choreographer is such a marvelous dancer," said Schneebeck. "He

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Scenic carpenters Brock Alter and Andy Anderson steady one of the light adorned signs as they rig it up on stage.

took 20 dancers at a time through the different numbers."

Schneebeck had her favorites she was pulling for and she was delighted when Cornell cast those same people in the lead roles. It was a pleasure seeing them again at the third perk, a cocktail party welcoming the cast to Vero.

The cast arrived here, most traveling from New York, on Jan. 7 and began rehearsals the next day. They rehearse five days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with an hour for lunch. For the crew working behind the scenes it's a different schedule.

Scenic technician and master carpenter, Hal Jameison is currently putting in 12-hour days. He has worked at Riverside Theatre for three years. Before this, he built houses for 20 years.

The biggest challenge of 42nd Street for Jameison is simply the size and scope of the show and getting it all completed on time.

"There are between 50 and 60 people working behind the scenes to make this happen," said Jameison. "We build everything from scratch."

That means daily deliveries of lumber and other supplies. So far they've used one hundred sheets of plywood and hundreds of boards to build the five carts or platforms that serve as different locations and the three huge portals that serve as the sets for the show within the show.

"We try to save some of the most wonderful stuff but we just don't have enough space here," he said, pointing out two twenty-foot tall Corinthian columns that were used in the 2008 production, *Souvenir*.

Walking around behind stage with Jameison was a bit like walking amidst gigantic 3-D puzzles in all different stages of assemblage.

There stood an enormous blue tea-kettle. An opening in its center allows

dancers to enter and exit.

Twenty-foot long sections of black stairs stand ready to be rolled onstage. They have been built with forced perspective, meaning that the receding stairs are markedly smaller than the ones nearest the audience, giving the illusion of stretching into the distance. These stairs are part of the intricate moving sets on which the dancers will gaily tap.

Historically, one of the most mesmerizing aspects of the show is the dancing. Based on the 1933 film, the Broadway show features the elaborate choreography of Busby Berkeley, whose legendary dance numbers are



Tech supervisor Shawn Webber and managing director Jon R. Moses go over the plans for the stage layout.

such optical illusions of wheels within wheels and cascading waves of ostrich feather fans that some critics have compared his work to the madcap trippy quality of LSD. Regardless, most call it genius.

In all of "42nd Street's" many incarnations, the costumes are spectacular.

In the case of Riverside's production, they are all made by hand. Costume Designer Randi dell'Acqua and Design Assistant April Bowman, who worked together on last year's "La Cage aux Folles," have been hard at work at a site near Trinity Church for more than two months, outfitting 30 cast members in multiple costume changes.

"Once the cast arrives in Vero, we do real fittings," said Bowman who has worked on a number of previous productions including *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Blithe Spirit*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Fortunately, there is adequate space to store these costumes once the show closes. And as far as the labor goes, there are no elves involved.

"Everything is handmade," said Bowman, who will be working twelve-hour days straight up to opening night.

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Arts/Theatre

Native Vero artist conveys heart in poetic artwork

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

When Luke Steadman wades out to the flats at low tide, his bucket is full of brushes, not bait; he is there not to cast a line but to paint. But the sense of peace he feels, and captures so adroitly on canvas, is the same as in the days he spent fishing on the Indian River.

His serene depictions of spoil islands, marshes and still waters are born of a lifetime of seeking out those emotions. Painting in oils with classical technique acquired through years of study, Steadman now has works in the Admiralty Gallery on Ocean Drive. This is his second season there; at 29, he is by a good stretch the youngest in Ann McEvoy's stable of artists, and the only Vero native.

"I must get 20 calls a week from artists who would like to be in the gallery," says McEvoy. "Luke called and told me his background, and I told him I really didn't have a need for another artist. But he asked if he could just come over with a few of his paintings. Well, I was



Painter Luke Steadman works on a still life in his home studio where some of his paintings hang on the wall.
Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

just totally blown over when I saw his work."

Of late, Steadman is receiving commissions from as far away as New Hampshire, where a man who had seen his works of marshes on his website had him fly up to paint a chain

bridge over the Merrimac river. He also does commission portraits, offering his charming painting of his daughter looking at butterflies as an example.

Along with the selling on-line and through Admiralty, he has works of a somewhat more abstract style with

the prestigious Allyn Gallup Gallery of Contemporary Art in Sarasota. "They tend to look looser, not as resolved," he says. "I don't have a specific technique. I view what I do as necessary to my intentions. I can paint a scene a la prima, that would only take a few hours, or it could be something more traditionally classical that would take a couple of months. The paintings would sell for the same amount of money, and that's okay. It's the end result that matters to me."

It was Gallup's interest in Steadman's work while he was still in school that first led to the certainty that his art would translate to income. Steadman, then a sophomore at Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, had won the "Best of Ringling" competition, an annual show judged by the faculty and normally won by seniors. His winning work had been a class assignment: to complete a series of canvases that worked together as a single composition.

At the show, he heard his professors whispering with excitement; he asked what the commotion was about. It

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Arts/Theatre

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32" x 27" *Symphony in white*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

turned out that Gallup had asked them about having Steadman's work in his gallery. "My instructors were flipping out," he says. Within a few months, the collection of canvasses sold for \$3500, the start of a 10-year relationship with the gallery.

"At first I was hesitant to sell it," he says. "You get really attached to your paintings. But that introduced me to being okay with selling."

That summer, Steadman earned another prize: a connection with Amanda McGee, a friend since second grade. McGee, who today teaches yoga at Quail Valley and Christie's Fitness Center, is the daughter of Walter McGee and Dale McGee; she spent her early childhood in the one of Riomar's original homes. When she and Steadman revived their friendship that summer, she was a junior at Flagler College studying communications.

The next year, after her graduation, they were married on the beach behind the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Kimberly and A.J. Koonst, a founder of Broadband National, now known as Bridgevine.

Amanda joined Luke in Sarasota, where he finished his last year of a four-year degree at Ringling College of Art and Design. The newlyweds spent that summer in Italy, where Steadman studied at the Florence Academy of Art. "That was a great learning experience," he says. "It really fine-tuned my painting from life. Amanda had a great time, she would get her cappuccino and plan out our weekend, and I was having a great time going to classes two times a day."

Back in Sarasota, he continued to study independently for two more years with one of his Ringling instructors, Carl Johnson, who had studied with the realist painter Richard Lack.

"I could have gotten a job graduating from Ringling really easily," Steadman says, adding that renowned companies

frequently recruit graphic designers and illustrators from the school, including the best known film companies looking for people to work in animation. "Fortunately I had had that experience selling in the gallery, so I knew I could do it."

Steadman continues to work with his father, Virgil Steadman, a contractor who has built many barrier island homes – together they renovated a 1920s home not far from Vero's downtown district; Steadman built a studio out back. And on his days off, he makes a point of getting outdoors, typically on the water.

"I've always been captivated by the poetry of the landscape, the moods that are created by atmospheric conditions," he says. "I've been aware of my surroundings and had an appreciation for the world around me since I was little."

Most of his paintings have no evidence of human hands – in his landscapes there are typically no figures, and no structures. It is as if Steadman wants to convey a sense of the solitude in which he paints.

"I'll see things, and I'll try to take those visual elements that are evoking those emotions in me, and I want to convey those emotions on the canvas. I want to convey evidence of the experience, the emotions felt during the painting process."

It was in a sense his love of fishing that got him into art school in the first place. Steadman had earned an associates' degree Indian River State College, and still had no idea what he wanted to do with it.

He joined a cousin in Hawaii for a year. "That was a year I just floundered," he said. When he came back to Florida, an aunt who had always admired his talent for drawing suggested he go to school in illustration or graphic design.

As he considered that option, he heard of a portfolio review in Sarasota, where admissions officers for art colleges from around the country judge the works of aspiring students.

Steadman drove over with two etchings he had done in high school: each was of a fish, detailed down to the scales.

He was amazed at the panel's reaction. "You're a shoo-in, they told him," encouraging him to make prints of the works and sell them. He ultimately chose Ringling.

Steadman majored in illustration, with a minor in fine arts.

Meanwhile, Amanda, pregnant again, continues to be Steadman's muse. His latest painting at Admiralty is a full-length portrait of her standing by the sea.

It is a painting McEvoy particularly loves.

"People are quite taken with his work," McEvoy says.

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Arts/Theatre

My Vero

Vero heads to Vegas for Hibiscus Children's Center

BY MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

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What happens at Las Vero, stays in Vero, or something like that.

Viva Las Vero IV Casino Night at the Elks Lodge is one of the most popular "gambling" events in town. It delivers all the excitement of a real casino without the guilt, as all the funds raised help the children at Hibiscus Children's Center.

If you don't yet have a ticket for the event, which takes place this Saturday, Jan. 30 get one quickly. Happy hour starts at 6 p.m. and tables open at 7:15 p.m., with professional dealers manning the roulette, craps, blackjack and Texas Hold'em tables. Tickets are \$50 for the event; with an additional \$25 donation for the limited number of Texas Hold'em and Blackjack spots. 9313 x 313 or www.hibiscuschildrenscenter.org.

Dancing with Vero's Stars

The dancers may not yet be household names, but you'll be hearing a lot about the latest crop of competitors as they vie for the mirrored trophy in Dancing with Vero's Stars to benefit the Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition.

The main competition is on March 13, but you are invited to get a sneak peek at A Glimpse of Dance which will be held on Thursday, Feb. 4 at the Holy Cross Parish Hall. Meet the dancers, watch performances by professionals, get a few tips from instructors Shari and Joe Tessier of 14th Avenue Dance Studio and show off your own fancy footwork as you dance to the sounds of DJ and Dance Productions.

Music and Culture

You no doubt read in our Jan. 7 issue about the remarkable concert grand Steinway piano that was recently donated to the Vero Beach Museum of Art by architect James Gibson. On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 31, you'll have the opportunity to hear the magnificent instrument in all its glory, providing you're lucky enough to have a ticket to the Atlantic Classical Orchestra's Chamber Music Series at the Museum.

Internationally acclaimed ACO conductor Stewart Robinson has scheduled an all-Russian program, featuring Prokofiev, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky. The piano makes its debut in Vero as Julliard-trained Kimball Gallagher accompanied by concert master Leonid Sigal, performs Sergei Prokofiev's Sonata No. 2 for Violin and Piano in D Major, Op 94b. This sure to be 'grand' concert begins at 4 p.m. in the Museum's Leonhardt Auditorium and will be followed by a reception. 231-0707 ext. 136.

John Cullen, the featured artist at February Artist Guild Gallery, will present an exhibit he calls, All About Reflections, with dramatic interpretations of water, earth and movement. The exhibit opens Monday, Feb. 1 and the opening reception of the show will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb 5.

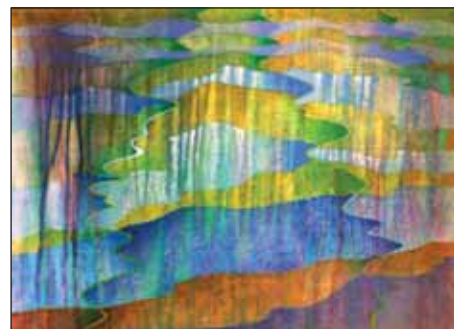
Dividing his time between Keeseville, NY and Vero Beach, Cullen has had a lifelong love of the arts, and is currently an art instructor at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Describing his work as "abstract impressionism," Cullen applies a myriad of techniques to give his pieces a depth of color, texture and movement. 299-1234 or www.artistsguildgalleryverobeach.com



Cullen Aqua Rhythms" acrylic



Cullen River Mosaic I" acrylic



Cullen River Rhythms Iii" acrylic

The February show at Gallery 14, From the Heart, is aptly titled for this Valentine month. Gallery 14's resident artists have gotten their creative juices flowing to come up with numerous interpretations on the heartfelt theme. The exhibit runs from Tuesday, Feb. 2 through Sunday, Feb. 27 and will be featured during the 3-D District's Romantic After-Dark Stroll on Wednesday, February 10. 562-5525 or www.gallery14verobeach.com



Going Home, Mixed Media Collage, Dorothy Napp Schindel



Noah's Messengers, bronze sculpture, Cathy Ferrell

Vero Beach Book Center's Cynthia Grabenbauer and Rosemarie Land will be the guest reviewers at the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Book Review Breakfast on Monday, February 1, reviewing The Crown-

ing Glory of Calla Lily Ponder, by Rebecca Wells. This popular series are free and open to the public and begin at 9:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast on the veranda of the Richardson Center at Indian River State College. 564-9297

McKee Botanical Garden will offer more than just extinct dinosaurs this Saturday; they're hosting an 'extinct' automobile exhibit featuring 30 cars from yesteryear such as Studebaker, Marmon, Packard and Case classics, all carefully preserved by their dedicated local owners. Regular admission charges apply. 794-0601.

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SANDRA RAWLS
STAFF WRITER

Is that cup of Joe you're about to enjoy with morning toast, a lunch sandwich, or after dinner with an apricot tart, possibly beneficial to your health? Or is it a risky pleasure linked to serious illnesses? Perhaps it's merely a habit-forming potion

But is there good reason to fret over that cup of java?

Coffee, America's favorite beverage, has been scrutinized for properties good and bad, and emerges generally in the plus column.

In 2009, after 25 years of coffee studies, Harvard's School of Public Health listed a variety of ailments whose risks are reduced for persons with moderate coffee consumption.

Among them: Parkinson's disease, Type 2 Diabetes, gout and even heart disease are all less likely for the three-to-four cup a day crowd. Dementias, including Alzheimer's, pancreatic cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, colon cancer, and gall stones have



Larry and Diane Rhude drink Sunday afternoon coffees from Cravings on Ocean Drive.

been added to the list more recently. The numbers are in - these condi-

tions occur less often in those who have their daily fix of java.

Genetic factors naturally have an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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Val Zudans, M.D.,
Board Certified American Board of Ophthalmology

"The Latest Advances in the Management of Cataract"

February 11, 2010 - 5:30pm

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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

impact. Lund University and Malmö University in Sweden released a study in 2008 showing women with the right genetic mix experience a slightly altered metabolic pathway in processing estrogen if they are coffee drinkers. This altered processing lowers their risk of breast cancer. Pretty impressive.

Coffee even seems to offset some of the damage caused by other vices. Smokers and heavy drinkers have less heart disease and liver dam-

age when they regularly consume large amounts of coffee compared to those who don't, according to Vanderbilt University's Institute for Coffee Studies. An institute to study coffee? You bet.

Other research offers evidence coffee can be helpful with asthma and migraines.

An unexpected claim concerns antioxidants. For many Americans, coffee is providing more cancer fighting anti-oxidants than any other single source, even fruits and

vegetables. What? Yes, according to a 2007 study at the University of Pennsylvania at Scranton, although the potential health benefits of antioxidants ultimately depends on how they are absorbed and utilized in the body.

And let's not forget your teeth. Roasted coffee beans have been shown to suppress bacteria growth in the mouth. While it may stain those pearly whites, coffee appears to interfere with the ability of bacterial cells to stick to "dental surfaces,"



that is, your teeth or dentures, and hence reduces plaque. Who would have guessed?

Vanderbilt sums up their work by concluding the dark, aromatic liquid we love is "more healthful than harmful." Tomas DePaulis, PhD, a scientist at the Institute, offers his overview: "For most people generally, very little bad comes from drinking coffee, but a lot of good."

University of Oklahoma scientist Yaser Dorri has studied the sense of smell and found the aroma of fresh brewed coffee can restore the appetite and stimulate over-tired olfactory receptors in the brain. Certainly we believe him about that.

Some 125 million Americans drink coffee, 3.1 cups a day on average, according to the National Coffee Association. That's a lot of brewing and sniffing. Maybe it's one reason it's so hard to stay on a diet.

So is that java you're sipping actually some sort of health food?

Vero gastroenterologist Greg MacKay adds sober thinking to the coffee love fest.

"A lot of the health effects of coffee are related to caffeine. Caffeine relaxes the sphincter muscles at the opening of the stomach and can aggravate acid reflux. People have different thresholds to this effect. Some people can't have even one cup of coffee a day. Let your body tell you," he says.

Kidney disease, sleep difficulties, high blood pressure and heart arrhythmias can mean no caffeine. Elderly persons, with reduced liver functions, may be unable to tolerate the notorious stimulant. Infants and nursing mothers can develop a type of iron deficiency anemia linked to the mother's coffee habit and the

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Health



polyphenols present in her cup.

Raised LDL cholesterol levels in the blood, caused by kahweol and cafestol from brewed coffee, can increase the risk of coronary heart disease. Fortunately, paper filters used in brewing can eliminate the problem. Metal filters, be warned, do not remove these oily components.

MacKay also recommends looking at studies conducted over many years to assess what health effects might really exist.

Vero Beach, recently experiencing a blast of winter air, swarmed happily into a favorite coffee spot at Panera Bread last week. Waiting in line or seated, they were effusive in their coffee opinions.

Pat and Brenda, together on the patio, had opposite views. “I love my 3 cups a day. Couldn’t do without it,” said Pat. Her pal Brenda, a yoga teacher, said no way. “No chocolate, no caffeine for me. Give me orange pekoe.”

Rosalie Tannenbaum, dressed in comfortable yellow knits, was enjoying her drink of the daily grind. “I’m not worried about this coffee. I enjoy it. I’m very healthy. I think it helps your brain.”

Chris Roland, part of a group of lively tennis players, was quick to point out the social effects of coffee drinking.

“Coffee has a strong socializing aspect. People sit around with their cup and talk. It’s like beer, but without the negative side effects.”

While one friend with Roland enjoyed his brew with lots of milk, another was staying away from it altogether due to kidney concerns.

Tall and statuesque Lexa rushed out the door with a large latte. “Coffee is awesome,” she asserted happily.

ly. “I drink a ton of it and some energy drinks. I don’t believe it hurts me at all. I’m an energetic person and I like how it makes me feel.”

Laurie and Christie, chatting over lunch, were united in devotion. Four cups a day for one, two for the other. “I can’t live without it,” says Laurie, “and it doesn’t keep me up at night.” Christie stays with de-caff at night. “I’m going to have some though, for sure.”

“Blue Mountain is the best,” added Paula across an aisle.

Enel Jean-Juste, a member of the Panera management team, knows what sells well at the store’s new location. “How much coffee do customers order? We can hardly keep up with it, it goes so fast! We moved over here to have better technology for our system, but maybe 80 percent of our orders have coffee, and we have to work just to keep up.”

Across the bridge at Cravings, vegan mochas and lattes come in hot and cold, alongside special coffee drinks, plus a coffee stand.

Billie (who asked her last name not be used) from Connecticut savored her black gold. “I’m not worried to have it anytime. I think it’s good for you.

We’re visiting and I don’t know what kind of coffee this is, but it’s wonderful” she said, adjusting a rust colored felt hat.

Inside another woman admired the steam of Columbian coffee pouring from the self-server. “I have to have that buzz,” she says. “I just can’t keep going without it.”

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Health

New Vision Eye Center building new facility



In a change of plans, the New Vision Eye Center — launched last summer by Dr. Paul V. Minotty following the breakup of the Florida Eye Institute — has decided against renovating the old SouthTrust Bank building at the western end of Miracle Mile and instead is preparing to build a new 18,000-square-foot facility on 37th Street.

Since Minotty and three of the other doctors who had been with him left the Florida Eye Institute to form the new practice, they have been seeing patients in their temporary quarters at the Kurtell Medical Center.

“Early next year, we will begin seeing patients in a new facility located on 37th Street directly across from the Indian River Medical Center between 11th and 10th courts,” Minotty said.

He added that the new single-story building — which will house both clinical and surgical facilities — is designed to provide particularly easy access for older patients.



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Oasis of the Seas: Does size really matter?

BY BEVERLY BEYETTE
LOS ANGELES TIME

“Wait’ll you see the ship!” Myra, the Royal Caribbean check-in agent, gushed as I prepared to board the Oasis of the Seas. “We’re going to have to pull you off by the teeth on Saturday.”

Maybe. Maybe not. With room for 6,296 passengers, this largest-in-the-world cruise ship seemed a prime candidate for impossibly long waits, endless onboard queues and claustrophobia-inducing crowds. That’s what I had expected.

Incorrectly, as it turned out. And, yes, Myra, after four nights onboard, I was hooked.

Our cruise carried 4,800 passengers on its Dec. 1 sailing, its inaugural voyage after seven cruises to nowhere — and there was no sense of crowding.

The hoopla about the size was impossible to ignore, but the sheer fun of the ship was a happy surprise.

Royal Caribbean’s Oasis of the Seas is huge — it’s the world’s largest cruise ship, after all — and a total blast from casinos to spas, it’s impossible to be bored. Call it Vegas and Disneyland, rolled into one.

You would have to be a hermit to be bored, and although the ship’s destinations — the eastern and western Caribbean — may not be your dream trips, this is a case where getting there



Oasis of the Seas, the world’s largest cruise ship, heads out of Fort Lauderdale on its maiden voyage.

is more than half the fun.

Passenger Eric Hyde, of Los Angeles, described it well. “It’s kind of like Disneyland, outside of reality,” he said. “You’re literally spending four nights in an amusement park, then you wake up in the morning and you’re already in line again.”

Hyde, regional director of admissions at Concord Law School, had just wowed the crowd in the karaoke bar with his big voice. This was his 67th cruise, his 34th on Royal Caribbean, and he was wowed.

“The design and engineering are absolutely magnificent,” he said. “Every space, there’s something to see, something to marvel at.”

Lonnie Cunningham, a Los Angeles CPA traveling with his wife, Linda, a travel agent, also was a fan. “An amazing experience,” he said.

“There’s something for everyone. It’s a city, right here.”

Which city? Try Las Vegas.

There’s a casino, of course. And an ice show and skating rink, a water

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

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Travel



Boardwalk

View of the boardwalk on the Oasis of the Seas, including the colorful carousel, which was built especially for the ship, and an aquatic amphitheater in the background. The boardwalk will be a hub of daily activities.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

show, surf simulators, rock-climbing walls, 21 pools and Jacuzzis, miniature golf, a zip line, all included in the price of your ticket. (I got in line to zip, then made the mistake of looking down. I couldn't do it.)

All aboard

On departure day, I arrived by cab at bright, new Terminal 18 in Florida's Port Everglades, and within 25 minutes had my Seapass identification card, had cleared security and was onboard, carrying my bags so I

wouldn't have to wait for them.

The cruise departed on an ideal Florida evening. We gathered on deck, waiting for Holland America's Noordam — poor little thing — to precede us into the open sea. Noordam's passengers gawked.

A waiter slipped among us with a tray of rum drinks — "Sippy sippy," he said — at \$8.20 a pop. Like many cruise lines, Royal Caribbean has lots of ways to separate you from your money; still, most of the best things are part of the fare, including the shows.

As we slowly turned and headed out to sea, people waved from the beach and snapped photos. Suddenly, the sun set, and an almost-full moon appeared in a sky streaked with pink.

I headed to my Deck 12 stateroom to unpack. The pillow-top bed was wonderfully soft, and storage space

Grille and Giovanni's Table, all surcharge venues — were sold out before we left the pier, savvy cruisers having booked ahead online. I was among the disappointed passengers turned away at 150 Central Park, which has only 75 seats and one nightly seating (\$35). The host apologized: "They should have made the restaurants bigger." Agreed.

But the Oasis is not just about eating, playing bingo or lying by the pool; on a typical seven-day voyage, there are more than 500 activities.

Onboard shows are by reservation only and can be booked ahead online. I'd reserved the Tony Award-winning "Hairspray" (fun), the Comedy Live club (definitely adult and pretty good) and the Aqua Theater show, where the best part was high divers executing heart-stopping plunges.

One activity that's missing, thank-



Galley

The three-tiered Opus Dining Room on the new Oasis of the Seas can accommodate more than 3,000 diners. Also on board are more than 20 other places to grab a bite or an elegant meal, including a wine bar, steakhouse, ice cream shop, pizzeria, bakery, sushi bar, Italian trattoria and '50s-style diner.

would be adequate for two people with a reasonable amount of luggage. Onboard messages could be accessed on the 32-inch flat-screen TV, and there were a safe and mini-fridge.

But Oasis of the Seas is unlike most ships. It has a split superstructure, the 10 upper decks divided by a 62-foot-wide atrium open to the sky. The Boardwalk, a sanitized but delightful version of Coney Island, occupies the open space aft. Forward is the Royal Promenade, the heart of the ship with its shops and cafes.

Above the Promenade sits Central Park, with 12,000 tropical trees and plants, winding paths, a sculpture garden and crystal canopies that filter light down to the Promenade.

The park's three signature restaurants — 150 Central Park, Chops

fully, is the dreaded safety drill that usually comes at the start of each cruise. We gathered in the Opal Theater to see a safety video, our Seapasses scanned as a way of doing a roll call. Life vests, by the way, are at stations, not taking up valuable stateroom space.

The photo store is another nice innovation. Rather than searching walls of photos, passengers swipe their Seapasses at a computer kiosk and their photos appear on screen. Prints are easily found in folders with labels that match codes on Seapasses.

So many choices, so few days. There are 24 dining venues; 14 do not charge extra. Before dinner the first night, I stopped by the Boleros bar, where a Latin dance band was in full swing. After dinner in the tri-level

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Travel

Opus dining room, I joined the crowd in On Air, where a karaoke singer was belting out "American Pie."

By 1 a.m. I was strolling the silent Boardwalk. The hand-carved wooden horses on the carousel were motionless, the Seafood Shack, candy shop, ice-cream parlor and doughnut shop closed, Johnny Rockets closing. But things were humming in some of the clubs, and pizza was still being dished up at Sorrento's on the Promenade.

Not yet totally familiar with the ship, I relied on one of the electronic flat-screen room finders for help. You punch in your room number, and it guides you there. Other monitors around the ship show which restaurants are full and what there is to see and do.

By the end of Day 2, I knew my way around. Walking the length of the ship is not an endurance test. The Oasis is 1,187 feet long, a little more than three football fields. Even so, with 24 passenger elevators, the waits were never long.

Behind-the-scenes technology keeps boardings and disembarkations from becoming stampedes. For optimal crowd flow, the gangway can be shifted from one deck to another, and 10 elevators can be programmed to stop only where they are needed.

The Oasis is designed with seven neighborhoods: Central Park, the Boardwalk, the Royal Promenade, the Pool and Sports Zone, Entertainment Place, the Vitality at Sea Spa & Fitness and the Youth Zone. Looking for late-night Comedy Live, perhaps? It's in Entertainment Place on Deck 4, together with Studio B (the ice rink), the Opal Theater, the Blaze nightclub, Jazz on 4 and the Casino Royale.

After riding a brown horse on the carousel, I sipped a rum drink on the spaceship-like Rising Tide Bar as it climbed three decks.

The Oasis was off Cuba, and our captain, using the public address system, was wishing us a pleasant day "exploring our little ship." I had a buffet lunch in the Windjammer Marketplace before heading to the Globe and Atlas Pub for the trivia contest.

There, I teamed up with Floridians George and Cary Pratt, small-ship lovers who'd booked the Oasis out of curiosity.

Their assessment: "Overwhelming, spectacular." She laughed and said, "I have shin splints in my legs. I must have walked five miles today. You don't need to go to the spa."

The Oasis also is family-friendly, with a children's pool, hands-on activities for kids, a mocktail lounge and video arcade for teens and even a staffed nursery for Royal Tots and



Below decks

Cutting-edge design and artworks are a feature of the huge ship.

Royal Toddlers (ages 6 to 36 months).

For the young at heart, there were events such as a belly flop contest and a men's sexy leg contest, in which Kyle Holmberg, 17, of Dana Point bested 11 other contestants of various ages and shapes.

He acknowledged that the deck might have been stacked. "My mom was the middle judge."

'A sports car'

On the last day at sea, I visited on the bridge with Capt. William Wright, who was at the helm for the inaugural cruises. (His day job is senior vice president of marine operations.) The Oasis is so maneuverable, he said, that "pilots in ports are calling her a sports car."

When he backed the ship into the new dock at Labadee, Royal Caribbean's resort on the north coast of Haiti and our sole port on this cruise, he beamed and boasted, "No scratches." (Labadee, by the way, is 85 miles from the capital and did not suffer damage in the recent earthquake.)

"The most amazing ship the world has ever seen," the captain told me. "Despite her size, she doesn't feel big."

Our cruise was silky smooth. He showed me the high-tech control center, which he calls the "Starship Enterprise," and the 24-hour safety command center that fields onboard 911 calls. On our cruise, he noted, most of these had been, "How do I get to the Windjammer [buffet]?"

The Oasis has 2,700 staterooms in 37 categories, including family suites. When my ship comes in, I'm going to book a suite — not one of the 28 elegant loft suites, not one of the bal-



Wide berth

The ship, which is 1,187 feet long and 208 feet wide, rises more than 200 feet above the water line. To reach its 16 decks, guests will use two dozen elevators.

cony staterooms overlooking Central Park or the Boardwalk — fun but a bit too public. I'll take one of the six Aqua Theater Suites at the stern, with big balconies overlooking the sea and the aquatic amphitheater (and starting at \$8,029 per person for a seven-

day cruise). My four days flew by. Back in Fort Lauderdale, I was ashore in a flash, carting my luggage so I could disembark at will. And there, directing us to customs, was Myra. "I remember you," she said. "Welcome back to reality."



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Travel

Water, water everywhere on Oasis' deck

LARRY LINDER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Think of bouncing up and down in the back of the school bus," Scott Butler says. "Now think of 135,000 gallons of water bouncing up from a tank at the back of a ship that's a quarter-mile long. Even seas that don't seem that rough at all can send water jumping out onto the deck."

Butler, a principal of Boston-based Wilson Butler Architects, is discussing the design challenges in creating the Aqua Theater on the Oasis of the Seas, which is almost as long as the Empire State Building is high. He and his business partner, Scott Wilson, were the lead design team on the ship — and the first architects to be brought in to brainstorm how its large spaces would be configured.

They're the guys, after all, who figured out how to keep the ice for a skating rink dead level on a ship, which is never dead level. They're the guys who figured out how to get grass to thrive

in the middle of the Caribbean (a filtration system for removing salt from the ocean water that hydrates the greenery). They're the guys responsible for cruise ships' upgrade from show lounges to actual theaters with orchestra pits.

Wilson Butler's fingerprints are all over the fleet of ships owned by Royal Caribbean, which means the firm has a hand in designing about one out of three cruise vessels coming out of shipyards today. Royal Caribbean's chairman and chief executive, Richard Fain, even calls Wilson the company's "guru."

The two architects started designing performing arts spaces for landlubbers more than 20 years ago, adding ships to their repertoire in the 1990s and winning awards for their work along the way. On the Oasis, one of the many spaces they designed was the 1,390-seat Opal Theater, whose stage juts out toward the seats so that "the boundary between the audience and the performers becomes very blurred,"

Wilson says.

They made the stage's arch, or proscenium, movable rather than the typical "thick piece of architecture with some nice lights in it," he says. This one is made up of two oval-shaped staircases that rise toward the ceiling and connect by way of a slightly arched bridge. Its components can be moved or at least hidden from view to make the front and back of the large stage one huge space.

For dramatic effect, the bridge, with the orchestra playing on it, can descend onto the floor at the start of a show. The musicians don't have to begin their performance hidden in the orchestra pit.

For the Oasis' Royal Promenade, Wilson Butler designed curvy flying buttresses to secure the decks above so the wide thoroughfare wouldn't be marred by "a forest of pillars," as Wilson puts it. They enclosed the solarium with a glass canopy partly opened to the air — to keep the space naturally ventilated but not overly so.

For the Oasis' dance club Dazzle, the architectural duo took their inspiration from New York City's Rainbow Room. Entering the Rainbow Room for a niece's wedding reception, Wilson was struck by the fact that "you are forced onto these staircases that flank the band, and then you are on the dance floor. You can't discreetly skim around the perimeter. It was a piece of social engineering as well as architectural engineering, getting the patron immersed into the vibrancy of the evening."

That's why, with Dazzle, "two sexy spiral staircases," as Wilson calls them, descend from the balcony. Two-thirds of the way down, you're on the stage. Three more steps, and you're on the dance floor. "You have to make an entrance," Wilson says. "You can't slink off to the sides."

The winding paths and tree canopies of Oasis' football-field length Central Park also come courtesy of Wilson Butler, as do the bulk of the other entertainment venues, including the Boardwalk and its carousel, which had its own design challenges. With a traditional carousel, the pole in



The Aqua theater, with a pool nearly 18 feet deep, will offer acrobatic, synchronized and high-dive aquatic performances. Another first for cruising, says Royal Caribbean, is an 82-foot-long zip line suspended nine decks above the boardwalk.

the middle holding everything together is planted in the ground. But on the ocean, the pole isn't firmly planted in anything.

To keep the carousel from swaying too much as the wooden animals go up and down, the architects put wheels around the base that run on a rail encircling the whole. The wheels aren't always touching the rail, but if the ship lists too much, the wheels bump up against the rail "to keep the carousel from getting too excited," Wilson says.

For all of that design ingenuity, "by far, the biggest Rubik's Cube on the Oasis was the Aqua Theater," Wilson says. After Wilson Butler conceived it, they had to figure out how to keep water in the deep tank from sloshing on the deck, which is aft.

The solution: creating a wall in the middle of the pool that can retract and come up almost to the height of the water surface as needed, depending on the state of the seas. Breaking the water in half, so to speak, cuts down on the wave motion. Green and red lights let the performers know when the wall is up so they can adjust their feats accordingly.

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Big and bold: Fashion faces debate over designing for larger women

BY ROBIN GIVHAN
WASHINGTON POST

The conversation about plus-size women and their relationship to the fashion industry has taken on new contours recently thanks to the current issue of *V* magazine, the celebrated young actress Gabourey Sidibe and a first lady who has decided to make combating childhood obesity her signature issue.

The rumblings about physiques — rotund and petite — should get even livelier beginning Feb. 11, when ready-to-wear designers in New York unveil their fall 2010 collections over the course of a week. (Their counterparts in Milan and Paris will follow soon after.) And that means attention will once again turn to the proportions of the models who walk their runways and who serve to define our culture's beauty aesthetic.



A "healthy" Jessica Simpson last year faced ridicule for appearing with a few extra pounds.

to use models whose ribs are plainly visible and whose countenance cries "ill-health." What is the point of creeping out consumers, after all?

To be fair, a bit of headway was made in plumping up models when designers presented their spring collections a few months ago. The models were often still quite thin — much slimmer than they were back in the 1980s heyday of women such as Cindy Crawford or Naomi Campbell — but rarely did they look as though a strong wind would send them rolling down the catwalk like glittering bits of tumbleweed.

But after a volley of exhausting complaining, defending, finger-pointing and declaring one's right to creative license, a new conundrum has presented itself: It's hard to even know what an acceptable-size model is supposed to look like anymore. How big is big enough? And when does plus size, in a profoundly overweight population, become just as distressingly unhealthy an image as emaciation?

The niche fashion publication, *V* magazine, has received a significant amount of attention among style aficionados because of its "size issue," which features photos of women who measure in at size 12. The star of the issue is arguably the model Crystal Renn, who captures the same air of detached, unattainable glamour as any size 0, perhaps even more so because

Renn is classically pretty rather than startlingly odd. But some of those readers who have seen the photographs of her have complained that she's *only* a size 12. She really isn't large enough to be considered a plus size, which despite the fashion industry's definition, most people consider to be a size 16 or larger, which is the threshold at which women typically find their fashion choices abruptly limited.

Just how big does a model have to be before folks are satisfied that she represents some ever-shifting vision of what a "real" woman looks like? Must she be precisely 5-feet-4 and a size 14, which is the fashion industry's accepted stats for the average woman? And if she is, will that transform the fantasy photographs in fashion magazines into the equivalent of catalogues? After all, a

large part of our fascination with Hollywood is because it's populated with absurdly stunning men and women who are so far from average they ignite our wildest desires and persuade us to pay good money to go to bad movies.

The most compelling spread in *V* is the one in which the same ensemble is photographed on a skinny model and on a larger one. The lesson to a lot of women who have an insecure relationship with fashion is that they, too, can participate in the world of Dolce & Gabbana and Proenza Schouler. And the lesson to designers is that all sorts of women can make their clothes look good. Attitude often counts more than body size. Although, there are certainly times when no matter how good you *think* you look, reality tells another

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Gabourey Sidibe

For several years, fashion observers have complained on blogs, in letters-to-the-editor and over cocktails with friends about the spindliness of models — lollipops wrapped in silk or cashmere is how they have derisively been described. And industry insiders have debated the cause and effect of these profoundly skinny mannequins on our self-image. Do they push women to be more prone to eating disorders? Are they an insult to womanhood? Are they merely part of a designer's creative prerogative? Or are they the product of lemming-like style-makers who feel compelled to follow trends?

It would be a welcome relief if the majority of those designers who put their wares on the runway in the coming months took a stand and refused

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story. See: Mariah Carey at the Golden Globes.

The recent awards show also provided an opportunity to see the plus-size actress Sidibe, who stars in "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire," all glammed up. She has been dazzling interviewers with her charisma and Valley Girl patois. (She was also photographed for V.) And she has been a marvel of self-confidence in an industry that values thin. We have all

seen the fan magazines with their sad tales of incredibly shrinking actresses. They shrink, in part, because they want to fit into the teeny-tiny clothing samples that they borrow from designers. They shrink for fashion.

The L.A.-based designer Kevan Hall created the gown that Sidibe wore to the Globes, a deep green, flowing floor-length dress with soft, short sleeves and beaded embellishment at the waist. He has worked with a lot of actresses who are what he describes as "special sizes" and the reality is that "it's all

about picking the right silhouette for her shape."

And it doesn't matter if a woman is a size 2 or a size 16, "you're always treading lightly. I've had actresses who are a size 2 stand in front of me and weep. I've had young girls who want to cover their arms and older women who want to cover

all shapes and sizes even when statistics are telling us that certain sizes are unhealthy?

In V magazine's celebration of size, there's a group of photographs taken by Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld of a voluptuous burlesque performer. The way she is depicted is unsettling because it reads as a kind of fat porn — that tendency to show heavysset women as overly sexed, ribald or just plain sideshow. Fashion fetishizes women all the time and in a host of different



America Ferrara, star of "Ugly Betty" wears her fabulous curves with pride



Waifish models like this one have garnered criticism for the fashion world's unrealistic view of women

their arms," he says. The most significant difference in creating a dress for a larger size is that often a designer has to tamp down his ego. He can't as easily force his vision onto the woman since she doesn't have the physique of a hanger. "But at the end of the day, it's always really about the client," Hall says. "Let's be realistic, after all. What is the end-use of these clothes?"

One might also ask, what is the ultimate goal — on the part of the fashion industry — in celebrating the confident Sidibe? Is it about her work? Is it a fascination — a marveling — over this big girl who doesn't seem to have any existential angst about being big? Is it about a broader definition of beauty?

"I'm hoping that things are changing," says an optimistic Hall.

We all hope that we are getting closer to a less judgmental, more accepting society. But we also are faced with an uncomfortable question: How does a culture celebrate the beauty of

ways. But the one thing that fashion loathes is a cliché. And the worst cliché about large women is that they are creatures of insatiable appetites — both real and metaphorical. And, of course, the stereotype about the ultra-thin is that they are brittle and cold.

Somewhere between emaciation and obesity lies good health. And somewhere between those extremes there is also a definition of beauty that is inclusive, sound and honest.



Ask the Hair Guy

Mark Rodolico

Colorist / Stylist

www.askthehairguy.com

A word from The Hair Guy: *I just want to take a moment to say Thank You, to my friends at Pizoodles Italian Restaurant for giving us a "Eureka Moment." We now offer an unadvertised Men's Pedicure that includes a beer and slice of pizza. Why didn't I think of that?*

Question: *My hair is really thinning and I was wondering is there anything that can be done aside from the medical options?*

- Name withheld, Vero Beach

Answer: Well, one balding man to another, MAYBE! As I have recounted before, balding is usually a byproduct of DHT (Di-hydro-testosterone). The reasons for hair loss are stress, hereditary, Etc. Hormonal changes are the biggest culprits when it comes to hair loss such as male pattern balding and female thinning of hair. Although everyone produces DHT, not everyone suffers from balding. Only those genetically predisposed suffer from hair loss. Think of the hair as a tulip and the bulb from whence it grows a tulip bulb. If you are genetically predisposed to react to DHT it's a bit like frost bite to a tulip bulb. A tiny bit of frost bite (DHT) around the edges of the bulb may weaken its ability to produce a robust tulip, but it will continue to produce. If, however the bulb is exposed to prolonged frostbite (DHT) it may reach a point of no return. Given the chance to nourish and warm the bulb it may produce throughout its normal life cycle.

This all said, I have found, in all my years in this business, only one non-medical thing that my eyes have seen. The use of a topical niacin solution. WOW! After much experimentation with both the high dollar name brands and low cost obscure brands, I have seen little difference in performance. I can also say that after supplying the product to a cancer patient pre chemo. We noticed a significant retention of both hair and hair quality. So dude, for about \$26 bucks I would say try it! If your hair bulbs have life left in them, this will at minimum improve the quality of the hair coming out. Warning however, niacin is a vasodilator so it may cause some skin discoloration as it increases the blood flow to the region it was applied to. This discoloration usually goes away within 20 minutes.

Thanks for asking The Hair Guy. Please keep the questions coming: www.askthehairguy.com

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The manly art of shoe shopping

BY ROY RIVENBURG
LOS ANGELES TIMES



LUXURY MODEL: Black and brown control the color spectrum, and lace-ups trump slip-ons in the business world, says footwear author Meghan Cleary.

In footwear folklore, women have Cinderella's glass slippers, Dorothy's ruby shoes and Carrie Bradshaw's cache of Manolos. Men have O.J. Simpson's Bruno Maglis, shoe bomber Richard Reid's explosive high-tops and Nikita Khrushchev's legendary Cold War shoe tantrum at the United Nations.

Not surprisingly, shoe shopping scores low as a favorite male pastime. But sooner or later, sole-searching becomes unavoidable. To make the chore a little less painful, we asked fashion gurus, foot doctors, shoe merchants and shoppers for tips on landing a stylish, high-caliber pair of men's dress shoes.

The simplest method is to outsource the job. "I leave it up to my wife because she has a keen sense of style," says John Mackey, a 51-year-old freight sales rep from suburban Seattle.

It's a common tactic. Former shoe-shopaphobe Stephen Duffy, 29, a jury consultant in Costa Mesa, Calif., used to rely on female relatives for guidance as well. "I started out as a typical guy — totally afraid of it," he says. But after working as a bartender, on his feet all night, Duffy developed an appreciation for quality shoes and slowly learned how to find them.

In some ways, shoe hunting is like buying a car.

Step 1: Test-drive several models

In a typical day of walking, human

hooves endure several hundred tons of force, doctors say. And ill-fitting shoes are the villain behind 1 out of 6 Americans' suffering corns, calluses and other ailments.

Dr. Dennis Frisch, a spokesman for the American Podiatric Medical Assn., recommends starting with a few basics. Get measured, shop in the afternoon (feet swell during the day), try on both shoes and buy the size that fits your larger foot. Also, make sure you can wiggle your toes and have three-eighths to half an inch between the longest toe and the end of each shoe.

Avoid shoes that feel like they need "breaking in," Frisch cautions. Although fine leather requires several wearings to soften and mold to the foot, a shoe that's painful in the store is probably bad news.

"Try different styles and sizes," he advises. "To find the right fit, you have to invest time."

Step 2: Avoid sports cars

Once upon a time, about 400 years ago, men wore shoes that rivaled anything donned by women. They strutted in high heels decorated with jeweled buckles and colorful embroidery, says Elizabeth Semmelhack, curator of the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto. The Enlightenment brought an end to that. The emphasis on rationality led men to abandon their inner Elton Johns, she says. To this day, "men are afraid of fashion because it connotes

femininity."

On the plus side, that makes choosing color and style a snap. Meghan Cleary, a footwear author who bills herself as America's shoe expert, says black and brown control the color spectrum, and lace-ups trump slip-ons "if you want to be taken seriously" in the business world. She encourages men to experiment with colors, but in understated ways, such as black wingtips tinged with deep auburn or deep green hues, or hand-burnished for a different texture.

Cleary rates cap-toe, wingtip and split-toe designs as a virtual photo finish. All are fashionable, she says.

Step 3: Check the tires

Choosing a sole — leather versus rubber — is trickier, the footwear equivalent of Mac versus PC.

"Old-school thinking is that leather is dressier," says Dennis Daniels, a

shoe salesman at Garys, an upscale Newport Beach shop. "You don't want a big old tire tread on your foot when you walk into a boardroom."

But synthetic soles have legions of fans, partly for their traction on slick surfaces. For the indecisive, Cole Haan offers a hybrid: leather-soled Italian shoes with Nike Air technology hidden inside.

A related debate centers on sole thickness. Thin is considered more fashionable but is not always practical.

"If you mostly sit at a desk, thin soles are fine," says Frisch, the podiatrist. "But if you get off the subway and walk 10 blocks every day, the shoe is going to hurt and wear out sooner."

Step 4: Examine the upholstery

History's most durable footwear appears in the Old Testament: God

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marched the Israelites through the desert for 40 years but their sandals never wore out, according to the Bible (Deuteronomy 29:5). Modern cobblers can't match that feat, but they have created other unusual products. New & Lingwood, a British shoemaker, sells \$1,600 loafers crafted from Russian reindeer hides found aboard a 1786 shipwreck and cured in baths of oat flour, wood liquor and seal oil.

Other exotic skins include ostrich, crocodile and peccary. Most don't hold up like calf leather, generally regarded as the gold standard for dress shoes. But even calfskin has skeptics.

"My shoes are cow leather, not calfskin, pigskin or deerskin," says Kenneth van Dissel, who sold footwear in college and now works as director of engineering at South Coast Plaza. "The other skins don't fare well in an industrial environment, where my job takes me. My shoes go from plant floor to board room. My highest regard is for cordovan [horsehide] shoes. They last decades."

Step 5: Look under the hood

Beyond quality leather, craftsmanship is the surest sign of luxury footwear. Eye the stitching on the sole and upper for precision. Be sure the insole is all leather, which wicks away perspiration, lets the shoe breathe and molds to the foot. The inside back of the shoe should be a rougher material, such as suede, to grip your heel as you walk.

Other flourishes can include brass nails in the sole, and heels with a dovetailed piece of rubber that can easily be replaced when the back wears down.

Ask the salesman if the shoe features welt construction, in which the sole and upper part of the shoe are stitched to a center strip of leather.

Weltting enables shoes to be resoled, extending their life.

Step 6: Cost and maintenance

All our experts agree that you truly get what you pay for with footwear — up to a point. The summit of shoedom — custom shoes such as John Lobb's \$6,200-plus designs — are "great for people with a difficult fit, but the average person doesn't need them," Frisch says.

So, what is a reasonable price for top-notch dress shoes? Frisch says \$75 minimum, but Daniels suggests at least \$200 for high-quality calf leather. And Cleary goes higher, estimating \$400 to \$500 for corporate-caliber footwear.

Cleary's dream brand is Dries Van Noten, a Belgian designer. Other panelists place Bontoni, Ferragamo, Cole Haan, Artigli and Prada in the shoe stratosphere.

But most rate John Lobb — the footwear worn by James Bond in 2006's "Casino Royale" — as No. 1. Entry-level prices for these brands range from about \$150 for low-end Cole Haans to \$1,120 for John Lobb's cheapest off-the-shelf model.

Duffy says he used to blanch at such prices, until he did the math: "You can buy a cheap pair that needs replacing every year, or one good pair that's going to last." Cedar shoe trees, leather creams and resoling can extend the life span of pricey foot duds to a decade or more, experts say. But there is a catch. You need to buy at least one other pair and rotate wearing them, according to the podiatrists' group. Leather needs to breathe, and using the same pair every day will wreck them.

But there's no need for a shoe closet as big as Manolo-holic Carrie Bradshaw's. Even Barack Obama owned just two pairs of dress shoes during the presidential campaign.

Milan Fashion Week: Emporio Armani works all the angles



Emporio Armani Fall/Winter 2010

BY ADAM TSCHORN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Milan, Italy — Circle gets the square. Although most of the other designers at Milan Fashion Week were going soft and fuzzy with voluminous sheepskins and blanket coats for their Fall/Winter 2010

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collections, Giorgio Armani's Emporio Armani line was crisp, clean and cool.

Titled "A Geometric Theorem," it was themed around five basic shapes: squares, triangles, rectangles, circles and rhombuses (or is that rhombi?), rendered in assorted shades of gray interspersed with vivid colors that included highlighter yellow, fluorescent green and vivid pink.

Combined with the skateboard gear that opened the show, the result was an '80s-flashback wardrobe that would make Max Headroom weep pixels, chock full of black-and-white stripes, zigzags and graph-paper-textured scarves and blazers. Other scarves and some unstructured lay-

ered pieces were edged in metal zipper teeth.

There were also some pieces with pyramid-shaped designs that seemed OK on knit hats (it gave the models a slight Bart Simpson vibe), but on sweaters they looked odd to me, like raised geometric welts or tiny udders — but maybe that's just the rural-Vermont upbringing in me.

The finale was more than two dozen men who took to the runway in nothing but their Emporio Armani skivvies and running shoes — an attempt to highlight a sneaker collaboration dubbed the EA7/Reebok collection, though the sudden stampede of beefcake meant the sneakers had little chance of being noticed.

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Pets

Island dog's life takes her from Vero to Utah and back

BY CISSY SUMNER
COLUMNIST

Kemma's story is one full of coincidence and karma — and one of the most interesting stories I have had the pleasure of hearing.

Kemma is a beautiful mix breed. She was originally adopted from the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County in June of 2005. I actually met Kemma in 2005 and helped her, a former stray, adapt to her new life with Carol Stevenson. Unfortunately, Stevenson passed away in June of 2008.

Not wanting to leave Kemma homeless again, Stevenson made a provision that Kemma be placed at Best Friend's Animal Society in Utah to be a member of their lifetime care program.

In September of 2009, Kathy and Perry Morton of Marbrisa volunteered for several days at the Best Friend's Ranch. One of the perks of volunteering is taking a dog for an overnight visit. By the end of their first night together, Kathy and Kemma were entranced with each other. There were no other

sleepovers as the Morton's decided to make Kemma a permanent part of

their family.

It was not until they began adoption proceedings that the Morton's discovered Kemma had originated in Vero Beach. As the detective work

circle. She traveled to Utah to find a forever home right here is Vero Beach. Kemma has dined at Pearl and started agility training. Both Kathy and Perry participate in classes with her. Kemma has at last found the home that is her destiny.

Is your pet an Island Pet? Please email information to Cissy Sumner, CPDT-KA of Best Behavior Dog Training at bbdogtraining@bellsouth.net.

If you have contacted me in the past and not heard from me, I may have lost your contact information in a computer crash. Please feel free to contact me again!



Kathy, Perry and Kemma Morton



Perry guides Kemma over the dogwalk in agility class.

YOUR PET'S HEALTH

By Dr. Randy Divine and Dr. Laura Baldwin



Benefits of Early Spay and Neuter

Pre-pubertal spay and neuter (before 5 months of age) has numerous benefits. First, it helps reduce behaviors associated with heat including discharge and vocalization in females and aggression, mounting behavior, and escape attempts in males.

It eliminates the risk of pregnancy and unwanted animals. Some breeds like English bulldogs have dystocias (difficult births) that necessitate cesarian sections. Once pregnant, risks for spay are increased and many pregnant pets are abandoned. Thousands of pets are euthanized every year in shelters or face disease and death living in the street.

Pyometra is a condition resulting from endometrial hyperplasia, a condition affecting non spayed females in which the uterine glands become overly active leading to bacterial infection. The bacteria secrete toxins that enter the bloodstream and cause systemic infection. This results in the signs of polyuria (increased thirst), polydipsia (increased urination), anorexia, vomiting, and lethargy. The uterus becomes filled with pus and can rupture causing peritonitis or fatal hemorrhage. Pyometra is an immediate surgical emergency.

In males, prostate problems are prevented particularly in dogs. Intact male dogs are at risk for prostatitis which is often difficult to treat. The dog usually presents with signs of blood in the urine, increased frequency of urination, a bloody discharge from the penis, or straining. An enlarged prostate is palpated during rectal examination. Bladder infections are typically present concurrently. Prostate infections are difficult to treat as antibiotics cannot always penetrate the prostate.

The most significant benefit of early spay and neuter is prevention of uterine and mammary cancer in females and prostate cancer in males. If females have their first heat cycle before spay, the chance of developing mammary cancer is 8%. Each additional cycle increases the chance by 26%. About 40% of mammary masses are malignant and can spread to the lungs or other organs rapidly. Prostate cancer can also be very advanced spreading to the spine and other organs. For more information on spay and neuter contact Divine Animal Hospital.



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Kemma enjoys the snow at Best Friends in Utah.

continued, they found many connections between Kemma and their friends and neighbors. It seems Kemma started out two miles north of the Morton's, went to Utah and returned to beautiful Vero Beach. Kemma is meant to be a Florida girl!

Several months ago, Kathy contacted me about training for the dog she just adopted from Best Friends. I was astounded when she told me the story and mentioned her dog's name. How many Kemas could there be? I was happy to see Kemma again. I think she remembered me. She definitely remembered a good deal of her training.

So Kemma has gone the full



Kemma on the beach

On Faith

Bible 101 – The ‘greatest’ book ever written serves to bind us

BY REV. DRs. CASEY AND BOB BAGGOTT
COLUMNISTS

Recently we had the privilege of traveling to a large church-related campground on the New Jersey shore to teach Bible study for a week.

There, every morning, a large group of interested and faithful folk gathered for an hour to study together the stories and materials of the Bible that have informed, shaped, and structured their lives. It struck us as a real curiosity that while the gathered group shared reverence for the Bible, they did not necessarily share the same perspective on how to read and understand it.

How do you read and understand the Bible? A good place to begin reflecting on that question may be to refresh ourselves on what the book we call the Bible actually is. Dr. John A. Cairns has recently written an interesting article for *The Thoughtful Christian* entitled “Bible 101” in which he gives a thorough and helpful history on the Bible’s composition and formation. Here are some of his salient points:

The Bible is not a single book, but a composite, made up of 66 separate books, written or transmitted by a number of authors, using a variety of forms of literature, and two very different languages, over a period of more than a 1,000 years.

While there is some disagreement among scholars about a few particulars, there is a general consensus on the following breakdown:

The 39 books of the Christian Hebrew Testament (the “Old Testament”) can be categorized under four headings: law, history, poetry, and prophecy. The Jewish faith utilizes these same books, but organizes them differently and categorizes them under three headings: Law (or Torah), prophecy, and writings.

The Christian New Testament (written in Greek) can also be divided by the types of material contained in its 27 books. The first four books are commonly called the Gospels. They detail the “good news” (that’s what gospel means) of the life, message, passion

and resurrection triumph of Jesus Christ.

The Acts of the Apostles describes the history of the first-century church in the time after Jesus’ resurrection. The bulk of the rest of the New Testament is 21 letters sent to and from church leaders and congregations, aimed at giving shape to the young church and substance to its faith and practice.

And finally, the book of Revelation provides us with an example of a literary style called apocalyptic writing (meaning literally, a removing of a veil, or a revealing), which was designed to provide hope and encouragement to those living under persecution because of their faith.

So, with its 66 different books, written over the course of more than 1,000

years, to different audiences, about different issues, in different languages, in different literary forms, what are we to make of this incredible treasure we call the Bible? Is it even reasonable to look at it as a single “book?”

Dr. Cairns insists that it is. And he helpfully points out why. The Bible (in all of its variety), he contends, has a marvelous internal consistency. And all the thousands of verses have been preserved, copied, translated and transmitted for us in order to address two basic issues: “What is God like?” and “Who does God ask us to be?”

All the marvelous and intriguing themes of the Bible are related to these two questions. And so, when we read of love and faithfulness, of sin and forgiveness, of being lost and found, of slavery and salvation — these are all

themes that arise in addressing the questions of who God is and who we are called to be.

If we can remember that we are all seeking greater understanding of these questions, and utilizing the greatest book ever written (the Bible) to do so, then we will perhaps appreciate one another’s religious and spiritual paths despite our differences.

After all, when all is said and done, isn’t there more that binds us together than separates us in the worship of God?

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.

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St. Ed's

Athletic trainer at heart of St. Edward's sports programs

BY RON HOLUB
COLUMNIST

Just halfway through her second year on the job at St. Ed's, athletic trainer Lisa Wells has earned the respect and admiration of students, coaches, parents and administrators - not only for proven excellence but also for how she strengthens the very heartbeat of the school's sports culture.

On a typical day, a steady stream of middle and upper school athletes hobble into the trainer's office with a variety of aches and sprains. For those able to practice or participate in a game that day, some ice or tape might turn the trick. For others beset with injuries that require downtime and recovery over an extended period, Wells designs and stringently monitors a treatment regimen for the duration of the healing process.

Take, for example, the case of senior Michael Ioppolo. Last week, he was understandably anxious to fight off a knee injury and rejoin his teammates for the stretch drive of the soc-

cer season. "I tore my (medial collateral ligament) during a soccer game and Coach Wells is taking care of me," Ioppolo said. "I come in every day for

After a physical therapy session, Wells watched carefully as Ioppolo jogged around the soccer field at a controlled pace. Several laps in, she



St. Edward's School's athletic trainer Lisa Wells helps varsity girls soccer player Alex Pulido stretch during treatment for a quadricep contusion.
Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

physical therapy - stretching, riding the bike and adding weights to my leg to build muscle strength."

tossed out a soccer ball for some dribbling exercise. The recuperation process had progressed to the point of testing for endurance and agility.

The knee was deemed satisfactorily stabilized and Ioppolo was cleared to return (wearing a brace) for the final regular season game and halftime ceremony on Senior Night, Jan. 22. It was important for Ioppolo to be in uniform and compete on what he knew would be an "emotional" night. The Pirates came away with a 5-0 win over King's Academy.

Wells offers guidance and expertise in every phase of athletic training, starting with injury prevention. That can be something as basic as encouraging stretching to ward off muscle pulls. In the event of an injury, she can provide first aid on the spot and, of course, refer the more serious cases on for medical attention. Wells then facilitates the desired outcome of a full recovery and safe resumption of athletic activity by producing and directing structured rehabilitation plans.

To supplement credentials such as Master's Degree in Exercise Science Education, Certified Athletic Trainer, and American College of Sports Medicine Health Fitness Instructor, the 26 year old Wells was an accomplished high school soccer player "back in the day." That background has served her well in carving-out a productive niche on the St. Ed's sports scene.

"Ultimately, the health of the athlete is my number one concern," Wells explained. "I'm not going to allow any-

one back onto the field until I'm confident they won't be reinjured. It's not worth it."

Coaches, parents and the athletes themselves are compelled to abide by the "at the very least, do no further harm" principle. Still, coping with physical adversity can extract a toll on everyone, so Wells has constructed a close rapport with a wide cross-section of the Pirates sports family.

"I talk to all of the coaches before the season to get an idea of what they expect from me when their kids get hurt," Wells said. "We have to be on the same page as far as the timeframe for treatment, getting the injury healed, and allowing the athlete back on the field."

This year, Wells has encountered an "abundance" of sprained ankles, a few knee injuries and broken arms, and probably the most scrutinized sports health issue of the last decade - concussions. Most head injuries occur on the football field, but two have been the result of trauma on the basketball court.

"I'm pretty cautious when it comes to head injuries and I don't play around," Wells said. "Players are removed from action after a blow to the head if an injury is even suspected. My diagnosis can be aided by knowing the kids and seeing if they are behaving differently."

Most, if not all, head injury cases receive further evaluation in the form of a brain scan and consultation with a doctor. Wells has a strict rule of requiring additional inactivity even after all symptoms have subsided.

Wells derives satisfaction in knowing that what she does meshes with the mission of the school administration and athletic department. "I am doing exactly what is expected," she said. "I take care of the athletes and get them back on the field safely and in good health."

The most personally gratifying connection for Wells just may be with the young men and women of the middle and upper schools.

"I really enjoy working with the students," she said. "We get along really well and I can relate to them. It seems almost like I'm a sports psychologist. They trust me enough to talk about things like sports, school work, stress, relationships, college. Obviously, getting them back (from an injury) to do what they love is important, but I'm always willing to help out any way I can."



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Dining

Restaurant Review

Amalfi Grille: Who needs Boston or New York

BY TINA RONDEAU
COLUMNIST

Our small town, as we have observed before, is home to a surprising number of very good Italian trattorias. You can eat well, and have a very enjoyable meal, at any of a half dozen of them.

But there's only one white tablecloth restaurant in Vero that currently compares, in food and ambience, to the top Italian restaurants of Boston and New York: The Amalfi Grille.

When you walk in the door this winter, you are likely to be greeted by an old friend, maitre d' Endre Toth, whom many remember from his years at the front desk of Carmel's. This past fall, Toth – after a brief stint last winter at Dockside – moved across Royal Palm Pointe to a more natural culinary home alongside Amalfi proprietor Bob Rose.

By the time they have ushered you to a spacious banquette or one of the restaurant's well-spaced tables, you have a feeling you are in for something special. And that generally starts with the wine.

While the Amalfi has a relatively short wine list, they appear to have held down the number of options by excluding wines the proprietor doesn't feel worthy of his meals. The resulting choices feature some highly regarded reserve Brunellos (too pricy for our budget), but Rose has always been quick to guide us to superb Italian reds in the mid-\$50 range.

For an appetizer on our most recent visit, we began by sharing an order of oysters Rockefeller.

Frankly, if I had not been sampling dishes for the sake of a review, this would not have been my choice. I probably would have once again had the calamaretti Amalfi (\$14), calamari very lightly fried with cannelloni beans and cherry peppers in a lemon and white wine sauce, or perhaps the capesante grande (\$12), blackened scallops served with a creamy pesto.

As it turns out, passing up the oysters Rockefeller would have been a huge mistake. This was a somewhat different rendition of this dish – tender, juicy Connecticut blue points topped with creamed spinach and a touch of fennel – and I frankly liked it better than the version you get at Antoine's where it all began.

While entrees at the Amalfi come with a more than adequate house salad, on this visit my husband and I decided to split a large insalata di rucola



Owner Bob Rose in the dining room of the Amalfi Grille.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

(\$9), a beautiful arugula salad with plum tomatoes, red onion, olives, ex-

tra virgin olive oil, dash of lemon and topped with parmigiano reggiano.

While the trend in many restau-
CONTINUED ON PAGE 66



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 65

rants is to serve baby arugula, which is generally milder, Rose disdains this in favor of a local arugula that comes in bunches and is more flavorful.

For a main course on this most re-

On a previous visit, I enjoyed the ravioli vitello (\$21), veal ravioli with an exceptional porcini mushroom and asparagus cream sauce. The sauce made this dish. My husband (of course) had the grilled veal chop topped with a



Amalfi Grille Special Entree: herb and crab meat encrusted queen snapper served over spaghetti squash.

cent visit, I opted for the queen snapper (\$32), an herb and crab meat encrusted filet served over spaghetti squash. A luscious preparation of a perfect piece of fish. One of best seafood dishes I have had so far this year.

My husband's choice was the costata di mango (\$36), a 28 day aged, dry rubbed, 20-oz cowboy-cut ribeye topped with gorgonzola pesto butter and served with spaghetti quash and garlic mashed potatoes. The steak, he reported, was first-rate – almost, he conceded, worth passing up the veal chop which he invariably orders.

wild mushroom marsala sauce, which he says is absolutely the best in town.

On that evening, two of our companions ordered the Chilean sea bass and one had wild salmon flown in from Norway. The panko and herb encrusted sea bass, pan seared with plum tomatoes and green onions in a light saffron sauce and served over angel hair pasta, got raves. The hazelnut encrusted salmon, served over arugula and topped with an unusual lemoncello cream reduction, also was awarded high grades.

On that evening, for an appetizer

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we had started with a table-sized portion of baked sea scallops topped with a seasoned ritz cracker. The scallops were wonderful.

I fear that we cannot tell you much about the desserts offered at the Amalfi Grille, because over many visits, we rarely have had room at the end of the meal for sweets (though we always finish with the excellent espresso). The only dessert we can personally vouch for is the Amalfi's rendition of tiramisu.

Dinner for two with a mid-range bottle of wine comes to about \$160 before tip.

While we in the past have heard reports of erratic service, we suspect the presence of Toth alongside the very hands-on Roth in the dining room has

solved that problem. And the kitchen night after night puts out spectacular dishes. Rose clearly is passionate about providing his chef with the finest, freshest ingredients, and the kitchen clearly knows what to do with them.

When we first visited the Amalfi shortly after its opening last January, we thought it had the potential to quickly become Vero's top Italian restaurant. A year later, we can report that potential has been realized.

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

The spice of life: Ginger gives recipes flavor and tang

BY MONICA BHIDE
WASHINGTON POST STAFF WRITER

I live in a ginger-obsessed household. My older son knew how to pick out the taste of ginger when he was 2. It's in our tea every morning.

I fully intended to tell you why I love its flavor and describe its taste in detail. But first, I will let one of my all-time favorite food writers, Melissa Clark, wax

poetic: "Ginger adds a deep, peppery, spicy freshness to dishes — a tang of acid coupled with a musty, rich, profound flavor. I love that combination of zippiness and profundity."

I use fresh ginger in pickles, sautes, stir-fries, juices, cocktails, rice dishes, curries, breads, desserts, you name it. Clark and I both have a soft spot for young ginger in particular.

When buying fresh ginger, look for pieces that have relatively smooth

skin, without blemishes and wrinkles. Ginger keeps well in the fridge for up to a week. If I buy extra, I make a paste and freeze it.

Many times I will grate it along with garlic and green chili peppers; this gives me an excellent base for stir-fries and curries.

Clark peels her ginger with a spoon, like many people do; a knife works for me. Here are Clark's top five ways to use ginger:

* Add it to the blender for your morning fruit smoothie.

* Grate it into long-simmered stews made in the slow cooker or Dutch oven.

* Add a few coin-size slices to home-made chicken broth.

* Use fresh grated ginger in quick breads such as zucchini or pumpkin.

* Grate fresh ginger, mix with minced garlic, soy sauce, sesame oil and lemon juice for a tangy salad dressing.

Food

Tangos II: Chef delivers gourmet taste on small budget

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

Clearly, Chef Ben Tench has the talent to please Tiger Woods' palate.

When Tench's new restaurant Tangos II opened on Ocean Drive last week, among the many culinary offerings was the same piece de resistance that Tiger couldn't resist: a burger made of freshly chopped prime New York Strip, melted brie and caramelized onions.

Tiger scarfed down no fewer than five of the tasty morsels, washing them down with Jack Daniels and Coke, at a reception Tench prepared in his honor at the prestigious Asheville golf club, The Cliffs at Walden Cove.

That's where Tench has been spending the past 18 months, with his wife Jill and two children, after selling the original Tangos in mid-2007.

Tench was executive chef at the Cliffs; Tiger has designed the course for another Cliffs club nearby. Tench was on tap to move to Tiger's club as soon as it opened, and the burgers were meant to keep him on the hook.

"They ruined his appetite for dinner," Tench said. "The executives kept running back to the kitchen saying, 'Tiger's just killing these burgers,' and they all had to have one to see. I had



Jill and Ben Tench recently opened Ocean Drive restaurant Tangos II

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

a surf and turf for the main course and he never even touched it. He just kept asking for more burgers."

In the end, Tench's wife, Jill, won out over Tiger. Though she had a job in administration at The Cliffs's Wellness Center, she herself wasn't getting the workouts she wanted. An avid runner and cyclist, she was miserable in Asheville's chilly hills, and couldn't wait to get back to the flat terrain in Florida.

Never mind that all the running she has time to do these days is around the new Fresh Market, where she was hired as one of three assistant managers.

Patrons of the new Tangos II will likely miss Jill Tench. Raised on the West Coast, and a graduate of the University of Georgia, Jill's California-girl style mixed with Southern hospitality added a lovely presence to the front-of-the-house and bar. Her foodie bona

fides will nevertheless benefit Tangos II: she has put together the wine list, heavy on by-the-glass wines. Her list at the former restaurant consistently won Wine Spectator Awards of Excellence.

Meanwhile, on the line, Ben Tench is the star of the show. The burgers he served Tiger were slider-sized versions of the ones Tangos II offers. But they represent precisely the sort of irresistible fare Tench intends to serve: high-end ingredients expertly prepared and served with polish, but at middle-of-the-road prices. With varnished pine table tops (that Tench himself built) and straight-backed chairs, Tangos II is not a place to linger over dinner. In order to survive, Tench has to turn tables all night long. As a result, he won't be taking reservations. "That's going to make a lot of people upset," he says. "I know I'm going to be slammed. But this town is so finicky about when they eat. If I filled the place up at 7 p.m. the tables wouldn't be turnable."

Instead, he's hoping people will pop in spur of the moment instead of going home to make dinner, that they'll choose something inventive and delicious over the same old pizza and sushi.

"I want people to be able to eat here two or three times a week and not break the bank," he says. "It's not a place where you think about it all day long, and you get dressed up and have a four-course meal."

He fully expects the change in attitude to carry him through the summer season, with year-round residents and summer hotel guests filling in when the winter residents go north.

He says the bar "definitely" is a place to order food as well as drinks – there are items for as little as \$3, and several things can be had as small plates or main courses. And there's the potential for a chef's table in the kitchen, "right in the middle of the action," he says. "I want to give people tours too, just open the whole place up." As it is, the action on the line is clearly visible to the intimate room of 50 seats.

Price point was something Tench says he heard about when he reigned from the top of the Vero food pyramid for years at the first Tangos. "People said they couldn't afford to eat here as often as they would have liked."

Tench, who started his life's work scraping lasagna pans at an Italian restaurant in Raleigh, N.C., understands what it means to splurge on food: at 19, he splurged on a \$200 lunch at Windows on the World. By then he was

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Food



Jill Tench's black and white photos hang along the main walls of the restaurant.

managing a steakhouse, and working his way through college. He ended up graduating from culinary school, at Johnson & Wales in Charleston, S.C.

From there he was hired at the Ritz-Carlton in Atlanta, working as a line cook for the French chef Joseph Matioli, who went on to become food and beverage manager at the Ritz-Carlton in Palm Beach (and now is GM at Ritz-Carlton, Cleveland).

Within three months of starting, Matioli named Tench his sous-chef. Tench called his traditional French cuisine "a major influence on my cooking," and remembers working three unpaid hours a day just to receive his tutelage. "He used to tell me 'You are not a chef, you are an American dog!' He kicked my fanny for two years.' "

It was in Atlanta that Tench met his wife Jill, who was working in marketing for Ritz-Carlton.

Tench joined Matioli briefly at the Ritz property in Palm Beach in 1991. Then the hotel chain moved him to Rancho Mirage in the desert of California. There, he cooked for Julia Child's 80th birthday celebration in 1992, and assisted in food demonstrations of the legendary Roger Verge.

With the influences of those stints, he layered classic French technique on a California sensibility: with bits of Mexico and Pacific Rim thrown in. His recipes have appeared in *Gourmet* and *Bon Appetit* magazines.

Tench moved back to Florida to work briefly at the Boca Raton Resort and Club.

Then, drawn to the surfing at the Sebastian Inlet, he moved north to Vero Beach and took a job as executive chef at the club at Windsor. In 1994, he finally went out on his own, opening Tangos in its original location on Bougainvillea Lane.

Within a year, son Trey was born; Zachary followed three years later.

In 2000, the restaurant earned a Wine Spectator award of excellence for its wine list, composed largely by Jill Tench, who managed the restaurant's front-of-the-house and bar three nights a week, hiring a sitter for the kids.

Today the kids are 11 and 14, both in public schools, and Jill has a very intense full time job. With 80 employees and a very demanding clientele, her own training at the Ritz-Carlton chain has served her well; Fresh Market pre-

fers that its management come from hospitality backgrounds as opposed to retail food stores.

"It's very much like the Ritz-Carlton," she says. "They are very 'customer'-based, and they empower the employees to resolve any issues on the spot."

Tench says Vero's appetite for Fresh Market has proved voracious. "It has been "very, very busy," far busier than expected, she says.

"Vero is really taken with this place. There is always a buzz, people meeting each other, window shopping, coming in to sample the coffee. Instead of people going to the mall, I feel like they're coming to Fresh Market. Especially Sundays after church, they come

tor," responsible for any maintenance issues, all the safety details including food safety, and cleaning – she orders all the related supplies as well.

Fortunately, when she gets home at night, Ben is still happy to cook. But it leaves her with hardly a moment to give to the new Tangos II. That's okay by her though.

"In general, I don't believe families should be in business together," she says. Nevertheless, her touch is there: those are her black-and-white photographs, framed over the low, narrow mirror that runs along the wall.

Meanwhile, Ben's father, Ben Tench Sr. is helping out with hanging a shelf in the kitchen. He moved here 10 years ago. Ben's mom, Ann Tench, lives here



The Tenches are well-known to Vero: they previously owned Tangos.

in with their families, sample a pastry, see their neighbors."

She and her two fellow "managing partners" as they are called rotate arenas every six months, essentially running the whole store. These days she's in charge of the prepared foods area. At the same time, she is "safety, maintenance and energy coordina-

as well, and his sister Elizabeth owns Hair Tecq Salon. The last to arrive was Jill's sister Judith Rowell, who lives in Sea Oaks, and works in the buying office of the Vero Beach Book Center.

"It feels good to be back in Vero," says Jill Tench. "We're a surfing, scuba, fishing family and Vero is paradise, even compared to Asheville."



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Real Estate

The Estuary: Amenities courtesy of Mother Nature

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

Tucked back on Fred Tuerk Drive in Indian River Shores is The Estuary, a community more than 50 years in the making, but somewhat of a best-kept secret.

The Estuary is known for its direct access to the Indian River Lagoon, its spectacular views, tree canopies and abundant wildlife. Developer Roger Doerr said the canals behind the homes, offering fishing and fun on the river, were dug by a previous owner in 1954, just one year after the Town was founded. Then the project of building on the 150-acre tract was abandoned.

"No one could figure out exactly how to develop it," said Doerr, who purchased the property in 1996 and, after setting aside 83 acres of conservation buffer and moving more than a dozen native live oak trees, built the first home there in 1998.

There are now 84 homes built —



Fred Peters designed and built his family home in The Estuary.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

only a handful of which are for sale — and seven homesites remaining. Prices of the homes for sale range from

\$774,000 to nearly \$3.2 million.

Based on the comments he receives and the low turnover in the communi-

ty, Doerr said homeowners are pretty happy with their choice of buying into The Estuary. This is further evidenced



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Real Estate



Kitchen with functional island and stools.

by the mixed-feelings of some of the people with homes for sale. Though circumstances or economy or change of lifestyle dictate a move, they don't want to leave.

The Estuary is not the place for the person who wants country club amenities within the gates of their community, but Doerr said his research and decades of experience in real es-

tate development told him there was a market for a place like The Estuary, where the amenities are provided by Mother Nature as well as by man.

"We had found that there were a lot of people who didn't want to move out of the area and leave their friends, but who wanted to get out from under the high maintenance of the homes they had," Doerr said. "Of the first houses

built, about 20 or 30 of those residents came from John's Island."

Residents who only visit for a month or two at a time or a few months each year, such as Ray Sloss, also like not

lawn service to make living there completely turnkey.

Making the best use of his 3/4-acre lot, Sloss added many upgrades to the home and built a detached cabana

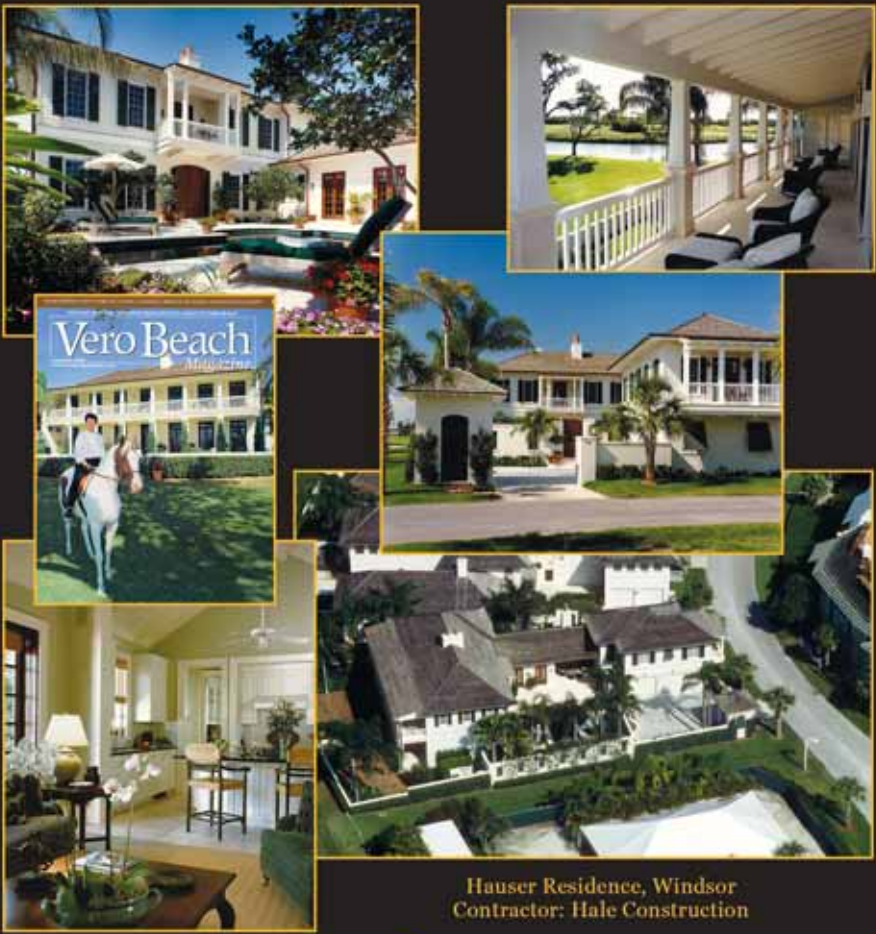


Poolside outdoor living room along the Indian River Lagoon.

having to pay for club facilities that they're not in town to use. The basic maintenance fees for a home in The Estuary are only \$808 per quarter, with extended services available such as

house with an en-suite bedroom on the inside and a fully-equipped bar with widescreen television on the outside. The bar graces the deck of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 72



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3BR/2.5BA beautiful home w/private courtyard Master Suite on first floor



SEA OAKS - \$429,000
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Real Estate



Four-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath house in The Estuary.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

couple's lap pool, which, peeking out through two grand, old oak trees, overlooks one of The Estuary's three major lakes.

"We love the neighbors and it's a very quiet place," Sloss said. "We moved here three years ago from the Carlton and the best thing about coming here was getting away from that ocean, but still being on the island and near the water."

The house has several decks, placed strategically to take advantage of the views and of the ever-present breeze off the river. An enclosed courtyard and his-and-her offices designed

around the lifestyle Sloss and his wife enjoy while in Florida enhance the sprawling floor plan of this two-story home on Lakeshore Drive listed at \$1,595,000.

Doerr said the security gate and secure construction entrance make sure that the only unexpected visitors the residents of The Estuary see are the many varieties of birds that flock to the hammock of oak and palm trees which line the waterfront and the lots. Ducks, herons, otters and dolphin can be observed in their natural habitat from the windows, decks and docks of The Estuary.

The Estuary's Indian River Shores

location less than one block from the Town Hall and Public Safety Department is a big selling point. That gives residents the privacy and peace of mind they desire.

"Having the paramedics and fire department that close has come in handy. We've had some emergency situations and they've gotten here in less than two minutes," Doerr said. "Public Safety also has their boat docked at our marina, so people feel safer having their boats there."

Boating and fishing, as well as a quiet community that lends itself well to walking and biking, are some of the things which have attracted young

families to The Estuary.

"People like to see a community with kids out riding their bikes," said Fred Peters of Peters, Cook & Company Real Estate.

Peters gave 32963 a tour of several of his listings in The Estuary, which he plans to showcase via a series of Sunday afternoon open houses in February, with the first scheduled for Feb. 7.

"A lot of people haven't even heard of The Estuary because we don't have a sign or an entrance on A1A, so I want to bring people back here to show them the neighborhood and the homes that are available," Peters said.

Peters said the homes are also available for private showing, so prospective buyers don't have to wait until February if they're ready to look now.

Two of the homes he knows intimately, as he designed and built them. One home is brand new.

The other was built as a spec house, but is now the home enjoyed by Peters, wife Angela and their four children, and it will soon be going on the market.

"We lived in Central Beach and wanted to stay fairly central and close to everything," Peters said. "It's not so far out from town."

The Peters family enjoys the lush natural beauty of their home with river access. In fact, one of their favorite parts of the house is the expansive outdoor living room with fireplace and outdoor dining area and summer kitchen.

"I love the kitchen because it opens right out to the outside," Angela Peters said, admitting that the family rarely uses its formal dining room. The kids, ages 12 to 15, love the large breakfast nook and often enjoy a snack at the functional kitchen island with stools.

When it comes to decor, the Peters' opted for a simple, Shaker style, giving the place a New England, coastal feel.



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Real Estate



Living room with built in shelving, archways and detailed ceiling.

The attention to detail in the house went to the quality of the materials, to the construction and to the hurricane protection. The two-story home is made of concrete block on both levels and the house is equipped with both impact windows and hurricane shutters.

“The whole house has wood floors throughout and it’s built to the newest code,” Peters said. “It’s equipped with underground propane and a generator that will kick in during a storm or when the electric goes out.”

The Peters’ home has a vacant lot next door and is across the street from the conservation buffer, land set aside for environmental purposes which will never be developed.

The second home the Peters’ own in The Estuary is situated in a prime location in the community and has many great features, including a brick outdoor patio and pool, space for a guest house, enormous walk-in closet in the master bedroom and two separate garages on either side of the entryway.

The first, two-car garage can be

used for automobiles, the second — an oversized one-car garage — would be the perfect workshop for the hobbyist or someone who needs a space to store jet-skis or to work on restoring a classic car or motorcycle.

The ceilings in the home with 4,000 square feet under air incorporate a detailed geographic pattern which is carried through as a theme, from the archways to the shelving to the intricate millwork in the crown moldings.

Listed at a recently reduced price of \$1,995,000, Peters said the four-bedroom, 4 and a half bath home is the least expensive home in the community that is on the estuary with a private dock.

Other homes for sale in The Estuary — including an exquisite riverfront pool residence decorated in a cheery, pastel palette of Key West colors — range from estates on the river to villas on the lakefront and homes backing the conservation lands.

The Estuary no longer has a sales center, as it was sold over the summer to a couple of snowbirds from Alaska.

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Calendar

JANUARY

January 28

Samaritan Center Annual "Give from the Heart" Dinner, honoring Robert and Eleonora McCabe, 6 p.m. at Holy Cross Church Parish Hall. Tickets \$125. 770-3039

January 29

Heritage Center 75th Anniversary Party, 7:30 p.m. cocktail reception and ceremonies. Tickets \$50. 770-2263

January 29

Emerson Center 2010 Special Engagement Series with Carlos Perez Vidal, artist and founding member of Grupo Independiente La Campana (The Bell Art Project). 7 p.m. Tickets \$20; \$10 for students. 778-5249 or TheEmersonCenter.org.

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 presents the Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra with Music Director Alexei Kornienko featuring pieces by

Rimsky-Korsakov and Stravinsky. 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Vero Beach. 778-1070

January 30

The Vero Beach High School Symphony Orchestra will perform at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center featuring selections from Schubert, Mozart and Brahms. 564-5537.

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. 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. by 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. A Russian Program of Prokofiev, Stravinsky, and Tchaikovsky featuring Leonid Sigal, violin and Kimball Gallagher, piano. 231-0707

FEBRUARY

February 1

Bridge in the Garden with catered lunch

to benefit McKee Botanical Garden. \$65 registration. 794.0601

February 1 - 27

All About Reflections, exhibit of guest artist John Cullen at the Artists Guild Gallery. Free opening reception 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5. 299-1234 or www.artistsguildgalleryverobeach.com.

February 3

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

February 3

Vero Beach Museum of Art Distinguished Professor Series - Skidmore College, Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Ph.D., "Sextants, Sails, Maps, and Muskets: Marine Technology in the Age of Exploration." 2 p.m., \$15 members, \$20 non-members. 231-0707, ext. 136

February 4

A Glimpse of Dance, prelude dance party to Dancing with Vero's Stars to benefit Healthy Start Coalition, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish Hall. Tickets \$40 each or \$70 for two. 563-9118.

February 4 - 21

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

February 5

One Night with the King of Rock-n-Roll, an Elvis Tribute with Chris MacDonald performing to benefit the Vero Beach High School Orchestra and Vero Beach Rotary Sunrise charities 7:30 p.m. at the VBHS Performing Arts Center. Tickets \$25 and \$35. 564-5537

February 5 - 6

Vero Beach Theatre Guild presents Driving Miss Daisy, for two shows only, as a benefit for Haiti Partners. \$50 ticket includes a cocktail reception at 6 p.m. and curtain at 7 p.m. 562-8300

February 6

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

February 6

LoPresti First Saturday Event, 9 a.m. features pilot/author Bill Cox and benefits the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County. 562-4757.

February 6

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

February 6

Jazz at Noon with the Johnny Varro Swing 7 band at the Vero Beach Yacht

Club, doors open at 11 a.m.; concerts start at 12:30 p.m. 234-4600 or www.tcjazzsociety.org.

February 6

Tango y Tapas, is the theme for this year's annual gala fundraiser at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Tickets \$500. 231-0707

February 6 - 7

Gardenfest! hosted by the Garden Club of Indian River County at Riverside Park, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. 567-4602

February 7

Social Justice Film Series at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship presents, Afghanistan's Red Crescent, on peace and women on the frontlines. 7 p.m., free admission. 778-5800

February 7

Vero Beach Opera and Vero Beach Museum of Art Opera Studies Program at 1 p.m., Macbeth, presented by Wayne Kleinstiver. \$20; \$15 for VBMA Members. 231-0707 ext. 136

February 7

The Vero Beach Chamber Orchestra with Maestro Colbert Page Howell conducting local musicians will present a concert at 7 p.m. at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center. Admission is free.

February 8

Riverside Theatre's Distinguished Lecturer Series features political analyst Karl Rove, at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on the Stark Mainstage. 231-6990

February 8

Emerson Center 2010 Special Engagement Series with Hedrick Smith, correspondent, author & PBS executive producer, 5 p.m. to benefit the Pelican Audubon Society, Environmental Learning Center and Indian River Land Trust. Tickets \$20 to \$50. Reception \$25. 778-5249 or TheEmersonCenter.org.

February 9

The Indian River Symphonic Association presents the Detroit Symphony Orchestra with conductor Leonard Slatkin; includes pieces by Mennin, Barber and Brahms and features guest cellist Sol Gabetta. 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Vero Beach. 778-1070

February 10

Vero Beach Museum of Art Distinguished Professor Series - University of Virginia, Peter Onuf, Ph.D., "Jefferson and Democracy: The Implausible Democrat." 2 p.m., \$15 members, \$20 non-members. 231-0707, ext. 136

February 10

Art Galleries and restaurants in the Downtown Dine & Design District located on 14th Avenue and beyond, will host a romantic After Dark Gallery Stroll from 6 to 10 p.m.

February 11-12

Two-day seminar led by Arthur Blumen-

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thal, Ph.D., Director Emeritus of the
Cornell Fine Arts Museum instructs,
How to Look at Art at the Vero Beach
Museum of Art.
231-0707

Rockin' Vero Beach "Under a Brocade Sky," to benefit the Children's Home Society, 6 pm at the Elks Lodge. Tickets \$200. Tickets for a special Under a Brocade Sky After Dark beginning at 9 pm. are \$75 each or \$125 for two. 772-344-4020 x 261

The Comedy Zone at Riverside Theatre
with headliner Drew Thomas and opener
Mark Evans.
231-6990

Fourth Annual 5K Race/Walk Love for Literacy to benefit Literacy Services of Indian River County, 8 a.m. at Pointe West. \$15 advance registration, \$25 day of event. 778-2223

Walk for the One You Love, 5K walk to benefit Juvenile Diabetes Awareness Corporation, 9 a.m. at Riverside Park. \$20 adults, \$10 children, \$50 family of four. 562-5323 or 538-6276

Inspired by Love Dinner to benefit Haiti Partners, with inspirational speaker and author Tony Campolo, at the Community Church of Vero Beach. Tickets \$30. 539-8521 or www.haitipartners.org

The Indian River Genealogical Society's 2010 Valentine Genealogy Seminar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Richardson Center at IRSC, featuring four lectures by genealogist Pamela Cooper. Tickets \$35. www.irsq.org or 532-3425.

The Emerson Center Speaker Series presents Bob and Lee Woodruff, co-authors of *In an Instant* and contributors to ABC World News and Good Morning America. 778.5249 or www.theemersoncenter.org

February 13
Oceanside Business Association's free
beach concert series, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
along Ocean Drive.

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

Vero Beach Museum of Art International
Lecture Series, 4:30 p.m. features Dana
Gioia, poet and former Chairman of the
National Endowment for the Arts.
231-0707

The Senior Resource Association honors local CPA and non-profit supporter

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Crossword Page 51 (RIGHT ON CUE)

First Evidence: The Dawn of Art in America's Last Ice Age, on display at the Vero Beach Museum of Art features prehistoric bone fragment with a carving of a mammoth or mastodon, discovered in Vero Beach.

The Indian River Symphonic Association presents Philharmonia of the Nations, with conductor Justus Frantz; includes pieces by Brahms and Mahler and features pianist Jon Nakamatsu. 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Vero Beach. 778-1070

Vero Beach Museum Film Studies five week course, *The Great Rossellinis: Roberto, Ingrid and Isabella*. 1:30 p.m. or 7 p.m. sessions. Tuition is \$55; \$45 for members. www.verobeachmuseum.org or 231-0707 x 136.

Vero Beach Museum of Art Distinguished Professor Series - Sweet Briar College, John F. Morrissey, Ph.D., "One Thousand Years of Whaling." 2 p.m., \$15 members, \$20 non-members. 231-0707, ext. 136

USO Rocks America/Landsharks and Landmarks, 6:30 p.m. at the Paris Air Hangar to benefit the Heritage Center and the Indian River Citrus Museum. Tickets \$60 each/\$110 for two.
770-2263

American Association of University
Women 28th Annual Book-Author
Luncheon 11 a.m. at the Vero Beach
Country Club. Tickets \$45.
468-2835

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

Special Equestrians of the Treasure Coast fundraiser, 5 to 8 p.m. at George & Sandy Kahle's polo barn, with live riding demonstration, a light dinner and entertainment. Tickets \$75. 231-5999

Atlantic Classical Orchestra Chamber Music Series at the Vero Beach Museum of Art's Leonhardt Auditorium. A Czech Program of Smetana and Dvorak, featur-

ing Jeff Yang, violin; Ian Maksin, cello;
and George Lepauw, piano.
231-0707

Yappy Hour Benefit Hour, 3 to 6 p.m. at Ti Amo Sempre to benefit Indian River County Sheriff's Department K-9s (bullet-proof vests) and Indian River County Fire Department (pet oxygen masks). 559-9893

Homeless Family Center Top Chef Challenge...slice, dice and spice Main Event, with top chefs from the January 25 qualifying event competing. 6 p.m. at Quail Valley River Club. Tickets \$175. 567.2766



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Real Estate

Real estate sales on the barrier island: Jan. 14 to Jan. 20



The leading sale of a slow early January week on the barrier island was of a three-bedroom river villa in Sea Oaks with unobstructed views of the Indian River Lagoon.

The residence, unit 404 at 8815 West Orchid Island Circle, had been purchased in June 2002 for \$495,000 and was put on the market in February 2007 for \$695,000.

But the listing price was slashed a couple of times, most recently to \$489,000, and the villa actually sold on January 15th for \$469,000.

The home was listed by Darrow Jackson of Dale Sorensen Real Estate. The buyer in the transaction was represented by Joe Kovaleski, also of Dale Sorensen Real Estate.

Single Family Residences and Lots

Subdivision	Address	Listed	Original	Sold Asking Price	Selling Price
MOORINGS	1015 TREASURE LANE	7/22/2008	\$469,000	1/20/2010	\$345,000
ISLAND CLUB OF VERO	860 ISLAND CLUB LN	12/8/2008	\$419,000	1/15/2010	\$375,000
MARBRISA	203 CARMEL CT N	6/27/2008	\$450,000	1/15/2010	\$360,000

Townhomes, Villas and Condos

Subdivision	Address	Listed	Original	Sold Asking Price	Selling Price
BAYTREE VILLAS	8327 CHINABERRY RD	3/7/2007	\$399,000	1/15/2010	\$370,000
NORTH PASSAGE	1776 MOORINGLINE DR #102	6/24/2009	\$429,000	1/15/2010	\$378,000
RIVER MEWS CONDO	2111 VIA FUENTES	10/28/2009	\$439,000	1/15/2010	\$410,000

—Data from MLS



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70 BEACHSIDE DR, #202—2,236 A/C SQ. FT.
Spacious 3BR/3BA Ocean Club residence enjoys southern exposure, majestic ocean views and wraparound stone terrace. **\$1,295,000**



514 WHITE PELICAN CIRCLE—GOLF ESTATE
3BR/Library/4.5BA/Office residence overlooks 5th green with morning sun and ocean breezes, summer kitchen, pool & spa. **\$1,985,000**



698 GROVE PLACE—GOLF COTTAGE
Charming 3BR/3BA residence on spacious, lushly-landscaped corner homesite with golf views. Lanai, summer kitchen, heated pool. **\$980,000**



50 BEACHSIDE DR, #301—3,810 A/C SQ. FT.
Exquisite craftsmanship in this 3BR/Study/4BA penthouse. French doors open to a covered stone terrace with summer kitchen. **\$2,650,000**



920 ORCHID PT WAY—LAKEFRONT ESTATE
Exquisite 3BR/Office/4.5BA estate enjoys lush views of sparkling lake and 3rd green. Delightful outdoor living. **\$2,050,000**



51 CARIBE WAY—COURTYARD LIVING
3BR/Study/3.5BA courtyard home includes separate 1BR/1BA guest cabana. Fabulous golf and lake views. **\$875,000 (Furn. Avail.)**



931 ORCHID PT WAY—COURTYARD LIVING
Lovely 4BR/Study/3BA residence includes separate 2BR/1BA guest cabana. Intracoastal access via kayak/canoe. **\$1,250,000**



906 ORCHID POINT WAY—GOLF ESTATE
Classic West Indies 3BR/Library/3.5BA estate with golf & lake views, dramatic details, lush landscaping. **\$1,950,000 (Furnished)**

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Prices and features subject to change without notice. Offer void where prohibited by law. Broker cooperation welcomed.





Harbor Inn

2 BR/2 BA/ Fully Furnished
Top floor; best views, great getaway!
\$265,000



River Mews

Absolutely gorgeous/private pool & gardens
3 BR/Sunny cottage/Not to be missed!
\$595,000



Waterfront Treasure

3 bedrooms/Fabulous deep water lot
Great locale, great house, great views!
\$1,100,000



Family Waterfront

4 BR/5 BA/Deep water dock/A must see!
Corner lot, game room, studio, 3 car garage
\$1,695,000

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Where Golf, Tennis and
Boating are the Way of Life



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*Based on data supplied by the Realtors Association of Indian River County
during the period 1/1/09 — 12/31/09



Sabal Reef

Beautifully renovated w/finest of details
Ocean views/Furnished/Unbelievable price!
\$379,000



Southwinds Cottage

The ultimate in privacy & gracious living
3 BR/3 BA/fireplace/pool/guard gated
\$529,000



Fabulous! Fabulous!

Superbly remodeled/3 BR/Waterfront
Southern exposure/Perfect for entertaining
\$1,395,000



Exquisite Waterfront

Exquisitely remodeled/5 BR/Library/Elevator
Approx. 6000 SF, epicurean kitchen, dock
\$2,245,500



Forever Views!

Spectacular lot w/240' of bulkhead!
Exquisite 5 BR/5.5 BA custom home
\$3,250,000