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**Candidates for Vero City Council
offer their views. P 8**

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estate brokerage. P 70**

32963 Insider

The good news: Power still works

Remember last winter, when Vero electric customers were begged to cut back power usage during a cold snap so the City Utility Department wouldn't get hit with a huge penalty.

Well this year, no such constraints applied – so chilled to the bone and emboldened by promises of lower bills, Vero Beach customers jacked up their thermostats and set the new all-time record by using 210 MWH of electricity at 9 am Monday when temperatures hovered in the low 30s.

From 5 am Saturday through midnight Sunday, the old blue power plant was running flat out, generating up to 119 MWH to help cover local demand.

"When cold weather events occur, such as the past several days, FPL will invoke transmission constraints," said Jim Stevens, director of city power resources. "That means there is no transmission available to send power throughout the Florida grid system. When that happens, Vero generation is called upon."

The remainder of the electricity we used during the cold snap came from the Orlando Utilities Commission, which seamlessly took over as the Vero Beach power provider on New Year's Day, and from our holdings in the St. Lucie and Stanton I and II plants.

The good news for Vero electric customers after a year of painful electric bills was that the local system had few of the power outages during the cold snap suffered by FPL customers to our south.

Vitunac: 'Material' changes were made

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

Yes, there were two versions of the electric contract, and they had a number of differences.

And so another veil was rent in the saga of the Vero Beach's deal with the Orlando Utilities Commission when City Attorney Charles Vitunac last week admitted there were, in fact, significant differences between the sanitized "final draft" of the Orlando contract approved by the City Council and the full version subsequently signed by then Mayor Tom White.

"The City Attorney knows he's at a point where he's got to come clean because there

are too many people and legal eyes looking at what's going on," said Councilman Brian Heady.

The revelation at last week's City Council meeting that there had been more than 100 changes in the document from the time it was approved to the time it was signed, disclosed first in a story in Vero Beach 32963, sparked yet another round of questioning of the city attorney who in the end, agreed with Heady that the changes were material.

"Obviously they were material to someone or they wouldn't have been changed," Heady said.

"They're all material in that

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State Representative Debbie Mayfield.

Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Debbie Mayfield goes to war

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

When nearly 5,000 petitions arrived in mailboxes last week asking Vero Beach electric customers to support ramped-up regulation of the utility, Rep. Debbie Mayfield

came under fire from city and county leaders accusing her of political grandstanding.

County Commissioner Gary Wheeler called the direct mail piece "low class

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Vero beachside hotels prepare for influx of baseball fans

BY IAN M. LOVE
STAFF WRITER

Tommy Lasorda may not be holding court at the bar, but two beachside hotels – the Holiday Inn Oceanside and the Surf Club Hotel – are pretty excited about the prospect of thousands of Northerners descending on Vero Beach in a few weeks time for the resumption of baseball at Dodgertown.

From late February to the second week in April, 55 northern baseball teams – some

college, some junior college, some high school – will visit Vero Beach from as far away as Ontario and Minnesota to take part in what is called the Russ-Matt baseball tournament.

With each team will come an entourage of parents, brothers, sisters, all eager to see sons and brothers play baseball (and not incidentally enjoy a week of fun in the sun).

Given that this is the first year for RussMatt in Vero, there is no way to estimate what the total economic impact might

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**Andrea Splendoria is the
St. Ed's girls weightlifting
team. Page 67**

Mayfield

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politics." Interim Electric Utility Director John Lee termed it "a very well-crafted, well-done piece of misinformation." City Manager Jim Gabbard said had he been informed, "We could have helped her and prevented a lot of angst on the part of the people who received this."

Even Vero Councilman Brian Heady pummeled Mayfield for using public funds to print and mail what he views as "a total waste of tax dollars," inferring that the flier was a self-serving campaign ad.

A lot of heat over a flier asking residents to support placing the city's electric utility under Florida Public

Service Commission regulation as a public utility, just like Florida Power and Light, sent by a woman who along with her late husband Rep. Stan Mayfield, has been working on this issue for nearly three years.

About 80 percent of the City of Vero Beach electric customers live in Mayfield's district. A majority of them can't vote for the city decision makers. Those folks, the ones who have been chanting "taxation without representation," are the ones Mayfield targeted with her petition mailing.

The November municipal election can attest to the rage already felt by the citizens overwhelmed with electric bills sometimes three times higher than they'd ever paid, and the city's unwillingness and county's inability to

do anything to help.

Two days after mailers hit mailboxes last week, Mayfield's office reported it already had received more than 300 completed petitions back. It would seem that she is merely reflecting, rather than stoking, the anger and frustration.

Mayfield said she is up for re-election in November, but at this point it does not appear she is facing a tough race. To date, no one has filed to run against her to represent State House District 80.

Mayfield's battle is against the City of Vero Beach Electric Utility.

"This is nothing personal and I told the City Manager that it was not personal," Mayfield said, describing her dealings with Jim Gabbard and other

city officials as very cordial.

Gabbard requested a meeting with her so he could "express the city's disappointment," said Mayfield. She met with Gabbard and brought with her one of the Vero Beach utility's most vocal critics, local accountant Glenn Heran.

"Dr. Faherty and Glenn Heran have really been the ones who have kept this going, I'm impressed with their knowledge and the depth of their understanding of what's been going on," she said. "I feel that our constituents are pretty smart and I rely on them a lot. There's no way a legislator can know everything."

Rather than stirring the pot, Mayfield said she and her staff would much rather solve the problem and have conditions improve for their constituents.

"I think it is important to understand that our office sends out correspondence on a daily basis in response to inquiries made by my constituents. These inquiries are not just about the utility issue but also seek assistance with foreclosures, unemployment, consumer complaints, public assistance and other issues or problems constituents are experiencing," Mayfield said "In the month of December alone my office opened over 30 constituent cases which do not deal with the utilities.

"With that being said, the utility issue has dominated all other request for assistance this past year and has generated the most communication from constituents," she said.

There is no doubt that Mayfield has raised the ire of the City of Vero Beach by taking on the electric issue. Vice Mayor Abell even accused her of not being around very much.

"I am here as much as I need to be here, this is not a full-time job," Mayfield said, pointing out that she also runs a business and holds down other employment to support her three sons. "As a representative, it's my duty to be out in the community, not just in the office and I also do a lot of work from home."

Mayfield has backed legislation "requiring that the city set rates that are fair, just and reasonable" and be governed under Florida's regulator body, the Public Service Commission.

Under full regulation as a "public utility," the city would need to justify its rates and revenue requirements to the PSC. Over time, this could jeopardize the practice of using millions of electric revenue dollars to pad the general fund and keep property taxes low for city residents.

Mayfield said she has no problem with the city getting a reasonable return on the electric utility.

"They are entitled to make a profit, but it's a matter of what is the appropriate profit that they should be able

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to take out to subsidize the city operations.”

Tinkering with the numbers

The current controversy could have been avoided if the City of Vero Beach was able to make up its mind about how it counted its customers.

In the spring of 2008, Rep. Stan Mayfield became determined to bring some relief and some representation to all the City of Vero Beach electric customers – even though it was too late in the legislative session to introduce a bill specific to Vero Beach.

He and south barrier island resident Stephen Faherty came up with the idea of creating an independent utility that would take over management of the electric utility, removing final decision-making authority on rates from the Vero Beach City Council and the City Manager’s office.

In the closing days of the session, Mayfield pushed through House Bill 7135, which he thought would require the city to put the following question to a vote:

“Should a separate electric utility authority be created to operate the business of the electric utility in the affected municipal electric utility?”

The bill defined an “affected municipal electric utility” as any municipal electric utility which serves at least two cities within one county, which has between 30,000 and 35,000 customers, and does not have a service territory that extends beyond its home county as of Sept. 30, 2007.

Prior to introducing the legislation, Mayfield worked with the PSC to obtain a current, accurate customer count for the Vero Beach electric utility. When the PSC asked the city to provide that number, it said it had close to 34,000 customers on the books, based on the number of electric meters in the system.

“Stan wrote the legislation with a range of 30,000 to 35,000 so that it would only affect the City of Vero Beach, based on their own numbers that the city gave the PSC,” Rep. Mayfield said. “Once passed, then the city decided that it would change the way it counted its customers. They went back on their own numbers and told the PSC that’s no longer the way we’re counting customers.”

What the city did was decide to only count “named customers” instead of meters. The resulting number it came up with was less than 28,000, leading to the city’s claim that the Mayfield bill did not apply to Vero Beach. (During this summer’s rate study, Vero’s customer total jumped back up to 34,000-plus when counted by consultant Public Resources Management Group.)

The late Rep. Stan Mayfield was quoted on Aug. 22, 2008 in the local daily paper as saying, “To sit there and say this doesn’t apply to them is

absolutely bogus, but if they can find a technicality to get out of it they’ll do it.”

After a several month back-and-forth duel of words and numbers between Stan Mayfield and City Attorney Charles Vitunac over the meaning of the word “customers” in the legislation, Mayfield called the city’s tinkering with the numbers “a sad state of affairs” and vowed to the city that the issue “is not going away.”

When Rep. Debbie Mayfield took office in November 2008 following her

husband’s passing, she put the city on notice that the issue was not dead.

“I was going to introduce legislation that first session (2009), but the city asked me to not to do it to give them time to work on it,” Mayfield said. “I told them I would give them time to work on it but that I would suggest they get together with the constituents and especially the county residents to see if you can resolve the issues.”

“When I saw that there was nothing being done, and that there was no progress, I tried to bring something

up mid-session last year but it didn’t have the support of the delegation,” she said.

The challenge to the city posed by Mayfield was to voluntarily establish a meaningful, independent Utility Authority.

“But they didn’t want to do that, they wanted to have total control,” she said.

As weeks and then months ticked away, Mayfield said she saw and heard

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Our first sighting



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Vitunac

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they make the contract better, but they don't change the meaning of the contract," Vitunac responded.

Heady has a problem with even one minor change, let alone nine pages of altered definitions, whole sections added and deleted, and dates and numbers changed.

"When you have a redacted and unredacted version of a contract, you should be able to print it out on a transparency and line them up and it should match up letter for letter," said Heady. "These two documents definitely don't do that."

Vero Beach 32963 reported last week that a comparison of the draft contract and the final version found more than 100 changes that had been made.

In early December, Vitunac was asked to go over the versions and determine where the changes were and whether they were significant.

In mid-December, Vero Beach 32963 requested a copy of Vitunac's opinion on the changes. On Dec. 28, Assistant City Attorney Wayne Coment informed us that while Vitunac was on vacation all week, the female members of his legal staff took on the tedious job of comparing both of the 68-page documents line by line.

Coment said he wasn't assigned to

work on the project himself.

Vitunac returned from vacation on Jan. 4 and his office completed its nine-page table of changes just before the Jan. 5 council meeting, during which he presented members with the findings (neglecting to mention he did not do the work himself) and assured them that nothing untoward had occurred.

The nine pages, it turns out, just showed where the document had been changed, but provided no explanations for any of the changes.

"They are just things that make the contract clearer," Vitunac told the Council. "I've been through all those changes and none of them changes the meaning of the contract."

"I want to know what was changed, who made the changes, why they made the changes and when they were made," Heady said.

Heady turned to White at one point and asked whether not Vitunac or any other city staff told him that there had been changes, even minor changes, made to the document when he was asked to sign the contract.

"I wasn't there, but I'd like to know if they gave you this contract and said to you, 'Oh, by the way, there's a bunch of changes in this but just sign your name anyway,'" Heady asked.

White lowered his head and said, "no."

"I believe that Mayor White was not made aware of these changes and I have real concerns that our Mayor was given a contract to sign that contained 115 changes," Heady said.

It's not clear who — other than Vitunac, consultant Sue Hersey and Boston attorney Meabh Purcell — knew about the changes.

City Manager Jim Gabbard was conspicuously silent during the exchanges between Heady and Vitunac, and between Heady and White.

As records of the recent grand jury probe reveal, Gabbard told State Attorney Bruce Colton's office that the only change made to the contract was an expansion of the hold harmless clause, which was requested by the council.

It is unclear if Gabbard knew about the other changes, or if he did not provide state attorney's investigator Ed Arens, who used to work for him at the Vero Police Department, with all the information.

Calls to Gabbard's office for this story drew no response.

Heady is not convinced that a massive effort by attorneys to change, or even just to clarify, a contract after it's been approved by the City Council is prudent or legal. He sent Vitunac back to the document and asked for a more in-depth report on Jan. 19th.

"The mayor has admitted in public, in chambers, that he wasn't told of the changes," Heady said. "I think the contract is not valid and I'm going to bring it up at the next meeting."

Though he's a supporter of the city's new relationship with OUC, Heady wants to ensure that the city's 20-year, \$2 billion contract with OUC is completely legal and not vulnerable to a challenge.

Heady wants a do-over — for the council to vote again to approve the contract. Should the city take no steps to do that, Heady said it opens itself up to lengthy and expensive litigation.

"The contract that was signed was not the same contract and that could mean that the contract is not valid. There are a good number of people out there who would file a suit about this," he said. "If they want to go forward with the contract, then they need to re-approve the contract."

Vitunac admitted that the city's high-priced consultants requested and made the changes, but Heady holds Vitunac responsible for the secrecy. The reason all this is coming out now is because the complete, signed version of the contract was kept under wraps until September due to so-called "trade secrets."

Unlike ousted City Councilman Charlie Wilson, who had claimed Vitunac was not a particularly adept city attorney, Heady sees this failure not as a lack of competence, but a lack of leadership.

"I think the City Attorney is very qualified, but I think he lacks direction. I think if he is told this is what we want, he'll do it," Heady said. "I don't think he wants to get fired for cause."

Dodgertown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be, but Holiday Inn Oceanside Sales Manager Jennifer Bates says so far it is looking mighty encouraging.

"We have had a pretty huge success with this tournament," Bates said, noting that four of the 55 times have already booked 267 room nights. She said she has had to turn away others because lack of space.

"We can't measure what sort of impact spring training had (when the Dodgers were here) because most people did not request large blocks of rooms, what we saw was mostly transient walk-ins," Bates said. "We definitely see more revenue with RussMatt."

On the mainland next to Grand Harbor, the new Spring Hill Suites reports that eight of the college teams have booked rooms for the month of March.

"We are very excited about the response," Amy Selby, a spokesperson for Spring Hill, said.

The other hotel on the barrier island that will be hosting some of the teams is the Vero Surf Club.

RussMatt was the brainchild of re-

tired baseball coach Dave Barnard, who well understood the eagerness of snow-bound baseball coaches trying to arrange a spring break outing for their teams to have a chance to play baseball as it was intended — under the sun and in short sleeves.

He added Dodgertown this year to two other venues he has in Florida — Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex and the Cleveland Indians old training facility at Winter Haven.

While this year's crop of teams coming to Vero did not produce any big Division I schools, Thiel (Pa.) baseball coach Joe Schaly, who will have one of the first teams to visit the facility on Feb. 26, says it is only a matter of time before word gets out on the amenities at Dodgertown.

"I would imagine, that we as coaches are sometimes reluctant to make changes," Schaly said. "They just signed up where they went last year. I'm sure this is going to be a good experience and as the coaches begin to talk to one another, there will be more teams wanting to go to Vero."

Schaly was more amenable than his brethren in part because he had visited the Dodgertown facility before and he has friends who live in town and spoke highly of the laid back Vero Beach life-



style.
That and the large body of water to our east.

“I wanted my kids to get a chance to see the ocean,” he said. “I’ve got kids from western Pennsylvania that have never seen it. Last year (at Winter Haven) if they weren’t playing ball they were sitting in their hotel room.”

Schaly has booked his team at the Surf Club, and said he will have about 40 people in his traveling party. Plus, if last year is any indication, he said about 70 friends and family will come watch the boys get ready for the season.

That fact may be key to the county-wide economic success of this endeavor.

RussMatt’s Barnard expects the Dodgertown venue to grow in stature once the coaching back channels begin working.

“I really had no idea what to expect this year (at Dodgertown),” he said. “Once the word gets out, everyone will want to play here. I think a lot of teams

just booked where they had been before.”

Of the 55 teams, Barnard estimates about half have booked to stay on the Dodgertown property where they can use all the facilities that were available to Dodger staff and players. The tournaments will get into full swing

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Mayfield

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about the real human suffering caused by exorbitant electric bills. She knows all about the undue burden being placed on families, retirees and business owners. The city maintains its position that they're "working on it," but Mayfield's patience with the city's inaction has come to an end.

"I told him, 'Jim (Gabbard), you go do whatever you need to do because we don't know what's going to happen with the legislation,'" she said. "The purpose of this is to protect the city residents and the county residents and to give more transparency."

Despite opposition from the City of Vero Beach, momentum is building for Mayfield's legislation. On Dec. 1, The Indian River Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution in support of bringing the city utility under PSC regulation.

Next Steps

On Jan. 26, the local legislative delegation will meet with City of Vero Beach officials to discuss the proposed local bill to regulate the electric utility. This meeting was originally scheduled for Dec. 4 and has been rescheduled a couple of times. The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the council chambers at City Hall and is open to the public.

Mayfield hopes to have enough public support and enough petitions in hand to convince her fellow legislators to help her launch the bill. It will be submitted to the leadership of the Florida House and Senate, sent out to committees to be fleshed out and then, if successful, it will go to the floor for a vote. It would place the City of Vero Beach Electric Utility under full PSC regulation as of the date the bill is signed into law.

Though her intent is not to drive the city to sell out to FPL or any other utility, Mayfield has gone on record saying that being regulated by the PSC may cause the city to re-think the continued wisdom of staying in the electric business.

"If they're going to continue to be in the electric utility business, you've got to be regulated by the people who do this, who regulate the utility business," she said.

Mayfield said she suspects the origin of some of the venom spewed over her petition comes from both staffers and elected officials protecting bureaucratic territory. "Some of the things about this that I really struggle with is that it's not our money that we're spending. We forget that we need to do what's best for the city and county taxpayers," she said. "We should be doing things to make it better for the taxpayers and to make it have less government bureaucracy, and not spend so much time building little empires to have power over."

Dodgertown

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in March, when most of the college teams will arrive for their visits.

Minor League Baseball Vice President Craig Callan said the RussMatt event is just one part of the effort to make Dodgertown successful beyond the six weeks of spring training.

"I've always said that spring training was a lot of pizzazz packed into a four-week period when we were playing the games," Callan said. "But if we are to be successful we are going to have to build a year-round business."

Among the plans he is considering is building a cloverleaf of fields built to little league standards with the shorter base paths and pitching mounds to host youth baseball tournaments which run throughout the summer.

He is also looking to attract soccer teams and has already booked the Washington Freedom of Women's Professional Soccer. The challenge will be to attract enough athletic events to keep the property humming with activity, Minor League Baseball took over Jan. 1 paying rent and the upkeep of the facility, but still keeping the identity of one of the most iconic

spring training sites in the country.

It was that identity that attracted Ed Mugridge.

Mugridge, baseball coach at Wickliffe High School near Cleveland, has also booked his team at the Surf Club. Last year he travelled with his team to Cocoa Beach for the Cocoa Expo Sports High School Spring Training.

The lure of being able to expose his players to major-league quality amenities at Dodgertown was too much to pass up.

"Coming to Florida is kind of overwhelming for the kids," he said. "But once you got past that you could see that the (Cocoa Beach) facilities weren't as updated as they could be. These kids raise their own money for the trip and I wanted them to play on some really nice fields."

"We come from a working class community and most of our opponents are from private schools with really nice fields. Most of my kids have never experienced that with their own fields and to be able to play were pro players previously practiced could be the memory of a lifetime for them."

The RussMatt Tournament will run from Feb. 27 through April 9.

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Vero Council: Today's applicants, tomorrow's candidates

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

Five citizens, including three 32963 residents, were set to be interviewed beginning at 1:30 p.m. Thursday to fill the Vero Beach City Council seat briefly held by ousted Councilman Charlie Wilson, and by the end of the day — or night — the Council was expected to pick one.

Hopefuls Ken Daige, Al Benkert, Tracy Carroll, Richard Kennedy and Bill Mills were scheduled to answer ques-

tions on live television, giving Councilman Brian Heady the open process he wanted. Not one of the five had any qualms about being interviewed in public.

Prior to their public debut, the applicants answered questions for 32963 so we and our readers could get to know them a little better. Though one of them may become a household name in Vero Beach over the next few months, don't write off the other four, as there's a decent chance some will re-emerge as candidates when four

Council seats are up for grabs in November.

The Veteran — Ken Daige

Ken Daige is not only a military veteran of the Grenada conflict in the mid-1980s, but a battle-worn former Vero Beach City Councilman and the only remnant from the 2009 campaign



season. Daige urged the council to honor the vote of the public and appoint him as runner up.

Daige made himself unpopular at City Hall by challenging the way the Council has dealt with the utilities issue. He attends every City Council meeting, most committee meetings and sometimes speaks out from the podium. He takes notes and also orders DVDs of meetings as part of his "record keeping" of actions.

When asked which seated council member is most like him on the issues, Daige replied, "I would be there on behalf of the people doing the peoples' business."

A long-time opponent of the private "premeeting meetings" in City Manager Jim Gabbard's office prior to council meetings, Daige thinks the Council relies too much on staff.

Daige's baggage includes the fact that he was on the City Council when the now-questionable contract with the Orlando Utilities Commission was approved and when the city spent millions on consultant Sue Hersey and her Boston attorneys. But probably the most damning was that Daige was previously affiliated with the Indian River Neighborhood Association, which opposed the Ocean Park development.

Daige also raised eyebrows during the fall election campaign by expressing eagerness to reopen the decision to make the so-called "Twin Pairs" that carry Route 60 through downtown Vero one-way streets. Turning them back into two-way streets has little resonance among beachside residents.

As far as the electric issue, Daige is open to the option of selling.

"If Vero Beach cannot be more logical and transparent about the true cost of operations, the exact transfer from the utility fund or reduce rates to a fair and just level, then I would consider selling the utility or consolidating utilities."

Known to be intense and a stickler for details, Daige reminded 32963 that he is the sole "candidate" who has taken the oath and mounted a campaign. "The others are applicants," Daige said.

The Rainmaker — Al Benkert

Al Benkert makes his living as a broker of real estate deals, a field that requires confidence, plus the ability to read people, divine their motivations and persuade them to act. These are skills Benkert says he learned in corporate America.



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to take over companies that didn't function and fix them," Benkert said. "That experience made me adept at handling crisis."

More dynamic than diplomatic at times, Benkert is an initiator and could be a change agent on the council. What he might change, however, he isn't sure.

"Nothing specifically, looking in from the outside, you don't really know what's going on because you're not talking to the staff and not seeing all the facts," Benkert said.

The bottom line for Benkert is doing what is best for the city of Vero Beach.

"The City Council does not represent the Vero Beach area or the county — they represent the citizens of Vero Beach. If they're doing their job, they need to make decisions that are going to be good for the city residents they represent," he said. "I would consider selling the electric utility if it made sense for the citizens of the City of Vero Beach."

Benkert generally aligns himself with Mayor Kevin Sawnick, and he claims to be a consensus builder.

"You can question things, but the group has to make progress, you can question everything, but you're not going to get anywhere, you need to come up with a solution and move forward," he said.

He cited managing \$20 million budgets as a pretty good training ground for the Council.

"I understand the complexities of large corporations and large organizations," he said.

In his spare time, Benkert teaches Tony Robbins seminars. "I've helped change a lot of lives," he said.

With a personality large enough to take on any member of the council or staff, Benkert could be an interesting choice.

The Multi-tasker — Tracy Carroll

The old saying goes, "if you want something done, ask a busy person." Tracy Carroll is that person. A businesswoman, mother and president of her Rotary Club, Carroll would not only represent the interests of working families in Vero Beach; she, her husband, John, and their kids are one of those families.

One thing Carroll would seek to change is the disconnect between who Vero's stakeholders are and where the actual seat of power lies.

"I consider Vero Beach a family town," she said. "Yet our political situation in the county has been so con-



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People

Council Candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

trolled for the last few years by retirees and out-of-city residents dictating our city policy."

Direct and outspoken, Carroll, like Benkert, likes Mayor Sawnick's style and the direction he's taking the council.

"He thoughtfully analyzes the issues, asks pertinent questions, and is not afraid to voice his views," she said, adding that she has been "impressed with the ideas of Mr. Heady and his concern with open deliberation."

Carroll considers herself in the "silent majority" of people too busy working to get involved in politics, stating that daytime council meetings, "while cost effective," thwart obtaining input from young people and small business owners.

When it comes to the electric issue, Carroll needs to get hard financial data. "Is it fair to force non-city residents to subsidize our city coffers? Is it beneficial to those concerned to pay more for electricity than someone across the street on FPL lines?" Carroll said. "These are questions I ask."

What would Carroll preserve about

Vero? Tourism.

"Conversely, our city continues on the path of limiting — through anti-growth propositions — the efforts of small business people and property owners to provide for tourists that which they seek," she said, naming nightlife and cafes as examples.

"With only a handful of establishments catering to each of these in the city, visitors may come once, but not return."

Carroll cited extensive work on non-profit boards as her crisis experience.

"I have served as president of a group of 800 women volunteers - my husband jokes that if I could bring consensus at those meetings, four men on City Council should be easy!"

The Maverick — Richard Kennedy

The difference between Richard Kennedy and a lot of people who get into local politics is the fact that Kennedy is very much aware of how tiny a place Vero Beach is.



There's nothing wrong with that;

the small-town atmosphere is one of the reasons why he moved here to semi-retire.

Now a commercial realtor, Kennedy worked as a telecommunications and regulatory attorney in Washington, D.C. for 25 years. Having had a rich and varied life before Vero, Kennedy probably best represents the 32963 demographic.

Kennedy doesn't need a seat on the Vero Beach City Council to build his self-esteem or to make his career. He wants to use what he learned in his big-city job to help out this small town at a critical time.

Kennedy's personality and experience could make him a maverick on the council.

"You've got to pick your battles because you can't win them all," he said. "You've got to know when to hold 'em and know when to fold 'em."

Kennedy doesn't attend council meetings and doesn't watch them on television.

He knows enough about the city operations to point out a few areas for improvement, however, specifically in the area of utilities.

"I think there is a lot of duplication of effort between the city and the county.

"It's a very small county with very few people," he said. "I realize that there are a lot of jobs involved in carrying out all the responsibilities in both jurisdictions and that might be the thing that's causing the high utility rates Vero charges."

He's all for open and transparent government.

"I don't think there's enough information disseminated to the public, there needs to be more of an effort," he said.

"Particularly in this small of a city and this small of a county, there needs to be better communication about the major issues."

Part of this criticism originates from Kennedy's service on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission.

"You need to get everybody to participate," he said. "There were a couple of things that came up when I don't think even the City Council members were very well advised."

More knowledge on the council, according to Kennedy, wouldn't hurt.

"The electricity thing is one thing that stands out as far as shortcomings in their knowledge," Kennedy said. "Nobody was being scrutinized."

Having worked with franchise agreements and large telecommunications companies and complex contracts, Kennedy said he would need to dig into the legal documents surrounding the electric utility to be able to weigh

the options.

"I'd need to understand what the regulatory process is, what the money issues are and what contingent problems the city might have," he said. "It's like any business transaction where you want to maximize the amount of money and minimize the downside risk you will have."

Without knowing all the facts, Kennedy said his gut tells him that the city is in over its head.

"The city is involved in too many things and all these peripheral things are just going to get more and more complicated," he said. "The city should be involved in providing essential services."

The (almost) Native — Bill Mills

Mills moved to Vero Beach when



he was still in diapers and the place is so deeply ingrained into his psyche that he doesn't really see it like non-natives do. When asked what one thing about Vero Beach

he would want to preserve, "all of it," he replied without hesitation.

A graduate of Vero Beach High School and local business owner, Mills has never run for public office and thus calls himself a government outsider. Mills knows a lot of people and knows who to call to get information or to get things done. His broad knowledge of the city could make Mills a rather independent thinker.

As president of Real Estate and Management Group and part owner of the former Fat Boy's restaurant, Mills has worked with a wide variety of Vero-ites over the years.

"Having opened businesses and run businesses, I think they just need to look at the city as if it was a business and run it like a business," Mills said. "I've been through not only what's going on now, but recessions of the 1980s and the 1990s and I know what needs to be done to survive."

Mills dared name Charlie Wilson and County Administrator Joe Baird as personal friends. Though it might nix his chances with council members Vice Mayor Sabe Abell and Tom White, Mills proudly declared, "Yes, I'm very much in favor of selling the electric utility, why keep it if you're going to have a power provider anyway?" he said.

"If I get in there and find out the real inner workings of it and financially, it's more efficient to sell it or more efficient to keep it, that's what I'll do."

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Museum Antiques Show a draw for collectors

MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

Mahogany furniture had been polished until it glowed, sparking silverware was buffed to perfection, twinkling facets from estate jewelry gemstones beckoned under the halogen lights and there wasn't a speck of dust to be found on any of the perfectly displayed china, glassware, artwork and other fine collectibles being offered at the Eighteenth Annual Antiques Show & Sale to benefit the Vero Beach Museum of Art. It is with good reason that this enduring show continues to attract antique-lovers and collectors from around the country.

The event kicked off with a Patron's Champagne Reception and Preview Party that allowed guests to mingle with dealers and offered a first glimpse of the spectacular items on sale. Comments elicited throughout the evening all pointed to this being the best show to date.

Story John and Tuny Hill, who both serve on the Museum's Board of Directors, and Diane Wilhelm, who serves as Vice President of the Museum's Friends Committee co-chaired the event. "It's a wonderful Antiques Show and good for the community; it's always enjoyable to come," said John.

When asked if they were antique collectors, Hill laughed, "We're from the south so we have generations of fine things but it's always fun to look for interesting pieces."

Hill also remembered being on the committee for the very first Antiques Show and noted that many of the dealers have returned every year. "They're all quality, high-end dealers," she added.

The Antiques Show was conceived as a fundraiser in 1992 by the Friends Committee to benefit the Museum's education programs. This year, approximately 40 Friends volunteers, coordinated by Wilhelm, provided much of the support for the week-end-long event. Lyn Adams, President of the VBMA Friends Committee was at the Patron Party with her husband John Cusick and remarked, "It looks great; it has a nice elegant feel to it."

The show featured 38 renowned dealers under the management of Charles Miller of the Miller, Hamilton Company.

"We always want a wide diversity

of products and prices to keep the presentation strong, fun and relaxed. We work hard to put together dealers who are informative, professional and who enjoy the interaction.

"Several previous dealers retired so there are six new vendors with new products not offered before," said Miller. "For the first time there

is a high-end art gallery, Cincinnati Art Galleries, with extraordinary pieces. We added a French pottery dealer and a vintage handbag dealer from East Hampton.

Also, a silver dealer from Atlanta who has some very good silver hollow-wear and Paul Storr serving dishes; his work is prized throughout

the world. Manor House Antiques has some fine French bronzes and David Herndon has dessert serving pieces from the late 18th to early 19th Century."

I was curious about the difference between antique and vintage and Miller explained that the Inter-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

nal Revenue Service considers items 100 years earlier than the date of the event to be antique, whereas vintage and collectibles are items less than 100 years old. "You must be able to verify the age of an antique for IRS purposes," Miller added.

Many of the guests already had numerous antiques but, like Barbara McKenna, a former VBMA board member, still enjoy coming to the

show to see what's available and to support the Museum.

"The Museum holds a warm place in my heart," McKenna said with a smile.

Francis (Kip) Smithers and Florence Durfee of Escutcheon Antiques in Vero Beach donated a lovely Mahogany chest of drawers, circa 1870 and just the perfect size for a jewelry box, to be offered as a silent auction item at the Preview Party. Debbie Weise was the lucky high bidder



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Dr. David Kudzma admires the books on display at the antiques booth of Manor House Antiques at the Vero Beach Museum of Art.
Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.



Louis J. Dianni of Louis J. Dianni Fine Art shows a maritime painting by Ernest deNagy to Dot Franklin.



Barbara Lengfellow and Gloria Anderson chat in front the booth of Ed Weissmann, Antiquarian.

People



Francois Lorin of Asiantiques, Inc. sits for a moment between visitors in his booth at the Vero Beach Museum of Art.



Lynda Walker shows a piece of 19th century Chinese export china to Jim and Jane Schwiering.

for the charming piece.

Jo Ann Becker, one of the event's major sponsors, was on the lookout to possibly add to her blue and white collections. "I'm running out of space," she laughed. "But if I see something I have to have, I might still buy it."

The beautiful mother/daughter combination of Mimi Bowden and Cece Colhoun, were excited about the show and their purchases. Bowden was holding a framed terra cotta bas-relief she had just bought, that was covered with cupids. "It's all about love," said Bowden as she pointed to her pregnant daughter. Cece's present was a set of horse-head bookends for her soon-to-be son. "We're calling him Trigger," laughed Bowden. "It's a nickname for Trevor; we're southern and we have to have nicknames."

A part-time John's Island resident, Bowden said they are generally in

their New Orleans home this time of year so this was her first visit to the show. "We love the Museum," she added. "It's a treasure for this community."

Cathy Walker was thrilled with a couple of the new vendors. "The French pottery and the handbags are fabulous," she remarked. They're brand new here and I think they're the highlight of the show."

Ellen Melvin was also delighted with the handbags, and when I caught up with her had just purchased a Bermuda bag with an unusual carved swordfish clasp. "I was instantly drawn to it; it was fun, whimsical, the perfect size, and it just looked like me."

Helen Taylor Robertson, a frequent sponsor of local Hibiscus Children's Center fundraisers, is also one of the show's dealers but said she'll be retiring after this show. "I've been in the antique business

for 27 years and used to do 27 to 30 shows a year." Before moving to Vero Beach, she had also created the first Antique Mini Mall in Tampa. "I buy what I like. If it's pretty to me, I figure it will be pretty to someone else."

Norris & Company's Gena Grove and Jane Schwiering were finalizing their purchases from A.J. Connolly of Naples when I spoke with them. "Gena bought a table; she had a need. I had no need; I had a want,"

Schwiering laughed, speaking about her Chinese Rose Medallion bowl.

Grove said of her 19th Century, tilt-top table, "I've been looking for a table to play games and cards on and he had just what I wanted."

Toward the end of the evening, VBMA Executive Board President Ted Michaels also commented on the success of the show.

"I do believe it's gotten better and better. Dealers are happy and it's fun for the Museum to have them here."

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People

Quail Guest Chef Dinner recreates menu from the past

BY SAMATHA BAITA
COLUMNIST

What could possibly lure Vero Beach denizens out of their warm and comfy homes on a night when the temps were lower here than in Manhattan, and that's not even counting the wind chill?

How about a popular fundraiser in a welcoming venue with a cozy, glowing fireplace, softly lit dining room, smooth and mellow dinner music and a fabulous meal accompanied by The Perfect Wines?

The Quail Valley River Club offered all this and more for the second event of the Eighth Annual Quail Valley Charity Cup Week. The Dec. 10 Gourmet Wine and Guest Chef Dinner, "Puttin' on the Ritz for Children," was sponsored by Bill and Mary Ann Becker and, as with all the Charity Cup Week's events, raised funds for several county charities which provide programs "that benefit the enrichment of children and education."

As guests entered the warm and welcoming great room, they were offered graceful flutes of pink strawberry champagne. Atop a long table an appealing assortment of Silent Auction items was conveniently



Tony Marshall, Debbie Brower, Carol Fischman, Wanda Lincoln, Trudie Rainone, Martha Redner, and John Spooner

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

displayed. From the dining room floated the sounds of pianist Bobby Gangloff (Bobby and the Blisters) and, on sax, John Michalak, a mem-

ber of Gloria Estefan's Miami Sound Machine. Verr-rry nice.

Among Vero's beachside partygoers, a perennially classy group, black

is (still) the new black. Perfect pops of color were added by several ladies, including Jackie Bradley, Jean Kelly, Lois Oehme and Carolyn Bowers, with husband John. Among other partygoers: Carrol and Dennis Spurgeon; Karla and John Spooner (he's on the 2010 Executive Committee); Joanna Meyers and, newly moved to town from the San Francisco East Bay Area, her friends Barron and Nancy Clancy (who wore a marvelous black and white hat); Paula Augustine chatted with Cindy and John West: and the room soon hummed with the conversation of clusters of guests enjoying the warmth of the cocktail hour.

Quail Valley's Executive Chef Joe Faria quite outdid himself as he chose this year's guest chefs: Back in 1985, Joe was one of four chefs at the Ritz-Carlton in Boston. Who together had come up with a divine Epicure Menu.

Joe decided to get in touch with his pals - Executive Chef Dennis Dale and Corporate Executive Chef Thomas N. Barton, both of Boston, and Executive Chef Lenard Rubin of Phoenix. How's about coming down to Florida in January, fellas?

Through conference calls, the four friends decided to recreate the Ritz menu from 1985: A special re-

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Chef Lenard Rubin from The Vig in Pheonix stirs a pot of Lobster au Whiskey for the Quail Valley Charities Gourmet Wine and Guest Chef Dinner.

union for Joe and his pals and great good fortune for the evening's guests. The team also included Quail Valley's Chef Nicholas Bradbury and Chef Adam Young.

So, a quarter of a century after the first lucky diners enjoyed Epicure Menu 1985, the Quail Valley guests were treated to the same divine repast. I expect you'll want to know, so - Lobster Whiskey with a chardonnay; followed by Foie Gras Terrine with Duck Confit, paired with pinot noir; a Frisse Salad accompanied by a savignon blanc; the entree a Beef wellington, well matched with a cabernet; and, finally, Classical Baked Alaska and a riesling, to perfectly complete the meal. Even the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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People



Betsy Marshall contemplates placing silent bid on a bracelet, one of the many items up for auction at the Gourmet Wine and Guest Chef dinner.



Chefs Thomas N. Barton, Lenard Rubin, Dennis Dale and Joe Faria

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

menu cover replicated the original - a charming painting of the Boston Ritz.

Quail Valley Charities Executive Director Martha Redner introduced me to Executive Committee Chairperson Wanda Lincoln. Wanda and husband, Richard Chadwell, are Quail Valley members, and she is an

author and former teacher. Working with a charity that focuses on children and education is a perfect fit, she says.

"It is a lot of work (five months in the planning) but a lot of fun."

She explained that the charities chosen this year won't know the amount they'll receive until "we have a big party and give it out" later in the winter. I asked who had created the glistening ice sculpture displayed in the dining room. Wanda said the work was a reproduction of the Ritz-Carlton's lion logo, and was sculpted by the multi-talented Chef Faria himself.

Quail Valley Charities Directors Kevin Given and Stephen Mulvey were very happy to share that, in spite of the less-than-robust economy and less-than-warm weather, all but one of the events were sold out.

"This is such a great reflection of Quail Valley's membership," said Kevin, who noted there are currently 785 total golf and social memberships. Stephen said the donations "exceeded expectations." Even with the below freezing temperature for Saturday's 7 a.m. (aagghh) Kick-Off 5K Walk/Run, 104 brave souls showed up to run. Last year, the week's events brought in \$260,000, and Stephen and Kevin are optimistic about a similar outcome this year.

With a total of some \$1.7 million distributed to charities since its inception, the Quail Valley Charity Cup Week has established itself as a bright star in the Vero Beach charitable giving pantheon.

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Incoming Tide

A sweet outlook for Julie and Jef Denning

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

Lovers of turtle ice cream sundaes can thank Julie Denning's sense of direction for bringing a Kilwin's to Vero. And what better entrée for them than to open a franchise whose signature sweet is named after Vero's ubiquitous turtle mascot?

But for a hunch — that trusty feminine sense of direction — Jef and Julie Denning might not have made Vero Beach their new home. Their near-miss discovery followed weeks of venturing out from their Juno Beach residence, scouting for towns to open a Kilwin's ice cream and fudge shop.

The road to Vero led to the realization of a 10-year dream for the Dennings. Kilwin's opens this week, across from the playground at Humiston Park. If the Denning's have their way, their dream will become fused in the memories of Vero's children for many years, begging for turtle sundaes after a day at the beach. In *Incoming Tide*, we look at the island's new residents,



Jef and Julie Denning slice and weigh out some double dark chocolate fudge in preparation for the opening of their new Kilwin's chocolate and ice cream shop. Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

and how their choice can change our town. Here is the Dennings' story.

When Jef and Julie Denning dropped their only son, Kirk, off at

Flagler College in Jacksonville this fall, the blues hit hard. "It was such an emotional day," says Julie. So rather than drive home to Juno Beach and face the shock of the empty nest, they took the Vero exit off I-95 and detoured to the beach, where they spent a mini-vacation at Costa d'Este.

Listening to the Sunday night blues band, enjoying the lively crowd, only confirmed what they already knew: Vero was just what they were looking for.

Four months later, in mid-December, they would be unpacking their things in their new rental home in Castaway Cove.

But the overnight last summer may have been their last leisurely evening. After finding their next place across from Humiston Park, where the former Tangos restaurant is now divided between the new Tangos II and the Denning's, the couple has been busy. After winning approval from corporate Kilwin's, they began designing the interior, ordering components

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



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Incoming Tide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

and stock, hiring staff and finally heading to Michigan for training in fudge-making and the rest.

Now the work really begins, and they can't wait.

It's been a dream for them since they first saw a Kilwin's 10 years ago on a trip to Colorado. Serious cyclists of an unusual form — they ride a tandem road bike, and they ride it fast — they were on a tandem rally with a hundred other people from Vail to Breckenridge to Colorado Springs, when they stopped for turtle sundaes at a Kilwin's. Right away, the atmosphere of the place struck a chord with them: "wholesome and friendly," they call it. And the sundae knocked them out.

"It was one of the best ice cream desserts we've ever tasted," says Jef Denning of the caramel, hot fudge and pecan confection, served in a waffle bowl made on premises that Julie calls "addictive."

"It was fabulous," she says, half-closing her eyes.

On the back of the napkins was a list of franchise locations. "We looked at each other and said, 'We could do

this," Julie says.

Their shared tastes are understandable: friends since kindergarten, they just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last month. Raised in Nashville, Jef had worked his entire career for R.R. Donnelley, the world's largest printing company. A sales manager, he came frequently to South Florida — American Media, parent company of the National Enquirer, was one of his accounts.

Along with the stressful work, he retains a disturbing memory of his time there. He was present in the building when the nightmare of the deadly anthrax-laced envelope took place in 2001, three days after 9/11. Nine employees were infected with the bacteria and one died; like others there when the envelope was opened, Denning had to take a course of the antibiotic Cipro, though he ultimately tested negative for exposure.

Julie Denning meanwhile worked in non-profit management, first with a hospital as director of patient relations for 10 years, then for the next 14 years, with United Way, eventually becoming executive director of United Way of Tennessee.

By 2004, Jef Denning's travel to

Florida had accelerated to the point that it made sense for the company to open a branch in Boca Raton. The couple, preferring the small-town living of their childhood outside of Nashville, chose to live in Juno Beach, a small town between Jupiter and Palm Beach Gardens. There they settled in a quaint mid-century neighborhood of just 16 homes. "It was like a little Key West neighborhood on the river, and we loved it there. The great thing about it is that it's its own little enclave, very much a community, yet it's just minutes away from all the shopping and restaurants of Palm Beach Gardens and West Palm.

"But the traffic was really bad," she adds. "And I feel more at home here than we did there. I think it's the southern hospitality."

Driving the move more urgently: they couldn't open a Kilwin's in Juno. There was already one in PGA Commons, and another in Stuart and Tradition.

In fact, the franchise that began in northern Michigan in 1947, is heavily ensconced in Florida. The Vero Kilwin's marks the franchisor's 30th store, far more than any other state, including its home state of Michigan. (though some Vero residents will recognize the shops from several in the mountain resort towns of North Carolina.)

In November, the two headed up to Petoskey, Mich., for one-on-one training in making the waffle cones, nut brittles and fudges, the proportions of which would logically make it vulnerable to taxation under the health care plan: 15 pounds of sugar to 2 pounds of butter, not to mention the fats in the cocoa.

For Jef Denning, the official candy-maker, the risks go beyond gaining weight. He has to maneuver giant copper kettles of boiling candy in a process that takes place in full view of customers — and a picture window

on Ocean Drive.

"There's a skill to it," he says. "You're pouring it out on a marble table. Then you let it cool to 100 degrees, and start folding it with a big paddle into a sort of loaf, to complete to the cooking process."

By her own admission, the result rivals Julie Denning's own legendary fudge, that she has made every Christmas for as long as she can remember. "I always thought my fudge was the best you've ever had," she says. "But this is creamier. It's just fantastic."

The Dennings happily join neighbors Cravings and Frosting competing for Vero's sweet tooth. "I think we all have our niche," Julie says. "Frosting does cupcakes, Cravings has breakfast and sandwiches. Our niche is ice cream and candy." They also serve a proprietary blend of coffee and espresso.

As the preparations intensified since their move here last month, the tandem bike never did come out of the garage, though it couldn't mandate much more togetherness than the Dennings have now, opening a business together.

Nevertheless, they seem to want more: they gave each other a tandem kayak for their anniversary. That too is staying high and dry for now. And the nightlife they so enjoyed that Sunday at Costa can wait. The shop will stay open until 10 pm on weekends. "An evening at the store is going to be standard for us," Jef says. "We're quiet anyway."

These days, Jef's idea of fun is measured in what he doesn't do: work for a huge corporation. "Being on your own is so free and liberating," he says.

And if his own sweet tooth flares up too often, he has a regimen in mind. "We'll have to increase our mileage," he says of their biking and kayaking. "They're going to see a lot of early morning use."

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Arts/Theatre

Artist Timothy Sanchez: An explosion of color

BY MICHELLE GENZ
STAFF WRITER

It would seem all but impossible to upstage the view from the oceanfront south island home of painter Timothy Sanchez. Three orderly tiers — dune, ocean, sky — stretch across a canvas of infinite depth and clarity.

But the seascape seems almost, well, mundane, compared with the paintings on the walls within. It is as if Sanchez, an abstract expressionist relocated here from Long Island, has broken apart the spectrum of tropical sunlight, plucked out most exhilarating bands and applied them exuberantly on the huge canvases hanging in an otherwise traditional home.

"If the French impressionists had seen the light in Florida, they all would have moved here," says Sanchez. "Florida comes out of the Atlantic at an angle, and I think that makes the light here especially beautiful. The shadows are so intense."

Where once the paintings he calls "atmospherics" reflected the monochrome of New York winters and the ochre glaze of autumn, now in Vero Beach he works in a realm of pink hibiscus and citrus sunsets against the unplumbed turquoise of sea and sky.

It is as if Sanchez realigned his internal palette when he moved to Florida, cheering up and simplifying his life along with his imagery.

In April, Sanchez will be featured in a one-man show at Villanova University in Philadelphia.

"It was very serendipitous," says Sanchez of the Villanova opportunity. "A friend in Vero brought a member of the search committee to the house. He hardly said anything when he left. And then I got an invitation from Villanova."

It isn't the first time recognition has slipped in the back door, in a career Sanchez says is as capricious as show business in terms of finding renown. Like the time his painting ended up on the pages of *People* magazine, photographed directly behind Bette Davis. He had tossed off a portrait of her as an exercise — another, of Marilyn Monroe, hangs in his kitchen. When his brother saw it, he thought of a friend who was re-doing Davis's apartment at the Lombardy Hotel. He asked Sanchez if he could give it to her.

"He took it over to her in a Checker cab and she asked him to stay for martinis." As a result, Sanchez jokes, his brother came away a bit vague on details. But Davis clearly liked the paint-

ing enough to hang it in her living room, posing in front of it more than once for photographs.

Sanchez says he heard after her death that she had willed the painting to the actor Robert Wagner. "I need to find him, because I never signed it," he says. He's not concerned though. He has proof that the work is his: Davis sent a handwritten letter of thanks, now framed and hanging on his wall.

While no honor is taken lightly by Sanchez, gone is the intense drive for recognition that once inhabited his New York frame of mind. Where his circle was once the wan-faced Chelsea set perpetually cloaked in black, these days, the tanned blond Sanchez sports rosy cheeks; even his pants are pink. "He dresses to match his paintings," jokes Jim Haigney, his longtime partner, enjoying a slice of a perfectly

executed lattice top raspberry tart in Sanchez's sky-lit home studio — Sanchez loves to cook.

The playful declaration of his mode of dress belies the seriousness of his approach to technique. He knows they are not the stuff of the average island home décor. "They aren't really that decorative," he says. "But they are honest and sincere. I know I'm doing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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Arts/Theatre

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it correctly.”

That quest for authenticity derives of years of study in classical drawing and painting, and on-going studies in newer approaches, including long stints with respected abstract expressionists, including Stan Brodsky, whose painting was added a year ago to the permanent collection of the Vero Beach Museum of Art. “It just kept me consistent. I kept sharpening my focus so that the paintings became more and more refined.

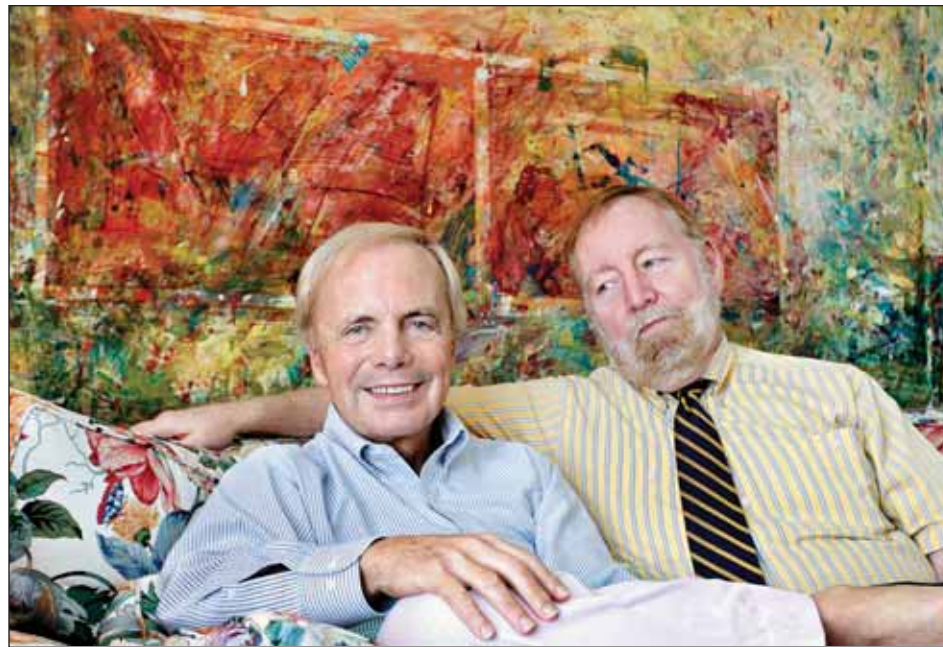
Sanchez and Haigney had bought their home here in 1994, but rented it out in anticipation of the day they would retire here permanently.

That day came in 2002. Sanchez had been anxious about losing his contacts in New York – he has staged more than 20 solo exhibitions there, as well as a dozen more group shows. He also has representation in Washington, and has placed a number of paintings there.

He has been pleasantly surprised, both by his work's reception as well as his own adjustment here. Martha Lincoln, who owned a gallery on Vero's Beachland Boulevard and has a home in Glen Cove, saw his work at his master's thesis show at CW Post College on Long Island. “She told me when I

moved to Vero permanently, she would give me a one-man show.” She did.

In addition to finding himself rejuvenated in his art-making, the Lincoln show proved an excellent introduc-



Painter Timothy Sanchez and his partner Jim Haigney sit in front of one of Sanchez's paintings in the living room of their beach front home.
Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

tion to the area. It turned out, Vero was ready for him after all.

Lincoln dedicated a full week to the show, which was very well-received.

Meghan Candler, who worked for Lincoln at the time, brought Sanchez in to her gallery in 2005. Today Candler revels in the scale of Sanchez's work, though she has only a few of his small-

of chintz sofas and antiques.”

Grand and elegant, full of traditional prints and antiques, it is a house completely rebuilt since the 2004 hurricanes.

No stranger to Vero Beach, Sanchez began coming here since 1980, when first his mother moved down, then his brother, Joe Sanchez followed: he was the announcer for the Dodger's games on local radio station WTTB.

Timothy Sanchez had summers off; with a master's degree in fine arts from CW Post College.

Haigney, a retired clinical psychotherapist and hospital administrator turned real estate agent when the couple moved to Vero had always been looking to retire to the Caribbean. “You ought to come to Vero,” urged Sanchez when they first met 16 years ago.

“When we finally got here, it was absolutely wonderful. It was total freedom. We just walked the beach for nine months.” While the idle hours ultimately provoked Haigney to go into real estate, Sanchez “worked non-stop,” says Haigney.

“This is an ideal place to work,” says Sanchez. “I wouldn't want to go back to New York. I like the people, I like the climate. I like the temperament of this place.”



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Arts/Theatre

Tiger Lily artist finds beauty in others' castoffs

BY L.L. ANGELL
COLUMNIST

The artist Chris Adams Johnson created her first piece of installation art almost 50 years ago. Johnson was in the third grade. It was a snowy day in Chicago and Johnson's mother, Janet Daugherty, who now lives in John's Island, gave Johnson several spools of string, led her to the living room and said, "Create!"

Eight-year-old Johnson knew just what to do. She knotted one end of the string to the arm of a chair and the

earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University, took summer classes at Carnegie Mellon University and University of Pittsburgh, married, raised two children, worked for 18 years as a graphic artist, became a charter member of the Vero Beach Museum of Art, a founding member of Tiger Lily, married again and all the while made wonderfully original three-dimensional art.

Johnson has shown her work in a

wide array of juried shows including the 56th Annual All Florida Juried Competition and Exhibition in Boca Raton in 2007. She has participated in "Ten Women in Art," an exhibit at Florida Community College at Jacksonville and her work has appeared repeatedly at "Handcrafted: A Juried Exhibition of Ceramics, Fiber, Glass, Metal and Wood" in Rocky Mount, NC, most recently in January 2005. Her sculptures are priced from \$550 to \$4,000. Col-

lectors can buy Johnson's work at the Tiger Lily Gallery and she makes art on commission.

Regardless of what she's making, it all starts with the found object. Johnson finds inspiration in other people's discards, the carefully bundled yard waste by the side of the road, and those myriad broken items hidden in construction sites' dumpsters across

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Gridlock, detail, 36" x 36" x 1.5"



Counterclockwise, 14.5" x 14.5" x 3", acrylic, wood and wax

other to a table leg. In no time, she was creating a spider web, then another, and another. Both Johnson's mother and grandmother sat watching as the little girl quickly transformed the family's living room into a work of art. As snowflakes fell outside, Johnson wove dozens of spider webs, linking the coffee table, to the sofa to the arm chair to the book case, capturing the ottoman, the breakfront and floor lamps. Eventually, even the door knob was ensnared.

"When I finished you had to get on your hands and knees and crawl out," recalls Johnson.

Today, at 57, one of the founding members of Tiger Lily Studio and Gallery on 14th Avenue, Johnson continues to make art, practically every day of the week, her vision just as fresh, innovative, and fearless as when she was 8.

In the intervening years, Johnson

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Arts/Theatre

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

the county. Johnson is a veritable connoisseur of construction sites.

"I have always been fascinated with discarded objects of all kinds," she explains.

"A whole community of people conspires with me either consciously, by donating specific materials, or unwittingly simply by leaving yard waste or lumber at the side of the road or by tearing off an old roof."

She scavenges with a passion and gratefully accepts donations. Admirers of her eclectic art donate their personal collections, no strings attached.

There's the woman who entrusted Johnson with her personal button collection. "Amazing buttons," says Johnson, "hundreds of them." And another woman, from up north, who had amassed a spectacular assortment of rusted car parts, what Johnson calls Rust Art.

"Up north, pieces of cars fall out," says Johnson. "I was making hand-made paper at the time, sewing and attaching things onto and into the paper. This woman said, 'I just knew you were the person for my rust collection.' She'd had these rusted car parts for 20



Artist Chris Jordan experiments with a piece of scrap metal in preparation for future art pieces at the Tiger Lily Gallery.

Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

years. They are beautiful shapes."

Much of Johnson's best-known art is made from organic sticks and vines,

her chief source of materials for many years.

"Sometimes I specifically go out on a field trip and cut vines and sticks. Sometimes it's just yard waste that I find," she says.

A prime example of the organic type is the wall sculpture "Black and White and Red All Over," made of acrylic, wood, and vine that appeared in the Annual All Florida Juried Competition and Exhibition at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, in July 2007. It's emblematic of much of her stick and vine art.

And Johnson never starts with a drawing. "I start with actual pieces putting them together," she explains. "I choose materials that appeal to me and as I begin each piece I try to stay out of the way and let the work tell me where it is going."

Recently, Johnson switched from organic sticks and vines to construction lumber. The artist points out a stash of two-by-fours and decorative trim pieces leaning in the corner of her work space, within Tiger Lily's high-ceilinged studio behind the gallery, shared by all seven artists.

Johnson is currently experimenting with a new material: cast-off sheet metal. She was recently given a whole boxful by a cabinet-maker.

"I'm attempting to use it as it is basically, just bending it some," she says.

On her industrial-sized work-table are scattered various pieces of spiky metal cutouts, like topsy-turvy crowns for kings and queens. Johnson holds one up. It's a 12- by 6-inch piece of metal that she has twisted this way

and that but its original intention is still discernible.

"'Harley-Davidson,'" says Johnson. "These are plasma-cutting remnants. This is what was left after they cut out the letters. I may have to pull out my rivet gun for this," she says with a smile.

She likes to work on more than one piece at a time. But, Johnson knows from experience that if she puts in the studio time, the work will come. There's no such thing as "artist's block."

Johnson moved here from Chicago 30 years ago with a husband and three-week-old baby boy. She has lived in the same two-story house on Central Beach all this time. A graphic designer from the pre-computer days, Johnson had worked for two different advertising agencies in Chicago. After settling in Vero, she did freelance design work and took classes at the newly opened museum.

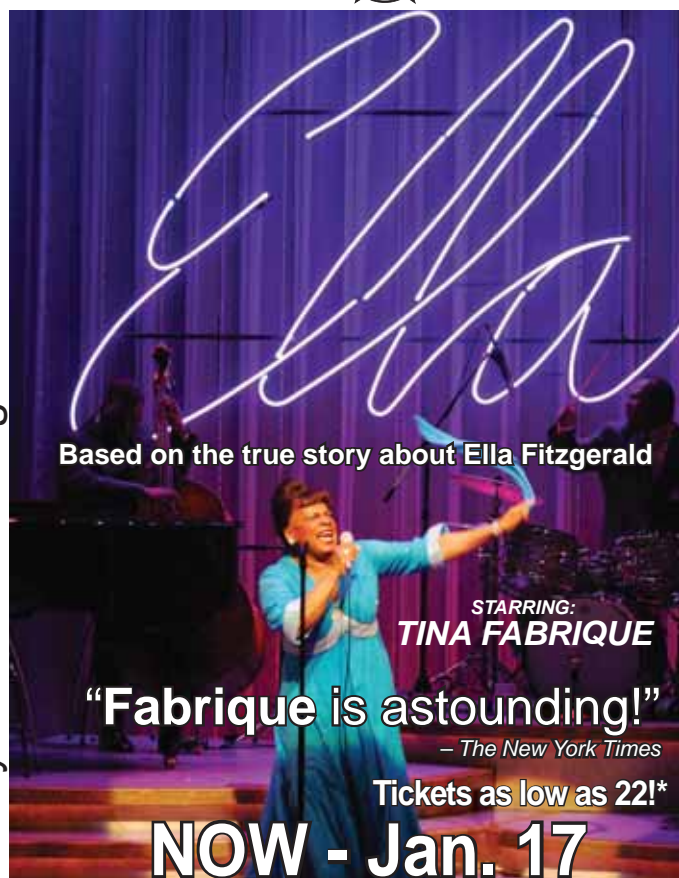
"Several of Mary Segal's classes had an especially big influence on me," says Johnson. Segal was drawing on the works of writer Natalie Goldberg, particularly her book "Writing Down the Bones."

"The main idea of the book was to keep your hand moving no matter what," says Johnson. "Even though it was intended for writers, it works for artists too."

Johnson notes that as she works on one piece, she may subconsciously be solving problems related to another work altogether. And as one piece evolves, it leads to a new one. Most often, the different pieces organically

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Arts/Theatre

form a series.

That's what happened with the small maquette, or model, she has attached to the wall above her work space. Made of wood, and six inches square, it's a series of different colored squares within other colored squares all arranged on a larger square background. Johnson has cut and painted each square individually, and placed them in rows. Made in 2007, this small piece has the innocence of a child's work and led to the much larger and more accomplished "Gridlock," currently on display. "Gridlock" is clearly modeled on the maquette but it's nine times larger, and instead of squares within squares, it is made of smooth circles affixed to squares.

Johnson says the next piece in this series, "Uncontaminated by Negativity," from 2008, marks a return to bold color and to the use of handmade paper, an element not present in her work for almost 15 years. Inspired by the same small wooden maquette, Johnson knew she wanted to make something similar but much larger. Making it in wood would be too heavy, so handmade paper offered a lightweight alternative. It also achieved a certain irregular edge and texture that Johnson prefers.

Limiting herself to what she can find and reuse is an interesting meditation. The idea for "Uncontaminated by Negativity" began with Johnson's desire to transform what she calls "the blight of an annoying and endless pile of junk mail into something beautiful."

Along the way she received donations of shredded documents from curious neighbors and from her local bank. "I also shredded my own outdated files."

From this piece, it was a hop-skip-jump to "Xtreme Sunset," a two-dimensional wall sculpture made of paper, pulp and acrylic. It's a scene of sky-blues, punctuated by two squares of paper pulp painted orange and red—the setting sun.

In Johnson's own words, "The molded paper pulp packing material in this piece appeals to me because of its irregularity and texture. It presents an opportunity to completely reinterpret the intended use as cushioning in the shipment of light fixtures." For Johnson, this piece also represents a terrific save of usable materials from certain death in a dumpster.

One of her most recent pieces hangs just inside the door of the gallery. This is an assortment of wooden pieces arranged in a circle and called "Counter-clockwise."

Johnson was given a whole bag of wooden pieces, discards from a cabinet-maker. She strung them all, a necklace on copper wire, and tied it off

with a knot.

"This was just to look at for size, shape, and placement," says Johnson. "Originally, I thought I'd paint them in different shades of white, gray, and black and I'd even picked out the colors. Then I noticed the wood grain and I decided I liked that better."

Instead of painting them, Johnson waxed each piece to bring out the grain, and sawed several pieces of trim to make stripes. That use of stripes is a signature of Johnson's and can be found in many of her works.

Johnson's work on commissioned pieces has always been an enjoyable

adventure. But none was more fun that the unique piece she created for Don and the late Sug Urban, a very dedicated docent at The Vero Beach Museum of Art.

The Urbans commissioned Johnson to make a piece for their dining room ceiling in 2001.

Johnson created this 4 foot by 3 foot by 2 foot work of painted twigs and vines upside down and attached it to the ceiling with screws in three main points.

"When we finished installing it we just sat down and laughed," says Johnson. "Sug said it was always a real con-

versation starter."

Johnson enjoys the interaction with her six studio mates. "We share a genuine respect for each other as artists and as people. We like to say that together we're almost a whole person. And people seem to really appreciate exploring a working studio."

She is currently preparing with her fellow artists for Tiger Lily's upcoming opening "Visions—Dreams—Possibilities" in February.

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Arts/Theatre

My Vero

Fundraisers for the homeless, McKee set for this weekend

MARY SCHENKEL
COLUMNIST

Fabulous Fundraisers

The recent cold temperatures have forced many of our area homeless, who often camp outdoors or in cars, to find warmth and shelter indoors. The Source, a Christian based outreach center, has been stretching its resources to accommodate all those in need.

To help raise essential funds, they will hold their first 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, Jan. 16, beginning and ending near the gazebos at Riverside Park. There will be a one-mile fun run/walk beginning at 8 a.m., followed at 8:30 a.m. with the 5K Race and concluding with awards and refreshments. For details, call Lori Frazier at 766-5604, Shirley Reul at 453-3874 or Runner's Depot at 569-7364 or register on-line at www.iamthesource.org.

The beauty of McKee Botanical Garden has been chronicled in all its glory by local artist Suzan Phillips. A charter volunteer and longtime McKee board member, Phillips has been photographing McKee from its days as an over-grown jungle to its current status as a wondrously restored lush tropical landscape. From 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20 she will host an

exhibit entitled "Our Natural World" with 100 percent of proceeds to benefit McKee. The exhibit is free and open to the public, but reservations are re-



Artwork by Suzan Phillips

quested. 794-0601.

If you like golf but can't fish or you like to fish but your golf score isn't exactly up to par don't worry; the Education Foundation of Indian River County has got you covered. Their popular Bass & Birdies Golf and Fishing Tournament to benefit the Foundation's core programs, begins with a shot-gun start at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23 at the Indian River Club. In addition to a full 18 holes of golf, players also try to reel in a big one at four different spots on the course (it's catch & release, they don't become dinner later). The more fish each player catches, the better their golf score, so everyone has a chance at winning. A post event party

with live music by Terry Dobson and an auction follows the tournament. The committee, chaired by Darren Sylvia, includes Vinny Olmstead, Jose Prieto, Charles Croom, David Savage, Lynn Hall, Debbie Biedenharn, Dan Bockhorst and Bill Furr. Registration is \$300 which includes fishing poles and tackle (if you don't have your own) and a guest's admission to the party. 564-0034.

Musical Interlude

The Indian River Symphonic Association opens its season on Sunday, Jan. 17 with a Brevard Symphony Orchestra Singin' and Swingin' Pops Concert, under the direction of Maestro Christopher Confessore.



Vocalist Michael Andrew joins the orchestra for the concert, playing tribute to the styles of popular artists such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Bobby Darin. Andrew, who has performed at Universal Studios, Orlando,

the Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center, and with numerous symphony orchestras nationwide, is sure to have listeners tapping their feet (quietly we hope) to favorite songs from the Great American Songbook.

In addition to three Brevard Symphony Orchestra concerts, the association will also present the Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra with Leonard Slatkin, Philharmonia of the Nations, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, with conductor JoAnn Falletta. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the Pops Concert are \$30; call the box office at 778-1070.

Family Fun

Dino Nights at McKee Botanical Garden - just like Jurassic Park, but without the danger. From 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16, the 30 life-sized dinosaurs, children's Dino Dig site, prehistoric plants, the new 53" bronze T-rex skull and the 39-foot-wingspan Quetzalcoatlus will all be lit for nighttime viewing. General admission fees apply. A lucky few (space is limited and reservations are required) will even get to spend the night with the dinosaurs at a sleepover in the Richardson Education Building. While visions of raptors dance in their heads? 794.0601

Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. from Jan. 14 through Feb. 18, take the family to the Moorings Club and watch some exciting tennis as U. S. Professional Tennis Association players from Vero Beach, Melbourne, Port St. Lucie and the surrounding area compete in the Youth Guidance 15th Annual King of the Hill Tennis Tournament. The tournament provides tennis fans the opportunity to view some high-level doubles competition as players compete for the title of King of the Hill. Tickets are \$5 and benefit the children in the Youth Guidance Mentoring & Activities program. 770-5040.

Don't forget

Art by the Sea, a judged art show featuring original works of art by members of the Vero Beach Art Club and members of the Vero Beach Museum of Art takes will be exhibited at the Museum from Friday, Jan. 15 through Sunday, Jan. 17. The exhibit and sale begins with an opening reception, from 5 to 8:30 p.m., and continues on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The reception and the exhibit are free and open to the public.

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Pets to humans: Looking for a cancer cure

SANDRA RAWLS
STAFF WRITER

A Vero Beach veterinarian has teamed up with a local cancer researcher to bring a new weapon to the fight cancer, not just in human beings, but house pets as well.

Joseph Bauer, Ph.D. and Annette Sysel, a veterinary surgeon who lives on the barrier island and practices in Fort Pierce, want to begin manufacturing a new drug on the Treasure Coast, and are actively seeking laboratory facilities.

They have spoken in recent weeks to Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies about lab space for synthesis of a compound Bauer created, called nitrosylcobalamin.

The compound has already been proven effective against cancer in dogs. They plan to use results from additional animal studies as a basis to enter Phase I Clinical Trials for human use and have conducted early



CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 Biochemist Dr. Joseph Bauer, veterinarian Dr. Annette Sysel and her cat, Tiki who recently overcame a bout with cancer. Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

talks with the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa.

To that end, the two researchers have formed the Bauer Research Foundation of Akron, Ohio and Port St. Lucie, with Sysel as Chief Veterinary Officer.

Using dogs that have developed cancer as pets to test new compounds is part of the new field of comparative oncology. The two plan to also make the new drug available to cats already ill with the disease.

Bauer and Sysel hope to find support from non-profit groups to give the

drug to pet owners through veterinarians free of cost. They are also looking for venture capital to develop other cancer-fighting compounds through a new company of Bauer's, BNOAT Oncology.

Hollywood would have a hard time writing a better script than Bauer and Sysel are writing for themselves:

A tender-hearted researcher who began as a business student creates a sensational tumor-killing drug, sets up his own foundation and an oncology company, saves pets one at a time and hopes to make the drug free to participating pet owners. Enter a young vet

with a sick cat, and you have a tale of personal and professional chemistry, and a quest to find a better way to help canine and feline pets as well as people stricken with cancer.

That the story plays out in Vero Beach is nothing short of serendipity.

Annette Sysel is a sun-seeking Canadian who answered an ad in Vero Beach for an equine surgeon back in 1999. Seeking a place in a warmer climate, she joined East Coast Equine on a year-long contract. After completing it, she eventually decided to change her clinical focus to small animals.

She currently practices at Tri-City



Veterinarian Annette Sysel checks the eyesight of a young tiger at the Tigers for Tomorrow Exotic Animal Preserve.

Photos provided by Drs. Bauer and Sysel.

Animal Hospital in Ft. Pierce and lives on the northern end of Vero's barrier island.

When Sysel's cat Tiki developed deadly stomach tumors, painful chemotherapy and surgery followed. In April of this year, she searched the internet for possible new treatments. Oncology for pets offers animal sufferers fewer possibilities for drug therapies than their human owners might have. The drugs available give generally mediocre results and often produce harsh side effects.

On the Web, Sysel read about a novel tumor-killing compound first developed by a graduate student at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, and successfully used on dogs as an "investigative drug." With some good luck and her knowledge as a doctor, she was able to contact the man responsible, chemist and cancer researcher Joe Bauer. She convinced him to let her have a small amount of the nitrosylcobalamin, although it had never been tested on cats.

"People told me I was crazy, not to do it. But I had read how the drug worked and I was desperate to try anything that might help," she says. And work it did. Not only did the tumors stop growing without side effects, Tiki's energy levels and general blood work returned to normal. As of early December, she continued to show no sign of returned tumor growth.

The way the drug works sounds simple: the time-honored approach of slipping a deadly agent inside a friendly one, the technique known as a Trojan horse.

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Health



Joseph Bauer in his lab in Cleveland.

expressed" in scientific parlance, with receptors for Vitamin B-12, used for growth and energy production. When the new drug passes to these receptors by way of their hunger for B12, it brings along nitric oxide that destroys the cancer cell.

So far, side effects to healthy cells have been minimal, Bauer says. In Tiki's case and those of the dogs which have had the drug, the B12 also gives an extra energy boost.

The possibility of combining the two chemicals, B12 and nitric oxide, into a new compound has been sought by cancer researchers for a number of years. But success was elusive and anything but simple. It required solving a puzzle of complex "stereochemistry," where structures must fit together in just the right way.

The thorny problem was apparently conquered by an eager young man who grew up thinking he would be an accountant.

Joe Bauer was born in Akron Ohio, attended Walsh University in Canton, and received a BA in business and accounting in 1994.

"I just took a business future for granted," he said. "My dad was in business and having math skills, I thought I would do accounting, but I wasn't particularly excited by it."

An influential teacher at Walsh, Joe Bendetto, steered the young man toward chemistry and the human body during his second semester, resulting in his taking a minor in chemistry. Bauer's skills in the lab led to graduate school at the University of Akron where he earned a Ph.D in biochemistry and polymer science for medical research in 1999.

While still a grad student, he produced the magic formula for combining B12 and nitric oxide, receiving a U.S. patent for nitrosylcobalamin in

1997. The discovery also resulted in an article in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, almost unheard of for a researcher whose career was just beginning.

Bauer received a post-doctoral research fellowship in immunology in 1997 at the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Institute, and became a research associate staff member there. In 2007 and 2008 he worked as a staff scientist at the Clinic's Foundation Center for Hematology and Oncology Molecular Therapeutics, working on drug design and delivery. Journal articles recorded his studies aimed at establishing the

properties and chemical actions of nitrosylcobalamin and other compounds.

For many researchers finding themselves with a new tumor killing agent, the next step would have been a deal with a pharmaceutical company or joining their ranks for the 10-year process of drug development for the human market alone. A call from a desperate dog owner in Massachusetts redirected Bauer's thinking.

Oscar, a 10-year-old bichon frise with an aggressive adenocarcinoma, was days away from being put down. Bauer, an emotional man easily moved

to tears and a great animal lover, decided to send the dog's veterinarian some of his compound free of charge.

Sending a dog owner an "investigative drug" for cancer is part of a developing new strategy for fighting the disease.

Beginning five years ago, cancer researchers in the U.S began considering the huge population of dogs across the country. Some breeds are particularly susceptible to cancers that kill many people — bone and brain cancer, for example. Might not these animals be used as test subjects for new com-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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Health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

pounds if they already have cancer and their owners are willing?

"Dogs are far better models for comparison with humans than rats and mice," says Bauer. "They have more DNA in common with us. They live with us and share our lives as companions, drinking our bad water and breathing our polluted air."

Oscar began treatment with nitrosylcobalamin, and the dog made a remarkable recovery. His tumors regressed rapidly, and he enjoyed five more years of life, finally passing away

this spring of old age. His case was followed by a group of other successful treatments of dogs with cancer, each taking Bauer's drug in injections under the skin.

In each case there were no signs of toxicity in the animals, although the degree of tumor regression varied. Owners were more than willing to take a chance on a non-labeled drug dispensed free of charge.

On various sites around the internet, the grateful pet owners have posted their stories.

"The loose skin of dogs and cats makes it easy to inject nitrosylcoba-

lamin under the skin," says Sysel, explaining how the drug must be administered each day at the beginning of treatment. "Most cancer drugs available for dogs and cats were created 50 years ago. Government-run clinical trials still require sacrificing dozens of animals. We don't want to do that."

The Bauer Research Foundation, found on the Web at <http://www.brf.vpweb.com>, was established to promote Bauer's drug research and other cancer-fighting compounds for pets, and is working with veterinarians in Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, and Pennsylvania to treat dogs and cats suffering from cancer with nitrosylcobalamin. There are requirements to qualify to be in the program which is being funded by donations from non-profit groups. The Reuter Foundation, the Charles Jelm Foundation, and Valley-Save-A-Pet are among the contributors. They have submitted grant proposals to the Winn Feline Foundation and the American Association of Feline Practitioners due to results with Tiki.

The Foundation also posts information about other compounds found to be effective with dog and cats and where they can be obtained.

News of the successes of nitrosylco-

balamin has appeared this year in *U.S. News and World Report*, and in numerous scientific journals and on-line medical sites.

Meanwhile, the new approach to cancer research employing sick pets appears so promising the U.S. National Cancer Institute has established a Comparative Oncology Program to evaluate other chemotherapy drugs by treating dogs.

The first U.S. canine/feline tumor tissue bank has also been created, accepting tissue and blood samples from animals with cancer since 2007. The new "biospecimen repository" facility is now next to the National Cancer Institute's library of human cancer samples in Maryland.

Bauer estimates it will require \$150,000 for raw materials to manufacture enough nitrosylcobalamin to treat 50 dogs and 50 cats for a year. Twelve hundred-square-feet of lab space "with a bench top, fume hood, and small office" would get them started locally.

"It takes such a long time to get a drug ready for people to take. I wanted to work with the animals too, not just sell this discovery to a big company. All these animals we have need our help," says Bauer.



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Spain: Starting the decade in a memorable way

BY TOM MCCARTHY JR.
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Packed into Madrid's Puerta del Sol with a bottle of champagne and a mouthful of grapes (beware of seeds) watching fireworks explode above the clock tower on the Ministry of the Interior building is definitely a memorable way to ring in the New Year.

I was lucky enough to close out the decade in Spain thanks to my younger sister, Eileen, who just had completed a semester abroad studying in Seville (Sevilla if you're savvy).

My trip started on Christmas Eve with a quick transcontinental flight from Orlando to Madrid followed by an even quicker ride on Spain's AVE (the high-speed rail line) to arrive in Sevilla in time for a paella Christmas dinner with my sister and parents (they decided to jump across the water for the holidays, too).

Jet-lag and an unyieldingly tight schedule afforded me only one evening to explore Andalusia's capital city and its Moorish influenced architecture. Que lastima.

The next day we hopped a plane to Barcelona.

A world class city, Barcelona's parks, monuments, cafes, cathedrals, museums and Gaudí architecture promised no shortage of fun activities for our touring pleasure.

The weather, however, was cold



Antoni Gaudí's masterpiece La Segrada Familia is lit by the sunset in Barcelona.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

and rainy (uncharacteristic for Spain this time of year, according to our cabbie in Sevilla).

Neither cold nor rain could stop us from strolling Las Ramblas amidst the human statue performers and street vendors (anyone want to buy a

rooster?) down to the harbor.

Nearby, among the many narrow twisting streets of the Gothic Quarter we enjoyed cafe con leches at a comfortable little corner coffee shop and visited numerous chic, fashionable stores (I purchased a colorful scarf as a late Christmas gift for my mom). The area is truly the hub of the historic district.

The next day, opting to pass up a visit to Montjuïc (the art museum

was closed and the performing fountains are turned off in the winter), we instead decided to have a picnic in Antoni Gaudí's fantastical Park Güell pleasure gardens.

With a little exploring we were able to locate a quiet bench where we could eat and take in an impressive view of the city all the way out to the Mediterranean.

Already primed for Gaudí, we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54



Lit decorations and multilingual Merry Christmas wishes hang above Barcelona's Passeig de Gracia.

JAMES GEIDNER HAIR STUDIO



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Travel



A vendor sells some fresh produce in the market of La Boqueria in Barcelona.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53

made our way down to his masterpiece (still under construction) La Sagrada Familia church.

With its towering spires, intricate facades and nature inspired architectural design cues, it is plain to see why this church holds such renown. My sister and I have made plans to return in 50 years to visit it once it is

finally finished (might not be enough time).

When the sun goes down, the hanging holiday lights cast a glow over the streets of Barcelona as even more people hit the sidewalks in search of delicious tapas and drinks.

In Spain eating dinner before 10:00 p.m. is nearly sacrilegious so having a glass of wine, some good conversation, and some bite-sized snacks in



A woman walks through Plaza Mayor on a rainy night in Madrid.

the early evening is only natural.

After a few days in Barcelona my parents packed up and headed for home while my sister and I made our way to the capital city, Madrid.

We booked ourselves into a hostel near Puerta del Sol (Madrid's city center) where we quickly made friends with a large group of young Spanish, French, South American,



A crowd of visitors make use of Antoni Gaudí's Park Güell, which looks out over Barcelona and the Mediterranean Sea.

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Madrid’s Royal Palace and Almudena Cathedral stand on a hill overlooking a Casa de Campo park to the west of the city.



Thousands ring in the new year as fireworks explode above Puerta del Sol in Madrid.

Dutch and Australian travelers and proceeded to go out into the cold, rainy night in search of Madrid’s

night life.
During the day, Eileen and I visited the Museo del Prado where we saw works like Diego Velázquez’s Las Meninas, The Garden of Earthly Delights by Hieronymus Bosch, and a large collection of pieces by Francisco de Goya.
There was also the Almudena Cathedral, which is right next to Madrid’s Royal Palace, and Buen Retiro Park with its many fountains and statues.
All of the sightseeing and tapas eating eventually led back to Puerta del Sol, where thousands packed into the plaza to say goodbye to 2009 and ring in 2010 with fireworks and the traditional eating of 12 grapes (for good luck over the next 12 months) as the clock struck midnight.

The year is off to a good start.
Feliz Año Nuevo.


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Style



The real thing: Ugg's Bailey Button boot.

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BY JULIE NEIGHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sheepskin footwear is (a) gorgeous, (b) hideous, (c) comfortable, (d) clunky or (e) a national uniform.

At the very least, you should have selected "e," but the answer probably doesn't matter. The fur-lined boots everyone seems to be wearing — even when it isn't cold — are a fashion phenomenon that shows no signs of abating.

The king of the hill — Ugg Australia — hit the U.S. market like a sledgehammer and sales started to soar around the turn of the millennium,

defying all odds for what should have been just another fad. Instead, in the third quarter of 2009, the company sold more than \$212 million in products. Surely, the word "Ugg" was part of many a gift box this holiday season.

So, if you're wondering how one product maneuvered its way onto the conveyor belt of mass culture, we provide a few answers below.

In the beginning

It's thought that Australians were

wearing some sort of sheepskin-lined footwear for decades (and that the term "ugg" evolved from "ugly boots"), but if you're looking for someone to blame — or thank — for the U.S. invasion, consider Australian surfer Brian Smith, who started the Ugg Australia footwear company in 1978. Seeking to increase sales of his fur-lined boots, Smith came to the U.S. with about two dozen pairs of the footwear, selling them to California surfers and, eventually, to the Hollywood set.

The sheepskin is twin-faced, meaning that the wool is still attached to the suede during the construction and dying process. That makes the fur very porous. So, if you've always wanted to know why Angelenos wear sheepskin footwear with shorts in the summer, it's because the material is naturally thermostatic. The boots will keep feet cool in 80-degree weather and warm when it's 10 below. Breathability is key.

In 1995, Smith sold his company to the Goleta-based Deckers Outdoor Corp., which decided to expand from its basic "heritage" line to include a handful of new styles; a few years later, the company opted to reposition Ugg Australia as a luxury brand.

In the late 1990s, Deckers switched

the primary focus of the footwear company to the international market. What started as a small enterprise to clad the feet of Australian surfers now seems intent on world domination. Or, at least, boot domination.

Touched by Oprah

Looking back, it seems apparent that, as with most enterprises, there was a tipping point at which operations moved into warp drive. For Ugg Australia, that might have been in 2000, when Oprah Winfrey got a pair of Ultra boots. She liked them so much that she ordered 350 pairs for herself and her staff.

Then, in 2003, when the pink and blue Classic Shorts were featured on her "Favorite Things" holiday show, pandemonium ensued. (In 2007, that list included the company's Classic Crochet Tall Boot.) Boots appeared on auction sites, selling for triple their retail value. Footwear News dubbed the label "Brand of the Year." And Ugg managed to ensure that various starlets, who love to comb through the swag suites at film festivals and award shows, were photographed wearing their product.

Debbie King, Bloomingdales' vice president for women's shoes, admires

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RIVAL: The Plume by Koolaburra.



KNIT: Skechers' Boiling Point Button Boot sold at Old Navy.

the brand's longevity and appeal to a broad audience. The company is always on the move, she says, updating styles and colors to keep the footwear fashion forward.

"They just keep offering newness and fresh ideas . . . like the Bailey Button [a style with a button on the side]. In the fall season, Ugg is the No. 1 brand we sell."

Last December, the *Washington Post* reported that Ugg boots had "yet to go out of style" — even during the recession.

"Several styles of the boots . . . were sold out on Nordstrom's website . . . and were not expected to ship for at least a month," the *Post* reported. "Nordstrom limits sales of Ugg products to four per customer at the request of the manufacturer, which was worried about shoppers reselling them online. . . . Indeed, many products that are supposedly sold out wind up on the Internet — often with a higher price."

Ugg Australia has become involved with big-name charity events as well. On Dec. 15, Fred Segal Feet, Ugg and Studio One Collaboration held a benefit for the Surfrider Foundation's West Los Angeles / Malibu Chapter. At the event, Ugg Australia boots were silk-screened live by FreshPressed, featuring unique artwork from Shepard Fairey (20% of all proceeds from the event went to the charity).

Of course, popularity begets criticism. Two years ago, Zoe Lem, a British celebrity stylist who has done work for magazines such as *Elle* and *Marie Claire* and who blogs at *MyFashionLife.com*, was asked, "What do you think is the absolute worst trend at the moment?"

"Most definitely Ugg boots!" she declared. "They are the ugliest things I've ever seen, along with Crocs! Ugg boots have become so popular through ce-

lebs . . . wearing them, but they make the ankles look fat and are just so hideous I don't get them at all."

A writer at the website *DemiCouture* announced: "Uggs are never acceptable footwear. Uggs are (besides Crocs, of course) the ugliest thing you can put on your poor feet. Come on . . . they deserve better. These shoes do their namesake proud; they are ugly!"

Criticism is not limited to the product. There are people who see Ugg Australia and its parent company as a Microsoft-like leviathan, protecting its interests at all costs and suing over alleged license infringements at the drop of a shoe.

What's in a name

In 2004, a group of small manufacturers in Australia formed the Ugg Boot Footwear Assn. to combat Deckers' claim that it owns all the rights to the name "Ugg." The association argued that the term was originally an abbreviation of the word "ugly," and, therefore, generic. According to the *Dominion Post* in Wellington, New Zealand, the Australian regulator of trademarks agreed with the association in 2006, and local manufacturers were once again allowed to call their sheepskin boots "uggs." Deckers Outdoor Corp. still owns the trademark in the U.S. and Europe.

And then there's the 2006 documentary "The Good, the Bad and the Ugg Boot," a 54-minute film that details the battle between Deckers and, among other clans, the McDougalls, who have been making "uggs" for nearly 30 years. An Australian government website described the film as "a story about cultural identity and survival in the age of globalisation. It's a spaghetti western narrated by Greig Pickhaver following the funny, tragic and heroic efforts of a couple of feisty small family businesses, in Australia

and America, as they take on the giant US company, Deckers Outdoor Corporation, over a weird Aussie cultural icon — the ugg boot."

But the criticism does not seem to have had much effect on the juggernaut that is Ugg Australia.


Nothing succeeds like . . .

Sienna Miller? Check. Justin Timberlake? Yes. André Leon Talley? Ten

pairs of slip-ons, please. Hollywood offspring such as Kingston Rossdale and Violet Affleck have been spotted in Ugg Australia products. And for those who cannot have enough, there are more than 150 styles from which to choose.

Which bring us to the knockoffs. Ugg Australia has a Facebook page in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 59



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Style

Using beauty power tools just like the pros

At-home tools can replace or complement professional services such as hair removal, airbrush makeup and skin care.



LIKE THE PROS: The NuFace micro-current device, left, and the Temptu Airbrush Makeup System are designed for at-home use.

BY VALLI HERMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Automated beauty tools are beginning to make the days of applying makeup or washing your face by hand look quaint.

Professional-level devices are now available for use at home as manufacturers refine their products — and their sales pitches — to reach the large consumer market. The sometimes-pricey devices are more available than ever as spas, doctors' offices, websites and infomercials sell them with celebrities and others touting their effectiveness. And with many devices now in their second or third incarnations, manufacturers may be approaching the right combination of price and performance, erasing the memories of gimmicks gone bad. Consumers now can laser away hair, treat acne, reduce uneven pigmentation, airbrush on cosmetics and cleanse skin, as well as (or better than) a professional.

These new beauty power tools are part of a growing trend for at-home spa treatments that can replace or complement professional services, said Michael Moretti, editor of the Medical Insight Report, which covers the aesthetic medical industry. His recent report on home-use devices profiled 26 companies that make consumer versions of professional products, a market that he projected will grow about 25 percent annually for several years to come.

As with cameras or cookware, the target market is the "prosumer" who craves the pro's tricks and tips but is hoping for little pain to the body, wallet or ego. After all, how are you going to feel if you spend \$270 on the no/no! 8800 device to zap body hair with patented heat waves if it doesn't work? (It does, and it can keep hair from growing back, but you've got to tolerate the scent of burning hair and, most important, follow the directions.)

The at-home products are "more compact and won't do the same job as a physician-utilized machine, but over time, they get great results," said Cindy Vandruff, editor in chief of Aesthetic Trends & Technologies, a journal for physicians and aestheticians.

Cosmetic companies are hopping on the bandwagon. Neutrogena recently launched the new two-speed Wave Duo Power-Cleanser with Foaming Pads. The buzzing, \$14.99 palm-sized plastic device comes with single-use foaming pads and the required AA battery. Vibrating mascaras by Maybelline and Lancôme promise to mimic the delicate wiggle a makeup artist uses to build color on the lashes. Garnier's \$16.99 Ultra-Lift Pro Deep Wrinkle Roller puts ingredients such as Vitamin A in a roll-on dispenser that promises to firm and lift skin on the neck and



Ask the Hair Guy

Mark Rodolico
Colorist / Stylist
www.askthehairguy.com

A word from The Hair Guy: *I just want to go on record that I am sorry for comparing Christi Knight (The gal on TV) to Waldo (where is Waldo books) thanks for the visit, I won't do it again. Tongue in Cheek.*

Question: *Can you please tell me a little bit about organic or sulfate free shampoo. Is it better for your hair and why?*

- Kimberly Robideau, Vero Beach

Answer: Well K.R., I am so glad you asked. I had to defer this question to our Design Team Director Jolene Grant, the girl that keeps the hair guy in line when I am faced with this sort of decision. Living well is a way of life for her. "Well Mark, I'm glad to help! Here is the scoop, the sulfates differ in the types. Sulfates strictly have to do with cleansing products. Sulfates are the ingredients that help shampoo remove dirt, oil and other product from your scalp and hair shaft. It is what makes it "Suds up". As an example of the more organic option (sulfate sounding) Sodium Lauryl Sulfate comes from the oil of coconut & palm. The molecule size is too large to penetrate the skin and safe to hair and skin. Sulfoacetate ingredients are "hydrophilic" meaning it is attracted to H2O and dissolves more readily and completely. Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (true sulfate)

although also water soluble, has small molecule size and penetrates the skin, which can be irritating. If this sounds like what you are looking for, next time your shopping, look at the ingredients and look for Sulfoacetates or Organic derived Sulfoacetates." Thanks, Jolene. Sulfate-free formulas are typically more expensive to produce and therefore more expensive to the end user. Don't discount the far milder and gentler sodium laureth sulfate and ammonium laureth sulfate as mild good alternatives as well. We recommend and use the following lines, A/G hair cosmetics, Pravana naturceutical and Moroccan Oil hair care.

Thanks for asking The Hair Guy.

Please keep the questions coming: www.askthehairguy.com

*Mark's at the Pointe Salon & Boutique is home of The Hair Guy
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This is *not* your Grandmother's Day Spa.

face.

Skin care may have led the revolution in gadgetry, but color cosmetics are following up with technical innovations too. This fall, about 100 Sephora stores launched the \$225 Temptu Airbrush Makeup System, designed to mist skin with an atomized foundation that looks slightly more dewy than most professional-level airbrushed makeup. Temptu Chief Executive Michael Benjamin says the company is developing an entire range of cosmetics or beauty products that could be airbrushed — including sunscreen.

Though Temptu has long sold a professional airbrush, the new at-home model allows users to switch easily between colors of foundation, blush or highlighter without cleaning the spray head. Makeup artist Gina Brooke says she sometimes prefers the smaller, lighter consumer Temptu system to apply makeup, or on location. Brooke said she also likes how the light mist can create a smooth complexion that can stand

up to high-definition scrutiny. Lancôme followed up its much-hyped \$34 to \$39 vibrating mascaras with a \$48 buzzing powder puff, the new Oscillation Powerfoundation mineral makeup. It features a motorized, cushioned applicator that the company says delivers 7,000 vibrations a minute to wiggle micronized powder foundation smoothly across skin. Yet the item, which looks like a child's top, relies on smooth human-powered strokes, not vibrations, to achieve a fine finish.

The old adage you get what you pay for proves true with many of these buzzing beauty products. Before buying, shoppers should investigate the manufacturer's history and even check out Internet buzz, said Dr. Tina Alster, a clinical professor of dermatology at the Georgetown University Medical Center.

"Any of these at-home devices are a lot more cost-effective, and certainly they are more convenient [than professional treatments]," Alster said. "This is a huge trend. We are just at

the tip of what will become widely available and widely used," she said.

Alster is a fan of the Clarisonic skin-care brush and recommends the \$149 to \$225 devices for patients who have clogged pores, oily skin or whiteheads, or who are acne prone. Spas and doctors' offices, including hers, are using the brushes to quickly remove surface dead skin for better product absorption, makeup removal or skin smoothing. The company recently launched a version that is designed to scrub your body. Alster also recommends the brushes for anyone who uses glycolic acid, retinols or Vitamin C products.

Like a power toothbrush for your face, the Clarisonic bristles move a few millimeters, 300 times a second in an oscillatory fashion, said Dr. Robb Akridge, co-founder and vice president of clinical affairs at manufacturer Pacific Bioscience Laboratories Inc., in Bellevue, Wash. And the message seems to be getting through: Sales have increased 2,179% in three years.

Not all consumer versions of professional devices get the thumbs up, however. Alster and Veronica Barton-Schwartz, who runs a spa in Malibu, gave tepid reviews of the micro-current devices that aim to firm facial muscles with electric stimulation.

Yet aestheticians have been using micro-current technology since the 1970s, according to Carol Cole, whose namesake company has been selling her NuFace hand-held micro-current device for four years. Though some experts debate the usefulness of micro-current, at-home devices can offer a cost savings. Cole said professional micro-current treatments can cost \$120 to \$400 a session, and an effective regimen requires 12 to 18 twice-a-week sessions. Her device sells for \$325.

Naturally, even with DVDs, charts and guides to using the products, someone will probably airbrush their sinuses in medium beige. Alster and others urge consumers to research all claims and, please, read the instructions.

It must be Ugg Love

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

structing consumers on how to avoid dealers selling faux footwear. The parent company says it has located more than 3,000 websites offering counterfeit goods.

Earlier this month, a columnist at the Anchorage Daily News wrote about her experience in looking online and ordering what turned out to be fakes. After her initial order, several days passed with no boots and no communication:

"I went back to the Web site, where I noticed a tiny 'About us' link at the bottom of the page and found this: 'UGG' is not a brand name but an age old generic term for this style of Australian-made sheepskin boot."

"I was starting to understand what I was dealing with. It was age-old and generic. A scam. High-priced, counterfeit Uggs."

After Julia O'Malley ordered the real thing (delivered three days later), she received a pink slip to pick up the other package at the post office:

"They were a dead-on match for the real ones, right down to the pattern on the soles and the little metal tag on the heel. But inside them, there was no fog-colored sheepskin. Instead, it

was cream-colored fur of indeterminate origin. One of the guys I worked with picked them up and stroked the inside.

"It's probably endangered species," he said."

Success also inspires competitors. Ugg Australia's upscale rivals include Koolaburra, whose products are worn by Miley Cyrus, Lauren Conrad and Vanessa Hudgens and whose prices are higher than those for Ugg Australia items.

Companies such as Skechers and Old Navy are producing boots that offer a more affordable option for folks who can't splurge on a pair of the real sheepskin stuff that falls in the 100-plus dollar range. They're creating products that are similar in style but may be either faux-suede or lined in wool and cost around \$50-plus.

Bottom line

Rachel Matthews of New York City sums up her version of boot love: "It's like getting to know a guy. At first he might not be that attractive. But after a few dates and you get really comfortable, you just can't be without each other. Well, that's how I feel about my Ugg boots."



Style



BY KAVITA DASWANI
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Consumers seek less expensive ways to achieve beauty

Surgery, the number of cosmetic surgical procedures done in 2008 was lower than in 2007 — by 9%, according to the ASPS, and 15%, according to the ASAPS. And although 2009 figures will not be available until late February or early March, plastic surgeons say, anecdotally, that business for the year was down at least 20% from 2008.

As a result, cosmetic surgery practices are finding themselves acting somewhat as financial consultants to

their patients, helping them work out payment plans, negotiating fees and making out lists of priorities — a Brazilian butt lift can wait, but those wrinkles under the eyes need to be dealt with right away. In addition, plastic surgeons who previously only focused on the expensive and invasive procedures have had to turn their hands to the quick fixes — fillers, peels, laser treatments — which are increasingly in demand now.

“We thought we’d be insulated better,” said Dr. Toby Mayer, a Beverly Hills cosmetic surgeon. “But even though we have a large percentage base of Hollywood clients who are not affected by these economic conditions, for the large majority of our patients, the

big procedures are out of the question for now.”

Nonetheless, and partly because of an increasingly competitive job market, people still want to get work done, Mayer said, but they need cheaper options. Among them: Botox, Restylane and other injectibles that minimize wrinkles are proving especially popular and, at about \$1,000 a treatment, are more affordable than the average \$10,000 for a face-lift.

It’s not just cosmetic surgeons who are having to play to the demands of the market. Dermatologists, hairstylists and all manner of beauty professionals are having to tailor their businesses to a marketplace now focused much more on the bottom line. In effect, luxurious and indulgent treatments are out; quick fixes with immediate results are in.

“Two years ago, it wasn’t unusual for a patient to request a laser treatment, Botox and Restylane all on the same visit,” said Dr. Jessica Wu, a Westwood dermatologist. “Nowadays, they’re more likely to ask me which treatment they should do first, and which ones can wait till the next visit . . . so that we can prioritize what treatments we should do first.”

Despite L.A.’s reputation as a body-conscious town, beauty practitioners say patients and clients are forgoing work on their bodies and concentrating primarily on the face. With the job market skewing younger, beauty professionals say, people come in saying they need to look more youthful, and quickly.

“If I look at my practice now compared to 15 years ago, the motivations

are different,” said Dr. Brent Moelleken, a plastic surgeon who has practices in Beverly Hills, Santa Barbara and Bakersfield. “Before, women would come in after they got divorced or widowed. Today, it’s seen almost as a necessity to remain competitive in the business world. But while they’re still concerned about a pot belly or their breasts, they are much more economically minded. They don’t just walk into a plastic surgeon’s office and get the most expensive procedure: They shop around, go to many doctors, look at prices and negotiate. In the heyday, even five years ago, they would be embarrassed to negotiate. Today, it’s the rule.”

Experts are seeing trends across the board that are providing an insight into how people are choosing to spend their beauty dollars: Injectibles are holding their own, expensive products are not. The time between haircuts and mani/pedis is being stretched out, and massages and other body treatments are being postponed. But while fewer people are signing up for pricey liposuction surgeries, treatments such as laser liposculpture are proving popular.

“The economy has not really impacted us,” said Dr. Anh Ngo, medical director of Final Inches, a facility that offers laser liposculpture at its three L.A.-area branches. “We have a four- to six-week waiting list.” The treatment is a cheaper and less invasive form of liposuction. It costs about \$3,000 per area, about half of what liposuction costs, with almost no downtime for the patient.

“We’re a better deal for the same results,” said Ngo. “We see patients who

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Style



gery.

"Patients are bargaining for the best available price and the best available therapy," Kahen said. He is responding to the market by offering financing as well as money-back guarantees. "People want to try the cheaper alternatives first. If they don't work, they come back and get the more expensive thing done."

Tracey Sameyah, president of the Murad Inclusive Health Spa in El Segundo, said that visits for treatments that are "less publicly visible — like body treatments and wet therapies" — are being put off.

"Clients want serious skin-care solutions,

have thought about it for years. Even if they haven't saved up for it, they seem to see the value in it for them. They want to see the quick results, so they can look and feel good on those job interviews."

Dr. John Kahen, a hair transplant surgeon in Beverly Hills, is seeing something similar in his field.

"If our patients don't have the financial capability of doing a transplant procedure, there are alternative methods that are much cheaper," he said. Among them: the HairMax Laser Comb, an FDA-approved, at-home appliance to help stave off thinning hair. At \$495, it is a lot cheaper than the \$12,000 to \$16,000 for transplant sur-

not a vague, generalized promise of beauty," she said. "Demand for Botox and fillers remains steady, but we've actually seen a boost in demand for our Techno Skin Resurfacing Treatment, which combines microdermabrasion with a chemical peel. It's part of a trend we're seeing of clients wanting to evaluate the full range of options for dramatic improvement in their appearance without the expense and risk of surgery."

Beauty aficionados say that the economy has provided a lesson in prioritizing their beauty budgets. Connie Bang, who was laid off in 2009 and is now a freelance commercial producer, said her weekly mani/pedis, mas-

sages and body scrubs have fallen by the wayside.

"There were all these extraneous, exorbitant things," she said. "I'm in reset mode. I had to set my priorities." So she's put off nail treatments until, as she puts it, "my nails start curling over" and has facials once every other month. She continues to buy Dr. Harold Lancer skin-care products, which retail for \$30 to \$125, but said she uses them sparingly. Everything else, she said, has to wait.

"If I had a spot here or there, I would go in for a laser or power peel treatment without hesitation," she said. "But I've had to cut the fat. I used to put the Lancer products everywhere, just luxuriate in it. But now I just use it in smaller quantities on my face. Other parts of my body get the stuff from Rite-Aid."

Doctors and beauty experts say they are having to find ways to be inventive and to tap into what people need in this new climate. Dermatologist Wu is making more house calls "because people are more careful about obvious spending." "Even if they can afford it, when their

friends and family are being downsized, they may not want to be seen coming out of a dermatologist's office," she said.

At the Veronica Skin & Body Care Center in Malibu, owner Veronica Barton-Schwartz is offering \$55 mini-facials combined with a \$20 power yoga class so clients feel like they're still getting a beauty fix but at streamlined prices. She has also recently launched a four-step "facial in a bag," which costs \$88 but will provide about 16 facials at home.

Dr. Debra Luftman, a dermatologist, helps patients prioritize their beauty spending by advocating simple drug-store brands in favor of expensive creams and suggesting fillers like Juvederm, which, at \$500 to \$700 a syringe, can replicate the effects of a face-lift for about a year.

"We all want immediate gratification — more so now, when times are distressing," she said. "I like to make a plan with my patients, look at treatments over a period of time and budget everything. We're doing incentives and packages to make it easier for them. They don't even have to ask me."



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Pets

Pelican Cove King Charles is Agility Dog

BY CISSY SUMNER
COLUMNIST

This week we meet Boogie Woogie BDWY. Boogie is a Cavalier King Charles who lives Pelican Cove with his owners Carol and Hank Pena. He comes from a breed that produces dogs of varying personalities. Here is Boogie's story:

I'm a handsome boy Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, age 4, with a white star on my black back. From birth I was meant to perform. You might think I have a funny name, but let me explain. My Daddy's name is Mondrian, named after a famous Dutch painter who painted a work of art called *BDWY Boogie Woogie* which hangs in New York City's Museum of Modern Art.. When my new owners Carol and Hank Pena relocated me from New York City to Vero Beach at the age of two, there was no way they could change my name having heard the story.

But I would much rather RUN



Boogie and a favorite toy.

than talk about my name! In less than a year of competing in dog agility competitions, I am in AKC's excellent standard and jumper's



Boogie jumps through the tire.

Courtesy of Pics N Pages

level and am a USDAA Agility Dog. I'm also proud to be an AKC Canine Good Citizen. It's no easy feat to live up to that every day!

muffin. I tried to hide a loaf of bread in my doughnut bed, but my owners found it before I could hide it again. What really annoys my Mom are the

holes I've chewed in her short pockets looking for training treats. There's nothing I won't eat because it's hard to control my Spaniel nose once it's activated.

You would never know I weigh only 16 pounds when you're at the other end of a tug toy. Open my crate door at home or at agility and I'm out like a spinning dervish. Check out "Boogie Woogie Runs Again" on youtube to see me in action.

My joie de vivre and energy are contagious. Hey, I have to live up to that "star" label.

My folks say they couldn't ask for a more devoted or loyal dog. Life with me is definitely a bundle of belly laughs.

Cissy Sumner, CPDT-KA

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Boogie poses for the camera.

My folks call me Bulldozer Boogie Woogie because I throw myself into life like a bulldozer tears up concrete. There's nothing in between about me. Whatever I do is done with 100 percent gusto, which sometimes gets me in trouble. Such as the day I cruised the kitchen countertop and ate a banana and

YOUR PET'S HEALTH

By Dr. Randy Divine and Dr. Laura Baldwin



Pain Management at Divine Animal Hospital

We have been frustrated for many years that the only standard for chronic pain in our patients was drugs with their associated side effects and risks. Drugs have their place, but how nice it would be if there were effective treatments other than drugs.

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We now offer this technology for your pet's pain relief and improved quality of life. We invite you to contact us for more information and pricing.

Other pain relieving techniques we are offering to alleviate chronic pain are: Epidural spinal injections, Hip Dysplasia sensory denervation, acupuncture point therapy by Dr. Baldwin, Stem Cell Therapy, and other newly used therapy in humans; Platelet Rich Plasma treatments.

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On Faith

Finding solutions and ending the blame game



BY REV. DRs. CASEY AND BOB BAGGOTT
COLUMNISTS

We went away on vacation for awhile this past summer. One of the opportunities that resulted from our travels was seeing the daily news reported in different settings. We noted something interesting. Whether the news being considered was international or local, commentary was readily available and differing opinions about the causes of problems were plentiful. Apparently, whether we are here or halfway across the world, we humans like to analyze our problems at great depth and look for culprits.

Who is to blame? On many issues, pundits are ready to weigh in on all sides of this question with equal certainty. Yet, for all that, resolution of some of our most difficult issues seems no nearer. The "blame game" is frustrating at its best, and a contributor to further misunderstanding, at its worst.

Truthfully, we need a solution more than we need an analysis of many of these vexing problems. We need a cure more than we need a diagnosis. Sometimes even our own personal issues remain unresolved as we debate their origins, who should take fault for our problems, and why it is unfair that we should be experiencing them in the first place.

Recently we heard a story that stood in such stark contrast to this "blame game" that it caught our attention and made us stop to consider its applicability to our own circumstances. Here is the tale. It seems that a Special Olympics was held several years back in Seattle. The hundred yard dash was to be one of its major events. When time came, 10 competitors, each with a mental or physical handicap, stood at the starting line, ready to go at the sound of the gun. The gun sounded and all 10 took off. But one of the runners, a young boy, immediately fell and rolled on the track, unable to regain his footing and continue. He cried out in anguish and frustration. The other nine runners heard his cry and stopped. They turned and every one of them went back to the starting line.

One of the girls in the race bent to kiss the cheek of the fallen boy and said compassionately, "There, now it will be better." Then the nine helped the fallen boy to stand, and all 10 walked, arm in arm, to the finish line together.

That day at the Special Olympics there was no analysis of the causes for the boy's fall, no discussion of who was responsible, no commentary on who should be blamed. Instead the

bleachers, filled to capacity, erupted with cheers that lasted for several minutes. Who could have anticipated an event where all 10 competitors turned in the winning time?

Maybe our own problems, so often resistant to conclusive analysis, may nevertheless be ripe for simple intervention. Perhaps with the administration of compassion and the willingness to help one another stand and

walk, an entirely unanticipated, but thoroughly welcome result may occur: less blame, more winners at the finish line. Wouldn't that be worth cheering for?

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.

YOUTH TRANSITION CENTER GRAND OPENING Sunday, January 17th

Children's Home Society (CHS) Treasure Coast Division will soon have a place for aging-out foster youth to call home. The Youth Transition Center capital campaign has almost met its goal, and we need your help.

The Kresge Foundation, one of the nation's largest charitable foundations, awarded CHS a Challenge Grant: **reach \$4.5 million by June 2010, and they will grant the final \$500,000.**

At present we are in the homestretch of the campaign and have raised more than \$4 million toward our \$5 million goal.

Every dollar counts. Step up to the challenge by helping us provide housing for former foster youth. Our goal is to create opportunities in the CHS Transitional Living Program for these young people to learn life skills, earn an education, and find stable jobs and housing.

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Contact Lawrence Brooks, Executive Director 772.344.4020

www.YouthTransitionCenterTC.com

Lawrence.brooks@chsfl.org



Dining

Restaurant Review

Oriente: One of our island's stars



The dining room and bar at Oriente.

Photos: Tom McCarthy Jr.

BY TINA RONDEAU
COLUMNIST

Can there be a more inventive chef in Vero Beach than David Rodriguez of Oriente?

In the year and a half that he has presided over the kitchen of Gloria and Emilio Estefan's new hotel, the Costa d'Este Beach Resort, the young Cuban-American chef has been serving the most innovative – and to our taste some of the most delicious – dishes ever found on the Vero barrier island.

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, trained in European cooking styles, Rodriguez serves up an inspired fusion of Cuban, Latin and European tastes along with a smattering of classic Cuban entrees.

No visit to Oriente should fail to start with a ceviche. In a warm climate, these cool and tasty appetizers, marinated with citrus juice, provide a perfect beginning. On our most recent visit, I opted for the ceviche vegetariano (\$9), a delightful concoction of grilled hearts of palm, baby bella mushrooms, white asparagus, avocado, pico de gallo and oregano laced citrus dressing.

My husband went for one of the tiraditos. The main difference between ceviche and tiraditos lies in the slicing of the fish (in tiraditos, the fish is sliced fine). On this occasion, my husband went for the grilled baby octopus (\$11), which was served with red, yellow and green peppers, onion, cilantro and lime juice. He pronounced it

sublime.

On previous occasions, we have enjoyed the Honduran ceviche (\$10), prepared with yellow tail, ginger, chives and mild jalapenos and presented in a coconut. Our guest on the most recent visit skipped the ceviches and tiraditos in favor of a cup of traditional Cuban black bean soup (\$6). Excellent, she reported.

For main courses, the challenge lies in deciding whether to go by land or sea. On this most recent visit, one went by land and two by sea.

Our guest ordered la completa (\$24), a classic Cuban dinner in which the ropa vieja (shredded flank steak) is accompanied by black beans, rice and ripe plantains. For those seeking authentic Cuban cuisine, this is the match of any we have found in Tampa or Miami.

I went for the Oriente paella (\$28 for one, \$38 for two), a combination of chicken, clams, mussels, shrimp, scallops, calamari, green peppers and fresh peas, made with Calisberra rice infused with the taste of chorizo. There are as many variations of paella as there are chefs preparing them, and this was a riff on a traditional Cuban paella, a zesty seafood paradise. I would rate it the best in Vero.

My husband ordered the pan roasted scallops wrapped in Serrano ham (\$28) – large, juicy scallops served over herbed risotto, with edamame and crispy leeks. Highly recommended.

On previous visits, we sampled black grouper (\$27), pan roasted with black beans and tender ham hocks, and Florida yellowtail snapper (\$28),

prepared with rock shrimp and a Vidalia puree.

When we get a chance to return, two additions to the menu that we plan to try are the Le-Quebecois veal chop Milanese (\$39), served with mashed potatoes, tomatoes and Florida avocados, and the New York Strip (\$37) with chimichurri, accompanied by chorizo twice cooked potatoes and sautéed spinach.

For dessert, on our most recent visit, I had one of the lightest tres leches cakes I have ever encountered, which came accompanied by a chocolate eggnog shooter. Heavenly. My husband and our guest enjoyed the flan de huevo, a Cuban-style custard in a caramel sauce that slid down easy with a cup of espresso.

An additional option that we noticed a number of other diners trying are the “little plates,” a combination of Cuban and pan-Asian dishes that may well be perfect for a diner who is not famished.

big city papers the second they walk through the door (leading reviewers for papers like the Washington Post to actually go to restaurants at times wearing a disguise), life is simpler here. The tensions are not the same – and I generally am able to have a restaurant experience similar to yours.

So it was that on our most recent visit to Oriente, where we arrived right on time for our reservation, the hostess surveyed a half empty dining room and decided that the perfect place for our party of three was at a table immediately in front of the door to the kitchen.

When I demurred (as you should under similar circumstances, unless you like to take your meals seated in the middle of Route 60), after an awkward couple-minute wait we were shown to a quieter table on the other side of the dining room. Over the next two hours, we could not help but note that the dining room was never full – and no further effort was made to seat



Oriente's Ceviches Flight dish offers a taste of five different ceviches.

Presentation, overall, is a strong point of Oriente – very creative and appealing, and well matched to the offerings of an extremely creative chef who is bringing the island imaginative dishes that go well beyond traditional Cuban.

Dinner for two here with a modest bottle of wine runs about \$130 before tip. With three, the check comes in just south of \$200.

PS. One of the nice things after a year and a half of reviewing restaurants for a small town newspaper is that by and large, I still am able to dine unrecognized. While big city restaurants make a major effort to spot reviewers for

a party at the prime table we had first been offered.

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

Five tips for making healthful, flavorful food



BY STEPHANIE WITT SEDGWICK
THE WASHINGTON POST

This time of year, we're filled with the best of intentions. Not only will daily exercise become part of our

routine, but we'll love it. We'll be kinder to our co-workers. We'll never yell at children, especially our own. The garden will be mulched seasonally and weeded weekly. Of course, we'll eat better.

I won't try to guide your gardening, parenting, work or exercise routine, but I can certainly help with that eat-better resolution by sharing my favorite tips for cooking lighter. These evolved over time; I never set out to make my family's food more healthful. Like all permanent changes, it was a slow process. Now, I can't think of cooking any other way.

My five simple, inexpensive additions to your dishes will help cut down on unnecessary fatty and salty flavor boosters, and they should make your food taste better than ever.

Add citrus, and lots of it. Lemons, oranges and limes bring so much flavor and balance to dishes of all kinds, and not just with their juice. The real punch is in the zest. Use a mixture of juice and zest in marinades for

chicken and shellfish and for salad dressings that go easy on the oil. The zest, mixed with a little olive oil and a pinch of salt, also dresses green vegetables nicely. Try orange zest with steamed broccoli and julienned Brussels sprouts, lemon and/or lime zest with green beans or grilled asparagus. Lemon or orange zest mixed with ricotta and some brown sugar and then topped with sliced strawberries makes a quick breakfast or dessert.

Use herbs of all kinds, alone or in combinations. Use the dried variety in dishes that cook for a long time, such as spaghetti sauce and stews; then when the dish is done, add fresh herbs for color and to brighten the flavors. Add fresh herbs to quick-cooking dishes. Chopped herbs can go into dressings, and whole leaves into the salad itself. Pasta dishes come alive with the last-minute addition of basil or fresh oregano. Simple bean salads take on a new dimension when you toss in dill, parsley, chives and/or cilantro. Salsas change their character depending on the herbs you choose. And simple sauces can be made pesto-style, taking the herb of your choosing and blending with some olive oil and seasonings.

Go global with spices that inject flavor fast. I add cumin to marinades, chili powder to burgers, cinnamon and cloves to meat dishes. I make rubs that use combinations of spices for pork tenderloins and roast chicken. I love curry powder mixed with chickpeas, garam masala on oven-braised chicken. Keep the spices handy, and buy in small amounts so you know they're fresh. If you heat with some oil, the dried spices will more fully release their flavors.

Toss together fruit salsas. They

add flavor, moisture and texture to grilled, broiled or roasted meats and fish. I wasn't a huge fan until I started making my own, but now I love these various combinations of diced fruits, herbs, a flavorful liquid and perhaps some vegetables. I make them out of diced avocado, tropical fruits, citrus (see ingredient No. 1 above) and, of course, the most popular salsa fruit of all, tomatoes. Flavor with lots of citrus and/or vinegar and just enough oil to marry the ingredients, and use spices or herbs that match the seasoning of the protein. Citrus-marinated chicken, then, gets a citrus-based salsa.

Stir in a pinch of sugar, my secret ingredient of choice. When a dressing or a cooking liquid tastes flat but I've already added salt, I bypass the salt shaker and use a pinch of sugar instead. Sugar mellows the tartness of lemon juice or vinegar, rounds out the flavor of a cooking broth and gives some depth to tomato sauces. Go easy: You don't want to taste sweetness, nor do you want to add much to the calorie count, although at 16 calories a teaspoonful you have a little wiggle room here. White sugar is good for dressings, brown sugar's great in stews, and molasses or honey can be just the ticket for a barbecue sauce.

These ingredients let me ease up on the butter, oil and salt, but note that I don't eliminate them completely. Butter can be the finishing touch in a sauce that draws most of its flavor from fruit or spices. Oil can balance a dressing already well flavored with herbs and citrus. Salt can be an essential ingredient — but not the defining one.

Consider it a delicious shift in priorities.

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St. Ed's

Girls' weightlifting: Splendoria is a one-woman powerhouse

BY RON HOLUB
COLUMNIST

St. Edward's School Junior Andrea Splendoria is a weightlifting solo act.

She isn't part of a team – she *is* the girls' weightlifting team.

But despite having just one member, the 'team,' in its second year, is not lacking for star power.

Splendoria was coming off a series of rave reviews from last season and at touring performances over the summer. Head Coach Les Rogers felt that she was poised for a spectacular encore. And if the appearances so far this season offer any indication, her one-person productions are better than ever.

For example, take the first meet of the season back on Dec. 11 at Port St. Lucie High School. It was a huge event with 10 schools participating. In the process of tying for first place in the 119-pound weight class, Splendoria set personal records of 105 pounds in the clean-and-jerk and 90 pounds in the bench press. Incidentally, the 105-pound, clean-and-jerk also set a St. Ed's school record – guys included.

"After doing a lot of work in the off-season, we were hoping that she could establish personal records right away in the first meet," Rogers explained. "When she jumped 10 pounds to 105 in her third lift, I said 'Oh my gosh, let's see what happens.' She stuck it! It was really a great lift."

Splendoria finished second at PSL based on body weight. More importantly, to prove to herself – and to her coach – that the lifts were no fluke, she duplicated those numbers at subsequent meets on Dec. 16 and Jan. 6. She competed at 129 lbs the second time, but was back at 119 lbs for another runner-up finish at the third meet.

Rogers believes that it was important for Splendoria to "maintain status" over three meets, but not far off is an unofficial "landmark" total of 200 lbs.

An obvious competitive advantage exists at the "top" of the 119 lb weight class, but that may be difficult to maintain for future events. Young people have a habit of growing and weightlifting tends to build muscle, all of which could push her over the borderline. Rogers probably has no ultimate control over this, but he has advised his star pupil to "eat healthy food and stay away from the cupcakes."

Splendoria has gained the respect of her peers – and not only at high school meets. Last summer she won the gold

medal in her weight class at Florida's Sunshine State games in Lakeland. A personal record was set in the snatch

"I'm finally getting more comfortable and more relaxed at the meets because I'm getting used to the routine,"



Andrea Splendoria does squats during weightlifting practice.

Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

at this Olympic-style lifting contest and only a technical fault prevented the same in the clean-and-jerk.

For Splendoria, the confines of the weight room at school serve as a sanctuary of sorts. She finds comfort there, as well as escape from whatever frustrations might intrude on any given day. It just may be the perfect setting in which to prepare both mentally and physically for competition.

"If I'm having a bad day, I can come into the weight room and feel better," Splendoria said. "I rely on weightlifting to know that I can improve through hard work. The most fun I've had is getting to know the people I've trained with over the years. You would think that everything would be intense in a small weight room, but it's not. I owe a great deal to working out and knowing it's something that can really help you."

The fact that all of her workout partners happen to be guys does not faze her one bit. That may be best illustrated by her reaction to holding an overall school record. "Actually, I didn't know that," she deadpanned.

In a perfect weightlifting world, Splendoria would no doubt prefer to have some company in the cast. It was that way in her freshman year, when two "sisters" welcomed her to high school weightlifting and made for a memorable experience. Nevertheless, she has come to accept the peculiar makeup of the "team" since then and has indeed flourished in her role as a solo performer. She carries the school banner with the resolve of a competitor driven by an internal fire to move forward and press on. In doing so, she has repeatedly amazed herself and others.

Andrea and spend more quality time coaching technique," Rogers noted. "She's got a lot more to give. As long as she continues to improve, I'm hopeful that she'll be able to qualify for the state meet."

For her part, Splendoria echoed those sentiments and took it a step further. "I aspire to get to the state meet in the 119 lb weight class," she declared, before adding a salient point. "Coach gives good advice that can be applied to things other than working out. If I'm not pumped-up mentally for a meet, I don't do well."

Only one brave soul showing up to form a high school sports team would ordinarily be a reasonable justification for canceling the entire program for lack of interest. The exact opposite has happened in this case, and in that regard, this has been anything but a limited production.

"We have received fantastic support from the school administration here at St. Ed's in allowing Andrea to compete in Florida High School Athletic Association weightlifting," Rogers stated.

The state qualifying meet is scheduled for Jan. 30 in Port St. Lucie.

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Living

Yellow is soooo last year; It's turquoise for 2010

DEBRA PRINZING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Whether you call it aquamarine, robin's egg or Tiffany, turquoise is the official color of 2010, according to the Pantone Color Institute.

Annually since 2000, the company that provides color standards for design industries has named a singular hue that exemplifies consumer attitudes and preferences. In unveiling color number 15-5519, a.k.a. turquoise, Pantone says it "evokes thoughts of soothing tropical waters and a languorous, effective escape from the everyday troubles of the world, while at the same time restoring our sense of well-being."

Color guru Leatrice Eiseman is executive director of Pantone's Color Institute and one of the forces behind selecting the color of the year. She writes about color trends at the Eiseman Color Blog and teaches courses on color theory.

There is actually a bit of science — not just art — to choosing a color of the year, Eiseman explained during an interview.

Why turquoise?

We look at what's happening in the



world around us and at what we hope will be an indicator for the next year's color. We look at socioeconomic indicators and what's coming down the runways. With turquoise, we see people wanting to feel safe and protected from some very large, looming concerns in the world. I wanted to choose a color that speaks to lifting people's spirits; a color to give people something hopeful to look forward to.

How do you conduct color research?

In the color-word association studies that I have used in my training classes for a number of years, I show people various chips of Pantone colors and ask them to react with a word or

short phrase. I ask: "What is the first thing you think of when you see this color?"

What do your subjects say when you show them turquoise?

They speak of going off to some exotic, wonderful, tropical place; of escape, oceans and islands. With turquoise, there is also a secondary response with turquoise jewelry. Turquoise stones are seen in some parts of the world as protective talismans.



Because it is believed to be protective, turquoise is also symbolic of faith, truth, compassion and healing. And

of course, we always look to nature for inspiration and this goes back to the ocean. There's that almost blue-green atmosphere in the tropics.

How successful is turquoise in fashion and interiors?

Turquoise is universally flattering. It works well in unexpected ways. Of course, we've seen turquoise paired with browns or pure white, but it also complements reds and pinks. I love turquoise with Pantone's "Tomato Purée," which is a very warm red. Together they are absolutely stunning and reminiscent of a color combination from the early 1970s — the first time anybody used those complements together. I also like to defy the old rule about mixing turquoise with yellow-green.

How do you measure whether your color predictions are accurate?

Every color is cyclical and goes through periods of popularity. Interestingly, there has been an undercurrent of turquoise for six or seven years. After we named Mimosa Yellow as the color for 2009, we did an analysis of the top-selling Pantone colors for home and fashion. Sure enough, up popped Mimosa Yellow. It is not usual for a color like yellow to be in the top assortment as far as sales of color swatches are concerned. The presence of yellow reflects what designers and manufacturers are specifying.

So when you declare color of the year, does it become a self-fulfilling prophecy?

Maybe there is some of that involved. Manufacturers and designers do look to forecasters for help and inspiration. But our color of the year is just a guide, not an edict. When I want a new toaster in yellow, I can find it. I can also paint my kitchen cabinets in that same shade of yellow. And I can find it easier to shop and pick up items in that same color family. That's the benefit to the consumer.

What do you wish people would understand about color?

There are all sorts of urban legends about how to use color, and I feel one of my obligations is to pass on credible information rather than just disseminating misinformation. For example, one of the most ludicrous urban legends is that babies cry more in yellow rooms. There are no studies that prove babies cry more in yellow rooms.

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What to do with all that e-waste we produce?

BY SUSAN CARPENTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Americans have an insatiable appetite for the latest and greatest gadgets.

So what if we own an average of 23 consumer electronics per household. That doesn't stop us from wanting even more.

But all those flat-screen TVs and iPhones come with an environmental cost. E-waste is the fastest-growing waste stream in the U.S. — growing at a faster rate than regular household garbage and other mounting problems such as spent batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Americans got rid of 27 million TVs, 205 million computer products and more than 100 million cellphones and PDAs in 2007, according to the most recent figures from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Just 16% of that equipment was recycled. The rest was carted out to the garage, stowed away because of consumers' confusion about what to do or, more commonly, sent to the landfill, where the glass, plastics and metals were crushed into submission and buried with the banana peels and fast-food wrappers, never to be seen again.

"Ten years ago, electronic waste wasn't even on our radar," said Thea McManus, associate director of the EPA in Washington, D.C. Now, she said, "It's an issue that needs special management."

Yet there is no federal law governing electronic trash. Although the EPA offers e-waste guidelines to consumers, manufacturers and retailers through a program called Plug-In to eCycling, and e-waste legislation is being drafted in Congress, consumers often are confused about what to do with that cellphone when its buttons stop func-

tioning, or that bulbous and formerly high-tech TV that is now an outdated embarrassment. Navigating the mish-mash of mom-and-pop recycling centers, government-sanctioned drop-off spots and retailers' programs can be difficult.



Workers strip copper from various electronic devices at the e-Recycling of California processing facility in Paramount.

Because many consumer electronics are thrown away long before they die, the EPA suggests reuse and refurbishment rather than the trash can as the first course of action "to mitigate the digital divide" between the perpetually upgrading, gadget-hungry haves and lower-income have-nots. Recycling, McManus said, "would be the last approach."

Though landfills are safe and highly engineered to handle disposal of electronics, she said, "that shouldn't be our first tier of waste management."

Even so, California is one of just 20 states that bans electronics from landfills because of their hazardous materials, such as the lead in cathode-ray-tube TVs, and their potential to be reclaimed and reused. Recapturing raw materials such as copper saves the energy, expense and environmental cost that it would have otherwise taken to mine new.

Although Georgia and South Carolina to the north are considering laws banning e-waste from their landfills, Florida has yet to dive into the issue.

E-recycling options

Since 2005, California has required consumers to pay a recycling fee at the point of sale for many, but not all, electronic devices with a screen, including TVs, computer monitors and portable DVD players. The \$8 to \$25 fee is used to offset the cost of state-approved recyclers who break down, or "de-manufacture" the device, selling component parts on the commodities market or to companies that further process the materials.

That has resulted in a bevy of recycling options, many operated by government (like the city of L.A.'s Bureau of Sanitation), retailers (such as Best Buy and AT&T) and manufac-

Although 20 states have laws regulating waste from electronic products, Florida isn't one of them.

turers (such as Panasonic, Toshiba and Sharp, which sponsor a program called MRM).

In L.A., about 3 million pounds of e-waste are recycled through the city each year. Taken in at city-run mobile collection events and its six "SAFE" centers, the electronics are then de-manufactured by two state-certified contractors, e-Recycling in Paramount and Electronic Recyclers International in Fresno.

In 2002, when Electronic Recyclers opened, it recycled 10,000 pounds of e-waste its first month. Now the company, the country's largest e-recycler, processes 15 million pounds of e-waste each month at seven locations in six states. Among the firm's 2,000 clients: Best Buy, which "takes back consumer electronics and appliances regardless of where you bought it, what brand it is or how old it is" said

Chris Boik, senior manager of environmental affairs for the Minnesota-based chain.

If the item is too large to process through a retail location — a television with a screen larger than 32 inches or any major appliance, such as a washer/dryer or refrigerator — the company offers a free haul-away service any time a Best Buy representative visits a customer's house. That could be a delivery person with a new TV or a member of the Geek Squad setting up or repairing a computer.

Since the retailer kicked off its e-recycling program last February, it has taken in more than 1 million e-castoffs.

"Our customers were increasingly looking to us to help them solve the problem of what to do with the old TVs," said Leo Raudys, senior director of Best Buy's environmental affairs. "It's quickly morphing into a core business function."

What happens to it

Raudys noted that the program is an expense for the company, but the hope is that it could break even, given increasing commodity prices and the additional foot traffic e-recycling brings to Best Buy's 1,000-plus locations.

What happens to e-waste once it's passed out of a consumer's hands varies. There are essentially two receivers of e-waste: collectors and recyclers. Collectors take the recycled item from the consumer. The collector then gives the item to a recycler, who breaks it down into component pieces, separating a TV screen from its plastic case or a hard drive from a laptop computer, for example. The recycler breaks down those components into salable commodities, such as plastic, glass or metal.



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Real Estate



Michael Thorpe and Kimberly Hardin stand in front of one of their listings in Vero Beach.

Photo: Tom McCarthy Jr.

Thorpe reinvents brokerage as Treasure Coast Sotheby's

BY LISA ZAHNER
STAFF WRITER

One of Vero's long-standing real estate brokerages reinvented itself

last week, changing its name, closing its office and rental division on 21st Street, bidding farewell to most of its mainland associates, and signaling it intends to henceforth focus sales and

marketing efforts on barrier island properties as well as historic, waterfront and luxury homes up and down the coast.

Michael Thorpe, who last shook up

the Vero Beach real estate scene in 2007 when his brokerage became the local affiliate of Sotheby's International Realty, announced that Thorpe Sotheby's International Realty would henceforth

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Real Estate



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be Treasure Coast International Real Estate with associate Kimberly Hardin joining him as a 50-50- partner.

In 2009, Thorpe-Sotheby's was involved in sales of more than \$30 million in properties on the island, but was at the lower end of the Big Five upmarket beachside brokerages.

Now, Thorpe, who has had a beachside office for two decades, appears to be planning to refocus his efforts on the high-end of the market, teaming with his new partner — a dynamic and high-performing associate who brought in \$33 million in listings during her first year – to exploit the name and worldwide resources of Sotheby's.

"What Kimberly adds to our firm and to our team is a real appreciation of the nature and the power of the Sotheby's brand and the resources we have," Thorpe said. "Her job is to further our reach, and for our Vero Beach

clients, to market their properties to a worldwide clientele and to truly present our properties and agents on a worldwide platform."

In 2009, Thorpe and Hardin began working together on high-end deals and they discovered they had complementary skills and qualities that could foster a lucrative partnership.

"If you hire someone, you only get a certain amount of their energies," Thorpe said. "We became interested in marketing properties together because when we worked together, the fact that I brought 29 years experience and Kimberly brought creative opportunities and excitement, people found the combination of the two of us very impressive and they liked it."

To increase the Sotheby's brand-name recognition across the Treasure Coast, Thorpe said he and Hardin will encourage their associates to use ev-

ery available avenue to find buyers for their listings.

"We're committed to do more local advertising, more regional advertising, more web marketing, more email, blogs and social networking. We're just scratching the surface," he said. "International buyers know a bargain when they see one, and especially with the relative softness of the dollar, they know that we're on sale."

Thorpe conceded that since coming under the Sotheby's umbrella in 2007, he has only begun to tap into the vast technology and global marketing tools that come with the Sotheby's package. One of those tools is the international brochure rack in the lobby of every Sotheby's real estate brokerage around the world.

"In a very short period of time, we can have these beautiful, professional brochures printed and in Sotheby's

offices in many different countries," Thorpe said.

In 2009, Sotheby's entered into a partnership with the Wall Street Journal to open up what Thorpe described as "tremendous worldwide opportunities for marketing the properties" through the microsite "The Business of Extraordinary Living" on the publication's Web site, www.wsj.com.

Thorpe said the Sotheby's brand is especially useful as a way to gain entrée to high-end buyers with multiple residences who are looking for another home.

"These buyers are shopping for a lifestyle, not always for a location," Thorpe said. "Through the Sotheby's brand, we can show these buyers the Vero Beach lifestyle."

As part of Thorpe's strategy to retool

CONTINUED ON PAGE 72

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Real Estate



Holoma Drive - \$3,399,000



Orchid Island - \$3,750,000

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

the firm, he and Hardin closed the 21st Street US-1 office last week and said farewell to nearly 20 associates. The brief announcement was made at a staff meeting on Jan. 5, and the doors of the office were locked tight the next morning. Thorpe said the associates cut loose were permitted to take their listings with them.

"We brought over about five agents from the mainland office who will use technology and work from home," Hardin said.

Hardin will work with the 45 remaining associates, training them to use the internet, social networking and all aspects of a virtual office to their advantage.

Despite losing the physical presence on the mainland, Thorpe said his agents still have a robust presence across the causeways and he doesn't

want customers to mistakenly think he's abandoned the rest of Indian River County.

"I never want anyone to think that we are no longer marketing and selling our mainland properties. We still have a number of them, it's just that we're focusing on a different type of property, not just the most expensive, but also the unique, historic and waterfront properties and things of that nature," he said.

"I think there's the misconception that we're not going to do that book of business," Thorpe said, adding that he wants to make sure that his mainland customers know they will continue to get good care.

Thorpe and Hardin declined to discuss any of the financial details of their new partnership, and Thorpe emphasized that the decision to close the mainland office and to reduce staff was not driven by financial consider-

ations in a weak housing market.

"We're financially stable. We had a great finish to 2009 and the last two quarters of 2009 were the best quarters we've had in three or four years," Thorpe said.

In fact, Hardin said she and Thorpe are seeking to add agents to their virtual office.

"We're talking to a select group of seasoned professionals and working on creating a tight-knit group of agents who are all technologically inclined," she said.

Hardin will help share the responsibilities for operating the brokerage and managing the staff of 45 associates. Though she has only been a Realtor for about a year, she brings legal and marketing experience to the table.

"Michael couldn't really list and sell as much as he wanted to, so now we can both list and sell and divide up the responsibilities of running the com-

pany," Hardin said. "I think what I may lack in real estate experience, I more than make up for in enthusiasm for the Sotheby's brand. Working in a law firm helped me in that I'm very deadline oriented."

Making the most of technology, and of the cachet of the Sotheby's brand to maximize listings and sales, will be Hardin's number one goal for 2010 and beyond.

"Virtual marketing is the easiest and fastest way to grow your business and market properties," Thorpe said.

Thorpe and Hardin said they are planning a social event sometime in the next month to celebrate their new partnership and raise the local visibility of the Sotheby's Realty brand. Though the date and place is to be announced, Thorpe said it will most likely be held in a sophisticated, artistic venue to reflect Sotheby's long connection with the arts community.

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Real Estate

Regulators outline potential pitfalls of reverse mortgages

BY KENNETH R. HARNEY
WASHINGTON POST

If you, your relatives or your friends are contemplating applying for a reverse mortgage in 2010, check out the new guidelines proposed in December by federal regulators. Though aimed at banks and credit unions, the guidelines neatly sum up the potential pitfalls for consumers in the fast-growing reverse-mortgage field. Reverse mortgages typically are restricted to homeowners 62 and older who have untapped equity in their real estate and want to turn it into cash.

Borrowers can receive lump-sum payments, credit lines, periodic disbursements or a combination. The funds that are drawn down incur interest charges and fees for insurance and servicing, which generally must be paid back only after the borrower sells the home, moves, dies, fails to make property tax and insurance payments, or allows the house to deteriorate substantially.

When properly understood by seniors and underwritten responsibly by lenders, reverse mortgages can provide money to supplement retirement income, pay for uninsured medical expenses and keep homes in good repair. But all too frequently, according to regulators, seniors are poorly counseled in advance and don't comprehend what they are getting into.

They are misled by direct-mail pitches that imply that reverse mortgages are a "government benefit," cost relatively little, never need to be repaid, represent "income for life" and carry "no risk." In fact, reverse mortgages often entail high upfront origination fees and substantial insurance

and servicing charges — well beyond the costs associated with other financing alternatives that may be available to seniors, such as home-equity loans, credit lines, sale-leaseback plans and deferred-payment loans.

Banks and credit unions need to spell all this out for seniors in advance of taking reverse-mortgage applica-

payment. Lenders' marketing materials may make that problem worse by glossing over the payback requirements. According to the regulators' guidance, some lenders' marketing material "has prominently stated that the consumer is not incurring a mortgage, even though the fine print states otherwise."



tions, regulators said. This is a financial product that requires extra time and personal financial counseling upfront — not only because the applicants are elderly, but also because reverse mortgages themselves are inherently complex.

As to being a "government benefit," they are not. Though the predominant form of reverse mortgage is the HECM, or Home-equity conversion mortgage, insured by the Federal Housing Administration, the loan itself comes from private lenders. Those lenders — not the borrowers — are insured by the government against loss.

Some borrowers are not even aware that the transactions they sign up for are debt instruments requiring re-

Other lender problems noted by the regulators include:

- Inappropriate cross-selling of additional financial products, sometimes presented as a requirement for the borrower to obtain a reverse mortgage. These include costly annuities, investment programs and home-repair service contracts. Often, these products eat up a significant portion of the money being drawn down via the reverse mortgage and leave the borrowers without adequate funds "to meet emergency needs or to pay ordinary living expenses." The regulators' recommendation to lenders tempted to cross-sell high-profit products to poorly counseled seniors seeking re-

verse mortgages is straightforward: Don't do it. Not only is it unfair to the applicants, but also their subsequent financial weakness could come back and haunt the lenders later.

- Failure by banks to explain the potential downsides of reverse-mortgage payment alternatives to applicants before they apply. For example, some lump-sum payout options may be inappropriate for certain seniors because they hurt their ability to qualify for needs-based public benefits such as Supplemental Security Income. Lenders should tell applicants about these dangers, rather than letting them blunder into the wrong program choice.

- Failure to inform borrowers upfront about their own responsibilities under reverse-mortgage contracts. For example, there may be no escrow account attached to a reverse mortgage. Some borrowers might assume escrow accounts are a standard feature, based on their experience with regular home mortgages. Yet without an escrow that pools money to pay for local property taxes and hazard insurance, reverse mortgage borrowers may not remember to pay those bills themselves — risking foreclosure and loss of the home.

Regulators are telling banks to explain all the working parts of the reverse mortgage upfront and to make sure that borrowers fully understand what they must do about taxes and insurance. The same advice should apply to seniors and their family members. Research and understand all the financing and estate-planning alternatives available to you — plus the inner mechanics of the various reverse mortgage options — well in advance of making an application.

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Calendar

JANUARY

Through January 17

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

Through January 30

The Artists Guild Gallery presents A Natural View, works in watercolor by award-winning Vero Beach Artist Lillie Taylor.

Through January 30

Gallery 14 presents FLORIDA: Faces and Places – Interpretations by Gallery 14 Artists.

Through January 16

Quail Valley Charities Cup; public invited to participate. Jan. 14 - Duplicate Bridge Tournament & Luncheon, Jan. 14 - 16 - Tennis Tournament, Jan. 15 & 16 - Golf Tournament, Jan. 16 - Grand Gala Cocktail Buffet, Auction and Awards Night. 492-2020

January 14 - 24

The comedy, Sin, Sex and the CIA will be performed at the Vero Beach Theatre Guild. 562-8300

January 15- 17

Art by the Sea, an exhibition and sale of artwork by members of the Vero Beach Art Club and the Vero Beach Museum of Art, held at the Vero Beach Museum

of Art. Reception 5 - 8 p.m. January 15 and show 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. January 16-17 are free and open to the public. 231-0303 or www.VeroBeachArtClub.org

January 16

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

January 16

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

January 17

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

January 20

Travel with the Vero Beach Museum of Art to the Boca Raton Museum of Art for The Magical World of M.C. Escher and Mary Cassatt: Works on Paper exhibits. Lunch at Max's Grille and a Chemical Imbalance: A Jekyll and Hyde Play at the Caldwell Theatre Company.

Tickets \$210 or \$180 for ASFTA members. 231-0707 ext 109

January 20

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

January 20

Dr. Edith Widder presents Oceans in Trouble, 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Indian River Shores Community Center, sponsored by the Environmental Learning Center. Tickets \$15. 589-5050

January 20

"Our Natural World" photographic exhibit by Suzan Phillips on display 4 to 7 p.m. at McKee Botanical Garden, with 100% of proceeds to benefit McKee. 794-0601

January 23

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

January 23

Bass & Birdies Golf and Fishing Tournament at the Indian River Golf Club, to benefit the Education Foundation. Participants play golf and fish four lakes on the course. \$300 registration includes post-tournament party. 564-0034

January 23

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

January 23

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

January 23 - 24

9th Annual Sebastian Riverfront Fine Art & Music Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., along the Indian River Lagoon by Riverview Park.

January 25

Bridge for Kids, 9 a.m. at Bent Pine Golf Club to benefit the Children's Home Society, Duplicate and Chicago/Rubber games and lunch. Tickets \$80. 231-3950.

January 25

Top Chef Challenge Qualifying Event, 6 - 8 p.m. at Pointe West to benefit the Homeless Family Center. Tickets \$30. Top five chefs will compete in the Top Chef Challenge on February 22nd. Two-evening package tickets are \$195. 567-5537

January 27

Youth Guidance Mentor Appreciation and

Recruitment Mixer, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Joey's Restaurant in Vero Beach. 770-5040 or www.ircyouth.com.

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 and Guest Conductor Robert Cole featuring pieces by Rimsky-Korsakov and Stravinsky. 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Vero Beach. 778-1070

January 30

Viva Las Vero IV Casino Night, 6:30 p.m. at the Vero Beach Elk's Lodge to benefit Hibiscus Children's Center. 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 3

Atlantic Classical Orchestra presents Strauss Tanzsuite, Sans De la Liberation de las Formas and Beethoven Symphony #6 "Pastoral". 8 p.m. at the

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Calendar

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 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 4 - 21
Riverside Theatre presents 42nd Street, one of Broadway's longest running musicals, on the Stark Mainstage. 231-6990

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 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, Pulitzer Prize-winning 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

Solutions from Games Pages in January 7th/2010 Edition, Issue 2

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

Sudoku Page 50

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

Sudoku Page 51

M	O	A	B		A	L	I	C	E		S	C	A	B
A	U	R	A		R	E	R	U	N		P	A	V	E
Y	S	E	R		C	H	A	R	M		A	P	E	D
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Crossword Page 50 (ON YOUR FEET)

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

Crossword Page 51 (WHAT IT IS)

tion \$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 11-12
Two-day seminar led by Arthur Blumenthal, 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

February 12
Rockin' Vero Beach "Under a Brocade Sky," to benefit the Children's Home Society, 6 pm at the Elks Lodge. Tickets \$200. 772-344-4020 x 261

February 13
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

February 13
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

February 13
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

February 13
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.

February 14
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

February 15
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

February 15
The Senior Resource Association honors local CPA and non-profit supporter Robert Harris at a Legends Among Us reception, 6:30 p.m. at the Quail Valley River Club. Tickets \$150. (772) 469-2060

February 15 -21
First Evidence: The Dawn of Art in America's Last Ice Age, on display at the Vero Beach Museum of Art features a rare prehistoric bone fragment with a carving of a mammoth or mastodon in motion, discovered in Vero Beach.



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Real Estate

Real estate sales on the barrier island: Dec.31 to Jan. 6



A flurry of New Year's Eve closings was topped by the sale of an RCL-built home in Riomar Bay II for \$1.295 million.

The home, which had been purchased in May 2007 for \$1.375 million, was put back on the market in March of this past year for \$1.495 million.

But that wasn't the direction the market was going in during 2009.

The seller of the home was represented by Karen Abell of the Charlotte Terry Real Estate Group of Alex MacWilliam Inc. The buyer in the transaction was represented by Robert DeWaters of Dale Sorensen Real Estate.

Single Family Residences and Lots

Subdivision	Address	Listed	Original Asking Price	Sold	Selling Price
BERMUDA BAY	141 LAUREL OAK LN	6/22/2007	\$899,000	1/4/2010	\$675,000
WYN COVE	1486 WYN COVE DR	11/6/2009	\$349,000	1/4/2010	\$310,000
BETHEL ISLE	4303 SUNSET DRIVE	10/19/2009	\$850,000	12/31/2009	\$735,000
CACHE CAY	36 CACHE CAY DR.	9/8/2009	\$539,000	12/31/2009	\$509,000
RIVERSIDE PARK	212 CONN WAY	10/7/2009	\$625,000	12/31/2009	\$535,000
SEAGROVE WEST	200 RIVERWAY DR	12/6/2007	\$850,000	12/31/2009	\$610,000

Townhomes, Villas and Condos

Subdivision	Address	Listed	Original Asking Price	Sold	Selling Price
PARK SHORES	125 PARK SHORES CR , #21E	11/4/2009	\$295,000	1/4/2010	\$295,000
SEA OAKS	8860 SEA OAKS WY N #110	6/14/2008	\$798,000	1/4/2010	\$550,000

—Data from MLS

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70 BEACHSIDE DR, #203—2,252 A/C SQ. FT.
Recently remodeled 3BR/3BA Ocean Club corner residence. Stone floors throughout, granite, pristine. \$1,295,000 (Furn. Avail.)



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.)



406 INDIES DRIVE—GOLF ESTATE
Exquisite 4BR/Study/4BA+2 Half BA residence overlooks 2 large lakes and scenic 18th Fairway. Infinity pool & spa. \$2,750,000



40 BEACHSIDE DR, #202—3,810 A/C SQ. FT.
Exquisite 3BR/Study/4BA residence with luxury finishes, southern exposure, and stone terrace with summer kitchen. \$2,350,000



311 WESTWIND COURT—GOLF ESTATE
4 bedroom plus office, 6 bath, golf residence situated on nearly 3/4 acre homesite. Exquisite details and magnificent views! \$2,195,000



120 SEASPRAY LANE—GOLF ESTATE
4BR/Office/5.5BA estate on nearly 3/4 acre homesite includes separate 1BR/1BA detached guest cabana. Fabulous views! \$2,275,000



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



825 PEMBROKE CT—COURTYARD LIVING
3BR/Study/4.5 bath courtyard residence includes a separate 1BR/1BA guest cabana. Picturesque lake and golf views! \$998,000 **New Listing**

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\$595,000



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Superbly remodeled/3 BR/Waterfront
Southern exposure/Perfect for entertaining
\$1,395,000



Forever Views!

Spectacular lot w/240 of bulkhead!
Exquisite 5 BR/5.5 BA custom home
\$3,250,000



Boater's Paradise

Absolutely wonderful 4 BR/Deep water dock
Southwestern exposure/Outstanding views
\$2,595,000