

# VENICE Gondolier Sun

LOCAL NEWS COVER TO COVER FLORIDA'S NO. 1 WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

50 CENTS VOLUME 63 NUMBER 61

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY EDITION, JULY 30-31, 2008

AN EDITION OF THE SUN

### Just do it

Health tips that you can really use

### Inside



SUN PHOTO BY JUSTIN FENNELL, jfennell@venicegondolier.com

A reward is being offered for information about an arson Monday at the Venice Arena.

## Arson at Venice Arena

BY JON BRANTHOVER  
STAFF WRITER

Arsonists are believed to be responsible for starting a fire inside the now-vacant Venice Arena building, 1401 Ringling Drive, late Monday afternoon.

The Venice Fire Department responded to a call from an eyewitness who claimed to see smoke coming out of the boarded-up windows at around 4:30 p.m.

Firefighters were at the scene within minutes to extinguish the blaze that started beneath the bleachers located along the western wall of the building.

No one was injured during the incident and structural damage to the facility was minimal.

Fire Marshall Jack Stevenson said that there appeared to be evidence of an accelerant — a combustible liquid such as gasoline — at the scene, which led investigators to point to arson as the likely cause of the fire. He said that he also believed this fire is connected to a string of arsons that have taken place over the past week in the area.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Venice Police Detective Howard Dunn at 486-2444. A reward of up to \$2,500 is offered for information leading to the identification of people responsible for the fire.

jbranthover@venicegondolier.com



SUN PHOTO BY JUSTIN FENNELL, jfennell@venicegondolier.com

Sarasota County and River Road have settled their differences over some funding for the River Road-U.S. 41 intersection, which could allow construction of improvements to begin in about a year.

## Vets for Vets supports blind vets

BY JESSICA MILLER  
INTERNS

It has been almost three years since Vets for Vets sent a \$2,509.03 check to Southeastern Guide Dogs' Paws for Patriots Program.

The check was sent on Nov. 11, 2005, and just last week the Venice organization, Vets for Vets, received warming news.

Due to the money raised by Venice veteran organizations coming together as Vets for Vets, Sarge was born to one day become a guide dog for a blind veteran who has served in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

In 2005, Vets for Vets formed, originally to visit Haley Hospital in Tampa to thank veterans for their service to the country.

Vets for Vets is composed of Disabled American Veterans 101, Veterans of Foreign Wars 8118, Marine Corps League Gulf Coast Unit, Vietnam Brotherhood American Legion Auxiliary and Nam Knights MC Club.

Each organization sold raffle tickets and had separate fundraisers to reach their goal.

### WANT TO HELP?

Vets for Vets appreciates any donation to help their cause. Checks can be mailed to Vets for Vets at 864 Baveno Drive, Venice, FL 34285.

The money raised went toward homemade afghans, slippers, cookies and goody bags for every veteran there.

"That day will always be remembered," Joan Douglass, Vets for Vets member, said. "They were so very happy to see us."

### Vote for surplus

After the successful hospital visit, Vets for Vets voted to donate the leftover money, \$2,500, to Southeastern Guide Dogs Inc.

At their final meeting, Vets for Vets collectively agreed on the name "Sarge" for their sponsored puppy. Sarge was born three years later.

Jim Mowat, chair of Vets for Vets and a veteran himself, was mailed a picture of a puppy and letter of appreciation from

# Property taxes: It could be worse

BY NEIL HUGHES  
STAFF WRITER

Maybe you've heard that property taxes in Florida are out of control.

Statistically speaking, for most homeowners, that's just not the case.

In a comparison of the average annual property tax bill for occupied homes in each state nationwide, Florida ranks right near the middle: 22 out of 50 states, according to 2006 numbers from the Tax Foundation, a nonprofit Washington, D.C.-based tax research organization.

The average property tax bill for a home in Florida in 2006 was \$1,703 on a median home value of \$230,600. Compare that to New Jersey, the state with the highest average annual property tax bill at \$5,773.

So, why in recent years has there been so much noise about unfair property taxes in Florida?

For the most part, it stems from those who are not protected by Save Our Homes' 3-percent cap on annual appraised value increases — namely vacant land, second homes and



SUN FILE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Although many Floridians feel caught in a squeeze by their property tax bill, that tax burden actually ranks the state in the middle of the pack.

commercial property.

Save Our Homes, instituted in the '90s, applies to the primary residence of a homeowner and limits the assessed value of a home. When you add in the new homestead exemption — a \$50,000 reduction on the taxable value of homes worth \$75,000 or

more — the tax bill shrinks considerably.

In recent years, as property values skyrocketed, residents protected by Save Our Homes and the homestead exemption didn't feel the effects, while

Please see TAXES, 5A

## Money firmly in River Road account

BY ED SCOTT  
STAFF WRITER

After passing each other like two cars in the night, North Port and Sarasota County now appear to be lined up — side by side — regarding River Road.

On July 22, the Sarasota County Commission passed a resolution dedicating some \$7.8 million in impact fees — collected within the city of North Port as of Jan. 14 — to the U.S. 41-River Road intersection improvement project.

Responding to that resolution, city commissioners unanimously agreed Monday to consider a resolution of their own when they meet next on Sept. 8,

approving the county's expenditure toward the \$12 million widening project.

"I'm in favor of doing River Road; always have been," Commissioner Barbara Gross said. "But I think we need to really make sure that they are serious about that intersection."

City Engineer Pat Collins told commissioners he met with county officials last week and "there was a firm commitment from the staff there that it is their intention to do this improvement."

Clarke Davis, general manager of Sarasota County public works planning, attended the Monday meeting and told city commissioners "our intent is to

make the project whole."

The city's decision negates a letter Chair Fred Tower III wrote in June asking county commissioners to dedicate the fees to Phase 3 of the Sumter Road widening project.

"Sumter is very important to us, but so is River Road," Commissioner Jim Blucher said.

### It depends

The city had asked the county to dedicate the funds to the intersection in January but commissioners felt that the county was not acting fast enough.

On Monday J.P. Marchand of the West Villages Improvement

Please see ROAD, 5A

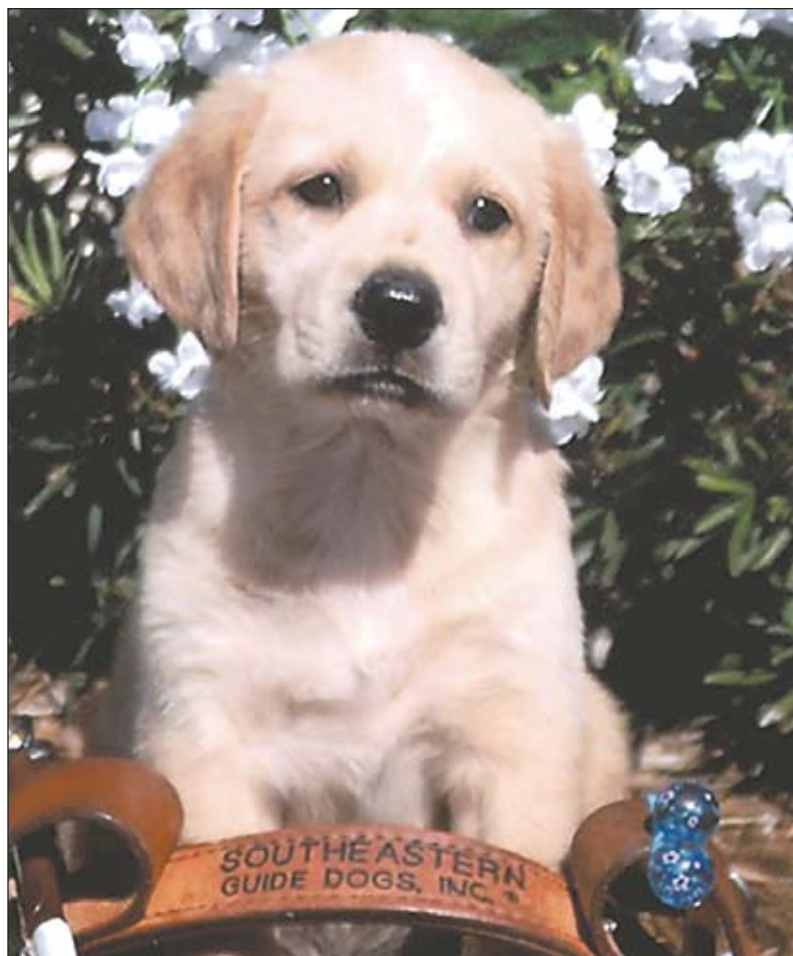


PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN DOUGLASS

Sarge is sitting in a working guide harness that will fit perfectly one day when he is ready to help the life of a veteran.

Good morning, Gondolier Sun subscriber, RICHARD BENJAMIN

### FRONT SECTION

- LEGALS 8, 9A
- LET 'EM HAVE IT 8A
- LOTTO 2A
- OBITUARIES 9A
- OPINION 6A

### OUR TOWN SECTION

- CROSSWORD 4B
- DEAR ABBY 6B
- FOOD AND FUN 5B
- MILESTONES 9B
- VENUE 3B

### IN THIS EDITION

- AMERICAN PROFILE CLASSIFIEDS
- SUNCOAST HEALTH

### COUPONS

- Affordable Hearing .....7A
- Artistry in Smiles .....4A
- Buddy's Pizza .....5B
- Dockside Imports .....6B


### DEATHS

- Rice Chiropractic .....8A
- Twin Palms chiropractic...4B
- Venice Car Wash .....7B
- Kristen Archer
- Albert Bensimon
- James Culbert



## Florida Lottery

CASH 3	PLAY 4
July 28N ...445 July 28D ...796 July 27N ...014 July 27D ...252	July 28N ..7696 July 28D ..0427 July 27N ..9648 July 27D ..9873
D-Day; N-Night	D-Day; N-Night



FANTASY 5	MEGA MONEY
July 28 .....9-12-14-22-24 July 27 .....1-22-28-29-30 July 26 .....3-7-8-20-36 July 25 .....18-23-29-32-35 July 24 .....1-4-14-22-32	July 25 .....14-31-34-38 MegaBall .....19 July 22 .....18-20-23-33 MegaBall .....7
<b>Payoff for July 27</b>	<b>Payoff for July 25</b>
1 5-digit winner: .....\$172,512.52 191 4-digit winners: .....\$145.50 6,547 3-digit winners: .....\$11.50 2-digit winners .....Quick Pick ticket	0 4 of 4 + MB .....\$— 6 4 of 4 .....\$1,904.50 38 3 of 4 + MB .....\$657.50 1,124 3 of 4 .....\$66 1,525 2 of 4 + MB .....\$34

### LOTTO

July 26 .....6-17-40-49-51-52 July 23 .....8-9-10-29-37-47 July 19 .....9-14-19-29-44-51 July 16 .....1-10-20-23-41-51 July 12 .....4-12-31-33-37-44 July 9 .....18-20-27-38-48-51	<b>Payoff for July 26</b>
	0 6-digit winners: .....\$— 48 5-digit winners: .....\$7,853 3,270 4-digit winners: .....\$93.50 70,539 3-digit winners: .....\$6
<b>The estimated jackpot is \$12 million</b>	Drawings occur Wednesdays, Saturdays

## BACK IN TIME

VENICE FROM ABOVE, 1950s



PHOTO COURTESY OF VENICE ARCHIVES

An aerial view of Venice looking east, circa 1950s. For more about this and other historical materials, visit Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection at 351 S. Nassau St., across from West Blalock Park. The mission of Venice Archives is to collect and preserve historical and archaeological material relating to Venice and the communities of Nokomis, Laurel and Osprey, whose histories have been interwoven from 1867 to the present. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday. Call 486-2487 for more information.

## ABC-7 WEATHER

### VENICE OUTLOOK



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
88	87	90	91	90	90	91
77	77	76	75	75	74	74
70%	60%	50%	40%	40%	40%	40%

### ABC-7 ALMANAC

<b>Temperature</b>	High	Low
Yesterday	88	76
Normal	92	73
Record	96	64
	(1998)	(1976)
<b>Rainfall</b>	Actual	Average
Yesterday	0.24"	
Month	5.67"	7.84"
Year	22.64"	28.89"

### SUNRISE, SUNSET

<b>Sunrise/set</b>	
Tonight's sunset	8:19 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise	6:54 a.m.
<b>Moonrise/set</b>	
Moonrise	5:51 a.m.
Moonset	7:58 p.m.

### MARINE

**Cape Sable to Tarpon Springs:**  
(Sarasota and Charlotte counties)

SSW winds at 7 to 14 knots.  
Seas 1 to 3 feet, light chop.

**Tarpon Springs to Apalachicola:**

SSW winds at 7 to 14 knots.  
Seas 2 to 4 feet, light chop.

### VENICE TIDES

#### EASTERN STANDARD TIME

DATE	HIGH P.M.	HIGH A.M.	LOW P.M.	LOW A.M.
WED 30		10:10	6:59	
THU 31		11:12	7:42	
FRI 1	12:08	2:32	8:19	5:40
SAT 2	12:59	2:39	8:49	6:46

\*STRONG TIDE  
a — A.M. p — P.M.

## CANDIDATE FORUMS

• The South Venice Civic Association hosts its 2008 Primary Elections Open House from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 11, at 720 Alligator Drive, South Venice. Candidates invited include candidates for: U.S. president; U.S. House of Representatives, District 13; state senate, District 23; state representative, District 70; public defender; circuit judge; Sarasota County Commission, districts 1 and 3; sheriff; Charter Review Board (all districts); school board; property appraiser; tax collector; clerk of court; and supervisor of elections.

• Senior Friendship Centers, 2350 Scenic Drive, Venice hosts a Venice City Council Forum 3-4 p.m. Sept. 22.

*To have your election forum listed here, e-mail [bmudge@venicegondolier.com](mailto:bmudge@venicegondolier.com). Events must be free and open to the public.*

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## Help Our Community

Come join the Venice Gondolier Sun staff and build a Habitat for Humanity house on Pelican Road in South Venice.  
(South on U.S. 41, turn right onto Alligator Drive - next to AAA - turn left on Tarpon Road (at the curve), turn right onto Pelican Road. House number 440 is on the right.)

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**Volunteers are needed Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. To volunteer or for information, please call Dena Kohlbecker, volunteer coordinator at 493-6606.**

# Sarasota, Tampa men charged in bank fraud

BY DUANE MARSTELLAR  
BRADENTON HERALD

Three Sarasota men and one from Tampa are facing numerous federal charges that they bilked banks out of almost \$83 million on several land sales in Manatee and Sarasota counties.

A federal grand jury in Tampa has returned a 47-count indictment against Neil Mohamed Husani, 38; Larry P. Nardelli, 49; Michael A. Tringali, 46; and John A. Yanchek, 48, accusing them of conspiracy, bank fraud and money laundering, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Monday.

They are accused of defrauding seven banks through a complex scheme involving seven real-estate transactions from 2004 to 2006.

The indictment was handed down last week but was sealed until Monday, when Yanchek — a Sarasota lawyer whose license is already facing suspension — was arrested.

A federal judge released Yanchek on \$50,000 bond later in the day but ordered him to stay in Florida and surrender his passport, court records show. The judge also appointed a federal public defender to represent Yanchek at the hearing but told Yanchek to hire his own attorney within 10 days.

Nardelli, a Tampa businessman, and Tringali, a Sarasota developer, are expected to surrender to authorities, the U.S. Attorney's Office said. Husani once lived in Sarasota, but his current whereabouts are unknown, officials said. He might have fled to Jordan or Venezuela, authorities said.

Tringali and Yanchek did not return telephone messages left at their homes. No phone numbers could be located for Husani and Nardelli, and attorneys have yet to appear on any defendant's behalf.

### Crackdown

The FBI began investigating the men's dealings as part of Operation Malicious Mortgage, a mortgage-fraud crackdown that so far has netted more than 400 arrests nationwide.

Husani, a real-estate investor who owned and operated Capital Force Inc., was the alleged scheme's central figure.

Through his company, Husani bought seven parcels in Manatee and Sarasota counties for a

total of \$43 million and resold them to partners for \$117 million in 2005 and 2006, according to public records. The partners obtained almost \$84 million in bank loans from those transactions.

The 2005 purchase and subsequent resale of the 254-acre ACT Ranch in Myakka City was representative of the scheme, authorities said.

Capital Force paid \$3.04 million for the land in August of that year, then sold it to Steeplechase Properties Inc. — one of Tringali's companies — for \$7.6 million a month later, records show. Tringali obtained a \$4.94 million loan from Bradenton-based Coast Bank of Florida for the deal.

But Capital Force did not yet own the land, and Steeplechase overstated its financial holdings to qualify for the loan, authorities charge. Yanchek, who handled the closings, also told the property owner's real-estate agent that Capital Force had put a \$500,000 down payment in escrow when it had not, according to the indictment.

The scheme also was used in transactions involving the 1,142-acre Rusty Pot Ranch in Myakka City; a 224-acre site off Taylor Road; and 20 acres in the Creekwood area at Interstate 75 and State Road 70, the indictment states.

The men also used the same scheme on three land transactions in Sarasota County, the indictment contends.

### Victims

The ACT Ranch loan weighed heavily on an already struggling Coast Bank, which was forced to sell itself to Missouri-based First Banks Inc. last year after \$110 million in bad loans to 482 borrowers — most of them investors — brought the bank to the brink of collapse.

"I think this is just the tip of the iceberg," Tramm Hudson, an adviser and spokesman for Coast Bank as it attempted to extricate itself from the loan debacle, said Monday of the indictments.

"This is the only loan that Coast Bank had with Tringali," Hudson said. "Coast Bank had financed the property when Tringali bought it from Husani. I think what it (the indictment) demonstrates is that Coast Bank was as much a victim as the individual borrowers who got caught up in the real estate bubble. I think the indictment, although it's not a

conviction, shows there was cause to bring charges against them."

Other banks that authorities said were de-

frauded were Bank Atlantic; Fifth Third Bank; First State Bank; Mercantile Bank; Orion Bank; and Wachovia.

The indictment is just the latest trouble for Yanchek, who earned his law degree from Temple University and was admitted

to the Florida Bar in 1985. *Herald Staff Writers Brian Neill and Natalie Neysa Alund contributed to this report.*

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### Correction

A story in the Sunday *Gondolier Sun* incorrectly located Osprey Park. The park will be located on Bay Street east of U.S. 41 next to the Legacy Trail. We regret the error.

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# Archive intern leaves mark on Venice history

FROM THE CITY OF VENICE

The most interesting thing about the Venice Archives and Area Historical Collection is its variety of preserved materials, said Erin Mahaney.

"It has prehistoric fossils and 1920s photos; manuscripts and artifacts, all covering a broad spectrum," Mahaney said.

Mahaney should know. As a student in the master's degree program in public history at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, she is spending the summer as an intern at the Triangle Inn, home of the Venice Archives.

The Cardinal Mooney High School graduate received a bachelor's degree from New College in Sarasota as a history major. This summer, her work at the archives has been a hands-on learning project to serve in lieu of a master's thesis.

Under the tutelage of Venice Historic Resources Director James Hagler, Mahaney has had the opportunity to learn about managing an archive, and to leave a contribution that will be useful to the city of Venice for years to come.

Since the second week of May, Mahaney has worked four days a week to create a policies and procedures manual and a manual for volunteers to be used at the archives.

She worked with archives volunteer Janice Shull to learn about the facility's street files collec-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF VENICE

As part of her effort to get her master's degree in public history, Erin Mahaney is serving as an intern at the Triangle Inn in Venice.

tion — that is, information about historic properties in the Venice area. She also learned about the daily activities of running an archive and the duties of the various volunteers.

The volunteer manual she is putting together will have information that all new archive volunteers can use, such as the basics

of operating the computer system, elements of the collection and a list of other community resources of historical information. She is using a new computer program, Past Perfect, designed to streamline the duties of volunteers. The goal is to standardize volunteer activities, making them more efficient and

## PAY A VISIT

The Venice Archives and Area Historic Collection, housed in the Triangle Inn, 351 S. Nassau St., is open Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 486-2487.

helping them provide better outreach education in the community.

"I've learned a lot from the volunteers," Mahaney said. "Because the archives is staffed by volunteers, everyone who is there wants to be there. It gives a very positive feel. There are great possibilities in a small institution."

The procedures and policy manual establishes standards for the archives, such as how and when to lend materials, the selection criteria, reasons for accepting or refusing donations and a process for the deposit of materials, Mahaney said.

"One example of why a donation might not be

accepted is duplication: the archives already has the item offered for donation," Mahaney said.

"One of the things the archives does well is working with other area historical collections, by not duplicating those collections," she said.

"It's been a lot of fun learning about running an archive," said Mahaney, who hopes to do that for a living someday. "Getting to work with a collection that is so small but so varied has been very interesting."

Mahaney will return to North Carolina in August and take with her things she learned this summer that she can put into practice.

"When I first came to the archives, I was impressed with how well things were preserved and the standards set for preservation," Mahaney said. "The principles I've been taught in school are that archives should be user friendly. They should protect, preserve and make historic materials available."

"This archive is an example of that principle. When you see it applied, it all comes together."

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VENICE Gondolier Sun

# NOTICE

The Cherokee school uniforms on page 17 of the July 27 Target advertising supplement are not available in most stores. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer rain checks. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

## ADVERTISEMENT WORDS WORTH HEARING



By Vicki Connell, M.A., CCC/A  
ASHA Certified Audiologist

**Q. I use two hearing aids and am about to purchase a new cell phone. I do not know which phone I should buy that will work best with my hearing aids. Any suggestions?**

**A.** Cell phones that work well with hearing aids will have a microphone (M) rating of M3 or M4. This means the cell phone will work with the hearing aid in the microphone position. A higher M number means the phone will sound clearer. If you have a hearing aid telecoil, look for a phone that has a telecoil (T) rating of T3 or T4. A higher T rating will make your conversations clearer. Hearing aid makers will use a similar rating system to let you know how well their hearing aids work in the microphone or the telecoil mode. Hearing aids using the microphone mode will be rated from M1 to M4. A higher rating means you will hear less noise and have a better connection. The rating for the telecoil will be from T1 to T4. A higher rating means you will be able to hear better in the telecoil mode. Next, add up the M or T rating for the phone and hearing aid. A rating of 6 is excellent, a rating of 5 is good for normal use, a rating of 4 is usable for brief calls but not acceptable for normal use. Most new hearing aids will have an M2/T2 rating. Ask your audiologist at **Audiologists at Woodmere Hearing & Balance Centers, Inc.** about the rating of your hearing aids by call (941) 492-4327. The rating system does not apply to cochlear implants. (941) 492-4327.

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**ROAD** from Page 1A

District said the widening project should begin "in about a year, depending on right-of-way" acquisition.

Meanwhile, Tower asked City Attorney Omer Causey if the city's resolution could state that any County Road Impact Fees collected since Jan. 23 should be dedicated to Sumter Boulevard.

"I don't see why not," Causey said.

"I'd just like to have a firm commitment with the county that (Sumter) is what we are going to do

with that money," Tower said. "That seems to be our next big need here."

"Let's be real careful with that," Commissioner Vanessa Carusone said. "We may have Price (Boulevard to widen) and who knows what the future holds."

Commissioner Dick Lockhart predicted Sarasota County would not act on widening River Road north of U.S. 41 for at least four or five years.

"It depends on November, who gets elected," he said.

escott@sun-herald.com

**TAXES** from Page 1A

those who were not shielded were at the will of the market.

And those who were unprotected became extremely vocal, bringing the issue to the forefront of Florida's political discussion in 2007. That sentiment carried Amendment 1 to an overwhelming success with voters in January.

**Trapped**

Of course, railing against taxes is an easy bandwagon to jump on — especially when those taxes come in the form of one large lump, annual sum.

"Except for new homeowners or people that have had to move or non-homestead residential or businesses, no one else has really been complaining about their taxes," said Kurt Wenner, director of tax research with Florida TaxWatch, a Tallahassee-based nonpartisan public policy research group. "The complaining for everybody started really when people started saying there was a tax crisis in Florida and portraying that it affected everybody."

As a result, many whose taxes compare with the rest of the nation — those with the majority \$1,703 average 2006 tax bill — chimed in against Florida's property tax system, passing Amendment 1.

As Florida Rep. Michael Grant pointed out, this is a democracy, and what the people want (and vote for), they will get. In this case, Florida voters — for whatever their personal reasons — demanded a tax break.

Contributing was the fact that Save Our Homes left many residents feeling trapped in their homes — unable to move without losing their property tax exemptions. Exemption portability in Amendment 1 addressed that issue, helping it gain voter approval.

"It was a definite reaction to what I would call out-of-control tax increases on nonhomesteaded property," Grant said. "People voted for (Amendment) 1 because they perceived that the property tax system was being unfair to them."

**Phantom**

Also a possible contributor to the discussion is the volume at which citizens are heard in Florida. With a large number of retirees, the state also has a significant population that is outspoken and active in local politics.

Brett Slattery, a Realtor with Keller Williams Realty, originally hails from California. He said the differ-

ence in Florida's political participation is noteworthy.

"People are much more involved in civic matters here than they were in California, where it tends to be a younger population where people are involved in work during the day," he said. "We are a lot more involved."

All of this is not to say there isn't still a problem with Florida's tax system. Wenner and Florida TaxWatch believe the disparities caused by Save Our Homes and homestead exemptions have created unfair inequities in Florida's tax burden.

Grant said though Amendment 1 was a good first step, more needs to be done to protect taxpayers from market fluctuations. And Slattery feels that the general taxpayer revolt is a statement against a system that relies on nontangible financial gains.

"It was really a tax on a phantom asset," Slattery said. "Unless you sold your house during the boom, you really did not realize any gain."

**Magnet**

In an effort to fix Florida's tax woes, some, such as Florida Speaker of the House Marco Rubio, have suggested eradicating the property tax system in favor of a higher sales tax.

Already a minimum of 6 percent statewide, sales tax is another piece of the tax puzzle. In Florida and most other states, taxes and the overall burden on citizens go well beyond property.

In fact, beyond just property taxes, the state and local tax burden in Florida in 2007 ranked well below the middle-ground — 38th out of 50 states, according to the Tax Foundation. When the federal tax burden is included, Florida's overall ranking jumps to 12th.

And just dissecting property taxes from state to state could be viewed as a comparison of apples and oranges. Consider, for example, that Florida does not have a state income tax.

"That is one reason that O.J. Simpson moved to Florida; that's why Bill O'Reilly lives here," Slattery said. "That's why this state is a magnet for people with money."

A point that sums up Florida's confusing tax situation in a nutshell: Some people move here to pay the taxes, and others consider leaving the state to avoid them.

nhughes@sun-herald.com

**Snowbirds bear brunt of property tax**

BY NEIL HUGHES  
STAFF WRITER

For most Floridians, annual home property taxes are on par with the rest of the country.

But for snowbirds like Sharon and George Sousa, property taxes in Florida come without the protection of Save Our Homes' 3 percent cap on assessment increases. As a result, the Sousas — who live and work most of the year in Massachusetts — help to pay a disproportionate burden of the tax bill in Florida.

Even as the average occupied home property tax bill in the Sunshine State ranks just 22nd highest out of 50 states, that number is skewed: It does not represent the smaller but still significant number of unprotected second homes.

Further, those totals do not include vacant land or businesses, both of which also pay a larger proportionate share of Florida's taxes.

It's frustrating for Sharon Sousa, a 61-year-old professor at the University of Massachusetts.

"One way or another you're going to pay," Sousa said from her home in Taunton, Mass. "But from a snowbird point of view, I think it's made it difficult."

The Sousas' 1,500-square-foot Southwest Florida home carries an



SUN FILE PHOTO

annual tax bill of more than \$3,000 — well more than their home in Massachusetts. The sales tax is higher in Florida as well, Sousa said.

She and her husband currently live in their Florida home just more than two months out of the year. They hope to retire and become year-round residents in the next four years.

But since they bought their retirement home, they've found their Florida property taxes have become an unexpectedly large burden.

"Taxes are getting pretty hard, and we're finding ourselves working double," she said.

Amendment 1, property tax reform passed by voters in January, has helped — it put a 10-percent annual property value increase cap in place for some. But with property values currently declining, the cap has no real effect.

Florida Rep. Michael Grant, R-District 71, said

he would prefer a 5-percent cap, which could be in place if voters approve Amendment 5 this fall. Regardless, he said more needs to be done that will, over time, address the disparities in Florida's property tax system.

"I think that we are taking steps in the state of Florida to try to protect those individuals by limiting the increases in assessments that can be charged on them, which in the long run will make our system fairer," Grant said.

That greater share of the tax burden still carried by snowbirds, businesses and investors has become a sticking point for Florida TaxWatch, a Tallahassee-based nonpartisan public policy research group.

"We have two different systems of property taxes: one for Save Our Homes protected homesteaded properties, and one for those who are not," said Robert Weissert, research analyst with Florida TaxWatch. "The ones who are

not really get the short end of the stick. They really bear a disproportionate burden of the taxes."

Florida's property tax divisions can essentially be broken down into thirds.

One-third are primary residents, protected by Save Our Homes and beneficiaries of a homestead exemption that reduces the taxable value of a home by as much as \$50,000.

Another third includes second homes, vacant properties and rentals, now covered by a 10-percent annual taxable valuation increase cap, thanks to Amendment 1's passage in January.

And the last group is commercial properties, beneficiaries of the 10-percent cap as well as a \$25,000 valuation exemption due to Amendment 1.

Most of the benefit of Amendment 1 — 80 percent — was felt by those who were already protected by Save Our Homes, according to Kurt Wenner, director of tax research for Florida TaxWatch.

Sousa said she hopes more is done to help snowbirds such as herself, because, in her eyes, the current system is broken.

"I think," she said, "it discourages people from investing in Florida."

nhughes@sun-herald.com



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**MEDIAN PROPERTY TAXES ON OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING FOR 2006**

Sarasota County: \$1,912 (median home value: \$287,000)  
 Highest in Florida: Miami-Dade County: \$2,594 (median home value: \$308,500)  
 Lowest in Florida: Sumter County: \$586 (median home value: \$128,500)  
 Highest nationally: Hunterdon County, N.J.: \$7,999 (median home value: \$475,300)  
 Lowest nationally: St. Landry Parish, La.: \$131 (median home value: \$77,700)

Source: The Tax Foundation

## OUR VIEW

# Change can be good — when it's necessary

Let's say you hire an architect to draw plans for your house. You give him some general idea of what you're hoping for, then turn him loose to use his talent and experience to come up with a design that matches the image in your head.

Finally, he brings you the plans and, frankly, you're disappointed. They're not bad, and they meet the applicable codes and standards, but they just don't look like what you expected.

Do you:

A) Sit down with the architect and explain what you like and what you don't and give him an opportunity to revise the plans to your liking, or

B) Convey your displeasure indirectly and, when the architect doesn't make the first move to fix things, hire another one to do the job?

If "you" are the Venice City Council, and your "architect" is airport consultant MEA Group, your answer is "B." And that bothers us.

Now, we have no allegiance to MEA. Our goal is the same as council's: to get an acceptable airport master plan update and airport layout plan approved and to the Federal Aviation Administration as quickly and cheaply as possible.

We just find it hard to believe MEA hasn't been given a chance to do that.

A bit of history: MEA (now Hanson) prepared an update and a layout plan for the city on the FAA's dime — about \$350,000. Both the prior council and the current one had issues with the documents and rejected them.

But it appears no one communicated to MEA what the problems with the plans were. At least that's what Lisa Waters of the firm said at last Tuesday's council meeting, and it was essentially confirmed in a press conference on Thursday by Mayor Ed Martin and soon-to-be Interim City Manager Nancy Woodley.

MEA, they said, should have known from newspaper accounts and other sources that its work wasn't acceptable and come to council to ask what needed to be done to make it right.

The firm surely did know there were issues and should have been more proactive. We think, though, that there was also a duty on the city's part to bring MEA back, list the issues and ask that they be addressed. That never happened, and the city is now advertising for a new consultant — who will use MEA's work as a jumping-off point.

Council members are individually reviewing the plans in order to meet with the new consultant and define the work that needs to be done. What, then, was the basis for rejecting the plans in the first place? And why, if the city is trying not to reinvent the wheel, isn't the original consultant being brought back to do its work right, within the terms of its original contract?

If that could be done, we think the city would save a lot of time and money. The estimated cost of having a new consultant do the work is \$450,000, though that would be for starting from scratch, which council finally made clear only last week was not its desire.

The complaints about MEA seem to be that its work adhered too closely to the FAA's requirements and didn't adequately present options to protect the golf course and Gulf Shores, and that MEA personnel were arrogant and unresponsive.

The first shortcoming is understandable — the FAA was paying the bill, and MEA works with the agency all the time. But the city is the client, and the client is in charge.

Woodley charitably chalked up some of the problems between council and MEA to miscommunication, at least part

of which was council's failure to give the firm clear direction. Council members are belatedly doing their homework to fix that.

The second shortcoming should be easy to deal with. MEA hasn't been fully paid, and we have to think the airport planning business has been hit at least as hard by the recession as any other business. Plus, the firm's reputation is on the line. Council members won't have any problems being heard now.

Waters said at last week's council meeting that her firm still wants to work with the city but just hasn't been given the chance. While it's true, as Council Member Sue Lang said, that MEA can compete with other potential consultants to do the work — under a new contract, presumably — it seems to us that council could meet with MEA now and find out whether the firm can make the desired changes as part of its original contract.

That would advance the process by weeks, if not months, and keep city taxpayers from spending a dime that doesn't need to be spent. If it can't be worked out, bring in someone new; the process to find that firm is already in motion.

What do we have to lose?

## Back in time



BOB VEDDER  
PUBLISHER

Sometimes nostalgia lane is a fun place to go.

With the economy in a state of chaos, it seemed like a good escape to attend my high school reunion in Urbana, Ill. It was good therapy.

It was only about eight weeks ago that I was in Illinois and found the fields had been deluged with 9 inches of rain (the Iowa floods). Last weekend as I drove down Route 150 through Farmer City and Leroy and some of the other farm communities, it was amazing that the corn in some cases was 10 feet high. While that is not true with those fields that were replanted, it looks like they will make it to harvest.

The class of '62 was a class of 245, of which about 30 percent returned. Strangely, it was our 46th anniversary. We had our 38th reunion in 2000 to see what the turn of the century did to one another. Last Friday we just had social time over a few brews. It was great reminiscing and finding out what people were doing and sharing some good stories.

The biggest group of people went into farming, either there in Urbana or in St. Joe, Mahomet or some other small communities around. It was fascinating talking to them about the business.

The cost to produce corn was about \$235 per acre last year and about \$100 more this year. Next year it is predicted the cost will be more than \$500.

This in part is because of doubled fertilizer and pesticide costs and, of course, gasoline prices. While that would normally be catastrophic, the bushel price has gone from around \$2 just more than a year ago to \$5 now.

They said the ethanol craze seems to be slowing down; maybe the cost of corn is driving them out of business. A couple of pro-

posed plants have been put on hold or companies just bailed out. Maybe someone is using common sense on this one.

The lady that chaired the gathering had collected all of the class photos of all of the elementary schools. I was pretty cute in first grade (even my mother said so). Not sure what happened.

It was not a huge surprise to see that, other than those residing in Illinois, the most grads live in Florida, several in Sarasota County and one in Venice. There was also a western contingent, from Arizona and California.

I found that most of the people were retired, many for years. The ones that seemed to not be retired were the attorneys, the farmers and a few other professionals.

We had no one particularly famous in our class, although some pretty talented folks. One swindled money from lots of people in central Illinois and now has all of his money in Switzerland. Another is a nuclear physicist, one is head of a department at Indiana University. Some are engineers and some are in business. It seemed strange that a lot of people were involved in race cars, from dirt track to NASCAR.

I didn't know I was returning to a bunch of old people. What happened to those young people I grew up with?

It was a great group and a lot of fun.

\*\*\*\*\*

**By's Crack:** I'll say one thing for the years gone by: Life was a lot simpler when the opposite sex wasn't a multiple choice.

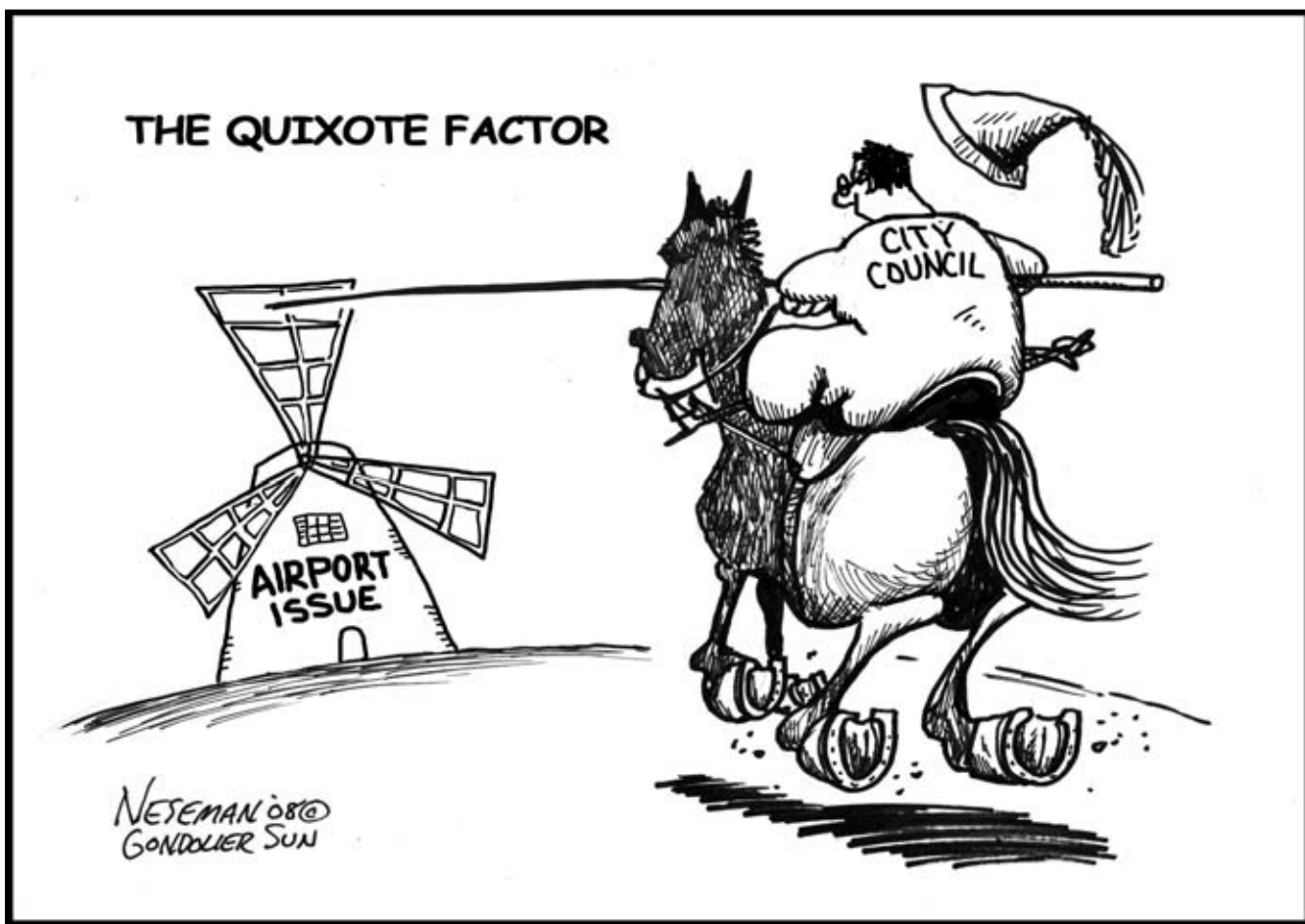
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I don't know if I threw the county commissioners under the bus over the Red Sox stadium, but I at least kicked them off the curb.

There has been a lot of work toward a stadium and much of that has been led by the Sarasota city manager and county staff. Many of the funding recommendations have come from city sources; the county really has not officially weighed in.

Commissioners have by and large embraced the concept but the funding

Please see **VEDDER, 8A**



## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

# Many Golden Beachers love the airport

**Editor:**

I have been a resident of Golden Beach for eight years. I love living here and I find that most of the neighbors do too.

There are more than 300 homes here. We are a community of down-to-earth, real people, and we take great pride in our neighborhood. We live here because we chose to.

Most of us do love the airport and many of us are pilots and aircraft owners. The Venice airport is the reason that we purchased our home in Golden Beach.

There are only a few people who are complaining; unfortunately, all GB residents have received a black eye because of their unreasonable anti-aviation views.

I think that all of the GB homeowners were aware of the airport's existence when they purchased their home. It would be OK with most GB residents if the complainers would relocate to a neighborhood that is a better fit for their personality.

Please know that the GB neighborhood is a very quiet, peaceful and lovely place.

Bebe Teichman  
Venice

### Speaking out is patriotic act

**Editor:**

I understand that there are some Americans who may still be pondering the sense or senselessness of past wars, trying to find reason and justification for the millions of lives lost.

However, it is now known and widely publicized that this Iraq war was based upon deception and lies. Many people, including our Congress and other world leaders, believed Mr. Bush and his cabinet members, and trusted our intimations that Iraq was an imminent

threat to America and the rest of the world — during which, Osama bin Laden and his followers from Saudia Arabia and al-Qaida were actually planning attacks on our homeland.

The lies of the Gulf of Tonkin incident also duped us into launching an unwarranted retaliatory attack, on North Vietnam, which led to the loss of 58,000 American lives and untold millions of others.

Americans who speak out against the senselessness of wrongful wars, and the needless loss of human life, are not traitors,

but Americans, acting like Americans performing their rightful duty. Now more than 70 percent of Americans are opposed to this Iraq war, and believe it was unnecessary.

David L. DeGeorge Sr.  
North Port

### Animal control had it under control

**Editor:**

I would like to thank Sarasota Animal Control for their quick response on July 18.

There was a large, red setter lying in the ditch in my front yard with no collar. Afraid it was sick or injured, I phoned them. They were at my home in 15 minutes.

But the nicest thing was that they returned to let us know they had found the dog's owner.

I just wanted to thank them for taking the time to let us know everything turned out so well.

Monica Beebe  
Venice

### A 'tail' about democracy

**Editor:**

The one-third of Venice's voters who seem to support irresponsible growth seem also to be working themselves into a frenzy. What seems to be igniting

their flaming aggravation is that city council is simply paying attention to the wishes of a thoroughly convincing majority of Venice's voters.

After having had their way for so long, special commercial interests are reluctant to acknowledge the transformative political change that is taking place in Venice and, understandably, they now retreat to the security of agreements made more than half a century ago, before the dawn of commercial jet travel — agreements that made far more sense then than they do now.

They would have us bound by antique agreements that did not contemplate today's reality.

One thing that all of us might well remember is that when the tail wags the dog, democracy is in deep difficulty.

Judy Karr  
Venice

Read Bob Vedder  
in Wednesday  
and Sunday's  
Venice  
Gondolier Sun

# Venice City Council working on five priorities



**ED MARTIN**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Interim City Manager Nancy Woodley and I met with a leadership team of city employees July 24 to exchange information and

organize priorities for the city, as Woodley makes the transition to her new duties.

Five priority areas were identified for current emphasis: the completion of the comprehensive plan update, the development of the new budget, the completion of planning for the airport, completion of negotiations with the employee union, AFSCME, and the hiring of a new city manager.

The city council completed its detailed study of the massive comprehensive plan, and the process

is now in the hands of the planning staff and the city's consultants. After they include the council's suggested changes, the plan will be available for review by the city's appointed committees and the public. Their input will be considered by council prior to final approval in public meetings.

Department directors will be presenting their budget requests to the council in upcoming workshops. The range of funds available for next year, depending on the millage rate to be ap-

proved by council, would be about \$2 million less than the current year at the low end, and about \$100,000 more at the top of the millage range. The public will have the chance to discuss the items which might be added or removed in relation to the level of millage adopted.

Council members have copies of the airport master plan update prepared last year by a consulting firm. The plan was not approved by the past or current council.

Each council member is being asked to review

the plan indicating changes that should be made, as well as parts that are acceptable. Staff will collate these comments for council consideration. They should provide a basis for working with the consultant the city is seeking to hire. This will hopefully limit the new consultant's scope of work.

Preparation for negotiations with the union is under way. Administrative Services Director Alan Bullock is the lead on this project. Details are not available at this time. The city does not anticipate

having to lay off more workers, but will leave some vacancies unfilled under proposed budget levels.

A request for qualifications has been drafted for search firms to assist in the process of identifying candidates for city manager. It should be released soon.

I want to assist Woodley, and the potential new city manager, by becoming as familiar as possible with the issues, and by understanding how staff views them. I also want to

Please see **MARTIN, 8B**

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## POLICE BEAT

### Woman caught stealing over \$600 worth of Benadryl

Security cameras at Radiology Associates of Venice and Englewood recorded janitor Lisa Eaton as she stole more than 30 vials of Benadryl, according to a Venice Police Department report.

The drugs, worth more than \$600, were taken from emergency kits throughout the office. Police said that staff was unaware of the thefts until supplies were needed in an emergency.

Upon arrest, Eaton admitted to stealing the Benadryl, according to the report. She is currently being held in the South County Jail pending a \$2,500 bond.

### Driver in critical condition

Florida Highway Patrol reported on Sunday that a single-car crash occurred on the eastbound lane of State Road 681 about 1 mile west of I-75 in Sarasota County.

The driver, 29-year-old Griselda Duron, was ejected from her car after losing control of it and flipping over, a result of over-compensating when her vehicle began drifting onto the grass median separating eastbound and westbound lanes. Duron was

not wearing a seat belt at the time.

She is currently listed in critical condition at Bayfront Medical Center.

### Arrested on drug trafficking charge

Venice Police arrested a 41-year-old Venice man Monday following a tip given to police reporting that he was selling prescription medicine from his residence.

Stephen M. Frye was arrested at home on July 26, after a search of his apartment revealed him to be in possession of 31 grams of crushed, white powder that detectives identified positively as an opiate.

Frye is currently being held without bond, charged with one count of trafficking of a controlled substance.

### Venice Police Department arrests

- Shawna Tara Smith, 44, 800 block the Esplanade, Venice. Charge: battery, obstructing or opposing an officer without violence. Bond: \$2,250.
- Jory Stephansvicens, 18, 1300 block Karen Drive, Venice. Charge: possession of marijuana. Bond: \$120.
- David R. Whitney, 47, 600 Cocquina Court, Nokomis. Charge: trespass. Bond: \$1,000.

### Sarasota County Sheriff's Office arrests

- Robert L. Atwell, 40, 3200 block Virginia Road, Venice. Charge: burglary with assault, violation of domestic injunction, criminal mischief. Bond: \$10,500.
- Suzette Barros, 29, 3200 block Virginia Road, Venice. Charge: grand theft. Bond: \$1,000.
- Jeffrey Burrell, 46, 9000 block South Tamiami Trail, Venice. Charge: grand theft. Bond: \$2,000.
- Jonathan Bassuk, 29, 100 block Sandhurst Drive, Venice. Charge: DUI. Bond: \$500.
- Jessica J Mckivitz, 25, 600 block West Michigan Drive, Venice. Charge: DUI with previous conviction. Bond: \$2,000.
- Ronald D. Patton, 51, 3000 block Siesta Drive, Venice. Charge: grand theft. Bond: \$1,000.
- James Robert Harris, 29, 1000 block Falls of Venice Circle, Venice. Charge: out of county warrant. Bond: \$5,000.

### North Port Police Department arrests

- Cody A Harrelson, 21, 1700 block Sandalwood Drive, Venice. Charge: violation of probation. Bond: \$2,500.

### Criminal registration

- Joseph A. Patton, 22, 400 block S. River Blvd., Nokomis (sex offender).

## OBITUARIES

### Kristen Archer

Kristen Archer, 32, of Venice, Fla., died Sunday, July 27, 2008.

She was born May 27, 1976, in Bethpage, N.Y. Surviving family members include her daughter, Ava Jo McChesney, and son, Hayden Michael McChesney, both of Venice; mother, Yvonne Archer of Venice; and sisters Jenny Archer and Megan Archer, both of Boston, Mass. She was preceded in death by her father, Michael Lawrence Archer, and her brother, Michael Jason Archer.

**Services:** Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1, at Farley Funeral Home, Venice Chapel, followed by a funeral service at 7 p.m. To send condolences, visit [www.farleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.farleyfuneralhome.com).

**Contributions:** Memorial donations can be made to the Boys & Girls Club of Venice, 920 Gulf Coast Blvd., Venice, FL 34285.

### Albert L. Bensimon

Albert Leon Bensimon died Saturday, July 26, 2008, in Venice, Fla., following a long illness.

Born in New York City, he was part of World War II's 83rd (Thunderbolt) Infantry Division and participated in post D-Day



Bensimon

action from France through Germany. A member of VFW Post 8118, he was involved with the 83rd Infantry Association and its annual conventions. Al worked in North New

Jersey's printing industry for more than 30 years with the same company. He was instrumental in developing a new, roll-label printing process for the pharmaceutical industry. Following retirement, he moved to Osprey, Fla., where he pursued his passions of boating, crabbing, bowling and traveling the world with his beloved wife of 61 years, Ruth Mae (Braen) Bensimon of Hawthorne, N.J. Al was actively involved with the Knights of Columbus Council 7052 and the New Jersey Club, and was a member of Epiphany Cathedral, Venice.

In addition to his loving wife, Al will be missed by his son and daughter-in-law, Albert P. and Patricia Ann Bensimon, of Punta Gorda, Fla., and his daughter, Michele Edythe Bensimon of Downey, Calif. He will also be missed by his two grandchildren, Albert E. Bensimon of Osprey, Fla., and Nicole Bensimon-Buitrago, of Laguna Niguel, Calif.

**Services:** A memorial service will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, at Epiphany Cathedral, Venice. His remains will become part of the Epiphany Memorial Garden.

**Contributions:** In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to TideWell Hospice and

Palliative Care, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238.

### James J. Culbert

James J. Culbert, 78, Venice, Fla., died Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

Jim was born June 21, 1930 in Cuba, N.Y. He was a member of Epiphany Cathedral. He worked 21 years for the Venice Fire Department and retired as fire chief in 1991. He was a former member of the Florida Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Fire Chiefs and a member of the Elks.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy of Venice; daughters Susan Hanks and Sharon Varn, both of Venice; son Stephen of Naples; two sisters, Mary Jean Culbert of Cuba, N.Y., and Patricia O'Connell of West Seneca, N.Y.; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Jim was preceded in death by his brother, Jack.

**Services:** A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 1, at Epiphany Cathedral. Ewing Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Contributions:** In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Epiphany Cathedral School 310 Sarasota St., Venice, FL 34285; or TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota FL 34238.

### OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries are accepted from funeral homes and crematories only. There is no charge for publishing an abbreviated death notice once. Full obituaries, notices of services and repeat death notices will be subject to charges based on their length. Obituaries should be emailed to [lkennedy@venicegondolier.com](mailto:lkennedy@venicegondolier.com) and must include a phone number. There is an additional charge for faxed or hand-delivered obituaries, and for photos. For more information, call (941) 207-1110.

## Sometimes sweethearts are not so sweet



BY KEN KLEINLEIN  
CRIME SCENE

for funds for a can't-miss investment, seed money to start a business, medical bills or any other reason the victim will accept. The victim is assured that the money will be paid back with lucrative interest in a reasonable period of time.

By this time the scam artist may have even moved into the victim's home and secured access to bank accounts, credit cards, investments, monthly payments and other resources.

After the victim's finances have been depleted, the perpetrator skips town and moves on to another location to begin the con all over again on someone else.

When apprehended, the crook usually claims to have been in a relationship and that the monies were gifts given voluntarily, hoping that defense will preclude prosecution.

This con is successful because victims initially refuse to believe that the person they are involved with does not care for them or have their best interests at heart. When they finally accept the truth, it is usually too late.

Here are two extreme cases:

In Greensboro, N.C., James Anthony Savage was arrested by the FBI for defrauding several women out of more than \$7 million. He was convicted on 32 counts of conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud and money laundering.

In Tampa, Robert W. Best, a convicted felon, was arrested for swindling a woman living in North Carolina out of more than \$1 million. She was living on a large financial settlement from a botched eye operation. After developing a romantic relationship, he told the woman he could secure their financial future for a large investment in Best International Investments Inc. Records show that Best had been married twice before, once for nine months and another time for three years.

Be careful when meeting new people and be especially alert should your friend request money from you for any of the reasons listed above. Never give anyone access to your finances unless you can trust him or her implicitly. Report suspicions to family members

and law enforcement.

*Ken Kleinlein, a former detective with the NYPD Special Frauds Squad, works as a crime consultant and information specialist.*



Bensimon

Jersey's printing industry for more than 30 years with the same company. He was instrumental in developing a new, roll-label printing process for the pharmaceutical industry. Following retirement, he moved to Osprey, Fla., where he pursued his passions of boating, crabbing, bowling and traveling the world with his beloved wife of 61 years, Ruth Mae (Braen) Bensimon of Hawthorne, N.J. Al was actively involved with the Knights of Columbus Council 7052 and the New Jersey Club, and was a member of Epiphany Cathedral, Venice.

# Legal Notices

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that PINOT IV LLC, the holder of the certificate listed below, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which the property is assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 2234.000  
Year of Issuance: 2006  
**Tax Deed File #: 08-0297 TD**

Description of Property: 0949-13-7228 LOT 28 BLK 1372 28TH ADD TO PORT CHARLOTTE

Name in which the property is assessed: ANDREW YAREMCHUK  
All of said property being in the County of Sarasota, State of Florida. Unless the certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described in the certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Sarasota County Court House, 2000 Main Street, Historic Courtroom, East Wing, Sarasota, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. on the 14TH day of AUGUST, 2008.

Karen E. Rushing  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Sarasota County, Florida  
By: E. Wenstad, Deputy Clerk  
Publication Dates: JULY 9, 16, 23, 30 2008.

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

Notice is hereby given that CABERNET I LLC, the holder of the certificate listed below, has filed said certificate for a tax deed to be issued. The certificate number and year of issuance, the description of the property, and the names in which the property is assessed are as follows:

Certificate Number: 1643.000  
Year of Issuance: 2006  
**Tax Deed File #: 08-0303 TD**

Description of Property: COM AT SW COR OF SEC 24 TH N 1353.13 FT TH E 795.61 FT FOR POB TH N 20 FT TH E 268.2 FT TO W LINE OF WOODBRIDGE DR TH SLY ALG CURVE TO LEFT 20 FT TH W 266.98 FT TO POB

Name in which the property is assessed: PLANTATION ASSOCIATES  
All of said property being in the County of Sarasota, State of Florida. Unless the certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described in the certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Sarasota County Court House, 2000 Main Street, Historic Courtroom, East Wing, Sarasota, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. on the 14TH day of AUGUST, 2008.

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Certificate Number: 2718.000  
Year of Issuance: 2006  
**Tax Deed File #: 08-0302 TD**

Description of Property: 0961-11-1509 LOT 9 BLK 1115 25TH ADD TO PORT CHARLOTTE

Name in which the property is assessed: NORMA RAMOS  
All of said property being in the County of Sarasota, State of Florida. Unless the certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described in the certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Sarasota County Court House, 2000 Main Street, Historic Courtroom, East Wing, Sarasota, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. on the 14TH day of AUGUST, 2008.

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Certificate Number: 2488.000  
Year of Issuance: 2006  
**Tax Deed File #: 08-0300 TD**

Description of Property: 0954-14-1801 LOT 1 BLK 1418 29TH ADD TO PORT CHARLOTTE

Name in which the property is assessed: RANDAL RHINES  
All of said property being in the County of Sarasota, State of Florida. Unless the certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described in the certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Sarasota County Court House, 2000 Main Street, Historic Courtroom, East Wing, Sarasota, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. on the 14TH day of AUGUST, 2008.

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Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
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By: E. Wenstad, Deputy Clerk  
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Certificate Number: 1748.000  
Year of Issuance: 2006  
**Tax Deed File #: 08-0304 TD**

Description of Property: LOTS 210 211 & SWLY 1/2 OF 209 SOUTH VENICE UNIT 1

Name in which the property is assessed: JIM TSIOGAS & COLLEEN G HERSEM & S C PROPERTY TAX VENTURES  
All of said property being in the County of Sarasota, State of Florida. Unless the certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described in the certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Sarasota County Court House, 2000 Main Street, Historic Courtroom, East Wing, Sarasota, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. on the 14TH day of AUGUST, 2008.

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Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
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Publication Dates: JULY 9, 16, 23, 30 2008.

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED

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Certificate Number: 2586.000  
Year of Issuance: 2006  
**Tax Deed File #: 08-0301 TD**

Description of Property: LOT 16 BLK 1173 25TH ADD TO PORT CHARLOTTE

Name in which the property is assessed: FGH ENTERPRISES LLC  
All of said property being in the County of Sarasota, State of Florida. Unless the certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described in the certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Sarasota County Court House, 2000 Main Street, Historic Courtroom, East Wing, Sarasota, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. on the 14TH day of AUGUST, 2008.

Karen E. Rushing  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Sarasota County, Florida  
By: E. Wenstad, Deputy Clerk  
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Certificate Number: 2301.000  
Year of Issuance: 2006  
**Tax Deed File #: 08-0305 TD**

Description of Property: 0950-13-4202 LOT 2 BLK 1342 26TH ADD TO PORT CHARLOTTE

Name in which the property is assessed: JAMES J GRUCCIO & NEWCOMB HOSPITAL FOUNDATION  
All of said property being in the County of Sarasota, State of Florida. Unless the certificate is redeemed according to law, the property described in the certificate will be sold to the highest bidder at the Sarasota County Court House, 2000 Main Street, Historic Courtroom, East Wing, Sarasota, Florida, at 9:00 a.m. on the 14TH day of AUGUST, 2008.

Karen E. Rushing  
Clerk Of The Circuit Court  
Sarasota County, Florida  
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# Legal Notices



MR. SHEEPSHEAD  
COLUMNIST

## The first 30

How about a challenge? In my opinion, most of you are missing out on one of Venice's greatest assets: walking the beach the first half hour of the morning. I promise you if you do it once, you'll do it again. You'll probably be the only one within eyesight.

You will be the first one to frighten the ghost crabs back into their burrows. Watch closely, you may also see them dragging a sand flea into their hole. As you walk, keep glancing out into the shallow water and you probably will see the snook chasing the bait.

Talk about a tranquil occurrence. Every once in a while you'll see a pod of dolphin looking for breakfast. Occasionally, I've seen a manatee. The best part about this early morning walk is how quiet it is. No screaming children or loud wave runners.

If daybreak is too early for you, then try this experience the last half hour. There will be more people on the beach than the early morning. You'll be able to see the beautiful sunset.

Both of these parts of our day are great times to fish on the beach. Sometimes the mackerel, ladyfish and jacks come almost up on the beach chasing their prey. Say hello, if you see me out there.

Well, fellow Sheepsheadites, the time has come to say goodbye until next week.

Mr. Sheepshead is Dave Hack. Contact him at 486-1998, 321-8849 or mrsheepshead@verizon.net.

## GOLF RESULTS

### LAKE VENICE GOLF CLUB

**July 23**  
**Ladies 9H (odd holes, half-handicap):** Flight A: 1. JoAnn Gentry 8; 2. Marie Lytton 15; 3. Dot Henderson 28. Flight B: 1. Carol Cerwinski 20; 2. Dot DeJohn 24; 3. Dee Allain 29. Flight C: T1. Joan Turner 29; T1. Ann Morgan 29; T1. Pat Campbell 29.

**July 25**  
**MGA (best 9 net):** Class A: 1. Dick Candelmo 30; 2. Al Rocky 31; 3. Tom Mahern 32. Class B: T1. Jack Verome 31; T1. Dick Titus 31; 3. Jim Stortz 32. Class C: 1. Joe Buonik 32; 2. Bob Lytel 33; 3. Andy Katsanis 35. Class D: T1. Doug Roach 35; T1. Joe La Du 35; 3. Norm Beck 36.

**July 28**  
**Monday Group (QP):** 1. +1 — Gerry Chascin, Tom Fett, Neil Clauser, Jim Middleton; 2. -2 — Randy Pait, Farrell Harding, Jim Nestor, Jim Stortz. Individuals — Gerry Chascin +3; Don Hummel +3; Tom Fett +3; Noel Michaels +3.

### CALUSA LAKES GOLF CLUB

**July 23**  
**MGA (1-2-1 on 6-6-6):** 1. -15 — Earl Spurrier, Dick Strahlman, Peter Anthony.

### MYAKKA PINES GOLF CLUB

**July 23**  
**All-Stars:** 1. +32 — Bob Hale, Steve Martin, Vernon Waters; 2. +24 — Tom Milazzo, Roy Rossetti, Harold Anderson.  
**July 24**  
**18H Ladies (LN):** Flight A: 1. Diana Hull 60. Flight B: 1. Barb McCarthy 62. Flight C: 1. Mary Hess 63.  
**9H Ladies (throw out worst 2):** Flight A: T1. Mona Bergl 35; T1. Dee Corey 35. Flight B: 1. Margo Hughes 36. Flight C: 1. Kathleen Machesky 40.

# Vitale: Sox in Sarasota a no-brainer

Dick Vitale was among the supporters of bringing the Boston Red Sox to Sarasota for spring training at a Citizens For Sox rally Tuesday.

BY TRIPP MILLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Support and optimism still abound for bringing the Boston Red Sox to Sarasota for spring training, even after the plan to build a new ballpark facility at the current site of the fairgrounds seems to be all but dead.

Sarasota County commissioners rejected a three-way land swap that involved moving the fairgrounds from Fruitville Road to Twin Lakes Park last week. That move would have opened up a 98-acre chunk of land for a ballpark near downtown Sarasota.

But that didn't discourage some of the area's most prominent figures from expressing their support at a public Citizens For Sox rally at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota Tuesday night.

"I would say it's an M&Mer, a total mismatch. An N.C. — no contest," said ESPN college basketball analyst Dick Vitale, who resides in Sarasota. "To me, the only logical decision is to bring the Boston Red Sox to the best place in the land, Sarasota, Florida."

According to the recently released Economic Impact Report, Ed Smith Stadium & Sports



SUN PHOTOS BY TRIPP MILLER

**ESPN personality and college basketball analyst Dick Vitale, who resides in Sarasota, was a surprise speaker at the Citizens For Sox rally at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota Tuesday. Vitale said you didn't "have to go to Harvard to figure out this is a no-brainer."**

Complex generates an estimated \$24.5 million in economic output with the Cincinnati Reds as its spring training tenant. When the Cincinnati Reds leave in 2010 for Arizona, the complex will generate an estimated \$5.5 million. A new baseball complex with the Boston Red Sox as the spring training tenant would generate an estimated \$46.5 million.

The Economic Impact Report, presented by Conventions, Sports & Leisure, is available in its entirety on the Web at [www.citizensforsox.com](http://www.citizensforsox.com).



**Sarasota Mayor Lou Ann Palmer expressed her support of bringing the Boston Red Sox to Sarasota.**

In addition to the economic benefits outlined in the report, many of the speakers at the rally cited the publicity factor of having the Red Sox in Sarasota. County Commissioner Joe Barbetta said the Red Sox could bring high-tech, high-income jobs to Sarasota just by getting the attention of businesses in New England.

"It's not just about baseball, not just about bringing the players here for that period of time. But what other opportunities exist?" Barbetta asked. "We know our hotels welcome spring training. They say they love having baseball here ... The economic vibrancy of the whole community will certainly get brighter if we land the Red Sox. We're going to do our best."

In fact, Sarasota Mayor Lou Ann Palmer said that the city has received endorsements for bringing the Red Sox to town from the Chamber of Commerce, Coalition of Business Association, Argus Foundation, Sarasota Association

of Realtors, Sarasota/Manatee Hotel Sales Committee, Sarasota Convention and Visitors Bureau and many local neighborhood associations.

"I'm not putting down the Cincinnati Reds in any way, shape or form, but we all know what the Boston Red Sox mean to Sarasota," Palmer said.

Since Sarasota lost the Reds, already Ed Smith Complex has lost the FHSAA Baseball Finals. Jason Puckett, sports marketing coordinator for the Sarasota Convention and Visitors Bureau, suspects Ed Smith and Sarasota will also lose the AAU Baseball national championship tournament in the coming years due to uncertainty surrounding the facility's future upkeep without a spring training and minor league baseball tenant. With the Red Sox in town, Puckett says Sarasota could easily get those events, which pump tourist dollars into the local economy, back.

The fairgrounds may no longer be an option, but the plan to get the Red Sox is still in motion thanks to support from those groups as well as the Citizens For Sox. According to their Web site, Citizens For Sox is a grass-roots organization committed to bring "clear and accurate information to the residents and taxpayers of Sarasota and surrounding communities about the positive potential impact of relocation of the Boston Red Sox to Sarasota for spring training."

tmiller@venicegondolier.com

## Falcon fury



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK WEAVER

**The Venice Falcons 10-and-under girls soccer team won the Extreme 3V3 Soccer Summer Shootout July 16 in Pinellas Park. Pictured, from left to right, are Bailee McNamee, Alexis Weaver, Oceane Salle, coach David Shacklett, Kylee Chagnon and Emily Dalton. The Venice Falcons are looking for additional players for the upcoming club season. If you are an interested 9- to 10-year-old girl, please send an e-mail to [vaysamail@venicesoccer.com](mailto:vaysamail@venicesoccer.com) to request a tryout.**

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Pythons 9U tryouts

The Venice Pythons, Venice's AAU Baseball organization, is looking to start a traveling team for ages 9 and under for the fall season. Tryouts will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at Chuck Reiter Park. Call Greg Sigmon at 270-1027 if your child is interested in trying out.

### Venice High School golf tryouts

The boys golf team at Venice High School will hold tryouts Aug. 11-14 at Lake Venice Golf Club, beginning at 2:30 p.m. each day. All players interested in the varsity and junior varsity programs must tryout. Participants must have school forms and physicals beforehand in order to tryout. For more information, call Head Coach Marty Tarala at 486-8686 or 488-0279.

### TideWell Hospice Golf Tournament

The fifth-annual TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care Golf Tournament, sponsored by First Draft Choice Sports Pub, is scheduled for Aug. 10 at Lake Venice Golf Club. Cost to play is \$60. The event includes 18 holes of golf, food, drinks, silent auction and raffles. Sign sponsors are asked to contribute in \$50 increments.

All proceeds from the tournament benefit TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care. For more information, contact Rick Schember at (201) 952-2008 or richember@aol.com.

### USTA Junior Team Tennis

Register for USTA Junior Team Tennis before Sept. 3. Play begins Sept. 13 and runs through Nov. 15.

USTA Junior Team Tennis is a recreational tennis league for ages 8-18. The league allows players of similar skills and age levels to compete. It is broken into three age divisions, 12 and under, 14 and under and 18 and under. The two older age groups are broken down into intermediate and advanced levels, determined by the USTA National Tennis Rating Program.

Participating facilities include Courtside Tennis, Englewood Tennis and Jacaranda West Country Club. For more information, call a participating facility or the league coordinator, Sue Zipay, at 475-4484.

### Learn to sail

The Women's Sailing Squadron is holding a Learn to Sail Course Sept. 8-12. Call Carol Miller at 223-6049 or Helen Gokbudak at 484-1492 for registration information.

# The Red Sox Nation is already here

Walking into the ballroom donated by the Hyatt Regency Sarasota for the Citizens For Sox rally felt an awful lot like baseball. I've never been to a game at Fenway Park, but I imagine it's kind of like this.

The first thing I noticed was the popcorn smell. Not exactly peanuts and Cracker Jacks, but close enough.

Then came the voices. Boston accents this thick would normally make my skin crawl, but this is all part of the Fenway experience.

Then the colors. Everyone wearing a red T-shirt and a Boston cap, unlike the SEC gear that floods my home Turner Field. We're all on the same team here.

Then came the excitement. There was a real feeling of anticipation for bringing the Red Sox to town, like the anticipation that comes before the first pitch.

They were expecting 400 people for the event. They fell a bit short, but the enthusiasm was tangible. Twice, Yankee fans, including Sarasota resident and international sports icon Dick Vitale, took the podium in support of the Red Sox. That's called bringing a community together.

Naysayers have said Sarasota will fare just fine without spring training, but how would they know? There are plenty of old folks here, but not many who can remember the last time Sarasota had no spring training — 84 years ago. Still fewer actually



TRIPP MILLER  
SPORTS EDITOR

lived here back then.

Even if the economic impact doesn't live up to the estimates in the Economic Impact Report, who could say no to even half of \$46.5 million into the local economy?

Dick Vitale may be crazy, but he's right.

"I'm not the most intellectual guy I know, I can't even spell the word Harvard to go to Harvard, but I don't think you have to go to Harvard to figure out this is a no-brainer, an absolute no-brainer," he said. "To bring the Red Sox to this city and to feel the incredible boom economically, also public relations-wise on the news every night nationally on ESPN when everybody's talking about the Red Sox and Sarasota, Florida, I cannot see why anyone could possibly see why this could be a negative."

I went to the University of Florida, the Princeton Review's No. 1 party school, where they say students study the least, and even I can tell that this is a can't-miss opportunity.

tmiller@venicegondolier.com

# Board's stormwater debate to resume soon

BY STEVEN J. SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

The stormwater mitigation debate continued during a meeting of the Community Redevelopment Area's advisory board at Lemon Bay Park.

The board decided to delay voting until August on endorsing a grant program by board member Todd Tracy over planned stormwater vaults for Dearborn Street.

By then, the board hopes the overall financial picture might be clearer to make a better decision on vaults versus grants.

"I think (the board will) come around (to my plan)," Tracy said after the meeting. "In these changing times, the responsible thing to do is change. And the grant program solves a lot of problems."

Among the largest of those problems, Tracy said, was finding \$6 million in the stressed economic climate to build the vault system.

"I think it's inevitable my plan will prevail, because the dollars simply aren't there right now (to fund the vaults)," Tracy said.

Tracy's plan would allow the private sector to pursue and purchase less-expensive systems through low-impact development solutions such as green roofs, permeable parking lots and cisterns.

Low-impact development encompasses stormwater management contained mostly within a single site. The vaulting system proposed beneath Dearborn Street, by contrast, would have stormwater traveling to another location.

"I want you as an end-user consumer to be free to choose whatever stormwater (mitigation) you want," Tracy said. "It gets us out of the loop. We don't have to borrow money. We don't have anything to maintain. All we have is a small paper trail we've

established for the grant program."

Tracy's program would include an endowment based on square footage of a property owner's lot. The amount would be determined through public input.

His own grant estimate was based on the 10.36 acres of land he believed had the best chance of being developed in Englewood over the next six years within the proposed mitigation area. At his estimate of \$2.24 per square foot, the total awards would cost the CRA a little more than \$1 million.

## Sitting there

Tracy's plan challenged the 21.5 acres of Englewood property projected to be served by the vaults. He conceded that while many of those acres might be somewhat improved, they would not actually require stormwater mitigation.

Tracy failed to win over board members Harry Colburn and John Davison. Colburn said that \$378,217 has already been spent for the vault system design with the backing of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the

body responsible for allowing permitting for stormwater-mitigation systems. Low-impact development, he added, has yet to receive Swiftmud endorsement.

Davison sided with Colburn.

"We've already spent a lot of money on the vault system," Davison said. "Some experts think that's the way to go and I'm trying to listen to the experts."

Tracy said that the \$5 million in estimated savings could go to more worthy CRA projects.

"We have some sidewalk issues. We have lots of waterfront park land that's just sitting there (needing improvement). We could kick in for the performing arts center as they look to raise money," Tracy said. "There's lots of things we can do to stimulate downtown other than mitigating stormwater for \$6 million."

ssmith@sun-herald.com

# Englewood Loop route in danger

BY STEVEN J. SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

It looks like the end of the line for the Englewood Loop.

According to Anthony Beckford, general manager of Sarasota County Area Transit, the infrequently used Route 21 — which serves Englewood Community Hospital, Dearborn Street, Kiwanis Park and the Englewood Sports Complex — will probably face the chopping block in October.

"I can't eliminate a (bus) route without (Sarasota County Commission) approval," Beckford said. "But it has a strong possibility to be eliminated, because it's not doing very well."

Beckford said that despite efforts to improve the route, such as offering reservation-oriented "flex" service, ridership has not gone up. In fact, he said, it has

actually gone down — to the tune of only four total riders per trip.

"That's resources that can be put to better uses," Beckford said. "So rather than wasting money on a service that's not being utilized, we'd like to reallocate those resources to something else."

Those resources amount to almost \$200,000 a year, he added.

Anyone interested in learning what steps SCAT will take to consolidate its Englewood area service — including alternate routes to the Englewood Loop — can contact Sarah Blanchard, SCAT planning manager, at (941) 650-2284 or via e-mail at sblancha@scgov.net.

"We're looking to enhance service on Route 16," Beckford said. "It will pick up some of the slack, though it won't pick up everything."

ssmith@sun-herald.com

# Sarasota public defender honored

STAFF REPORT

Public Defender Adam Tebrugge has been honored for his diligent defense of indigent criminals in the 12th Judicial Circuit.

The Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto and Venice-Englewood bar associations, along with the judges of the 12th Judicial

Circuit, presented the third annual Jim Slater Award to Tebrugge for professionalism in practicing criminal law.

The award goes to an attorney who personifies commitment, seriousness of purpose and respect, all of which marked Slater's career. He passed away in 2005.

Tebrugge succeeded Slater in the 12th Judicial Circuit. The Sarasota attorney protects the dignity of his clients even under the most trying circumstances, award presenters said, and has a reputation for extraordinary courtesy to the court and respect for his adversaries in the courtroom.

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# And the winners are...

Point, shoot ... win!

The *Gondolier Sun's* photo contest inspired local photographers to take some wonderful shots. Taking top honors among stiff competition were Dennis Nessel, Ki Hassler and Janet Gifford, all from Venice.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS NESSEL



PHOTO COURTESY OF KI HASSLER

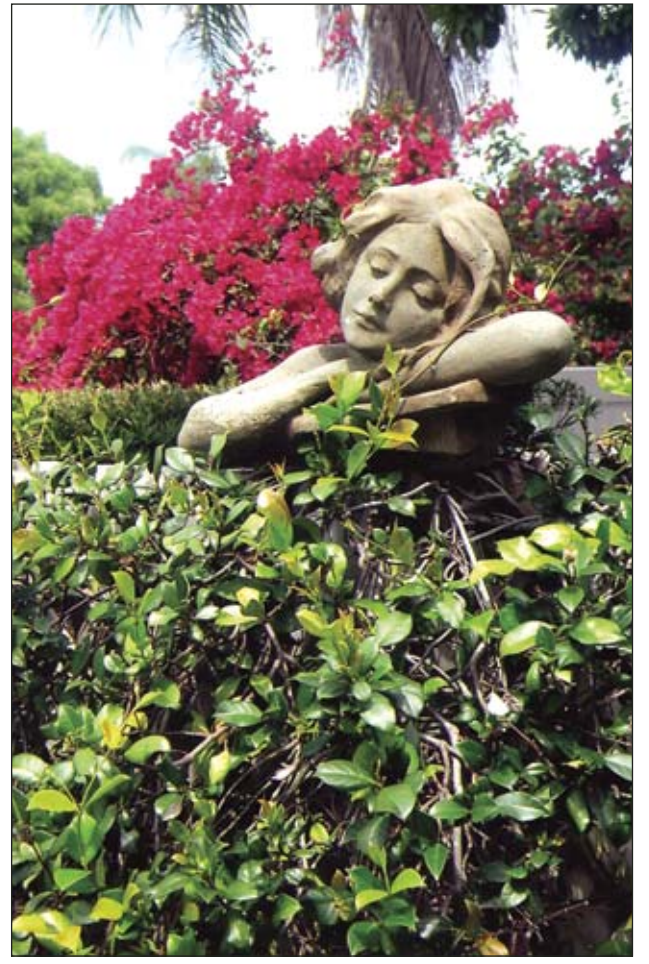


PHOTO COURTESY OF JANET GIFFORD



SUN PHOTO BY JUSTIN FENNEL, jfennell@venicegondolier.com

*Gondolier Sun* publisher Bob Vedder presents Dennis Nessel with his prize, a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card.



SUN PHOTO BY JUSTIN FENNEL, jfennell@venicegondolier.com

*Gondolier Sun* publisher Bob Vedder presents Ki Hassler with her \$50 Wal-Mart gift card.



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*Gondolier Sun* publisher Bob Vedder presents Janet Gifford with her \$50 Wal-Mart gift card.

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AUGUST 2008

# HEALTH UPDATE

Monthly Health News from  
Venice Regional Medical Center



## HEALTHY OPPORTUNITIES

### SEMINARS/LECTURES

**LOCATION:** Lions Club Room at Venice HealthPark, 1283 Jacaranda Blvd., Venice

**Summer Physician Lecture Series**  
Thursday, August 7  
6:00-7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Issam Halaby,  
Board Certified General Surgeon

**Topic:** Peripheral Arterial Disease -  
New Horizons

Register by calling 486-6057

Thursday, August 21

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Issam Halaby,  
Board Certified General Surgeon

**Topic:** Wound Care and Hyperbarics

This lecture will be immediately followed by a tour of the Venice HealthPark Wound Care Center.

Register by calling 486-6057

**LOCATION:** Venice Regional Medical Center Auditoriums, Venice

Wednesday, August 6

8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

**Heart Healthy Nutrition Class**

Speaker: Rachel Chambers,  
Clinical Dietitian

Register by calling 483-7354

### SUPPORT GROUPS/ MEETINGS

**LOCATION:** Lions Club Room at Venice HealthPark, 1283 Jacaranda Blvd., Venice  
No registration necessary.

Fridays, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Amputee Support Group**

A roundtable support session that meets every Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 12 noon.

Monday, August 4

2:00 p.m.

**Man-to-Man Support Group**

A support group sponsored by the American Cancer Society for men with prostate cancer.

Wednesday, August 6

7:00 p.m.

**National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Sarasota County.**

### FREE SCREENINGS

**LOCATION:** Lions Club Room at Venice HealthPark, 1283 Jacaranda Blvd., Venice

Thursday, August 7

**Venice Lions Club Vision Screening (monthly)**

Free screenings for income qualified individuals beginning at 7:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required by calling 486-6065.

Thursdays, August 14, 21, 28

**Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screenings**

Home Health Services will provide screenings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Please fast beginning the night before testing. Refreshments provided.

**LOCATION:** HealthPark, Main Lobby, 1201 Jacaranda Boulevard, Venice

Thursday, August 7

**Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Screenings**

Home Health Services will provide screenings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Please fast beginning the night before testing. Refreshments provided.



VENICE REGIONAL  
MEDICAL CENTER

## In Case of Emergency

By their very nature, medical emergencies aren't planned, so most people who experience them don't have the time to think about the hospital that will provide their care. But, in fact, not all Emergency Departments are created alike. They are a function of the hospitals that back them up, so it is important to look at how an Emergency Department is supported and what resources are behind it before an emergency strikes.

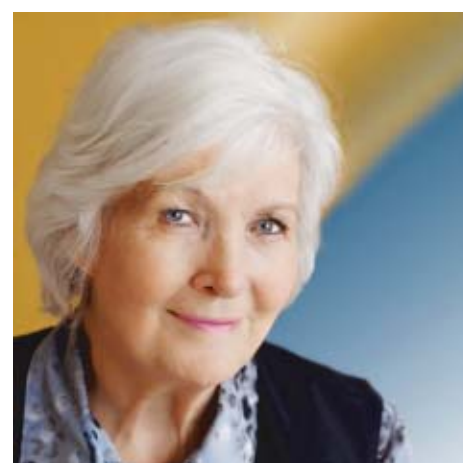
"Residents of south Sarasota County can rest assured that the emergency department at Venice Regional Medical Center (VRMC) is backed by some of the finest resources available," says CEO Melody Trimble. With Board Certified Emergency Medicine physicians on-site, around-the-clock, the department is fully equipped to handle the full gamut of common emergencies, from broken bones to the flu, allergic reactions and more. Two separate triage stations and a bedside registration process streamline treatment, making it faster and more convenient. But most important are the high-caliber services available when you need them the most.

For instance, if you or a family member ends up needing heart care or surgery, it pays to take a close look at the facts on cardiac care providers in the Sarasota-Bradenton area. The truth is, Venice Regional Medical Center has already been examined by two independent, national quality ratings organizations and rated best in the area for cardiac surgery. We are also one of the nation's top 100 hospitals for cardiovascular care, and one of only six in Florida. These organizations concluded that we save lives. So, if your life or health is at risk, review the facts and look to us for care of your heart.

The same is true if you or a neighbor break a hip or need a joint replacement. Venice Regional Medical Center has been rated by the nation's leading independent healthcare ratings organization as the best hospital in the area for orthopedic services including joint replacement. They used non-biased data on patient success rates to conclude that our quality exceeds that of any other hospital from Englewood to Bradenton. We have five-star ratings in joint replacement, spine surgery, total knee replacement, and back and neck surgery. In addition, we have skilled orthopedic surgeons employing advanced techniques and a dedicated orthopedic recovery unit with all private rooms, orthopedic nursing staff and on-site physical therapy.

As if that isn't enough, The Joint Commission recently issued its Quality Report for 2007 (the latest available), and Venice Regional Medical Center received some of its highest ratings yet. The Joint Commission has established specific goals for all hospitals and looks at data in the context of those goals, which seek to improve outcomes for common but serious conditions. For the most recent reporting period, Venice Regional Medical Center received the highest ratings possible for the three vital conditions established by The Joint Commission: heart attack care, heart failure care, and pneumonia care. In fact, the ratings for Venice Regional indicated that its performance in these areas was above that of most other Joint Commission accredited hospitals both statewide and nationally.

Spend some time with your loved ones evaluating your choices for Emergency Care in your community. Decide which hospital you would be comfortable having manage your care and make sure your family members are aware of your decision. Planning ahead makes the tough decisions that much easier.



## HEALTH BRIEFS

### LYMPHEDEMA:

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS.  
SEEK TREATMENT FROM THE EXPERTS.

Lymphedema, often noticed as a swelling in the arms or legs, can worsen over time if left untreated. It's crucial to recognize the symptoms of the disease early and to seek help from a specially trained medical professional.

#### Causes of Lymphedema

Lymphedema is the accumulation of protein rich fluid in the soft tissue that causes swelling, most often in the arms or legs, and occasionally in other parts of the body. It develops when lymphatic vessels are missing or impaired (primary lymphedema), or when lymph vessels are damaged or removed (secondary lymphedema).

Secondary lymphedema can develop as a result of trauma, infection, radiation, or surgery. Specific surgeries, such as a radical mastectomy or lumpectomy with lymph node removal, put patients at risk for developing secondary lymphedema.

#### Symptoms of Lymphedema

Signs or symptoms of lymphedema include swelling, a sensation of heaviness or skin tightness, muscle fatigue in the affected limb, and decreased movement of the hand, wrist, or ankle due to swelling of the affected limb.

The symptoms of swelling and redness, warmth, increased discomfort, fever, or rash may indicate an infection and require immediate evaluation by a physician.

#### Effective Treatment

Complete decongestive physiotherapy (CDP) is the most effective treatment option available for lymphedema. The treatment is divided into two phases.

In Phase I, the CDP therapist teaches the patient to perform self-manual lymph drainage, to apply a compression bandage correctly, to perform condition specific exercises, and to apply basic skin care and prevention principles.

In Phase II, the patient optimizes the fluid reduction by performing self-manual lymph drainage, wearing a compression sleeve during the day, bandaging the affected area at night and exercising 15 minutes a day while wearing the bandages.

Venice Regional Medical Center's rehabilitation services therapists are specially trained and certified in CDP. Their skill and dedication have led to many excellent patient outcomes.

For more information about lymphedema or CDP, call Venice Regional Rehabilitation at HealthPark, (941) 486-6420, and ask to speak with a certified CDP therapist.

# OUR TOWN



THINGS TO DO 3B

DEAR ABBY 6B

SEE WHO ARE ENGAGED 8B

## Savoring Rosemary — and her friends



SUN PHOTOS BY BROOKY BROWN

Emma and Bill Wilson, owners of Scamotz, hold pots of thyme and chives as they stand in front of the metal pie Bill carved with a cutting torch.

BY BROOKY BROWN  
PROJECTS EDITOR

She's visually beautiful, smells incredible and when you hold her in your hands you feel the delicacy of creation — and then you taste her.

"Her name is Rosemary. Would you like to sit beside her?" Emma Wilson asks her Scamotz customers, especially single young males.

Bill and Emma Wilson purchase their organic herbs at the Venice Farmer's Market from Russ Esposito of Blooming Grove Nursery.

From there the herbs are transplanted into clay pots where they reside in the restaurant's courtyard, yielding cutting after cutting to flavor the pizza pies and other cuisine served at Scamotz. The courtyard is landscaped with garlic chives, onion

chives, sweet basil, thyme, oregano and parsley.

"Herbs come from the feminine spirit," Emma said. "It is Mother Earth giving back the beauty of who she is."

Emma believes it is an honor to use herbs in cooking. They also add the "Wow" factor to whatever food they season.

"When people ask for a white pie we go outside and harvest fresh basil and top it with fresh tomatoes," she said.

At the end of each work day, by 10 p.m. to be exact, Emma places her produce order for 20 pounds of "the most succulent" tomatoes.

"If they aren't the most succulent ones when they arrive, they go back," she said.

### The process of layering

Bill is a bit of a cook himself, and he thinks layering is what cooking is all

about.

"If you're cooking a steak, first you bring it to room temperature, then you add salt, etc. That's layering," he said.

"Emma's dressings are layered as is the marinara sauce."

All fresh herbs should be added the last 5 minutes of cooking time, Bill said, except one.

"Fresh bay leaf goes in whole at the beginning and is removed after 20 minutes."

"It's the dance of the oil and herb in cooking that brings the dish to life," Emma said.

It takes Bill and Emma all day to pre-

pare for the evening restaurant crowd.

### Making cooking fun

Emma, who home schooled her four children, said one of the "fun-est" things to do when making pizza at home is to involve the children.

"They can put anything on the pizza they want," she said.

One of Emma's sons learned to bake bread at age 11. From there he went to culinary school and served as an executive chef in Rhinebeck, N.Y., with 100 people working under him.

"Currently, he's in the South of France serving as a private chef aboard a yacht," she said.

Emma is an early riser. At 5:30 each

Please see **ROSEMARY, 2B**



SUN PHOTOS BY BROOKY BROWN

Antonio Pariano, an owner and chef at Cassariano Italian Eatery, holds a sprig of fresh dried rosemary that was shipped to his restaurant from California.

## Pariano solves the herbal puzzle

BY BROOKY BROWN  
PROJECTS EDITOR

**IF YOU'VE EVER WONDERED** what herbs to use with which foods, Antonio Pariano, chef and one of the owners of Cassariano Italian Eatery on Venice Avenue, can solve the mystery.

"Every woman in Italy has little herb plants in her home," he said. "But here, we use fresh dried herbs because it's faster. They still have the

natural oil that gives them their flavor."

The herbs are shipped to Pariano every two days from California. From these he chooses just the right ones to flavor his dishes.

Pariano said it's important to use herbs that compliment the foods you're preparing. He suggests using these herbs with the following foods:

• Red meats — use stronger herbs like rosemary and thyme. For each steak, break up a little piece of rosemary, Pariano said.

• Veal and chicken — these are mild meats so sage is good with them.

• Fish also is mild — use basil, parsley and oregano with fish. Parsley doesn't work with red meat, Pariano said.

• Lamb — use mint with lamb.  
• Tomato sauce — use sweet



Antonio Pariano uses fresh dried mint with lamb dishes at his restaurant on Venice Ave.

basil and generous amounts of parsley.

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# Dinnertime solutions for busy, at-home cooks

FROM NAPSA

Today, family schedules are dominated by work, doctor appointments, car pools and other activities, prompting consumers to look for easy, budget-friendly and well-balanced solutions to dinnertime at home.

"According to a recent study, the average American family dines out three evenings a week simply due to time constraints and a general love for restaurant food," said Laura Smith Wade, senior home economist for Whirlpool brand. "At-home cooks are looking for tried-and-true solutions that will help them provide creative, well-

rounded meals at home in less time."

Additionally, cooking at home can provide benefits including more family time around the dinner table, control over what types of ingredients are used and the opportunity to begin teaching children how to cook. Want another reason to start cooking and stop taking out? The American Dietetic Association recently reported that when families eat together, it is more likely that meals will be healthier and more balanced with less fat and higher amounts of fiber, minerals and vitamins.

Knowing that families are

always looking for fresh meal options, Whirlpool brand and Newman's Own have launched the Let's Eat In recipe contest and easy-to-prepare meal idea collection. Those with great recipe ideas can enter the contest, hosted by Food Network, for a chance to win a Whirlpool brand suite of kitchen appliances and a year's supply of Newman's Own products.

Interested in entering the Let's Eat In recipe contest or downloading easy-to-prepare recipes like the one below? Visit [www.whirlpool.com/LetsEatIn](http://www.whirlpool.com/LetsEatIn), [www.newmansown.com](http://www.newmansown.com) or [www.foodnetwork.com/LetsEatIn](http://www.foodnetwork.com/LetsEatIn) through July 31.

## SESAME GINGER SALMON

Preparation time: 10 min.  
Cook time: 20 min.

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb. salmon fillets
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp. finely minced shallots
- 1 clove finely minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 C Newman's Own Sesame Ginger Marinade
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil

### Instructions:

1. Clean and rinse the salmon fillets.
2. Combine all ingredients except olive oil, coating the top and bottom of the fillet.
3. Brush the pan with olive oil and layer the fillets next to each other (presentation side up).
4. Put the pan into bottom rack and set the oven to Low Broil and cook for 20 minutes until fillets are cooked and flaky.
5. Place on plate and garnish with thin slices of lemon.



SUN PHOTO BY BROOKY BROWN

Patrons of Scamotz, and some who just know the cup is there, contribute between \$200-\$250 a week to Our Mother's House in Venice. Our Mother's House gives babies and their mothers a place to live while they continue their education.

## ROSEMARY

from Page 1B

morning she finds peace and contentment for the day in the rhythm of kneading pizza dough. Later she will make hot roasted garlic dressing. She'll run outside to snip some thyme to add its unique flavor to her homemade recipe.

"Thyme smells like the woods," she said.

As for Rosemary, as

sensual and beautiful as she is, she isn't the only sensual woman in the courtyard at Scamotz. There is her rival Olive. Olive is an Arbequina Olive Tree.

"Sometimes I ask the single guys if they would like to sit with Rosemary or Olive," Emma said, flashing a conspiratorial smile.



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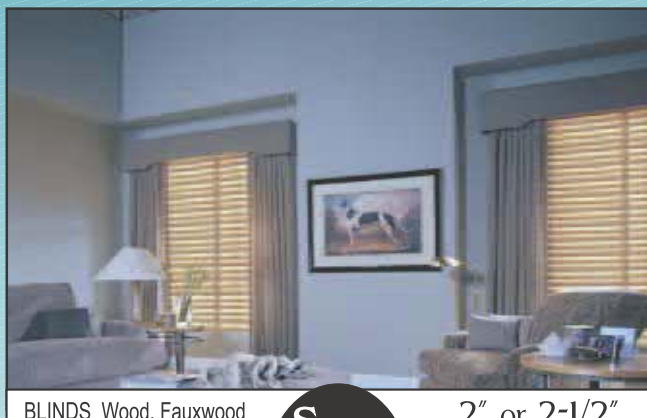
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## WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

### Art history

**Time:** 10:30-11:45 a.m.  
**Where:** Selby Public Library, Jack Geldbart Auditorium Masters and Masterpieces of Music, 1331 First St., Sarasota  
**Notes:** Dr. John Goodman holds a six-week class about Gilbert and Sullivan. Classes are free and no prior knowledge of music is required.  
**Call:** 861-1120  
**E-mail:** vneumann@scgov.net

### Kayaking safety

**Time:** 8:30-11 a.m.  
**Where:** North Jetty/Snake Island  
**Notes:** Learn about entering/exiting, paddling, basic equipment, tides, how to get into your kayak if it overturns and how to help rescue another.  
**Cost:** \$40  
**Call:** Terry Brawley, 960-5505

### Evening book club

**Time:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Jacaranda Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd.  
**Notes:** Share a book  
**Call:** 861-5000

### Club food

**Time:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge, 1021 Discovery Way, Nokomis  
**Notes:** Lunch

### Bingo

**Time:** 5-7 p.m.  
**Where:** American Legion, 1770 E. Venice Ave.  
**Notes:** Bingo at 6 p.m., food available from 5-7 p.m.  
**Call:** 488-1157

### Kids run

**Time:** 5:30-7 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice Pier, 1600 Harbor Drive  
**Cost:** \$1 one-time registration fee  
**Notes:** A 1-mile fun run for kids. Weekly registration held onsite at 5:30 p.m. Race is 6:30 p.m. Participants receive a ribbon with every run. Free T-shirts are earned after completing four runs.  
**Call:** 861-5000

### Game day

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice Art Center, 390 S. Nokomis Ave.  
**Notes:** Play a variety of games at the center.  
**Call:** 485-7136  
**Link:** veniceartcenter.com

### Story Wednesdays

**Time:** 10-10:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Venice Public Library, 300 S. Nokomis Ave.  
**Notes:** Train Time  
**Call:** 861-1348

## THURSDAY, JULY 31

### Venice-Nokomis Rotary Club

**Time:** Noon - 1:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Grace Methodist Church  
**Link:** www.VeniceNokomisRotary.org

### 'Oklahoma!'

**Time:** Varies, evenings and matinees  
**Where:** Venice Theatre  
**Notes:** "Oklahoma!" runs at Venice Theatre from July 31-Aug. 9. Tickets can be purchased online or by phone.  
**Call:** 488-1115  
**Link:** www.venicestage.com

## BEST BET

THE LOCAL SCENE



PHOTO COURTESY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

**V**olunteers for Habitat for Humanity build sheds behind houses they constructed on Collins Road in Laurel. Another project, a newly constructed home for Ruby Graham, will be dedicated Saturday, Aug. 2 at 9 a.m., 434 Scott Street, and the public is invited to attend. Habitat continues to seek volunteers to help with various projects, from building houses to pulling weeds and coordinating their aluminum can recycling program. Call 493-6606 or e-mail [dkohlbecker@hfhssarasota.co.org](mailto:dkohlbecker@hfhssarasota.co.org).

### Gardening answers

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. - noon  
**Where:** Venice Public Library, 300 S. Nokomis Ave.  
**Notes:** Sarasota County Extension Service experts answer your gardening questions.  
**Call:** 861-1350

### Big brush watercolor

**Time:** 10 a.m.-noon  
**Where:** Nokomis Community Center, main hall, 234 E. Nippino Trail, Nokomis  
**Notes:** Big-brush painting class allows students to use watercolors and/or inks on a variety of large format paper. Wet into wet and dry brush techniques will be taught. All levels are encouraged to enroll.  
**Cost:** \$65 per month or a daily fee of \$20  
**Call:** 861-5000

### Beginning tap dance

**Time:** 9-10 a.m.  
**Where:** Nokomis Community Center activity room, 234 E. Nippino Trail, Nokomis  
**Notes:** Learn beginner's level tap dance with certified dance instructor Ellen Swope.  
**Cost:** \$10 per class  
**Information:** 861-5000

### Intermediate tap dance

**Time:** 10-11 a.m.  
**Where:** Nokomis Community Center activity room, 234 E. Nippino Trail, Nokomis  
**Notes:** Learn intermediate level tap dance with certified dance instructor Ellen Swope.  
**Cost:** \$10 per class  
**Information:** 861-5000

### Club food

**Time:** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge, 1021 Discovery Way, Nokomis  
**Notes:** Lunch

### Time: 5-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge, 1021 Discovery Way, Nokomis  
**Notes:** All you can eat spaghetti dinner

### Time: 5-8 p.m.

**Where:** American Legion, 1770 E. Venice Ave.  
**Notes:** Chicken tenders,

burgers and music.

### Club fun

**Time:** 6-8 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice-Nokomis Elks Lodge, 1021 Discovery Way, Nokomis  
**Notes:** Trivia Games with \$50 prize

## COMING SOON

### Women's Challenge

**RSVP:** by Aug. 4, 485-9724  
**Date:** Runs Aug. 5-21  
**Time:** 6-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Women's Resource Center, 701 Center Road, Venice  
**Notes:** A 30-hour course of intense personal support to gain self-confidence and coping skills to overcome life challenges. Preregistration is required.  
**Cost:** \$50  
**Call:** 485-9724  
**Link:** [www.thewomensresourcecenter.org](http://www.thewomensresourcecenter.org)

### Friends of Legacy Trail

**Date:** Aug. 5  
**Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Where:** Oscar Scherer State Park  
**Notes:** Ed Wolfenbarger, naturalist for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation, will speak and answer questions about Legacy Trail. The public is invited to attend and join. There is no park entry fee for those attending the meeting.  
**Call:** 485-4921  
**Link:** [www.legacytrailfriends.org](http://www.legacytrailfriends.org)

### Rock concert

**Date:** Aug. 5  
**Time:** 6-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Cafe 1660 in the Osprey Inn, 1660 South Tamiami Trail, Osprey  
**Notes:** Student bands and Weekend Warriors of all ages will perform rock, country and more live at the Venice School of Rock concert. Following the students performance, Jam Avenue will perform two sets of classic rock Jam Band music.  
**Call:** Greg Byler at Music Wizard for information, 493-9775

### Food giveaway

**Date:** Aug. 6  
**Time:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice Community Center (for-

merly St. Mark's)  
**Notes:** Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has contracted with All Faiths Food Bank to distribute free USDA commodities. Eligible Sarasota County residents will receive nine-12 free commodities. Recipients may sign a self-declaration of income and need.  
**Call:** 379-6333

### Watercolor class

**Date:** Aug. 6-27  
**Time:** 1-4 p.m.  
**Where:** South Venice Civic Association, 720 Alligator Drive, Venice  
**Notes:** Carolyn Merenda teaches a Fun with Watercolor class to adult students of all skill levels. You may register at the class; pickup supply list at SVCA.  
**Cost:** \$65  
**Call:** 366-2866

### Concealed-carry course

**Date:** Saturday, Aug. 9  
**Time:** 8 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
**Where:** AmericInn Hotel, 5931 Fruitville Road, Sarasota  
**Notes:** Course meets requirements for a Florida and 31 other states Concealed Carry permit.  
**Link:** [www.ftisarasota.com](http://www.ftisarasota.com)

### Dogs' Night Out!

**Date:** Aug. 9  
**Time:** 6-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Ed Smith Stadium  
**Notes:** Dogs at the ballpark! Bring your best friend to Ed Smith Stadium and see the Sarasota Reds take on the Fort Myers Miracle. \$5 per person and \$5 per dog. All dog admissions benefit the Humane Society of Sarasota County. Special pet vendors, smooch a pooch booth and more! Gates open at 5 p.m.  
**Link:** [www.hssc.org](http://www.hssc.org)

### Guitar lessons

**Date:** Aug. 11-Sept. 1  
**Time:** 5-6 p.m. or 6:10-7:10 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice YMCA, 701 Center Road  
**Notes:** Group guitar lessons. Includes printed materials and a CD. All

ages and playing levels welcome. Must sign up in advance. Space is limited.  
**Cost:** \$5 nonmembers, \$2.50 members  
**Call:** 492-9622

### Antique car club

**Date:** Aug. 11  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave., Room 114 (use Venice Avenue entry)  
**Notes:** Venice Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America invites those interested in antique, classic or custom cars to join their regular meeting. Owning a car is not required to attend or join the club.  
**Call:** Gary Felker, 493-3780

### Women With Moxie

**Date:** Aug. 12  
**Time:** 5-7 p.m.  
**Where:** Boca Royale Golf & Country Club, 1601 Englewood Road, Englewood  
**Notes:** Inaugural Mixer for Venice WWM, hosted by Sandra Finger, Angela Balsinger, Esther Bird and Paula Carney. Sarasota and Venice groups are geared toward creative business women. Casual, no cost event in which to connect.  
**E-mail:** [info@womenwithmoxie.com](mailto:info@womenwithmoxie.com)  
**Link:** [www.womenwithmoxie.com](http://www.womenwithmoxie.com)

### Money Management

**Date:** Aug. 12  
**Time:** 6-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Women's Resource Center, 701 Center Road, Venice  
**Notes:** Learn tools to take control of your money. Facilitated by Sandee Rains, financial advisor.  
**Cost:** \$8 nonmembers, \$5 members  
**Call:** 485-9724  
**Link:** [www.thewomensresourcecenter.org](http://www.thewomensresourcecenter.org)

### Moonlight Walk

**Date:** Aug. 16  
**Time:** 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Caspersen Beach. If it rains, change to Sunday, Aug. 17, 7 a.m.  
**Notes:** Four-mile beach walk with swim. Must wear sturdy shoes, bring water, sunscreen, insect

repellent. Sponsored by the Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club.  
**Call:** Reserve with Sally, 484-4113.  
**Cost:** \$5 donation, members and nonmembers

### Divorce: The financial facts

**Date:** Aug. 18  
**Time:** Noon-1:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Women's Resource Center, 701 Center Road, Venice  
**Notes:** Learn about the facts you need before you sign away your financial future with facilitator Freya Zollinger, CDEA.  
**Cost:** Nonmembers: \$8, members: \$5  
**Call:** 485-9724  
**Link:** [www.thewomensresourcecenter.org](http://www.thewomensresourcecenter.org)

### Value Adjustment Board

**Date:** Aug. 18  
**Time:** 5 p.m.  
**Notes:** The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18. An application form is available in a pdf format with instructions for completion. Commissioners will consider appointments to the new advisory committee at their Aug. 26 meeting.  
**Call:** 861-5000  
**Link:** [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net)

### Food giveaway

**Date:** Aug. 20  
**Time:** 3-5 p.m.  
**Where:** Laurel Community Center, 509 Collins Road  
**Notes:** Florida Department of Agriculture has contracted with All Faiths Food Bank to distribute free USDA commodities. Eligible Sarasota County residents will receive nine-12 free commodities. Recipients may sign a self-declaration of income and need.  
**Call:** 483-3338

### Computer class

**Date:** Aug. 20  
**Time:** 6-8 p.m.  
**Where:** Women's Resource Center, 701 Center Road, Venice  
**Notes:** Learn how MS Word, Excel and other Microsoft programs interact. Prerequisite: Familiarity with one or more Windows programs.  
**Cost:** Nonmembers: \$8, members: \$5  
**Call:** 485-9724  
**Link:** [www.thewomensresourcecenter.org](http://www.thewomensresourcecenter.org)

### Back to School Night

**Date:** Aug. 22  
**Time:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Robert & Joan Lee Club is located at 920 Gulfcoast Blvd., Venice  
**Notes:** Community Youth Development and Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, Robert & Joan Lee Club present Family Back to School Night for teens in grades six-12 and their families. Free food and games; raffle prizes. Photo ID needed.  
**Call:** 485-7050

### Hawaiian luau

**Date:** Aug. 23  
**Time:** 7-11 p.m.  
**Where:** Venice Branch YMCA poolside  
**Notes:** Seventh Annual Hawaiian Luau with special guest performance by The Cryin' Shames. Food from variety of local restaurants, raffles, prizes and Tiki Huts serving up your favorite libations. Benefits YMCA Children and Family Scholarship Fund.  
**Cost:** \$50 tickets can be purchased at the front desks of the Venice and Englewood YMCAs.  
**Call:** Stephanie Plesz, 375-9108  
**E-mail:** [splesz@venicemca.org](mailto:splesz@venicemca.org)

# THE Daily Crossword

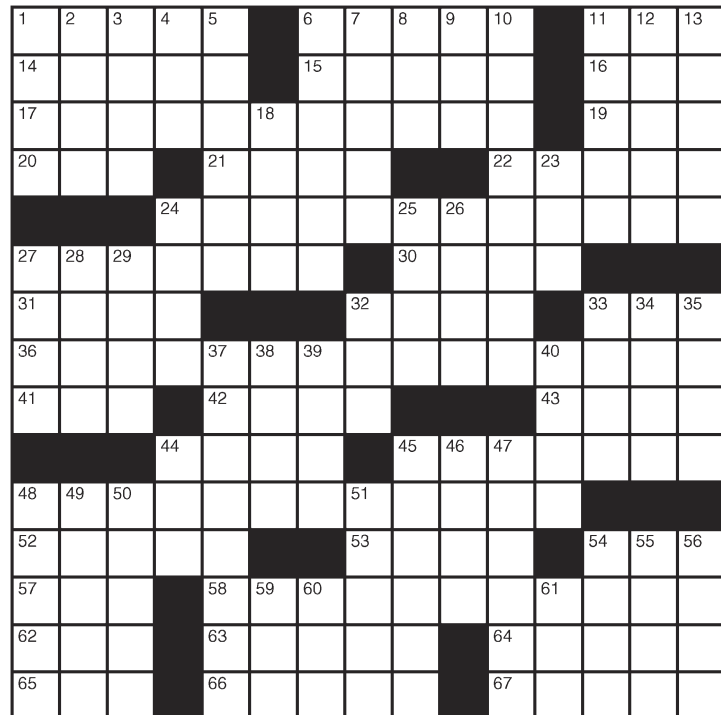
Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

**ACROSS**

- 1 Woody Allen movie
- 6 Ginger cookies
- 11 Parts of gals.
- 14 Passion
- 15 Mayhem
- 16 Swiss canton
- 17 Root of bitterness?
- 19 Earthlink rival
- 20 Integers, briefly
- 21 Laptop surfer's connection
- 22 "The White Album" track
- 24 1966 Wilson Pickett hit
- 27 Color bands
- 30 Safecracker
- 31 \_\_\_-Aid
- 32 Elizabeth of "Lone Star"
- 33 Sch. in Lexington
- 36 Sobriquet for Stallone
- 41 Stag attendees
- 42 Bonkers
- 43 \_\_\_ de vie (clear brandies)
- 44 Summers in Provence
- 45 Steals, as livestock
- 48 Colorado pro
- 52 Less friendly
- 53 Exchange fee
- 54 Couple
- 57 Training run
- 58 Mail system, 1860-61
- 62 Unified
- 63 Landlord
- 64 Stand for art
- 65 Postal motto conjunction
- 66 City near York
- 67 Nixon's Agnew

**DOWN**

- 1 TV journalist Paula
- 2 Smack addition?
- 3 Front-runners: abbr.
- 4 Island near Naxos
- 5 Matured



By Barry Silk  
McLean, VA

Please see **CROSS, 7B**

- 6 Arrow bodies
- 7 Ms. Comaneci
- 8 Fauna starter?
- 9 Opp. of neg.
- 10 "Luv" dramatist
- 11 Chickenlike bird
- 12 Fairy-tale toll collector
- 13 Half-baked
- 18 Get up
- 23 Tail greeting
- 24 Pepper grinder
- 25 Putin's refusal
- 26 Actress Rowlands
- 27 Take off the top
- 28 Shopper's bag
- 29 Motley horse
- 32 Ltr. addenda
- 33 Perfume holder
- 34 Pouting face
- 35 "Devil Inside" group
- 37 Worldwide police grp.
- 38 Violinist Leopold
- 39 Plane-crash grp.
- 40 Apollo's mother

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- 47 Ranges
- 48 French mustard
- 49 Low-budget prefix
- 50 African nation
- 51 Spoked
- 54 Lucie's dad
- 55 Manipulator
- 56 Norway's capital
- 59 Have a tab
- 60 Compass dir.
- 61 LL Cool J's genre

## GOREN BRIDGE

**Q 1 -** As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 10 7 6 3 ♥ A Q ♦ K 8 ♣ A 10 7 6 3

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

**A -** It is seldom wise to suppress a four-card major even with such good support for opener's minor suit. This hand is no exception, even with such excellent support for partner's suit and such a weak major. Bid one spade otherwise, should partner rebid in spades, you will have a job convincing him you have four-card support.

**Q 2 -** East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 9 7 ♥ Void ♦ A K J 10 8 6 5 3 ♣ J 9 3

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

**A -** Never give the opponents two bites at the cherry. If you pre-empt with four diamonds, what will you do if the opponents are in four of a major when the bidding gets back to you? To avoid the quandary of whether or not to sacrifice at the five-level then, bid five diamonds now and let them guess.

**Q 3 -** As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J 4 ♥ 9 8 3 ♦ A Q 7 5 ♣ K J 9 2

The bidding has proceeded: EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH 1♥ Pass Pass INT Pass ? What do you bid now?

**A -** Don't hang partner for refusing to allow the opponents to play quietly in one heart. In the passout position his balancing one no trump has a range of 11-14. Since a game is at best doubtful, don't jeopardize a safe partial. Pass.

**Q 4 -** North-South vulnerable, as West you hold:

♠ 9 5 ♥ J 10 6 5 ♦ 7 3 ♣ A Q 9 6 3

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass 1NT Pass 3NT Pass

What is your opening lead?

**A -** Don't even think of leading a heart — unless partner's holding in the suit is strong, you are wasting your time. Despite South's opening bid, lead a club. Even if you find partner with no more than the eight, when he gains the lead later in the hand, a lead through South's king-jack could resolve matters in your favor.

**Q 5 -** Both vulnerable, as West you hold:

♠ 3 ♥ Q 8 4 ♦ J 10 8 2 ♣ K J 7 5 3

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 1♠ Pass 2♦ Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass Pass Pass Pass

**A -** Shame on you if you thought we were trying to trap you! Make your normal lead in the unbid suit. A red-suit lead is likely to be to declarer's advantage and a trump lead might pickle partner's trick there. A club lead could build an early trick and, if partner holds some length in trumps, could expose declarer to a forcing defense. Lead the five of clubs.

**Q 6 -** As West, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 9 6 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ K Q 10 9 5 3 ♣ 10 5

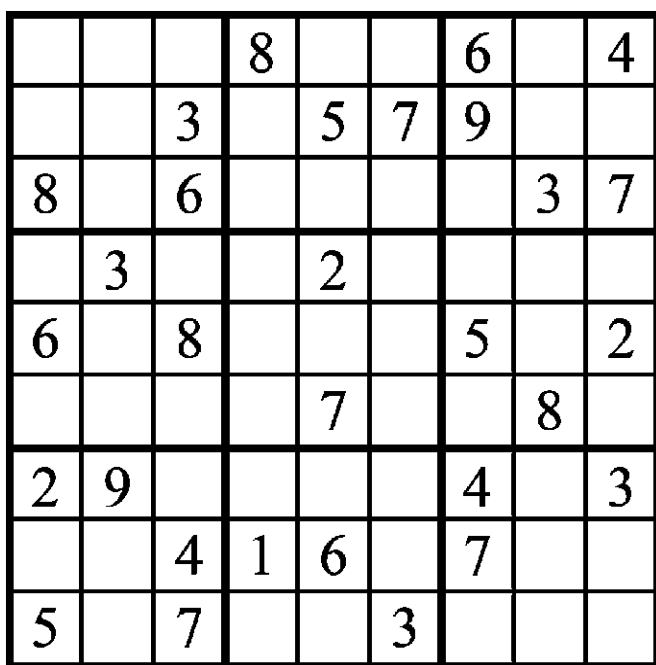
The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST INT Pass Pass 3NT Pass Pass Pass Pass

**A -** The queen of diamonds. That asks partner to unblock the jack if partner holds that card. If not, East simply gives count in the normal way. That allows you to drop the jack in declarer's hand should declarer have A J bare and take the ace at trick one.

(Tannah Hirsch welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Media Services Inc., 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, NY. 14207. E-mail responses may be sent to gorenbridge@aol.com.)

## The Los Angeles Times

# SUDOKU



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk).

Please see **SUDOKU, 7B**

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**Making A Pitch To Young Athletes**

If your child pitches a baseball, limit the possibility that he or she will overthrow. Allowing a young pitcher to toss too many pitches could lead to shoulder or elbow damage, which might require treatment. The danger to young pitchers centers on their growth plates, which are areas of the bone (located near the joint) where bone growth takes place. Growth plates are not as strong as the bone itself or the surrounding ligaments and tendons. That makes them susceptible to damage from the stress of throwing, in which a small piece of bone breaks off at the point at which the tendons attach. Chiropractic treatment can help pinpoint and treat areas in young athletes' bodies that require attention.

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## Beat the heat with fun and refreshing summer beverages

FROM NAPSA

Longer days and warmer weather welcome a never-ending list of summer fun. And what better way to enjoy the sunny days than with summer slushies, smoothies and sparkling beverages!

These tasty treats not only help families beat the heat, but they are an excellent source of hydration during the sweltering days of summer. As the days get longer and temperatures rise, let cool and fruity refreshers be your passport to summer fun.

Following are some ideas for staying cool and hydrated this summer:

- Chill out with "fruitsicles." Pour 100 percent fruit juice and frozen berries or fresh fruit into small paper cups, cover with foil, insert a wooden craft stick and freeze. The result? A delicious juicy pop kids will love.
- Accessorize with a fruity flair. Encourage kids to make healthier beverage choices by adding a

creative splash to drinks. Use colorful cups (with silly straws, of course!) topped with a wedge of fresh fruit — a fun way for kids to fuel up fast.

- Refresh your freezer. Keep frosty beverages on hand that will quench kids' thirst, such as fruit slushies or tropical smoothies. Blend frozen or fresh fruits with all-natural fruit juice, pour in a freezer-friendly container and freeze for enjoyment anytime.

- Mix and mingle with drinks for all ages. Add kid-friendly twists to adultlike beverages with this refreshing recipe for Sparkling "Sangria." Featuring frozen orange slices with apple or white grape pure fruit juice and seltzer water, the best part of this flavorful drink is its surprisingly fruity twist. With fresh grapes frozen inside each ice cube, this simple recipe provides a delightful dose of nutritious fruits.

For more refreshing, interactive and family-fun recipe ideas, visit [www.VeryBestKids.com](http://www.VeryBestKids.com).

## Lessons from the road



**DAVE BARRY**  
HUMOR COLUMNIST

*Editor's note: This classic Dave Barry column was originally published Dec. 8, 2002.*

I recently spent several weeks on a book tour, flying around the country with a suitcase full of increasingly alarming underwear. I'm pleased to report that airport security remains highly effective, especially as regards the terrorist threat posed by 87-year-old women with the mobility of oak trees. Because these women need extra time to reach their seats, they are — as instructed by the pre-boarding announcement — first in line to board the plane, and thus they almost always get picked for "random" screening by the security personnel, who need to reach their quota so they can get back to standing around.

We frequent flyers have figured this system out, and lag behind the elderly women, who dodder forward cluelessly, cannon fodder in the War on Terror. They are pulled

aside and stand, bewildered, as security personnel wand them and root through their denture adhesive while we able-bodied males stroll onto the plane. Granted, this system is insane, but we must not let sanity stand in the way of airport security.

Speaking of insane: One of my stops on the book tour was New York City, where the publisher put me at an extremely hip hotel. It's so hip that there is no sign outside saying "HOTEL." I walked right past it the first time. Evidently if you're hip, you just know there's a hotel there.

The lobby was full of hip people on stark modernistic furniture, talking into cell phones. They were all 25 years old, and they all wore black. I suspect their underwear is black. I myself was wearing khaki pants. I felt like a pig farmer in town for the big manure-spreader show.

The worst part was that I couldn't see. At some point in recent years, light must have become unhip, because this was the darkest hotel I've ever stayed in. The lobby wasn't so bad — it was merely gloomy — but the elevator was so dimly lit that I had to put on my reading glasses, squat, and put my face right next to the buttons to find the one for my floor. I'm sure this amused the hip lobby people. ("Look! A pig farmer squatting in the elevator!")

My floor was actually scary. Have you ever been

in one of those Halloween fun houses, where it's pitch-black and people leap out of the darkness to frighten you? The hotel hallway was like that. It was so dark that I honestly could not see my feet. I initially thought the walls were painted black, although I was later informed that they were very dark purple (a hip color). Sometimes I would encounter other guests in the hallway but, of course, I could not see them, because they were wearing black. I knew they were there only because I could hear their cell phones ringing.

My room had stark modernistic furniture and several modernistic low-wattage lamps, which, when I turned them all on, provided about the same illumination as a radio dial. The only way to read was to turn the TV on and tune it to a program with bright colors. My room was strewn with hip items, many of them for sale, including a hotel T-shirt (black), various herbal substances and an "Intimacy Kit" for \$12. If they really want to make money, they should sell 100-watt light bulbs; I would have paid \$20 for one. They did sell a candle, labeled "TRAVEL CANDLE," for \$15; I considered buying it and using it in the elevator, to find the "Lobby" button.

My situation improved in California, where I stayed

at a swank Beverly Hills hotel that had lights. It also had a swank bar jammed to the walls with 40ish movie executives who all wore (there must have been a memo) black pants, black shirts and black leather jackets. They were talking about film projects with young, gifted blonde women wearing attire that conveyed the message: "Take a look at THESE gifts!" Everybody was drinking — really — watermelon martinis. So I was still out of place ("Look! A pig farmer drinking beer!"). But at least I could see.

IRRELEVANT FINAL BOOK-TOUR NOTE: You know how, at drugstore cash registers, there are little displays of breath mints, batteries, etc., to encourage impulse buys? Well, in Los Angeles, I went into a Long's drugstore where the product on display at the cash register was: a sofa. Really. Suspended ominously right behind the cashier's head was a full-sized sofa, priced at \$499. Apparently, this is for the harried shopper who gets to the cashier and goes, "Let's see ... dental floss, aspirin, and ... Ohmigosh! I almost forgot the sofa!"

I should write a clever final sentence here, but I need to do my laundry.

*Dave Barry is continuing a leave of absence from writing his weekly humor column.*

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- 1 orange, washed, halved and cut into thin slices (remove any seeds)
- 2/3 cup red and/or green grapes, rinsed and cut in half
- 1/3 cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves or sprigs, rinsed
- 3 cups Purified water
- 3 cups Apple or White Grape Nestle Juicy Juice All Natural 100% Juice, chilled
- 4 to 5 cups calorie-free seltzer water, chilled

PLACE orange slices on baking sheet and freeze for 30 minutes. DIVIDE grape halves and mint leaves or sprigs between two ice cube trays. Fill each tray with purified water and freeze until solid. POUR Juicy Juice into pitcher; add frozen orange slices, prepared ice cubes and seltzer water. Serve immediately. NOTE: Omit ice cubes for children under age 4 due to choking risk.

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# Mystery of autism begins with deciding what it is



## DEAR ABBY COLUMNIST

**DEAR ABBY:** I just finished reading your June 9 column and am shocked at what I read. Your response regarding autism was way off base. You said, "Autism is a mental health disorder ... some people consider ... to be shameful."

Autism is a neurological disorder, NOT a mental health disorder. Families who have a child with autism have many challenges ahead of them as

they try to bring normalcy to their child's life and to their family. I am very surprised that you got this one wrong! Autism is reaching epidemic proportions. These families need support, not misprints. — MELISSA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

**DEAR MELISSA:** My thanks to you — and the many other readers — who wrote to correct me. After reading the letters and e-mail that came in, I spoke with William Barbaresi, M.D., the chair of the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics and co-director of the Mayo Clinic-Dana Child Development and Learning Disorders Program in Rochester, Minn., who told me that autism is often considered a mental health disorder because it affects behavior, cognitive ability and social skills.

However, it is genetically predetermined — biologically based.

Experts clearly agree that autism is a neurologically based condition. The current criteria used to diagnose autism are contained in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, a publication of the American Psychiatric Association. However, this does not mean that autism is a "mental illness." Autism is most accurately described as a "neurodevelopmental disorder."

While there is no cure for autism, intervention and treatments are available. And for the most up-to-date information on effective therapies, interested parties should read "Autism: A Review of the State of the Science for Primary Health Care Clinicians" by going to

www.archpediatrics.com and searching for "autism."

**DEAR ABBY:** How do you tell friends and family that you're not interested in being fixed up? I'm a male, in my mid-40s, happily divorced for many years and have no desire to remarry.

I raised my children on my own, have a good job and many friends, but no desire to get into a relationship that could lead to more of a commitment than I am willing to make.

My life is good, but I'm constantly bombarded with questions like, "When are you going to get married again?" or, "Why don't you let me fix you up? I have the perfect woman for you." I don't know how to respond to this constant badgering. Please advise. — THANKS BUT NO

THANKS IN OHIO

**DEAR T.B.N.T.:** Continue telling these well-meaning people you are happy with your life just the way it is, and if they don't get the message, have a T-shirt made that reads "Been There, Done That." You should know, however, that men who are married live longer than those who are single, or perhaps it just seems longer. (Only joking!)

**DEAR ABBY:** Is there a rule of etiquette regarding how men should wear long hair? My boyfriend's hair isn't long enough to pull into a ponytail, but it's long enough that he is constantly sweeping or shaking it out of his eyes. If we were to go to a funeral or similar ceremonial (or formal) event, what should he do? I need some input. — HAIR-RAISING

QUESTION

**DEAR QUESTION:** I have two words to offer: hair gel. Many products are available that will tame his mane, and you can find them at your nearest beauty supply store.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Safeguarding your family's financial future

FROM NAPSA

Building a family nest egg that won't crack could require having something known as term life insurance.

A term life insurance policy offers insurance protection for a specified term, or period of time — typically 10, 15, 20 or 30 years.

People often use term insurance to help secure mortgage payments, wedding expenses, college loans, car loans and similar types of debt. Because the policies pay a predetermined amount should something happen to you within a specific time frame, they can be a good way to help prevent long-term-but not lifetime-payments from being passed

on to surviving family.

## Choosing term insurance

Fortunately, term insurance can be a simple insurance product to research and purchase.

Start by going online and getting quotes for similar policies from different companies. Be sure to have your basic personal and health information handy, and answer all questions truthfully. Then compare the quotes against your needs. Here are a few facts that will be helpful to know:

- Term premiums may increase each year (known as an annually renewable term) or remain level for a set period (called a level term).
- Term insurance is generally

less expensive than permanent (cash value) life insurance.

- At the end of the term period, the policy may contain a provision permitting it to be renewed without a medical exam, although the premium rate will probably be higher.

- Some term life insurance policies include an option to convert to a permanent life insurance policy.

- Traditional term life insurance provides a death benefit only; the policies do not offer an opportunity to build cash value.

Some policies may include terms that are more customizable and that can be linked to specific life events, including retirement, the payoff of a mortgage or a child's graduation from college. But they might also pro-

vide more affordable coverage for people in a variety of situations.

For instance, if an individual wants to purchase term insurance but has high cholesterol, a 30-year policy may be too expensive. However, the individual could be covered on a 26- or 27-year policy that might be a better fit for his or her monthly budget.

## Coverage into retirement

Traditionally, term insurance was seen as a vehicle to insure yourself until you had enough financial security to self-insure. However, with these new, more customized term options, insurance can be affordable well into retirement.

Coverage may also include

expanded ages, meaning consumers in their mid 50s, 60s and even people who are 70 years old can purchase term insurance, providing coverage into their 80s—considerably longer than most term plans currently allow.

With people living longer, and working well past 65, the added coverage can be a smart way to help safeguard a second mortgage, medical or other expenses people tend to encounter later in life.

## Learning more

You can visit the Web site [www.aigag.com/ROPselect-a-term](http://www.aigag.com/ROPselect-a-term) to learn more about term life insurance. The site can be a valuable resource and provide important information to help with your decision.

# Improve your financial fitness with direct deposit

FROM NAPSA

Most people think about fitness in terms of their physical health. Are they eating well? Exercising enough? Getting plenty of rest? But it's important to consider financial fitness as well. For senior citizens and others who receive federal benefit payments, signing up for direct deposit is an easy first step.

## Managing your money

A recent U.S. Treasury study shows Americans identify direct deposit as a key money management tool. Yet, the study also reveals that approximately one in three Americans still do not use direct deposit, including nearly

10.5 million Social Security and Supplemental Security Income recipients.

"Americans clearly believe the reliability and safety of direct deposit help them to better manage their money," says Judith R. Tillman, commissioner of Treasury's Financial Management Service. "Even so, Treasury issues more than 150 million federal benefit checks each year. That means too many people who receive federal benefits don't take advantage of direct deposit."

## Staying safe

Achieving financial fitness isn't just about keeping a budget; for senior citizens, it's also about safeguarding their money and providing peace of mind.

In fiscal year 2007, nearly 60,000 Treasury-issued checks were fraudulently endorsed—totaling an estimated \$56 million. Direct deposit eliminates the risk of stolen checks and forged signatures, and helps protect people from identity theft.

"Direct deposit is safer and easier than a paper check, and is a simple way for seniors and people with disabilities to get more control over their money," says Luke Reynolds, spokesperson for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. "Smart money management can help reduce stress, make life easier and complement other strategies for protecting one's financial security." Planning for unforeseen

events, such as illness, injury or severe weather is another important part of staying safe. People who rely on paper checks for their federal benefit payments, for example, can be faced with a variety of challenges when checks are delayed.

Last year, more than 140,000 Social Security and SSI checks were delayed due to inclement

weather or other unforeseen events. And Treasury receives approximately 1.4 million inquiries each year regarding problems with paper checks.

## Making the switch

Achieving financial fitness is an important goal at any age. The Go Direct campaign, sponsored by Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks, has made

signing up for direct deposit quick and easy. Current benefit check recipients can sign up online at [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org), by calling the Go Direct helpline at (800) 333-1795 or by visiting their local bank or credit union.

*The preceding information is provided by the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks as part of their Go Direct campaign.*

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PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEEN KOPP

## ENGAGEMENT

### Kopp-Heggan

The engagement of Colleen Kopp, of Venice, Fla., and Robert Heggan Jr., of Waterford, N.J., has been announced.

She is the daughter of Charlie O'Grady and Barbara, of Venice. He is the son of Ida and Robert Heggan of Waterford, N.J.

The bride-elect is a 1983 graduate of Edgewood High School in Atco,

N.J., and is employed by Hazeltime Nurseries of Venice as a CAD technician/irrigation designer.

The bridegroom-elect is a 1981 graduate of Edgewood High School in Atco, N.J., and is employed by Maser Consulting, Logan Township, N.J., as a survey department manager.

A beach wedding is planned next year.



COURTESY PHOTO

## ENGAGEMENT

### Barclay-Havrilla

Dave and Sharon Brown, of Venice, Fla., and Steve Barclay, of Wetumpka, Alaska, announce the engagement of their daughter, Ileana Barclay, of Venice, to Craig Havrilla, of Meriden, Conn.

He is the son of Janice Havrilla, of Meriden, and the late Basil Havrilla.

The bride-elect is a 2000 graduate of Venice High School and a 2006 graduate of Sarasota County Technical Institute School of Nursing in Sara-

sota. She is employed by Venice Regional Medical Center as a nurse.

The bridegroom-elect is a 1996 graduate of Francis T. Maloney High School in Meriden and a 1998 graduate of Veterans Memorial Medical Center School of Radiology in Meriden. He is employed by Venice Regional Medical Center as a radiology technologist.

The wedding will take place on Oct. 17, 2008, in Venice.



COURTESY PHOTO

## ENGAGEMENT

### Doherty-Hall

Christopher C. Hall and Alison E. Doherty, both of Charlotte, N.C., have the pleasure of announcing their engagement.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Bernadette and Steven Doherty, of Huntersville, N.C. She graduated from ZB Vance High School, Charlotte, N.C., in 2001 and cum laude from Virginia Tech in 2006 with a degree in architecture. She is employed by The Housing Studio in Charlotte as an

intern architect and project manager.

The bridegroom-elect is the son of Wayne C. Hall, of Venice, Fla., and Ann C. Hall, of Nokomis, Fla. He graduated from Venice High School in 1999 and from Virginia Tech in 2005 with a degree in Computer Science. He is employed by TEK Systems in Charlotte as an IT contractor for Wachovia.

The wedding is planned for Sept. 26, 2009, in Charlotte.

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COURTESY PHOTO

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY Cunningham

Dr. and Mrs. (Carol) Robert Cunningham, of Venice, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14, 2008. They were married June 14,

1958, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The family includes four children and three grandchildren. He is a retired physician from Springfield, Ohio.



COURTESY PHOTO

## WEDDING

## Cunningham-McCandless

Heidi Cunningham, daughter of Dr. Robert and Carol Cunningham, of Venice, Fla., formerly of Springfield, Ohio, and Craig McCandless, son of

Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCandless, of Venice, Fla., were married June 14, 2008, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Heidi's parents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary the same day. They were married June 14, 1958. Heidi wore her mother's wedding dress.

The bride has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. She has a master's degree in counseling and is a registered massage therapist. She is employed as an organ transplant coordinator for Life Quest Organ Recovery Services in Jacksonville, Fla.

The groom graduated from Venice High School and the University of South Florida. He recently graduated from the University of North Florida with an M.B.A. He is director of learning and development at Ista International in Jacksonville, Fla.

The couple resides in Jacksonville Beach.

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Walter Yovaish adds dried banana leaves to the clay pot before firing it at the beach workshop.



Raku instructor Amy Webber enjoys instructing raku students at a Sunday workshop at the beach.



Pat Kelly puts seaweed and egg shells on her pot at the beach workshop.



Jean Marie Burns, left, and Betty Jackson help the Venice-Nokomis Women's Club raise funds at a rummage sale.

SUN PHOTOS BY FRAN VALENCIC

## Summertime, and the livin' is easy



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One of the neat things about summer in Venice is enjoying new things in a laid-back atmosphere.

Raku artist and Venice Art Center teacher **Amy Webber** decided to invite her students to the beach for an afternoon of fun and exploration. They dipped their pots in sea water and used

seaweed, banana peels and anything else they could find to embellish their clay before firing.

"It's a crap shoot," **Pat Kelly** said. "You just get it all on, fire it and see what you get." Webber enjoyed watching her students experiment. Among the free spirits were **Liz and Jim Hedges, Walter Yovaish, Dorothy Korwek and Donna Rollo.**

The artists saw the fruits of their labor at the Venice Art Center the next day. Webber gave each one a bravo.

### 180 years old

Family and friends celebrated **Gordon** and **Aline Williams'** 90th birthdays with a "180" party at the Waterford Clubhouse. The Williamses are avid bridge players and volunteers. Aline is a regular at the Senior

Friendship Centers.

Included in the celebration was a memory board showing the USS Tuscaloosa, on which Gordon served. **Claire Moore** added sparkles to the party celebrating her 30-year friendship with Aline.

### Highwaymen artist visits Venice

One of the original Highwaymen, **Al Black**, showed his art in Venice recently. A recipient of the Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, Black visited with fans at Pop's Sunset Grill.

In the 1950s, a group of African-American artists earned a living by selling their unique paintings on the side of the road from the trunks of their cars instead of working in the orange groves. Black was one of them. This

popular artist promised to return to Venice in season.

### Moxie mixer

A new Venice chapter of Women with Moxie meets at the Boca Royale Golf & Country Club on Aug. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. Check [www.womenwithmoxie.com](http://www.womenwithmoxie.com). Click on "Venice" in the right-hand corner.

### One of our best

The special person of this week is **Amy Webber**. This terrific raku teacher from the Venice Art Center fires up her students just the way she fires up her clay. She loves her work and transfers that same passion to everyone who works with her.

Amy Webber is one of the teachers at the Venice Art Center who make Venice a great place to live.



Vicki Solomon-Sams, left, and Leatrice Samuels attend the Hadassah meeting at the Boca Royale Golf & Country Club. Samuels is the membership chair of the group.



Maureen Goodman, left, Sharon and Barry Burke and Harriet Davidson enjoy a visit at the Hadassah meeting at the Boca Royale Golf & Country Club. Sharon is the newly elected president of the organization.



Ruthie Grossman, left, Betty Chase and Muriel Harran greet guests as they arrive for the Hadassah meeting at the Boca Royale Golf & Country Club.



Kelvin Hair shows off his Jupiter Lighthouse at the Original Highwayman Al Black Art Show in Venice. Hair is a second-generation Highwayman.



Al Black, one of the original Highwaymen, black artists of the 1950s in Florida, signs his work at his art show at Pop's Sunset Grill in Nokomis. Phil and Dorothy Korwek admire the award-winning artist's paintings.



Barbara Blanchard, back row left, Margo Schneelock, Megan McEldoney, Gordon Williams and Betty Clark; and Libby and Donnie Addler, front row left, Kristen Dombrowski and Aline Williams, were part of a large group of family and friends who gathered at a "180" party to celebrate Aline and Gordon's 90th birthdays.



Bill Salter sells his jewelry each Saturday at the Venice Farmers Market in Centennial Park.



Claire Moore, left, and Aline Williams are 30-year friends who enjoy visiting and playing bridge. Moore recently attended Williams' 90th birthday party.



Jenny and Steve Durrstein know a perfect Saturday morning includes shopping at the Venice Farmers Market. The duo sell their fresh produce and enjoy making friends with locals.



Olive Dawkins can't resist purchasing a bar of natural olive soap at the Venice Farmers Market in Centennial Park.



Michelle Walker knows fresh herbs make any dish taste better, and the rosemary and thyme purchased at the Farmer's Market in Venice seem perfect.



Jeannette Lanier, left, and Barbara Myer purchase their fresh produce at the Saturday morning Farmers Market in Centennial Park.











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1997 Ford 350 XLT Crew Cab Dually diesel. Auto A/C 229K mi Nice Cond. \$4900 obo 941-350-1251

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1999 MAZDA B3000 ext cab, 4 door, Troy Lee Design, \$5700 obo. Call 941-626-6572.

2000 Ford Ranger XLT Ex Cab 4x4 6cyl Auto A/C 64K mi Good Cond. \$3900obo 941-350-1251

2002 FORD F-250 Diesel. Ext Cab. 8' Bed. 92k mi. \$13,000. 941-815-0911

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2001 Dodge Dakota, ext. cab, nice cond. cold a/c, V6 gas saver, \$3,750 obo (941)628-3408 Dir.

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