

# The Observer

**NORTH MANATEE**



**NEWS**

**POTTER PARTY!**

New Harry Potter book cask spell at Little Bookworms.

**PHOTOS on 12**



**NEWS**

**GRAND OPENING**

In this issue

Publix opens its first store in Parrish.

**Story on Page 4**

**SPORTS 11**

**In the Blood**

Family juggles three ball players this summer.



You. Your neighbors. Your neighborhood.

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2007

**CURRENT CHATTER**

KUDOS, QUOTABLES AND COMMUNITY

**+ Ellenton church starts Sunday School**

Ellenton United Methodist Church, 3607 US 301 N., is forming a new adult Sunday School class. The class, announced by **Pastor Dr. Bruce Ebert**, will be held at 9:45 a.m. starting Aug. 5 and will be based on Dr. Alan Stringfellow's "Through the Bible in One Year," Volume 2, "Bible Characters."

Ebert will share how God uses real, ordinary people in extraordinary ways. Each lesson will stand alone and will not be a continuing series. The class will provide Bible study, encourage social interaction and fellowship. Coffee and refreshments will be available. Regular worship service times at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday mornings.

For more information, call the church at 729-6802.



**+ Literacy Council worms out illiteracy**

Bradenton City Councilwoman **Marianne Barneby** recently kicked off the Manatee County Literacy Council's "Bookworms Illuminate Literacy" Read-a-thon at the Central Library in Bradenton.

Read-a-thon participants are urged to read as many books as possible between now and the end of September and to seek pledges for each book they read.

See **CHATTER** page 8

road trip by Jen Ball | Staff Writer

**Tandem duo embarks on cross-country ride**

Tim and Ann Newby will ride their tandem bike about 4,700 miles to help raise money for cancer research.

**TERRA CEIA** — The sweet fragrance of the countryside is what pushes Terra Ceia Island residents Tim and Ann Newby along.

Seated atop their Cannondale tandem bicycle, the pair looks out at the vast stretch of land. Cars whiz past them and fade into the distance. This is what the world

has to offer, they say. It's seeing the tulips in Holland during the springtime and eating plums right off the trees around Lake Michigan in the fall that the couple enjoys the most. It's the chance to visit the small towns off in the distance and being able to pull up to a diner and chat with the locals. For the

Newbys, the opportunities are endless.

"The best part is seeing the little towns that you miss driving 60 mph in an automobile," Ann Newby said.

And they are doing it again. The Newbys left Thursday for Washington and plan to spend the next four months seated atop



Courtesy photo  
**Tim and Anne Newby** began biking 25 years ago. The couple owns Newby Management in Ellenton.

their tandem bicycle as they travel about 4,700 miles across the United States. The couple hopes to be home by Thanksgiving.

See **TANDEM** page 8



**DON'T SPILL!**

Two-year-old Bradenton resident **Caden Alexander** cools off during his mother **Katie's** 10-year Palmetto High School class reunion at Sutton Park July 21. For more photos, see page 13.

Jen Ball

funding by Jen Ball | Staff Writer

**Metropolitan planning moves \$6.5 million to construction**

The MPO also reallocated \$8 million for a project in Sarasota.

**MANATEE COUNTY** — A local transportation authority voted unanimously to allocate \$6.5 million to a Parrish construction project.

Money reserved by the Sarasota-Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization for the

Upper Manatee River Road and Fort Hamer Bridge project will now be used to widen U.S. 301 in Parrish, MPO members decided Monday.

Manatee County requested the funding be utilized after the money had been rolling

forward for the past four years because of time and environmental issues.

"They want the (money) to achieve some good for the community," MPO Executive Direc-

See **MPO** page 7

**LUCKY BREAK**

by Michael Eng | Managing Editor

**Mill Creek couple survives sinking boat**

Last week, Craig and Alysa Platt spent 18 hours stranded near Egmont Key. They lived to tell the tale.

**MILL CREEK** — In all, Craig and Alysa Platt had spent nearly a full day stranded on their sinking 17-foot aluminum johnboat near Egmont Key. They had survived the draining, relentless heat of Florida in July as well as the biting chill of the Gulf of Mexico's late-night hours. They

**'I want to reevaluate (all my equipment) and how to keep this from happening ever again.'**

**Craig Platt**

used a five-gallon trashcan to bail out water from their craft, installed a working plug in the boat's bottom and rationed a bottle of cranberry juice as their only sustenance. Throughout the ordeal, Alysa even contemplated jumping overboard into shark-infested waters.

Multiple times. So what then, after their rescue, was first on the Platts' agenda?

"I wanted Burger King," Aly-

See **PLATTS** page 6

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**The North Manatee Villager**

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which means they will need to travel at least 50 miles a day six days a week.

With their back wheel planted firmly in the Pacific Ocean, the couple will begin their journey in Anacortes, Wash. and will travel to St. Augustine where they will touch their front tire in the Atlantic Ocean before heading home to Terra Ceia Island.

Loaded with 90 pounds of gear, the couple will ascend the Cascade Mountains, make their way through Glacier National Park in Montana and travel along the Mississippi River. With so many sights to see it's hard to say what will be the best part of the trip, but for Ann Newby the answer is pretty clear.

"The one that rolls up to our front door," Ann Newby said with a laugh.

As the captain, Tim will be in charge of steering and shifting the bicycle's 27 gears while Ann, the stoker, will provide additional power while making sure that Tim doesn't fall asleep at the helm. Ann also will control the couple's musical selections while taking photos of the countryside.

A couple from Dunnellon will join the Newbys on the trip. The pair also will have the benefit of a motor home for the first month, which will aid in carrying the gear.

The Newbys have traveled on bicycle throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, including such places as Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Nova

Scotia and Glacier Lake National Park. The Newbys have witnessed some of the world's most beautiful landscapes and historic monuments.

Picking a favorite part of the adventure proved to be a bit of a challenge at first.

But for Tim the answer quickly comes to mind — "It's easier to stop at the bakeries," he responds with a smile.

Each new day on the bike brings about one pastry. After 25 miles, it's time for a second pastry and after 50 miles a third. While the couple longs for nice weather, Tim admits that stormy weather does have its benefits from time to time.

"When it rains that means unlimited pastries," Tim Newby said.

The couple began riding about 25 years ago. Shortly after they were married, the Newby's began searching for activities that they could both participate in.

"We just decided that we were going to pick out sports and hobbies that the two of us liked and could do together," Tim Newby said. "We love spending time doing things together."

They initially began riding on separate bicycles, but after learning about the tandem bicycle they quickly switched over. Since then, they've put about 62,000 miles on their old bike and nearly 2,000 miles on their new one.

But this newest venture is much more than scenery and pastries or personal glory. The couple is riding to raise money for the American Cancer Society

and cancer research. There are merging their passion for cycling with a cause that is close to their hearts.

"Everybody knows somebody who has or has had cancer or passed away from cancer," Ann Newby said. "We have friends and family members who have been affected by cancer and we want to make a difference."

The Newbys hope to raise \$30,000 for cancer research by the time the trip is all said and done. Those looking to become sponsors can donate money per mile, for a particular state or a single flat rate contribution. To sponsor the Newbys and read about their trip visit [www.newbystandemamerica.com](http://www.newbystandemamerica.com).

Contact Jen Ball at [jball@youobserver.com](mailto:jball@youobserver.com).

**CHATTER continued from 1**

All funds raised will be used to support the Council's Adult Literacy Program, which strives to teach adults to read and write and speak English as a way out of poverty.

To register, call the council at 746-8197.

**+ North seniors complete season**

The North River National senior baseball team advanced to the Section 6 tournament in Ft. Myers for the first time July 21-22. Although the team fell in all three games, the players left their mark on the city of Palmetto.

The All-Star team comprised mainly of 14-year-olds, played in the senior division because they didn't have enough players to round out the Junior/Senior division. During the All-Star season,

the team went 17-3. In nine years, manager **Gary Flinn** has never had a team garner this much success.

"We've never had a season where we've won a game in the nine years that I've been coaching," Flinn said. "This is the farthest any Palmetto team has ever went and to play older kids, that was really a big accomplishment. I want to thank the parents for being so supportive."

Fourteen-year-old **Jacob Wilson** led the way for North River National. The starting pitcher, who Flinn said plays above and beyond his age, is a starting pitcher for Palmetto High School.

**+ Video studio gets standing ovation**

Congrats to Home Video Studio — Parrish, which recently was nominated for a Hanley Award at the seventh-annual Home Video

Studio Getaway in Orlando. The Hanley Awards are the HVS' version of the Oscars, which recognize achievement in the movie industry.

Owner **Matthew Pierce** submitted his work in seven of 32 Hanley categories and Home Video Studio — Parrish was nominated for its work in the "Best Rookie Video" category, which featured Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary. For more information about the company, call 776-0010.

**+ Studio theatre adds performances**

The Florida Studio Theatre has extended performance of "The Lady With All the Answers."

The performance, a one-woman show about **Eppie Lederer**, also known as Ann Landers, will be held at 8 p.m. July 31, Aug. 1 and 3, at the Keating Theatre. For information, call 366-9017.



**Bougainvillea Place** More than 250 guests attended the recent Party in Paradise event hosted by Gibraltar Homes' new Bougainvillea Place community in Ellenton. Thirty percent of the homes in phase one have been sold. The private, gated community of 160 villas and townhomes is located a half-mile east of Interstate 75. For more information, call 955-6700 or visit [www.gibraltarhome.com](http://www.gibraltarhome.com).

**Parrish United Methodist Church**  
12180 U.S. Highway 301 North • Parrish, Florida 34219 • Church Office: 776-1539  
[www.parrishmethodist.com](http://www.parrishmethodist.com)

Sunday	Wednesday Evening
Traditional Worship Service 8:00 & 9:30 AM	Youth Ministry 6:00 - 8:30 PM
Contemporary Worship Service 11:00 AM	Life MAP Bible Exploration 6:30 PM
Sunday School for Adults 8:30, 9:45 AM	
Sunday School for Children 9:45 AM (Nursery Care Provided)	

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–Judy, breast cancer survivor

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**Save the Date:**  
**October 13, 2007**  
Sarasota Polo Club, located in Lakewood Ranch

**JOIN US AT AN EVENT KICKOFF**

**Sarasota** – August 2 5:30 pm at Marina Jack's  
**Manatee** – August 9 5:30 pm at Mattison's Riverside, Bradenton  
**Lakewood Ranch** – August 14 5:30 pm at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center

To RSVP Please call **(941) 365-2858 ext. 50**

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