



Gap signs go up

With the official closing of the bridge comes the official opening of the Bridging the Gap series of events that will hopefully keep Island residents and businesses busy during the closure. The Sun is the official sponsor of Gap festivities, and here, The Sun's Chantelle Lewin and Dee Brady hold up the banner that was installed at the entrance to Manatee Public Beach in Holmes Beach.

SUN PHOTO/LAURIE KROSNEY



Bridging the Gap

Register for dog costume contest

Register by Oct. 23 for The Sun's annual dog costume contest on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the AMI Sun Plaza, 202 Palm Ave., Anna Maria, weather permitting. Sign in is at 12:30 p.m. Prizes will be given for the most original, cutest, and best celebrity. All dogs must be leashed and owners are responsible for droppings.

Pickleball play at Center

Everyone is invited to come learn to play pickleball at the Island Community Center, 407 Magnolia Ave., Anna Maria. Dates are Saturday, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25, from 2:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Have fun at trolley scavenger hunt

For lots of fun and great prizes, join the Gap's trolley scavenger hunt on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. No pre-registration is necessary. Just come to the Sandbar parking lot on Gulf Drive in Anna Maria next to Green Real Estate.

For \$5, which goes onto a fund for Island families in need, you'll get a list of 40 items to collect, a goodie bag for your items and a map. Then jump on the trolley and start the hunt. At 3 p.m., you'll return to the parking lot for prizes, refreshments and music.

The \$1,500 in prizes includes overnight stays at local resorts, a scooter rental, dinner certificates and a parasail ride. There will be special prizes for first, second and third place, but everyone will get a prize.

For information or to donate a prize, call Caryn Hodge at 713-3105.

Gap events kick off this week

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local act, Yesterdayze, plays from 2:50 to 4 p.m., then the Billy Rice Band takes over from 4:20 to 5:30 p.m. The fabulous Dr. Dave Band will top off the evening playing from 5:50 to 7 p.m. Comedian Brian Hamilton will emcee and entertain between acts.

Avoid parking hassles by taking the free Island trolley or MCAT shuttle service from the mainland. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and get set to relax and enjoy the music, food and raffle prizes.

For information or to reserve a booth, call Mark Kimball at 518-6329 or Steve Bark at 720-3200.

Bridge Street Market returns

The popular Bridge Street Market in Bradenton Beach returns on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors will offer fresh produce and flowers, flower arrangements and plants arts and crafts T-shirts and clothing, jewelry and more. For information, call Nancy Ambrose at 518-4431

Come compete at karaoke

The first event of the week actually will take place off the Island. If you think you can warble with the best of them, you're

invited to the Gap's karaoke contest, which begins Thursday, Oct. 2, at the Elks Lodge, 2511 75th St. W., Bradenton at 7 p.m. There is no advance sign up or entry fee.

The contest will continue every Sunday in October from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Drift Inn, 120 Bridge St., Bradenton Beach; Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Anchor Inn, 3007 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach; and every Wednesday in October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at D Coy Ducks, 5410 Marina Drive, Homes Beach.

Two winners will be chosen at each contest and on Friday, Nov. 8, from 7 to 10 p.m., they will face off in the finals at the original Rotten Ralph's, 902 S. Bay Blvd., Anna Maria. The winner will receive a cash prize.

For information, call Ed Lyon at 201-5436.

Skim comp set for Sunday

Spray will fly at the Beach House/West Coast Surf Shop Skim Comp on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Beach House in Bradenton Beach.

The competition, also being

sponsored by The Sun newspaper, each year draws hundreds of curious spectators who delight in the aerial artistry of these skimboard riders. It's always a great show and wonderful family entertainment.

Proceeds from the competition benefit red tide research at Mote Marine Laboratory.

To register for the Skim Comp, call the West Coast Surf Shop at 778-1001.

Fish Hole holds mini golf tourney

Great prizes are lined up for the Gap's miniature golf tournament set for 10 a.m. Saturday at the Fish Hole on Bridge Street in Bradenton Beach.

The first place finisher will receive \$200 cash, Costa del Mar sunglasses, Sanuk sandals and a trophy. Second place finisher gets \$100 cash and Sanuk sandals; Third place prize is a \$50 gift certificate to Bridge Street Bazaar. Registration is \$20 and includes two rounds and lunch.

You can either pre-register by calling The Fish Hole on Bridge Street in Bradenton Beach at 778-3388, or register the day of the tournament.

See Page 14 for a complete list of Bridging the Gap events.

Gap contacts

- Bayfest and music festivals, Cindy Thompson, 761-4766
- Progressive Realtor open house, Sandy Rich, 778-0426
- Dog costume contest, The Sun newspaper, 778-3986
- Skim Board Bash, Ronee Brady, 778-1001
- ArtsHOP weekend, Joyce Karp, 778-2099
- Fishing tournament, Jake Spooner and Dana Snell, 778-3400
- Mini-golf tournament, Jake Spooner and Dana Snell, 778-400
- Trolley scavenger hunt, Linda Haack, 779-2545, ext. 1130, and Caryn Hodge, 778-8705
- All Island golf tournament, Tom Tollette, 779-1888
- Motorcycle run, Laura McAdams, 792-6366
- Open air market, Ginny Dutton, 778-7370
- Concert in the Park, Mark Kimball, 518-6329 and Steve Bark, 720-3200
- Halloweek party, Sabine Musil, 778-5405
- Pickleball, Robert Taylor, 778-6465
- Wing Ding and karaoke contest, Ed Lyon, 201-5436.
- Softball tournament, Jeff Levine, 744-6883.
- Kayak tournament, Lauren Sato, 352-514-6545.
- Pot luck dinner and movie, AMI Community Center, Sandy Pruett, 778-1908.
- Bridge Street Market, Nancy Ambrose, 518-4431.
- Concert in the Green, Sandee Pruett, 778-1908.