



Learning from the Past



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The Sunshine State is a great place to live, but for six months each year, hurricanes are a fact of life for all who call Florida home. Even as many Southwest Floridians are still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Charley, it is time, once again, to get prepared for this year's season. This fiftieth issue of *Times of the Islands* gives you a greater understanding of the role hurricanes have played in our history and provides a glimpse into what the future may hold for this region of our state. I encourage you to share this feature with your families.

Last year's response to the unprecedented hurricane season proved that planning, teamwork, and communication are critical to managing the impacts of emergencies. Our State Emergency Response Team leads the nation in the ability to respond effectively to disasters, because they prepare and practice. Families and businesses should follow their lead: Make a plan, stock up on supplies, and be ready to react and respond when a storm threatens our shores.

Because of the experiences of 2004, Florida enters the 2005 hurricane season with a greater knowledge of and capacity to manage the impacts of disasters. We have implemented the lessons learned from last year's four catastrophic storms within a six-week period and continue to improve the methods we use to help our fellow Floridians during times of crisis.

Florida still faces many challenges, but Southwest Florida is on the road to long-term recovery. Families are rebuild-

ing their homes and their lives. Businesses have reopened, and some industry sectors are experiencing an unexpected surge in growth. State officials and local governments are working together to address the shortage of affordable housing and the need for critical infrastructure. And the outpouring of relief from volunteers and charitable organizations continues to help the most vulnerable in our state recover.

I am honored to serve as your governor as we meet these challenges together. I salute the spirit and resolve of Southwest Floridians who have come together to help each other and their communities to recover and rebuild this great state.

This fiftieth issue also continues *Times of the Islands'* tradition of celebrating Southwest Florida's people, places, and wildlife by treating you to a tour of some of the region's historic inns, introducing you to some of our fascinating residents, and giving you a close-up view of the beauty of the Florida Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Rainforest. These are just a few of the many reasons why millions of visitors travel to our paradise each year.

Jeb Bush
Governor of Florida

The Village

ON VENETIAN BAY



A Horse of a Different Color
Aegean Treasures
All About April
Artichoke & Company
Bayside
Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream
Charivari
Charles Randall Shoes
Chic Petite
Chico's
Cloyde's Steak & Lobster
Cricket Shop
Curvaceous
Danieli
Diane's Fine Fashions
Divino
Exquisite Timepieces
Fabec-Young & Co.
Harris Private Bank
H.T. Chittum & Co.
Irina Nevsko
Jami's
JCC
The Gallery of Estate & Precious Jewels
Kokopelli Gallery
Marie-Michelle's
Marine Arts Gallery

Maxwell's On The Bay
Mondo Uomo
Nicholas Designs
Ocean Leather
Oh Mango
Panache
Pearl
Pratt's Shoe Salon
Quiet Storm
Regina's Pizzazz
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