

BUSINESS

Shoe salon to lease former R. J. Miller building

The Sarasota, Fla., shoe salon Addison Craig will be opening a Nantucket store this spring as the new lessee of the former R.J. Miller salon at Zero Washington St. The hairdresser recently moved its entire business to its 6 Amelia Drive location. Addison Craig's Florida salon — at St. Armands Circle — carries more than 800 shoe styles in various price ranges by designers such as Marc Jacobs, Missoni, Miss Trish of Capri, Rafe, Gryson and Pucci, as well as small, unique brands including Mere, whose designer works out of her garage. The

store also carries handbags and jewelry.

In an article about the store in this week's Sarasota magazine, SRQ, the salon's owners Allison Scanlan and Karin Jack list their top five most popular items as Miss Trish green turtle sandals, Claudia Ciuti snake sandals, a Kooba linen and leather handbag; a Lulu Guinness straw tote, and Julie Sandlau earrings.

In other business news, Henry Wyner, Director of Retail Properties for Nantucket Island Resorts Retail, owner of Zero Washington St., said another new business will be opening in the Old South Wharf building

that for decades has been occupied solely by the Ship Chandlery. Chandlery owners Ellen and Kim Tonkin have renewed their lease with a condition that between 600 to 700 square feet of the store area be decreased for the chandlery and leased to another venture. Wyner said he is not yet certain what that new business will be, nor does he know what businesses will move into the South Beach Street locations being vacated by Pinwheels, Blue Beetle and Gems of the Sea.

— Mary Lancaster

STRANGE BIRDS

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are on Nantucket because of the failure of the northern seed crop include nuthatches, pine siskins, crossbills, pine grosbeaks, evening grosbeaks, bohemian waxwings and common redpolls.

"It's not just Massachusetts, things are showing up in Connecticut that are not usually there in a regular winter," said Ray, who added that there are also many more white-breasted nuthatches than normal on island this year. "It's going to be an interesting winter at the bird feeders."

Simon Perkins, Staff Ornithologist at the Massachusetts Audubon Society in Lincoln, Mass. said such irruptive species have been spotted as far south as New Jersey.

Birds such as the Northern shrike, which feeds on small mammals and small birds, are also expanding their winter range in search of food. Other birds not

normally found in the region this time of year have been inexplicably spotted around Nantucket — including a white-winged dove, a black-chinned hummingbird, a snow goose and a cattle egret. And, said Perkins, snowy owls are now present at Logan Airport in Boston.

But Perkins disputes Ray's belief that there is an explosion of nuthatches on Nantucket as part of this irruptive year.

"It is a common winter resident on Nantucket," he said. "In the big picture, this is not any part of a larger irruption for nuthatches. My guess is the Christmas Bird Count [on Dec. 29] is not going to turn up an inordinate number of them.

"Typically these birds are not found too far south of the Canadian border, but I have heard through the grapevine that we are getting these birds at least as far south as New Jersey."

As to why seed and berry crops are so diminished that birds need to fly south in search of food, neither Ray nor Perkins could offer a definitive answer, and

both dodged the easy scapegoat of global warming, which both believe is still too much of a moving target to be a direct link.

"It's a more complex question and no one has a handle on it," said Perkins. "I have yet to hear a really concise explanation as to what can cause failure across such a large area and a loss across a wide variety of food plants."

Gold and purple finches, several species of sparrows, red-breasted and white-breasted nuthatches, chickadees, cardinals, blue jays and Carolina wrens are just a sampling of birds that are usually seen on island during the fall and winter. ■

PROMOTIONS

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During the Broad Street incident, the names of people released by police at the scene were not documented, Pittman said. Several days later, people were coming to the department with complaints of pain as a result, they said, of being handled roughly. With the exception of those arrested, there were no names on any of the police reports, he said. "It's disturbing that it wasn't documented," he added.

The department plans to have "a more aggressive attempt to investigate and report what is going on out there," Pittman said. "This is so we can track incidents with force — from applying handcuffs to a gun being shot," he said. Everything will be recorded in detail.

After the investigation into the events of Aug. 8 is complete, Pittman said he plans to talk with a citizens' committee about the incident — how it could have been prevented, how it was handled and what could have been done better. The group consists of "opinionated people who are willing to come for-

ward when they see a problem," he said.

The department's response to the call of the officer on duty that night was appropriate given the information it had, Pittman said, but he also sees room for improvement. "I think the response of the Police Department wasn't properly managed," he said, noting how the officers responded blindly to the situation and that had it been better managed it would have had a better outcome.

Pittman said it is fortunate that his department is not faced with the need to use force every day because it means the island is still a safe place to live. On the other hand, he pointed out, officers must still be prepared for the occasions when force is necessary, and that they must continue to train to keep their skill levels up.

"So far, I haven't seen any of this Board Street stuff as malicious intent," said Pittman, who used to work for the much larger Springfield, Ill., Police Department before accepting his position on Nantucket. "I'd put [the Nantucket Police Department] against [the Springfield, Ill., Police Department] of 300 people ... any day." ■

BREAK-INS

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189 Eel Point Road reported that the home's front door had been forced open and several items including electronics, DVDs and paintings had been stolen. The paintings are both by Rafael Tufino. One depicts a night scene of people at a beach in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the other is a carnival scene with masked people dancing in the street.

After patrolmen and detectives canvassed the neighborhood they

discovered that 191, 193, 201 and 205 Eel Point Road had also been broken into. Entry was made by forcing open windows and doors using tools to damage the lock systems. Besides taking paintings, electronics, DVDs and alcohol, the perpetrators vandalized woodwork, flooring and furniture in the homes. The investigation is headed by Detective Daniel Mack who seeks any information regarding the break-ins and may be contacted at the police station by calling 228-1212.

In what is believed to be an

unrelated incident, police are also investigating a break-in at On Island Gas that was reported at approximately 6:14 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 5. The perpetrator entered the station's office through the front door and took the cash register containing \$250 in bills and \$25 in coins as well as packs of cigarettes.

Anyone with information on the residential or business thefts may also report it by using the police anonymous tip line at 228-3626. ■



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