

Snow & Ice

Unlikely to fall in Fort Myers this Christmas

Still it didn't stop a Fort Myers artist from depicting what downtown would look like in a blizzard. Read more about unusual Christmas scenes in our area.

>>A8

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Happy 2008

Let us help you find how and where to ring in the new year with our Party Guide. **C1**

He'll be here soon

Florida Weekly takes a look at the history of Santa Claus. **A10** ▶

West Bay Club

You don't have far to go to find paradise — just down the road in Estero. **D1** ▶

Wilbur Smith

Columnist Roger Williams takes the media to task for its attacks on the former mayor. **A2** ▶

Toll-bridge traffic declining while free bridges get busier

Yet, full effect of toll change not yet known

BY PETE SKIBA
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Did lifting the \$1 eastbound toll on Lee County bridges and charging \$2 on westbound traffic send drivers scurrying to the toll-free state bridges to the north?

Too soon to tell, officials said. "We expected some people to drive to the other bridges," said Paul Wingard, deputy director Lee County Department of Transportation. "The overall trend for the past few years is for us to have less traffic coming from Cape Coral." Yet, on weeknights the traffic headed to the Caloosahatchee Bridge backs up at least a mile along Cleveland Avenue in



FLORIDA WEEKLY PHOTO
Traffic leading up to the Caloosahatchee Bridge in Fort Myers backs up at rush hour.

SEE BRIDGES, A4 ▶

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