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> Rhonda Christenson & Stephen Lusch Port St. Lucie Customer since 1995



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Edgar Straeffer/staff photographer

Peggy Hess of Jensen Beach, left, and Jack Summers, who is visiting Ms. Hess from Massachusetts, hold a tapestry captured during World War II that originated in Okinawa in the mid-1600s.

## Tell 'em you read it in the

#### Hometown News

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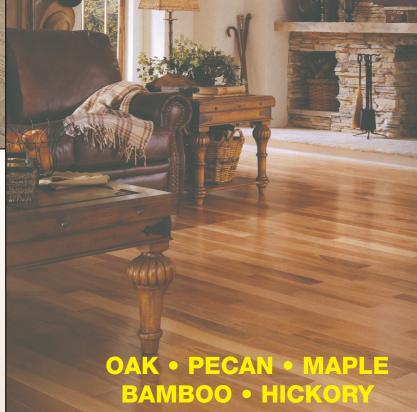
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#### TAPESTRY Continued from page A1

artists — who will travel from around the world in order to present the tapestry to the people of Okinawa in April 2004. So far, 32 women have pledged to make the journey. Because the women live in various parts of the world, some are unable to make the t rip. But if all agree, the group will likely seek corporate sponsors to help with costs.

"There's never been a group this large — well, over five people — who have gone over there like this," she said.

"This is important to the history of Okinawa karate, the history of martial arts, women in this style of karate, and the history of Okinawa in general, notwithstanding the martial arts."

But that's always been part of her plan. Find the owners. Return it to them properly. And leading the women will be Mr. Summers — himself a veteran of the war — who will present the tapestry back to the people of Okinawa.

"It need to be returned correctly" she said.

"I just felt like it was fitting for a veteran to give it back. This is exactly where it belongs."

## VACCINATION Continued from page A1



Many of my customers bring in jewelry and gemstones bought on their cruise ship or in the islands. They are all looking to see if they got a "good deal". They want to know if they paid too much.

Well first of all everybody is in business to make money. Overhead is overhead, rent is rent, so everyone has to make a profit. Generally the bigger the store the higher the overhead.

Now, for the second thing diamonds and gold have an *intrinsic* value. So there are very comparable fixed costs in the states as there is in the islands. There is no duty on precious metals and very little on diamonds, so their <u>costs</u> are almost the same as any store here in the U.S.

These things alone should tell you that they have to mark up their jewelry the same as stores in the states do. Now generally speaking the more volume a store does the better the prices and again the islands are no exception. So to get back to the original question. "Did I get a good deal". Well, for the most part about half of them get a fair deal with a reasonable amount of profit from

of them get a fair deal with a reasonable amount of profit from 100-150%, and the other half have paid up to a 400% Mark up! Occasionally someone gets a really good deal on something like a 50% markup from a hungry seller, so if you are really a sharp buyer and a very good haggler you can get a good deal in the islands.

Another thing to remember is

Another thing to remember is that you are on vacation, you kind of expect to pay a little more as a tourist, and you can end up with a memento of your trip. Just remember to be careful and cautious people do get ripped there. If you are not sure, just say no buy it here at a reliable jeweler that you trust. One that *always* gives you a fair deal. Can you guess which jeweler I would like to recommend?

mend?
Questions? Write, call, fax or email Hawk @ St. Lucie Jewelry 9168 South US One, Port St. Lucie florida 34952 (772) 337-4700 Fax 337-0580 Email: hawk@netgems.com

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ing and planning for this. So far, things are going smoothly, so we're very pleased."

Although no start date has been scheduled yet, the next stage would include vaccinating first responders, such as law enforcement officers, firemen an emergency and health care professionals.

The final stage, if deemed necessary, would include vaccinating the general public and all vaccinations — including those in the first stage — are done on an "informed consent" basis.

The last U.S. case of smallpox was in 1949, with the last naturally occurring case in Somalia in 1977. The contagious — and sometimes fatal disease is only prevented through vaccine. Some people, including pregnant women, people with immune system problems (including those with AIDS or those receiving chemotherapy), those with certain skin conditions and those living with someone under a year old should not be vaccinated. Although there is no specific treatment for smallpox, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports the U.S. has "a big enough stockpile of smallpox vaccine to vaccinate everyone who might need it in the event of an emergency."

