

The Weekly Record

The Sun, Charlotte County's Newspaper of Record for 111 Years

Monday, May 12, 2003

Wave of the future

ERA Advantage Realty offers courses via video

By **GEORGE COLLINS**
RECORD EDITOR

Joel Ament, owner/broker of ERA Advantage Realty Inc. at 901 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte, and St. Petersburg-based Cooke Real Estate Schools have teamed to offer the Charlotte County area a unique service.

Technology has allowed for Cooke Real Estate School to offer teachers and students to be brought together through live video conferencing.

"Video conferencing is the best technology out there for providing courses in the local community. It's the wave of the future, but it's here now," Ament said.

Students like it because

evening courses available, anyone can find the time to attend if it's their desire to pursue a career in real estate," Ament said.

In addition to the convenience of the course provided in local communities by video conference, the Cooke real estate license course is shown free on the Cooke Web site.

"These presentations are excellent for students to be able to see the actual class



ON THE RECORD



Sun photo by Jonathan Fredin

Angie Cable, left, real estate agent, and Rebecca Desforge, assistant to the broker, view the Cooke Real Estate School video conference setup at ERA Advantage Realty in Port Charlotte.

video conference center for two years for free until they pass the state exam, he said.

Ament and Rebecca Desforge, assistant to the broker, answered questions about the service in an interview.

How many Cooke

class, materials and test for \$250. That includes the two-year free policy.

When are the classes?

Rebecca: We have a day class that begins today and runs from 8:25 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day through Saturday

They feed us a video line and that includes voice as well as picture through our router.

We have anywhere from two to four students in the classroom. They can see and hear the instructor and the instructor can see and hear