

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY®

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INSIDE



Who's afraid?

The Naples Players stage 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs.' **C1** ▶



Gotta love the locals

Sea Salt throws a party to say thanks, and more from the busy local social scene. **C16-17** ▶



Talking tourism

CVB presents its annual industry awards. **B1** ▶



Craving Caribbean?

Find the cure at Sweet Mama's Island Cuisine. **C19** ▶

"We have never had a bear attack in Florida."

— Gary Morse, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

the Black bear

{essentials}

With an estimated 3,500 in Florida, The Naples Zoo adds another pair

BY BILL CORNWELL
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DAVID TETZLAFF IS BULLISH on bears. Mr. Tetzlaff, director of The Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens, has ample reason for his enthusiasm. He and his staff are putting final touches on a new black bear habitat that, when it opens May 23, will be the largest such exhibit at any zoo east of the Mississippi River.

As it turns out, the opening of the exhibit coincides with a spate of news stories about the wanderings of black bears in Southwest Florida and the dangers of bear and human encounters in densely populated areas.

In recent weeks, there have been reports of a bear foraging in a Dumpster near Metro Parkway in Fort Myers. On May 7, a San Carlos man was arrested and charged with killing an 80-pound bear that had ventured near the man's home. And earlier this year in Collier County, two bears were killed, presumably by gunshot, then dumped alongside State Road 29. Authorities theorize the

This young black bear is one of two that will reside in the Black Bear Hammock exhibit that opens Saturday at The Naples Zoo.

SEE BEARS **A8** ▶

PHOTO BY LORI YOUNG

Take stock in these graduates and congratulate them all

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

It's graduation season, and high school seniors everywhere are celebrating the milestone. Here in Collier County, perhaps none are more deserving of the community's collective congratulations, however, than the 29 young men and women who, in addition to graduating from their respective public high schools, have met the demands of a program called Take Stock in Children.

A public-private partnership, TSIC is a

scholarship and mentoring program that provides deserving students an opportunity to fulfill their potential and attend college. Starting in middle school, TSIC candidates are matched with an adult mentor with whom they work weekly until they graduate high school. Upon fulfilling their promise to remain drug- and crime-free and maintain good grades, these students receive a tuition scholarship for a Florida state college.

"The opportunity that Take Stock

provides is a promise," explains Susan McManus, president of The Education Foundation of Collier County. "It's a pact between the student who works hard, the family who supports the student, the mentor who cares and helps the student navigate, teachers and school teams that provide a supportive context, individuals in the community who provide financial support and caring staff people who keep

SEE CHILDREN, **A12** ▶

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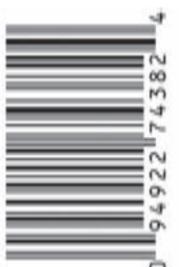
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