

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY®

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

WEEK OF JUNE 4-10, 2009

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. I, No. 35 • FREE



HIGH ANXIETY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CENTERS KNOW THE TOLL OF A BAD ECONOMY

BILL CORNWELL
bcornwell@floridaweekly.com

SIGNS OF THE WORST ECONOMIC downturn since the Great Depression are abundant in Lee and Collier counties. Foreclosed homes dot the landscape. An alarming number of businesses and stores sit dark and shuttered. Automobile dealerships resemble gridlocked freeways, with unsold inventories sprawled across vast acreage. And it is a rare person indeed who doesn't know someone facing bankruptcy or worse.

But these are just the external signs of the recession, the unwelcome reminders of what we are up against and what lies ahead.

Less apparent, but equally devastating

on an altogether different level, is the toll the failing economy exacts in the form of unremitting psychological stress that often leads to or aggravates substance abuse and a variety of mental disorders. While these consequences are not always apparent to the public at large, they are all too familiar to the mental health professionals who deal with the emotional devastation wrought by this financial meltdown.

"Stress exacerbates all kinds of illnesses," says Kevin Lewis, CEO of Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS) in Fort Myers. "Heart disease, diabetes, all kinds of illnesses are made

>>inside:
Places to turn if you are stressed.
A8

"The economy and fear of what's going to happen is having a huge effect."

— Sarah Bullard Steck, U.S. Commerce Department therapist

SEE ANXIETY, A8 ▶

Fishing tournament, other events will benefit teacher in need of kidney

BY GEORGE RAAB

Special to Florida Weekly

Lisa Wilk, a fourth-grade teacher at The Community School of Naples, is on a waiting list for a kidney transplant and needs money to help pay for immediate medical expenses not covered by insurance as well as for the transplant itself.

A variety of summer fundraisers are taking place throughout the community in her name, with the next one, Hooked on Helping Charity Fishing Tournament, coming up this weekend.

Although tournament registration is already closed, those who want to con-



LISA WILK

tribute to Ms. Wilk's cause are welcome to attend the Hooked on Helping kick-off dinner party and auction Friday evening, June 5, at Bellasera Resort in Naples, as well as the awards celebration Saturday, June 6, at Cedar Bay Yacht Club on Marco Island. Celebrity fisherman Roland Martin will be at the kick-off party, for which tickets are \$40 for adults and \$30 for children 16 and younger. For more information, go to www.iWantHelp.net.

Another benefit for Ms. Wilk will be a Gold Girl jewelry party at Marco Bronzini Art School on Taylor Road in Naples. The

SEE BENEFIT, A13 ▶

INSIDE

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09 HURRICANE GUIDE

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Sooner or later if you live here, you'll find yourself backed up against a hurricane.

INSIDE PATHS OF HURRICANE PAST

Inside...

Your 2009 Florida Weekly/NBC-2 Hurricane Guide. ▶



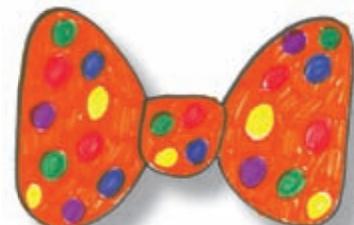
Pickin' and grinnin'

Bluegrass Invasion headed for Ave Maria. C1 ▶



Growing concerns

Three local businesses thrive on farming and 'fooding.' B1 ▶



Happy Father's Day

A card from the Shelter will say you appreciate the role model he's been. A9 ▶

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