

FLORIDA WEEKLY
TAKES ON:

THE IMPOSSIBLE

BY ROGER WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

It's a peculiarity of any great achievement that the first building block is nothing more than

fantasy — a gossamer calculation based on a two-word question: What if?

What if we could find a cure for cancer based on research conducted right here in Southwest Florida?

What if we could actually end hunger here, modeling a method of getting at its sources instead of merely handing out food that might prove useful elsewhere?

What if we could put in place a system of transportation so efficient that highways, single-auto commuting and massive carbon emissions on the southern gulf coast would become obsolete almost overnight?

That's impossible, many will say.

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BEYOND THE BOUNDS
OF POSSIBILITY**



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Scenes from celebrations all through the town. **A20** ►



Healthy holidays
A registered dietician has tips for making it through the season of parties and treats. **A26** ►

FLORIDA WEEKLY
TAKES ON:

THE IMPOSSIBLE: ENDING ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION

Responsible owners can fix this problem

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Animal control agencies consider putting down a stray animal a last resort. One of the most unpleasant parts of the job at any shelter, it leads to "employee burnout" and "negative public stigma," according to Lee County Domestic Ani-

mal Services. There seems every reason to avoid it like the plague.

Yet among public agencies managing an overpopulation of animals, euthanasia is by far the most common end result.

Records show that in the last five fiscal years, Collier and Lee county DAS agencies took in a combined 101,328 animals (the overwhelming majority cats and dogs). Of those, 62,786 were euthanized. Officials say it's rare for adoptable or wanted pets to be put down, and most of those statistics represent feral or unhealthy animals.

"As an open admission animal shelter,

SEE PETS, A22 ►



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Because breakfast is the most important news of the day...



weekday mornings from 5:30 to 7:00



Conversion: L'Chaim



rogerWILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

My grandfather, Walter Nash, sat straight in the saddle on his quarter horse, Cherokee, watching me become a Jew. It was the fifth night of Chanuka.

His rope, neatly looped, remained secured to the saddle and hanging over his right leg. He wore blue jeans and a long-sleeved white shirt that rose, buttoned, all the way to his neck. Above that, his dark Stetson, the working hat, sat straight on his head. His left hand closed the reins in a calloused grip about a foot above the horse's mane, and his right rested where it should, on his upper thigh, ready for anything required.

Cherokee was wired tight, a muscled mahogany bay with three white socks. His nostrils flared while his ears turned backward to listen to the rider, who could track a cow across glass or cut a calf from a herd of nervous mothers as easy as slipping a knife from butter.

Walter set his boots deep in the stirrups with the heels down, rarely employing his small spurs; none had a better seat than he did. He was ready to ride, and would — after our ceremony.

My grandfather said nothing as we played dreidel, the playful gambling game, in the living room, while a Chanukah meal evolved in our kitchen. My wife, Amy, opened the Chanukah CD she'd picked up at the supermarket, and pretty soon I was clapping and hopping and crowing with all the grace of an injured rooster, while some men apparently shouted, "Schlemiel! Schlemiel!

Verklemp! Schlemiel!" over and over again. In every song.

It was arguably the most awful joyous music I'd ever heard — awful not because of the music itself, I suspect, but because of its execution, and I mean murder, by a bunch of brassy singers from New Jersey, or somewhere.

My grandfather didn't care. His character was a tight weave of tolerance and a lifelong determination to judge other people only by whether they kept their word, minded their own business and tried hard.

The guys singing Chanukah songs tried very hard. Neither my grandfather nor I, however, had any idea what the words meant, or whether they kept them. But the way he held his horse told me that he approved of my new religion, with a caveat: When you ride into unknown country, keep your eyes open, and think for yourself.

So we did. Amy and I, with our two youngest boys, D.P. and Nash, had decided that since no one was going to choose us, we'd just up and choose ourselves to join the tribe of Israel, the chosen people.

One of the wonderful things about the Jews we've known is that they don't proselytize. We were compelled to conversion only by Nash, who has no problem proselytizing, or at least asking insistently.

Nash stumbled into a moment of magical good fortune at his public elementary school, and with him, us: he became the ward of an extraordinary teacher. Somehow, without sentimentalizing it or patronizing them, Ms. Chernow teaches the world and its basics to children arriving from almost every corner of our national experience.

She fetes a variety of cultures and cus-

toms the same way, giving some of her children their first glimpses of a world beyond their own.

But in this case, she drew on her own experience. Her mother was a Scottish immigrant and her father a Jew who owned one of the only shops maintained by an Anglo in New York City's Chinatown, decades ago, she told me. Her tales of battles and food and candles that wouldn't stop burning (a huge appeal to a candle-loving kid) captured the fancy of young Nash. Why couldn't we become Jews, too, he reasoned?

But how, and which Jews? we asked, applying typical adult obfuscation. Should we become the orthodox or Hasidic ones, the irreverent ones, the eastern European ones, the Israeli ones, the American or Canadian ones, the wandering ones, the sad ones, the mad ones, the tolerant ones, the judgmental ones or the happy ones?

And then we answered our own question with another: Who cares?

We decided to define it for ourselves. Amy and I have long admired what we take to be the classic middle-of-the-road American Jew: not orthodox, and not entirely lost to ancient traditions, either. Someone who reveres family, celebrates the culture, loves the democracy, refuses to hit anybody over the head with their Judaism or their patriotism, and takes great pleasure in the gifts and opportunities of the world: food and intellectual sparring and sex and achievement and philanthropy and the arts and sciences.

Someone passionate about education, and someone who isn't afraid to debate or question authority — the authority of parents, politicians, police, preachers or rabbis, or even the authority and judgment of God, in true old Testament and

new American comedic fashion. Someone who remains a good-hearted skeptic and a sobered optimist.

And someone who loves food.

Amy and the boys manned the kitchen, where she had them peeling potatoes and making latkes (fried potato pancakes), along with homemade applesauce. They bent to it with a will, shying away from the special bean dip she made to go with the broccoli, and wary (in Nash's case) of the darkly burnished cast of the Sephardic chicken, roasted and fragrant with fruits and nuts.

The Chanukah menu, of course, came from a food resource named after some old Greek — Epicurious.com. But that's a Jewish tradition: adopt, adapt and make the best of the moment. Which is pretty much what my grandfather, that tougher-than-rawhide rancher, thought, too.

When Amy finally settled the feast on the table, Nash and D.P. lit the candles on the hanukiah (as distinguished from the Temple menorah, which originally had seven oil-burning wicks). The hanukiah, which many call the menorah, has a single shamash or helper candle mounted above a star of David, and flanked by four candles on each side. The Shamash is used to light the others.

And then we ate and laughed and fancied for an hour or more, while Nash's great-grandpa Walter Nash, framed in an old photo on my desk, road off into the eternal night, almost grinning.

Another day, no doubt, we'd be celebrating something else, and we'd become something else. But on this night, we were the chosen ones. And we celebrated only l'chaim. ■

— A version of this column ran on Dec. 13, 2007.

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slund@floridaweekly.com

Managing Editor

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cpierce@floridaweekly.com

Reporters & Columnists

Lois Bolin
Susan Powell Brown
Bill Cornwell
Karen Feldman
Artis Henderson
Peg Goldberg Longstreth
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Jeannette Showalter
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Photographers

Peggy Farren
Bernadette La Paglia
Dennis Goodman
Marla Ottenstein
Charlie McDonald
David Michael

Copy Editor

Cathy Cottrill

Presentation Editor

Eric Raddatz
eraddatz@floridaweekly.com

Production Manager

Kim Boone
kboone@floridaweekly.com

Graphic Designers

Jon Colvin
Paul Heinrich
Natalie Zellers
Dave Anderson

Circulation Manager

Penny Kennedy
pkennedy@floridaweekly.com

Circulation

David Anderson
Paul Neumann • Greg Tretwold

Account Executives

Nicole Masse
nmasse@floridaweekly.com
Cori Higgins
chiggins@floridaweekly.com
Jeff Jerome
jjerome@floridaweekly.com

Business Office Manager

Kelli Carico

Sales and Marketing Assistant

Kim Riggie

Published by

Florida Media Group LLC

Pason Gaddis
pgaddis@floridaweekly.com

Jeffrey Cull
jcull@floridaweekly.com

Jim Dickerson
jdickerson@floridaweekly.com

Street Address: Naples Florida Weekly
9051 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 202
Naples, Florida 34108
Phone 239.325.1960 • Fax: 239.325.1964

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OPINION**Rising from the impossible economy**

BY OSVALDO PADILLA

opadilla@floridaweekly.com

“And what if my home loses value?” I asked.

“It’s impossible,” she said. The woman, painted up and smelling strongly of some lab-grown scent that I had to fight hard not to wince at, was trying to sell me on refinancing my house and converting to an Adjustable Rate Mortgage. It was 2006. The housing market was obscenely inflated. Southwest Florida was in the thrall of a chimera economy.

I was polite and didn’t tell her so, but I thought that either she wasn’t very smart, or, more likely, simply full of “it.” Nothing is impossible. And a market collapse at that point in time was more than just impossible. It was inevitable. I politely declined the woman’s offer to refinance. It was a good move.

Since 2006, an overwhelming number of people who refinanced defaulted on their loans. The rate of foreclosure in the Cape Coral-Fort Myers market is four times the national average.

Yet, nobody saw this collapse coming. Why not? There were a lot of reasons — among them was, perhaps, the media itself. If it had not been so willing to believe the lie — the same lie that that woman told me that day as she tried to sell me on the impossible dream of my home as an eternal fountain of unlimited wealth and stability. And she did it by pedaling the exact tool by which our financial undoing would come to pass — the subprime housing bubble. Perhaps if the media would have looked at the situation more closely, it could have ameliorated the impacts of the crash.

“Just look at journalism’s biggest foul-up of recent years: its almost complete failure to warn the public about the collapse of the subprime bubble,” Thomas Frank writes in this month’s Harper’s.

“In that case, the convergence of journalism and profit meant journalists had trouble suspecting anything might be amiss.”

I found myself in a local newsroom during the boom, and I remember pitching the story: “What happens when this bubble bursts? Because it’s inevitable. This can’t last forever.” My editor laughed it off. It was impossible. (And even if it was possible for the bubble to burst, it wasn’t possible for us to report on it.) Financial interests, as Mr. Frank suggests, undoubtedly played a role in the media’s failure to report on the crisis before it was too late. This abdication of responsibility played out on the national stage and in local newsrooms throughout the region.

So that is what led local journalism to the place where it is now: looking back at the decade where 20th century American journalism was destroyed and on the cusp of the decade where it will be rebuilt as something else.

Still, the question persists: How will quality journalism — the intellectually curious kind that evaluates our world and pursues the greedy, unjust and the downright stupid — turn a profit? Without profit, there is no journalism. And when the public rewards bad journalism with profits, then where is the corporate incentive to create good journalism? It’s a problem that, for someone who believes fervently in the art and craft of the profession, can seem impossible to solve.

However, take a look around Southwest Florida and there are inspiring examples of people and organizations doing, or at least attempting, the impossible in the wake of financial calamity. When I first heard of CCMI’s ambitious plan to eliminate hunger, it sounded like the idealist neo-hippie drivel you might hear under the blue-smoke hue of a Phish concert tailgate party. Nev-

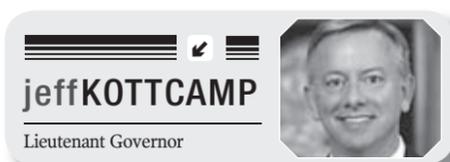
ertheless, Roger Williams’ insightful explanation of the program reveals an ambitious and realistic opportunity to radically improve the health and well-being of our residents.

Lee Memorial Health System continues to push forward with the research of the late John Kanzius, the deceased radio engineer from Sanibel who may have left the world a gift before he died of cancer — the ability to cure the disease that took his life. From transportation troubles to controlling the animal population — we are working smarter, better and more creatively to tackle the problems of our times.

Florida Weekly is a publication that was born while the chimera economy was collapsing — the illusion revealed for what it was. Nevertheless, the publication has managed to grow and profit in the new economy by providing public service and lifestyle coverage alongside well-researched narrative journalism. The managers here performed the seemingly impossible task of launching a successful print publication while the newspaper industry was in decline. Now, Florida Weekly continues to push the boundaries of what is possible, by expanding its intelligent news product to serve even more readers. Earlier this year, the paper expanded to create a Palm Beach Gardens edition. It is our fourth edition, following Fort Myers, Naples and Punta Gorda here in Southwest Florida.

To be sure, growth and quality are not easy to create in the current economic climate. However, the examples of the people profiled in this issue inspire us to think differently, work smarter and strive to continue to defy the impossible. ■

— Osvaldo Padilla is the editor of the Fort Myers edition of Florida Weekly.

GUEST OPINION**Florida’s economic future is bright**

Over the last month, I have had the opportunity to meet with government and business leaders from Japan and Italy — including the Japanese ambassador to the United States, Ichiro Fujisaki, and the president of Umbria in Italy, Catuscia Marini. One thing is clear from these meetings — the world is eager to do business with, and in, the state of Florida.

In fact, over the last four years, I have met with leaders from more than 30 countries to discuss opportunities for increased trade and tourism for Florida. Our state is highly regarded around the world. Almost every leader I have met with has vacationed in Florida. After coming here for fun, government and business leaders from around the globe are now looking for opportunities to come here for business.

People around the world understand

that Florida offers an unmatched combination of “pro-business” policies as well as an incredible quality of life. But the international interest in Florida is not limited to doing business in the Sunshine State. With the expansion of the Panama Canal — and the close proximity to the canal from a number of Florida ports — our state is seen as the gateway to emerging markets in Central and South America. Today, one in six jobs in Florida is supported by international business — that number is expected to increase significantly.

The increased international interest in Florida coincides with the Economic Competitiveness Index recently released by the American Legislative Exchange Council and economist Arthur Laffer. According to the index, the five states in America with the brightest economic future are Utah, Colorado, Texas, South Dakota and Florida — in that order. It is worth noting that Florida is the highest-ranked state in the Southeast.

The index is based on 15 indicators. Florida scores well in many areas. We are 37th in property tax burden, 39th

in the sales tax burden, and 45th in the burden remaining taxes. Thanks to our Constitutional prohibition of a state income tax, we are, of course, 50th in that category.

Our state is also trending in the right direction. In 2008, Florida was number 16 on the index, last year we were 11th, and now we are fifth. Based on the Economic Competitiveness Index, it appears Florida’s economy is well positioned to turn around sooner than most states in the country.

Of course, Florida’s economy does not operate in a vacuum. National and international economic conditions impact our state’s bottom line. But as the economy rebounds, it appears that the world is ready to do business in Florida and our state’s economic future is bright. ■

— Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp is Florida’s 17th lieutenant governor. He serves as chairman of Space Florida and of Florida’s Children and Youth Cabinet and also oversees the Office of Drug Control.



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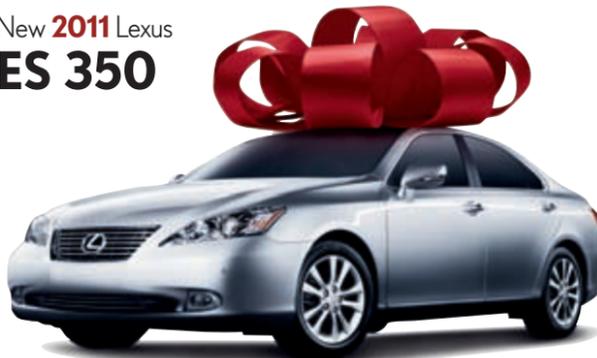
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15 MINUTES

Clarinetist loves the 'good, warm feeling' of the concert band

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Sylvia Schraff was a little rusty on the clarinet when she picked it up again after 4½ decades or so. The last big concert she remembered playing was at the end of her senior high school year, held in a packed gymnasium in Hollidaysburg, Pa., her hometown. She had lived an entire lifetime near there since then, becoming an operating room nurse and then CEO of a nursing agency, and later marrying her second husband, John Schraff, with whom she started Oak Spring Winery near Hollidaysburg the late 1980s. It still produces about 15,000 gallons of wine every year.

But during all that time her friends at the community concert band in Hollidaysburg had encouraged her to join. After she retired from nursing in 1999, one called and told her, "You're all out of excuses."

So Mrs. Schraff dug out her old instrument and began to practice.

"It needed all new pads and all new cork, and although I knew where the notes were, I sure didn't have an embouchure to cover the reed and get the reed to vibrate," she says, explaining that an embouchure is the practiced manner in which your teeth, lips, tongue, throat and mouth cavity are used to control the sound and volume. "It (my embouchure) had long ago disappeared," she says, "so it took me some time to get to



COURTESY PHOTO

Sylvia Schraff

the point where I was comfortable playing the clarinet again."

Calling themselves "typical snowbirds," the Schraffs now spend half the year back near her small hometown, which sits at the foot of the Continental Divide in the Alleghany Mountains. Mrs. Schraff remembers her youth there fondly: walking to school with her brother, coming home late on summer

nights. Her father was a railroad foreman, and her mother worked for the clerk of courts as the one who swore people in before they testified. "Do you swear to tell the truth, nothing but the truth?" that kind of thing," she says.

The other half of the year, the Schraffs live in Bonita Springs where, drawn to the warmth and the golf, they bought a home in 2001.

Ms. Schraff has also been practicing her instrument and taking lessons since her retirement. She is a clarinetist for the community band in Hollidaysburg over the summer, and for the Bonita Springs Concert Band, of which she is also president, through the winter season.

The Bonita Springs Concert Band has between 60 and 80 members who play wind, brass and percussion instruments. Many of the members are former musicians or teachers, such as conductor Dr. Dennis Hill, retired director of music at Edison State College.

"It's a very friendly atmosphere," Mrs. Schraff says. "It's an atmosphere where people come and they love to play and they want to sound good."

The band has been practicing on Thursday nights at Three Oaks Middle School for the holiday concert in Riverside Park, coming up at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12. It's free and open to the public.

The difficult passages are practiced over and over, Mrs. Schraff says. Those include medleys that require the musi-

cians to switch to a different song, in a new time signature or chord, without breaking stride. For example, there's one medley in which the band starts off playing "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" in a 4/4 beat and then transitions to "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" in a 3/4 time signature.

The band shell at Riverside Park where they play has great acoustics and draws appreciative audiences, both of which make it a pleasure to play there, Mrs. Schraff says.

She loves the unique feeling of creating sound with other musicians.

"It just feels good inside," she says. "It's a warm, good feeling." ■

in the know

>>What: Bonita Springs Concert Band Holiday Concert

>>When: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12

>>Where: Riverside Park on Old 41 in Bonita Springs

>Details: Seasonal favorites on the program include "We Need a Little Christmas," "Feliz Navidad," "Good Tidings to All," "Sleigh Ride," "Bell Carol a la Big Band," and "Festival of Lights." Connie Gowan will sing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and Terry Stevens will narrate Clement Moore's "T'was the Night Before Christmas."

>>Cost: Free

>>Info: www.bonitaspringsconcertband.com

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IMPOSSIBLE

From page 1

But not the men and women whose voices *Florida Weekly* introduces here, presenting new ideas or reviewing old ones still in the works.

What is really impossible?

We are, according to the famous science fiction writer Ray Bradbury: "We are an impossibility in an impossible universe."

And some of us, therefore, keep trying the impossible.

For example, research based on the kitchen tinkering of Sanibel resident John Kanzius, who died last year fighting leukemia, has shown some of the brightest hope for a technology that invests cancer cells with gold nanoparticles which then attract radio waves. Those waves heat the metal and kill the cells without damaging other tissues.

Impossibly it would seem, Mr. Kanzius had no college degree. But he spent his youth building radios and manipulating their waves, and taught himself both electrical engineering and radio physics.

Or take a self-described Pollyanna, Sarah Owen (actually, others less ambitious have tagged her with that faintly dismissive moniker, which she cheerfully adopts).

Ms. Owen leads Community Cooperative Ministries in the fight against hunger. She and her colleagues have a plan to end hunger not simply by distributing food to the hungry, but by attacking the sources of the problem — the ways they got hungry in the first place.

Sound impossible, or impossibly naive? Not after you talk to Ms. Owen. And not after you consider the massive effect of other groups such as Collier Harvest, whose volunteers, even though they never ask for money, delivered 255,000 pounds of local, fresh food to about 60 pantries last year.

And what about a system of transportation you could climb on in minutes and that would reduce your daily commute by scores of miles and save you thousands of dollars a year in gasoline costs, not to mention extend the life of your auto by years?

This isn't New York or Washington, it's Southwest Florida. Impossible. But Craig Brown has a way to do that with existing resources for people even in rural areas of Charlotte County.

The impossible is, according to one James W. Pense, "what nobody can do until somebody does."

Here, then, we offer glimpses of those who are doing.

■■■

THE IMPOSSIBLE: ENDING HUNGER

If you haven't seen any soup lines lately, or any barefoot women with raggedy children clinging to their gaunt frames while the Oklahoma wind pushes dry dust into the deep canyons of their lined faces, don't automatically assume there is no hunger.

There's more of it than ever.

Since the recession began, hunger has taken on new forms: parents facing a weekend with children and suddenly realizing, for the first time in their lives, that they don't have the cash to buy meals for the kids through Sunday, for example.

While many can carry on without



ERIC RADDATZ / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Sarah Owen checks out the inventory at a first-of-its-kind pantry in Fort Myers.

noticing how dire the problem is, that isn't true of volunteers like Connie Preu, a member of Collier Harvest.

"The need is much greater than people realize," she says. "We're very affluent, but there are a lot of very hungry people. We see aunts and uncles taking care of a sister's children, teenagers who are hungry because of the economy or family issues."

Collier Harvest volunteers work with 40 different organizations by gathering all the food they can find — from supermarkets such as Publix, or from farms and markets that produce fresh produce in Immokalee — and distributing that to the other agencies. At no cost to anyone but the volunteers.

"I can say one thing about the agencies we work with in Collier," adds Ms. Preu. "Their dedication to helping doesn't ever end — the Salvation Army, Café of Life, Catholic Charities, the Shelter for Abused Women & Children, the Macedonia Baptist Church, Three Amigos, Friendship House, the Guadalupe Center — there are so many."

Sarah Owen is one woman in Southwest Florida who believes there will be an end to hunger.

"That's real, that's happening," says Ms. Owen. A Lee County do-gooder with years in the hunger business, she directs Community Cooperative Ministries, a \$2.3 million nonprofit with 30 employees, a Montessori school for about 40 children called "Baby University," a café and a first-of-its-kind market for hungry people: there's organic food, fresh food, food grown by local farmers that doesn't meet the picture-perfect test, and a wide variety of other food, all of it available to anyone who arrive in need.

But first, every visiting shopper sits down with a caseworker to talk about how he or she became hungry, and what steps need to be taken to end the hunger.

Staff coaches see every person, and then supervise volunteers who do periodic follow-ups.

In the old food pantry model of fighting hunger, a person arrived empty and went away with a box of staples — end of story. On the holidays, he or she might get a turkey.

Not anymore. Now, the idea is to move beyond a mere food transaction and to transform a person.

"Now we might say, 'Hey, have you considered going back to school and could we help?' Or, 'Could I pay for that backpack, or help you with the tire on your car?'" Ms. Owen explains.

"I can't tell you how many people we have put back to work by helping them get transportation or new licenses for their trades. Because when you're out of money, you're out. The hunger is almost the simple part. But the thing that got you to the hunger is complex. We're trying to partner with people and solve that."

Faced with realities that seem insur-

mountable — 70 percent of children in Lee County public schools now qualify for free or reduced lunches, for example, and a widespread community survey early this year revealed a 10-million-pound deficit in the amount of food required to feed every hungry person in the region — Ms. Owen decided to do things differently.

"We have to be quick thinking, innovative," she says. "We cannot take five years to solve this. When we had a meeting at the first school site after the survey and actually saw parents jumping in dumpsters, we were in the schools in 12 days."

Ms. Owen has grown tired of being told that it's impossible to end hunger, she says, and also of the old ways of trying. So she and her staff have designed some new approaches, based on common sense and a greater respect for the problems people can have. It might be enough to stop hunger here within a decade, she anticipates cautiously, and it might have applications in Collier and Charlotte counties, and elsewhere.

"I've been told over and over we can't ever end hunger, and I've been called a Pollyanna for wanting to, but why? If we say we can't do it, we can't. But if we say we can, we will."

The new program focuses on money and jobs, on counseling, on child care and education so that the children of today's hungry won't find themselves in the same food lines — and it encourages broader access points where people can get food stamps or clothes, since many will not visit the soup kitchen itself.

"We're also doing things to conserve resources and flood the food pipeline," Ms. Owen says. "We're converting soup kitchens to cafes."

In the last nine months, she notes, CCMI, working with others in the area (and with school social workers to identify hungry families), has cut down on food waste by 50 percent.

If staffers find a case of cranberry sauce or beef stew at a pantry, they'll use it, whether or not it might be on a list of things hungry people should be given.

If people need to find a Goodwill kiosk or other resources, she and her staff help. "Nobody who comes in here wants to be here," she says. "Our goal is to make people self-sufficient."

One of those helping as a staff consultant is Dave Fleming, a life coach who holds a doctorate degree in organizational management.

"The philosophy at CCMI is, we want to address immediate hunger needs but also the long-term sustainability of a person to be in control of their own destiny, their own life and transformation," Mr. Fleming says. "One of the challenges is not to perpetuate the old system that you're also still using," he adds.

That was the system — and still is —

that puts peanut butter and other basics in a box and hands it to hungry people, or provides the turkey at Thanksgiving and Christmas, only.

Mr. Fleming explains that first-time clients at CCMI get a piece of paper telling them, basically, "We're glad you're here, we'll provide you food, and if you come back a second time you can fill out our goal sheet. What is one thing you can do in the next six months to make your life more sustainable and independent?" So they write the goal out.

"And if they come back a third time, we say, 'We'd like you to enter case coaching.'"

Ending hunger can be done, he says — "If there's a fundamental shift in the way we think about hunger and the way we think about sharing."

Hunger is no longer pure starvation, he insists. Now, it's just as likely to be a result of not knowing where the next meal for the family will come from, or from having to decide whether to pay a bill or buy food.

"I wonder if that mindset might be why we haven't ended hunger — that we're not looking at starving people in the street and we don't know anybody starving to death, so we don't challenge the social structures we have."

But that's changing, because people are alert and good-willed in general, suggests Ms. Owen.

"My agency alone could not end hunger. It takes a community to end hunger."

A community like this one.

■■■

THE IMPOSSIBLE: FIXING TRANSPORTATION

Picture this: You drive your car more than a mile or two maybe once a week.

You live near your work, and even if you don't, you don't have to drive. There's a train or bus that stops not far from your home, and gets you to the office, or within spitting distance. Or maybe it's a pod car computer driven along a rail, with six to eight passengers.

Here's a litmus test: If you think that's far fetched or science fiction, you're a dinosaur, suggests Charlie Bigelow, a former Lee County commissioner who admits that a quarter of a century ago, he and his colleagues helped create a sprawling, inefficient system of transportation across Lee County and the region. Now he's trying to remedy that (www.reconnectinglee.org).

In this prophetic imagining, you save thousands of dollars a year in fuel costs — oh, yeah, it's \$6 a gallon now — and the only drawback is that you have to walk a couple of blocks here and there to get somewhere.

That's exercise. So your blood pressure goes down and you live longer.

That, in the big picture, is roughly the outcome of new transportation plans developing up and down the southwest coast, from Naples to Sarasota. And beyond.

Sometimes in smaller form and sometimes larger, the new plans and their planners aim to change the way we live. Maybe even by 2030 or so, they say.

"We're not there yet. We're going to have to get there," says Mr. Bigelow (his son, Brian, is a Lee County commissioner). There is no real alternative to us finding a more efficient way to move about. It's not only the energy question, but we have a very heavy carbon footprint in Southwest Florida, from Naples north."

Changing what we do, though, sounds

impossible — and it probably is unless planners quit looking for new roads and start looking for light rail avenues, better bus opportunities, even water taxis, and most of all planning and zoning changes in already developed communities such as Golden Gate or Lehigh Acres or Cape Coral or Englewood.

Some are.

“We can’t successfully change our transportation model without changing our land use pattern, and recognizing that rural lands are critical for food, fiber and fuel,” says Wayne Daltry, the former head of Lee County Smart Growth and a 30-year planner in Southwest Florida.

That current transportation model includes the use of private cars to go everywhere and a vast industry based on moving small loads large distances by truck, rather than by rail.

Getting less road-dependent is the goal, and to do that, communities have to move away from the petroleum-based model of living, experts say.

One of them is Craig Brown, who spent a career in the Coast Guard before moving to Charlotte County.

Almost by chance, and through his church, he became the local front man and organizer for ITNEverywhere, a micro-attempt to change our world. The goal: to pool resources and provide a network of low-cost rides to people in rural areas. (Go to www.itnamerica.org for more information).

Based on a successful model in Maine, the plan is in the study stages in Charlotte County and other U.S. locations, he says.

“What we’re saying is, ‘What resources do we have and how can we use them?’ Well, we have a huge motor pool. So we’re asking: ‘Would you folks like to join our motor pool? We have empty school busses, business vehicles, volunteer drivers and all these nonprofit organizations that have their own systems of drivers. Pull it all together, and something like this could work. One, are you guys interested; two, would you be willing to participate; and three, would you implement whatever it is we come up with?’”

The organization’s business model calls for setting up the program in a place with at least 180,000 people.

Charlotte County fell under the radar, but early this year Mr. Brown and others talked their way into the program. When they set up the model sometime next year, riders will pay an annual fee of \$35 to \$50 to cover costs. People who volunteer to drive, or lend vehicles or contribute in some way can earn bonus points that apply to those in programs elsewhere.

“Let’s say my mom is in San Diego — she can get in their program free or earn free rides elsewhere if I’ve contributed here,” Mr. Brown explains.

It’s only one little thing, but it could change everything for some.

So could the fact that a light rail system already exists across Southwest Florida, connecting communities from north to south and lying mostly dormant.

Two things will happen in our future no matter what we do, and they’re not impossible, Mr. Bigelow says. “We have to conserve fuel by driving less, and we have to begin to reconfigure the way we

grow. We cannot continue to sprawl, because that requires a very inefficient transportation.”

■ ■ ■

THE IMPOSSIBLE: CURING CANCER

John Kanzius went down shooting. Radio waves.

In February of last year, Mr. Kanzius, 64, was finally brought down by complications from his seven-year struggle with leukemia.

But before that, the Sanibel winter resident had famously used his wife’s pie pans, a radio wave machine he built in his garage workshop, a hot dog and his self-education in electrical engineering and radio physics to make an extraordinary last ditch effort: He modeled a technology that might someday cure a variety of cancers without sickening or destroying patients in the process.

Mr. Kanzius (pronounced Kansas) not only created a working model, but he recruited several of the most celebrated researchers and scientists in the United States to carry on what he began.

Now, medical researchers, fundraisers at the non-profit Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation, and a private company, ThermMed LLC, owned by his widow, Marianne Kanzius, have joined forces to move the technology from the simply impossible to the increasingly likely.

“This happens once in a generation,” says Dr. Steven Curley, program director of Multidisciplinary Gastrointestinal Cancer Care at Texas University’s M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. “It was a confluence of force and nature working on this field at the same time.”

Force, nature and brilliance, although Mr. Kanzius himself was too modest to say so. In a 2008 interview with Lesley Stahl for CBS’ “60 Minutes,” he was self-effacing. “Sometimes you just get lucky,” he said.

Another celebrated researcher working on the Kanzius concept, Dr. David Geller, co-director of the University of Pittsburgh Liver Cancer Center, recalls Mr. Kanzius this way: “John was a bit cantankerous, incredibly persistent, and at times would show insightful brilliance. He was completely focused on this.

“The first machine he built we tested in my lab, in 2005 — and the first test was in solutions, metal ion solutions.”

Dr. Curley was so excited, he flew into Pittsburgh on the weekend, just to observe.

At this stage of the research — a stage Mr. Kanzius lived long enough to foresee — it works roughly like this:

Researchers bring together in a liquid solution two elements: antibodies attracted to abnormal proteins on the surface of cancer cells, and solid gold nanoparticles, which attach to the antibodies.

The nanoparticles, of a kind first developed by the late Nobel Prize Laureate Richard Smalley, a Rice University chemistry professor, absorb significant degrees of heat when exposed to radio waves.

In themselves, says Dr. Curley, the antibodies, the nanoparticles or the radio waves have no effect on cancer cells. But when the nanoparticles are delivered to cancer cells and heated to 50 degrees Celsius, the cancer cells die while surrounding tissue remains undamaged. It can happen in seconds.

Why use gold?

“For two reasons,” says Dr. Curley. “Gold is a metal, and metallic nanoparticles release heat in radio-frequency

fields. So do silver, copper, iron and others, but the advantage of gold is that it’s already used in medical practice... A lot is known about using gold, and the FDA has already approved it, along with the ways to deliver it.”

Furthermore, each cancer cell can embrace countless numbers of the gold nanoparticles, delivered as a kind of freight by the antibodies, and so called because they’re based on the nanometer, which is a billionth of a meter.

As luck would have it — both good luck and bad — Professor Smalley contracted leukemia, becoming a patient of Dr. Curley’s and an acquaintance and then friend of Mr. Kanzius.

Before he died of the disease in 2005, the professor had a serious conversation with Dr. Curley about the research.

“He was very passionate,” Dr. Curley recalled last week, speaking from Houston. “He believed the technology had a chance to help mankind. Smalley said, ‘It may be the most important thing you do. You have to promise me that after I die, you will work on this.’ When a Nobel laureate says this to you, it gets your attention.”

How it happened seems almost impossible in itself. But what’s happening now is equally remarkable.

Next month, researchers led by Dr. Curley and Dr. Geller will publish results of the first successful tests targeting human cancer cells growing in mice. That’s a major step in the long road from tests on small animals, to tests on larger animals such as pigs, sheep or dogs, to tests on humans.

In the first quarter of 2011, a Pennsylvania company hired by Mr. Kanzius will complete the manufacture of a machine that can produce the radio waves required for the technology to work in large animals, including humans.

That’s not as easy as it sounds.

“John was a genius at producing these fields (of radio waves),” says Dr. Curley. “A smaller field is easier to make. Once you make a larger field, you get irregularities in the strength and power in it. It’s a little more complicated, but the answer is really money. We’re waiting to get the money together to finish building the prototype.”

And in January or February — dates have not yet been specified — Dr. Curley will visit Southwest Florida and conduct forums to explain to hospital officials, philanthropists and patients how this is going to work, he says.

Mr. Kanzius stipulated before his death that Lee Memorial Health Systems — like a hospital system in Erie, Pa., where he grew up and kept a summer home, and where he hired a company to produce the radio wave machine — should be one of the first hospitals nationwide to conduct human clinical trials.

That could happen at M.D. Anderson as early as the end of 2012, Dr. Curley says. Meanwhile, the Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation, led by Mark Neidig, has raised about \$2.3 million this year, up from \$1 million the year before.

“Once we get this new device, we’ll need new supplies, we’ll begin research by providing grants to a couple of academic institutions, and we’ll just try to ramp up the effort,” Mr. Neidig says.

The machine will be presented formally for testing to the FDA, permission will be won to test the technology on large animals, and researchers will focus primarily on pancreatic and liver cancers, although studies are now underway on breast, colon, lung, leukemia and prostate cancer, he notes.

The first human tests are likely to take place at M.D. Anderson in patients with pancreatic cancer, in part because its mortality rate is so high — more than 96 percent, doctors say.

“This takes so much time — it’s like a marathon or a mountain climb,” Mr.

Neidig notes.

The research is complicated by several complex realities. First, no two cancers produce the same proteins, and thus they don’t attract the same antibodies, Dr. Curley explains.

Not only that, but “cancer cells don’t usually just express one abnormal protein on a receptor. They have several. So even though someone has colon or pancreatic cancer, not every cell will express every abnormal protein. To target every cell, therefore, we have to target more than one protein.”

All this started almost seven years ago, when Mr. Kanzius first contacted Dr. Curley to explain how radio waves could heat metals placed in cells, destroying those cells but not the tissue around them.

He’d tried it on a hot dog.

Understandably, the doctor was skeptical.

“We get calls, letters and e-mails all the time from people who have heard of a supposed cure, and I hate to say it, but a lot of that is driven by charlatans taking advantage of people,” Dr. Curley admits.

“When John called me, I knew he was bright and he knew my work, but I remained skeptical. I told him, ‘If you could build a machine that did the following things, I’d be interested.’ And I never thought I’d hear from him again.”

But that was then and this is now on the long road from impossible to possible.

Dr. Curley and Dr. Geller advise an eager world to remain cautiously optimistic.

“Stay tuned, and understand that there are multiple lines of research that provide hope and treatment for inoperable cancers in the future,” says Dr. Geller. “This is an important approach, and we will keep pursuing it.”

So will the friends and family of John Kanzius, along with researchers nationally and even now internationally, says Dr. Curley.

“I’ve been doing this for 25 years, and I’ve never seen a situation where entire communities and so many varied groups have come together suddenly to move this forward.” ■

in the know

>> Steps in treatment

Here, Dr. Steve Curley describes how the Kanzius concept has worked in new experiments with mice growing human cancer cells. Theoretically, this would work in human trials that might start as early as the end of 2012.

“Step one: We purify the gold nanoparticles — they’re solid gold atoms.

“Step two: We chemically attach an antibody to the gold nanoparticles. That antibody recognizes a protein, which is abnormal on the surface of the cancer cell.

“Step three: We give injections of the mixture, which circulates through the bloodstream of the mouse. The antibodies attach to the human cancer cells and the nanoparticles are taken into the cancer cells.

“Step 4: We wait 12 hours so plenty of nanoparticles can attach.

“Step 5: We do a treatment with radio frequency waves. The nanoparticles, in response to the radio frequency field, absorb heat. You have to have the nanoparticles inside the cells, and they release heat in response to the treatment. We could produce a lot of heat — but not so much that we damage normal cells.

“This is a fortunate thing — cancer cells are more sensitive to heat than normal cells. We want to be very specific in targeting the particles to cancer cells, because we don’t want to cause damage to normal cells.”

Find out more information:

■ Kanzius Cancer Research Foundation: www.kanziuscancerresearch.org.

■ Dr. Steven Curley: www.rfnanocancer.com

■ Dr. David Geller: www.upmc.com/Services/liver-cancer-center/Pages/default.aspx



KANZIUS

UNDERCOVER HISTORIAN

Art is an important part of the heart and history of Naples

BY LOIS BOLIN

Special to Florida Weekly

Since the days of cave paintings some 40,000 years ago, art has captured the imaginations of people from all walks of life. Naples is no exception.

From the early local folk artists such as Rob Storter, whose child-like renderings capture a sweetness and innocence of one who was akin to the land, to the world-renowned, Dale Chihuly, whose art glass hangs all over the world, including the Naples Museum of Art, Naples has always opened her arms to artists.

Like attracts like, so it stands to reason that artists would group together. In doing so, the Naples Art Association was birthed.

An association with Naples art

The NAA began with 30 signatures and three champions of art who led the movement for a nonprofit visual arts organization in 1954: Grace Lake, George Rogers and Elsie Upham (who was the only artist/member to serve as president of the association for more than one term, in 1956-57, 1959-61 and 1963-64).

In the early years, lectures and workshops were held in the historic Naples Depot.

In 1992, the Naples City Council and the NAA entered into a lease agreement for a community art center with an 8,000-square-foot footprint on public land in Cambier Park, originally donated by the Watkins family. After a \$3.5 million campaign, with the help of the state of Florida and a private gift from seasonal residents Suzanne and William von Liebig, the doors were opened to the local community of artists and art aficionados.

While there have been many local artists come and go, there is one "patron saint" to whom most local artists give their allegiance (if they have lived here long enough). She is the doyenne of the Naples art movement, Elsie Upham, whose "throw-away art" captured the imagination and heart of a community.

Throwing art for art's sake

Ms. Upham came from a well-to-do Ohio family whose mother was quite an accomplished artist. As part of her post-college what-do-do search, the young Ms. Upham accompanied her mother (or rather, endured an enrichment excursion) one afternoon to an art opening in Columbus. After she noted a salient point about a particular piece of art, her mother inquired as to whether Ms. Upham might want to become an artist.

She pondered and, thinking it rather romantic, decided that maybe art did speak to her. Her mother was overjoyed that her daughter's life now had direction.

Ms. Upham, a realist painter, had a turning point in the late 1960s when an art professor from the University of Florida, Robert Gelinas, encouraged her to move toward abstracts. The follow-

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."

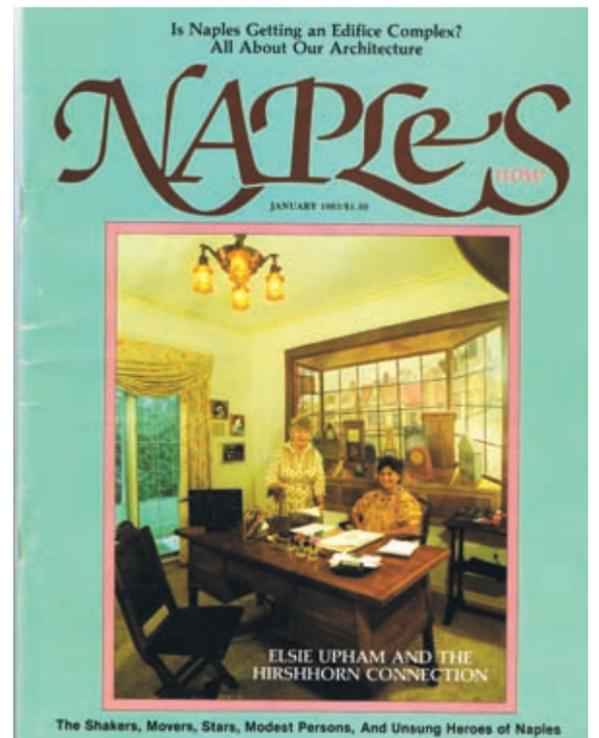
— Pablo Picasso

ing year, Professor Gelinas came again zealously promoting acrylics, so Ms. Upham turned her attention that way (a cumbersome direction, as she duly noted). Overhearing her complaints, the professor said, "If you want to get rid of the paint, just throw it."

And so she did, and so began Ms. Upham's "paint-throwing" gatherings that soon became the talk and toast of the town.

In an article from the January 1983 Naples Magazine, Gwen Carpenter asked Ms. Upham to describe the high point of her career as an artist. After some thought, Ms. Upham replied: "I've always painted for fun, but my highlight was when Joe and Olga Hirshhorn came to town."

Every Easter Sunday, she and six



other artists would display their work and the masses would come for the afternoon (a popular event in the '80s, much like the "Six Artists and a Potter" event that takes place here every May).

One afternoon Mr. Hirshhorn, a no-nonsense businessman, walked in, looked around and asked who had painted a particular piece that was listed as Not for Sale. When Ms. Upham shyly acknowledged it was hers, he asked if she would donate it to his museum, The Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. (Mr. Hirshhorn, a collector of modern art, gifted to the nation nearly 6,000 paintings, sculptures and drawings.)

Today many of Ms. Upham's paintings still hang in Mrs. Hirshhorn's home in her personal library.

Ms. Upham did not find her calling to art as a child, but she did find it later in life and in doing so, helped set the stage for Naples to become listed as one of the "Best Small Art Towns in America" (population under 30,000) by John Villani. ■



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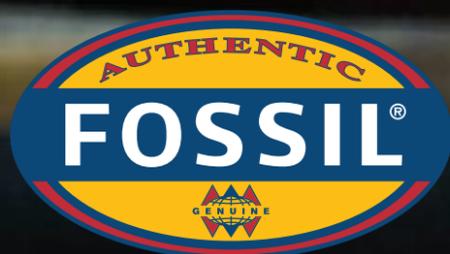
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HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS



BERNADETTE LAPAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

North Naples Rotarians filled gift bags with holiday items for residents and clients of The Shelter for Abused Women & Children. Making a delivery run to the Shelter are, left to right, Rebecca Grabau, Scott Whitcomb, Heather Henning Milner, Nicole Muley and Marcie Sanders.

It's the season for giving to that others can receive

Youth Haven, Collier County's emergency shelter for abused and neglected children, is reaching out for assistance in granting holiday wishes and creating Christmas memories for its children and families. Toys, gift certificates, stockings and non-perishable food items are needed.

Those who want to fulfill a child's specific wishes can request wish lists and shop for the suggested items or make a designated cash or gift card donation and Youth Haven staff will do the shopping.

In addition to the children in the emergency shelter, a special Adopt-A-Family program has been created this year. For more information on how you can bring the meaning of the season to a Youth Haven child or family, call Jamie Gregor at 687-5153 or visit www.youthhaven.net.

At the Army

Early figures show the Salvation Army's signature Red Kettle drive is falling short of its 2010 goal. Red Kettle donations support Christmas Cheer program as well as other programs year 'round. In addition to families in need, The Army delivers gifts and food baskets to shut-ins and to the elderly.

As of last week, the campaign in Collier, Lee, Hendry and Glades counties was \$50,000 behind last year's totals to date. The Collier County branch reported a \$15,000 shortfall year-to-date.

Naples Corps Officer Capt. Pierre Smith is concerned the organization won't be able to help people arriving at their door throughout the winter. "The Salvation Army has always relied on the generosity of local residents to help us do our work, and we are making a special plea at this time for support," he says.

In Lee County, Maj. Tom Loudon says the number of families registered for Christmas assistance is 10 percent ahead of last season's number. Donations, however, are down significantly.

Support from volunteers is also still needed to man Red Kettles throughout Lee and Collier counties. To volunteer in Collier County, call 775-9447; in Lee County, call 278-1551.

At the Shelter

Fulfill a holiday wish for adult and child victims and survivors of family violence by donating new, non-violent and unwrapped gift to the Shelter for

Abused Women & Children. You can help by selecting an angel off one of the more than 50 Angel Trees hosted in Starbucks, Publix and other establishments across Southwest Florida, participating in the Adopt-A-Family program or by dropping off a gift at one of the Shelter's thrift stores.

Here are the main things on the Shelter's wish list for clients: Dolls (all ethnicities); CDs, DVDs and video games (non-violent); books for adults and children; baseballs, basketballs, soccer balls, roller skates/blades, skate boards; portable CD and MP3 players; clothing and shoes in all sizes for adults and children (especially teen boys); purses and wallets; personal care and make-up gift sets; hair brushes, hair dryers and accessories; pajamas and slippers for adults and children; gift cards; phone cards and gasoline cards.

Donations can be delivered to the back warehouse area at Options Thrift Shoppe, 968 Second Ave. N., between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

To organize a holiday collection drive in your office or neighborhood, to Adopt-A-Family or find the nearest Angel Tree, call 775-3862, ext. 235, or e-mail Rgrabau@naplesshelter.org.

And for Immokalee

GATES Construction has teamed up with The Immokalee Foundation to create a special holiday bazaar where students of Immokalee elementary schools can purchase gifts for their parents and siblings using "credits" earned based on behavior and academic performance.

"There is as much joy in giving as in receiving," GATES chairman Todd Gates says, "and that is no different for children."

Gift items suitable for parents, siblings and even pets are being collected. Suggested donations include costume jewelry, kitchen utensils, wallets, small tools and books and toys for children from toddlers to teens.

Because the number of schools that can be involved depends on the volume of gift donations received, GATES encourages everyone to contribute. Items can be dropped off at GATES headquarters, 27599 Riverview Center Blvd., Bonita Springs, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday until Monday, Dec. 13. For more information, call 593-3777. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

This season marks the third year that Patrick Dearborn and his son, Cooper, 7, have manned the Red Kettle outside Publix in the Neapolitan Shopping Center.

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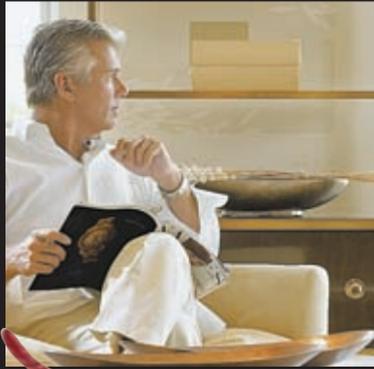
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Construction begins at the Dalton Discovery Center

From the uplands to the ocean, it'll be like 'five field trips in one'

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The juvenile female loggerhead sea turtle that has made a temporary home at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Nature Center since April 1, 2009, clapped her flippers as if to signal her approval as she visited her future "home" during a ceremony to mark the beginning of construction for the new Dalton Discovery Center.

The loggerhead is just one of approximately 100 animal species, including juvenile American alligators and tropical fish, that will inhabit the Dalton Discovery Center.

Made possible by Sue and Bill Dalton's lead gift to the Conservancy's "Saving Southwest Florida" capital campaign, the center will have seven galleries dedicated to Southwest Florida's major ecosystems and will give visitors the opportunity for immersive and technology-rich learning, hands-on animal encounters and ways to take action to protect the region's land, water and wildlife resources.

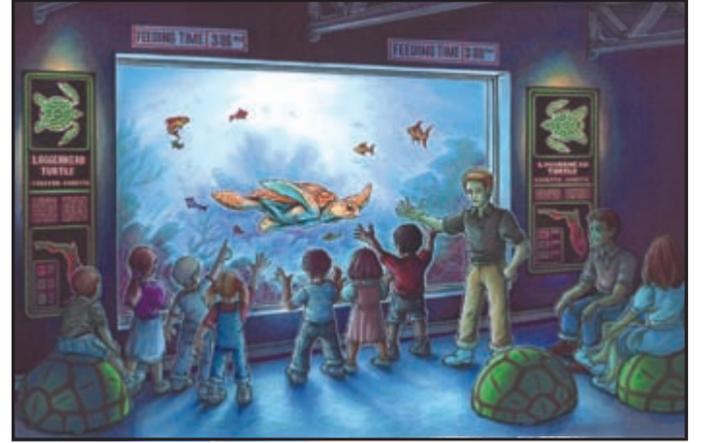
"Florida's seven major ecosystems are all interconnected and rely on clean water in order to survive," says Troy Frensley, the Conservancy's environmental education and Discovery Center manager. "What's unique about the Dalton Discovery Center is that guests will have a chance to explore how all seven of these ecosystems are interconnected and how they work in harmony to support Southwest Florida's wildlife, our wild lands and water quality."

Five field trips in one

The center, he adds, will let visitors journey through Florida's ecosystems without having to take five different field



Renderings of the Everglades Gallery, left and the Ocean Gallery, right



COURTESY ARTWORK



COURTESY PHOTO

This female loggerhead sea turtle resides in a temporary home in the Nature Zone at the Conservancy and will move to a 5,000-gallon ocean aquarium in the Dalton Discovery Center once it opens next year. When the turtle grows to 18 inches, it will be released back into the wild. It now weighs 5.5 pounds and is 10 inches long.

trips to visit uplands, mangroves, beaches, the ocean and the Everglades.

In approximately 5,000 square feet, the Dalton Discovery Center will contain:

- **The Uplands Gallery**, home to live reptiles in the slash pines;
- **The Everglades Gallery**, home to

baby alligators and cypress trees teeming with orchids and bromeliads;

■ **The Mangrove Gallery**, consisting of three large aquariums holding the species that rely on the mangroves for survival, including the secretive diamondback terrapin;

■ **The Sandy Beach Gallery**, complete with a touch tank and educational displays about Southwest Florida's beaches, shorebirds and loggerhead sea turtles, among others;

■ **The Living Ocean Gallery**, with native fish swimming around a patch reef, the juvenile loggerhead sea turtle, turtle feedings and interactive conservation stations.

■ **The "Florida's Future" Theater**, an audio and visual adventure about protecting our environment for future generations.

As guests depart the center, they will be able to do their part at the "call to action" station.

To mark the commencement of the project, the Daltons presented ceremonial

"keys to the future" to Village School art students in recognition of their recent creation of the "under-the-sea" mural that's on display in the Conservancy Nature Zone. The Nature Zone features the "best of" exhibits from the former Discovery Center for visitors to enjoy while the Dalton Discovery Center is under construction.

"This will be one of the premium nature centers not just in Florida, but in the entire southeastern United States," Andrew McElwaine, Conservancy resident and CEO, says about the Dalton Discovery Center.

Other major donors helping to fund the new center include The Andrew Foundation, John and Donna Hall, Jenny and Kermit Sutton, Bob and Connie Heidrick, Barbara and Larry Wilson, Sam Schwartz and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Volunteer Connection. ■

— *Completion of the Dalton Discovery Center is estimated for 2011. For more information, visit www.conservancy.org.*

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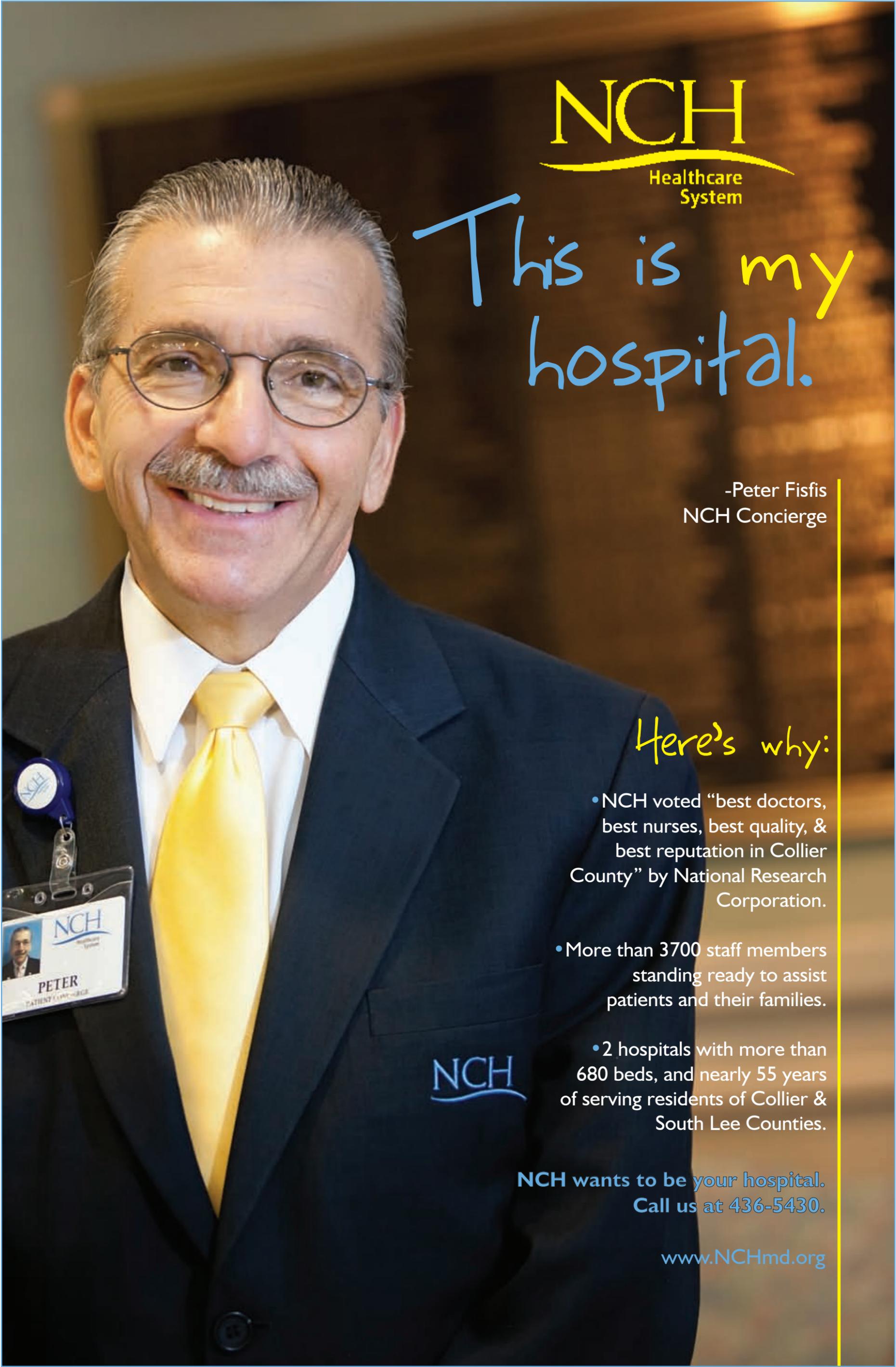
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Rookery Bay offers alternatives for the gift-giving season

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Many of us live or winter in Southwest Florida because of the amazing ecosystem in this area. From the Gulf of Mexico to the Everglades, we enjoy what swims beneath the waters, lives on the land and flies overhead.

Friends of Rookery Bay has holiday gifts that celebrate our environment and that your friends and family will treasure forever. Here are but a few creative, eco-minded suggestions:

■ Experience the Rookery Bay waters firsthand during a two-hour guided kayak tour, including the fun of navigating through mangrove tunnels. Paddlers must be 12 or older, and all equipment is provided. Trips leave from Shell Island Road, between U.S. 41 and Marco Island.

Purchase a gift certificate for a kayak trip by calling 417-6310 or visiting the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road in Naples.

■ If you want to be on the water but want someone else to drive the boat, get tickets for the sunset birding cruise aboard the 90-foot, air-conditioned Marco Island Princess. A professional John James Audubon interpreter along with a Rookery Bay Reserve guide will point out sites along the route that Mr. Audubon saw during his time here in the 1800s.

What a great opportunity

for the birding enthusiast on your holiday shopping list. The cruise takes place from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, and includes a buffet of carved turkey breast, pasta, sausage with peppers and onions, and a variety of fruit and cheese. Tickets are \$55 for adults and \$27.50 for children ages 5-11. Call Rookery Bay at 417-6310 or the Marco Island Princess at 642-5415.

■ You can also “meet” Mr. Audubon during the Southwest Florida Nature Festival’s keynote address from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14. Professional storyteller and author Brian “Fox” Ellis, in the persona of Mr. Audubon, will enchant listeners with stories of his travels and travails in the wildest places on the planet. Mr. Ellis draws his monologues from Mr. Audubon’s journals, essays and let-

A fish tray by potter Jim Rice



COURTESY PHOTOS



Several images from Kathy Spalding’s “Rookery Bay Continuum,” including this one of roseate spoonbills, are available as a frameable print or in packets of notecards.

ters to his friends and colleagues.

The program was developed with a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Mr. Ellis has performed as Mr. Audubon

in museums, nature centers, schools and libraries across the United States. On view will be museum-quality Audubon prints from the speaker’s private collection. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased

by calling 417-6310.

■ The Rookery Bay gift shop is filled with nature-themed items that can be tucked under the tree and stuffed into stockings. Fishermen and hikers will appreci-

ate the illustrated “Rookery Bay Field Guide.” Women will love handcrafted sterling silver jewelry in the shape of sea shells, turtles, palm trees and sea stars, and wooden bead necklaces and bracelets. Work from local artists, including Jim Rice’s colorfully painted clay pieces and Nora Butler’s bright holiday cards, is a nice way to support artisans who are inspired by nature. The gift shop also has many children’s books, plush animals and, of course, rubber snakes.

■ Decorate your walls with a limited-edition print of the Rookery Bay ecosystem by local artist Kathy Spalding. There are more than 35 individual views available from a continuum depicting roseate spoonbills, tarpon, sea turtles, manatees and other local species. View the entire continuum at www.kspalding.com/portfolio_continuum.php and visit Rookery Bay to purchase a print. The continuum images are also available as note cards, which make a wonderful hostess gift.

■ Finally, membership in the Friends of Rookery Bay is a gift that will continue to give all year. Members receive unlimited free admission to the Environmental Learning Center aquariums, interactive exhibits, art gallery and nature trail; free admission to the Lunch & Learn Lecture Series sponsored by Carrabba’s and Costco; discounts on guided kayak tours, gift shop purchases and other programs; and other perks. Membership for a family of four is \$50. ■

— The Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 417-6310 or visit www.rookerybay.org.

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Collier teachers learn they are educators of distinction

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

In surprise classroom visits earlier this week, 30 Collier County learned that they are 2010-11 Teachers of Distinction in the Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program. As such, they will continue in the Golden Apple selection process and will all be honored at the 21st annual Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program in the spring.



In January and February, all Teachers of Distinction will be observed in the classroom and also interviewed by the Golden Apple selection committee. Six of them will then be chosen as Golden Apple teachers.

The awards will be presented and each recipient will deliver a speech at a celebration sponsored by the Suncoast for Kids Foundation at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts on May 3.

Suncoast for Kids Foundation is sponsored entirely by the Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union, and 100 percent of funds are contributed to organizations and initiatives that assist children in the communities Suncoast Schools FCU serves.

"Since its inception, Suncoast for Kids has supported educators who help foster an enriching atmosphere in the classroom. It is important that we recognize their commitment to excellence through programs such as the Golden Apple awards," Greg Pasanen, regional vice president for Suncoast Schools FCU, says.

Stock Development will host a private reception for the Teachers of Distinction on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the Club at Olde Cypress. The teachers also be recognized at the annual McDonald's breakfast in March and will receive gifts from the community throughout the Golden Apple process.

Each of the Teachers of Distinction received a \$200 cash prize in recognition of the honor, which was provided through the Mary Ingram Fund of the Columbus Foundation. ■

— *The Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program is an effort of the Education Foundation of Collier County. Founded in 1990, the foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that engages the Collier County community and its public schools in pursuit of a quality education for every child. For more information, visit www.EducationForCollier.org.*

in the know

The 2010-11 Teachers of Distinction are:

- Michelle Barreiro, Corkscrew Elementary
- Wylie Bertuna, North Naples Middle School
- Sean Brosig, North Naples Middle School
- Lisa Carraher, Pine Ridge Middle
- David Wayne Cerretani, Osceola Elementary School
- Timothy Chestnut, Barron Collier High
- Patricia Ann Della Posta, Palmetto Ridge High School
- Kathleen Deye, Gulfview Middle School
- Jason Leon Eleazer, Lake Park Elementary
- Susan Ellard, Gulf Coast High School
- Maria Ferro, Parkside Elementary School
- Lisa Garby, Manatee Middle School
- Catherine Neal Griffin, Calusa Park Elementary
- Stacie Hall, Shadowlawn Elementary
- Lisa Hanba, Golden Gate Middle
- Jaime Luis Hernandez, Immokalee Technical Center
- Holly Kennedy, Palmetto Elementary
- Marsha Layne, Gulf Coast High School
- Jackie Lippold, Calusa Park Elementary
- Bridget Mann, Corkscrew Middle School
- Katy Rogers, Calusa Park Elementary
- John Thomas, Rosbottom Golden Gate Middle
- Cindy Sans, Pinecrest Elementary
- Kera Schwartz, Golden Gate Middle
- Christine Sobczak, Laurel Oak Elementary School
- Kimberly Sweat, New Beginnings-Naples
- Nicholas Sweat, Detention Center
- Kerrie Anne Thomas, Palmetto Ridge High School
- Heather Van Osten, Calusa Park Elementary
- Kathleen Weitzel, Naples Park Elementary ■

Cream of the high school senior crop will play in All-Star Football Classic

For one night only, it's a chance to see the best Collier County high school senior football players showcase their talents on one field.



The Rotary Club of Naples North presents the third annual All-Star Football Classic, kicking off at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at Golden Gate High School. The game serves as a fundraiser to provide scholarships for Collier County graduating seniors attending Edison State College and Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology.

This year's title sponsor is TIB Bank. The Rotary Club of Naples North is organizing the game with the cooperation of the athletic departments and coaches at Barron Collier, Community School of Naples, First Baptist, Gulf Coast, Golden Gate, Immokalee, Lely, Naples, Palmetto

Ridge and St. John Neumann high schools.

The North All-Star Squad will be comprised of players from Barron Collier, Gulf Coast, Palmetto Ridge, First Baptist and Immokalee. The South All-Star Squad will be comprised of players from Naples, Golden Gate, Community School of Naples, St. John Neumann and Lely. The coaches will select the players from each high school for the all-senior team.

Only seniors can play in this post-season game due to athletic eligibility rules. Senior cheerleaders will also participate.

Student pre-sale tickets for \$3 are available at all participating schools. General admission and at-the-gate tickets will be \$6.

Advanced general admission tickets can be purchased at any TIB Bank in Naples and at all participating schools. ■



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1. Cathy Christopher with Pat and Brenda O'Connor
2. David Sleeper with his pal Max
3. Kaiden Ellsworth
4. Mayor Bill Barnett and Nancy Kerns
5. Ann Depiro, Judy Neilsen and Tony Depiro
6. Rachel Lindsch



Cruising into Mercato for a holiday car show



* PHOTOS BY JASON EASTERLY / ALL OTHERS BY MARLA OTTENSTEIN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

- *1. David Rici gets a closer look at a Ferrari 458 Italia
- *2. Bruce Klassen polishes his 1986 Porsche 944 while Darren Vegas watches
3. Ruth Stepp and Len Manceli
4. Les Langeland and Natalie Salka
5. Jerry Epstein, Domenick D'Alterio, Bill Nagy, Vito Mitato and Ben Amato

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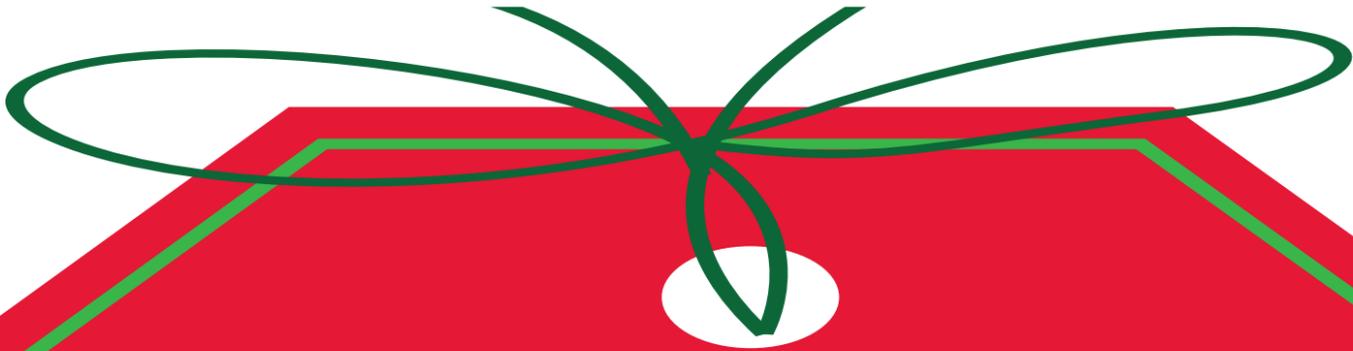


The Naples Carolers include Eddie Bernnan, Jessica Agler, Anne Leonardi and Sally Altj

Santa Claus doled out advice on being good.

Entertainment by Craig and Claudia was part of the fun.

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Mark D. Generales

is a former manager and Wall Street Department Head since 1978. During his career, he has been the keynote speaker at over 1,000 financial planning workshops across the USA. Today he focuses his experience and expertise on assisting investors in the SWFL communities from Naples to Ft. Myers. Mr. Generales is a Sr. V.P. of Investments with Southern Trust Financial.



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Community College Baccalaureate Association solicits essays

The Community College Baccalaureate Association's eighth annual student essay contest is under way. The nationwide contest is being managed by Naples-based E. Sue Huff and Associates Inc.

The essay topic for 2011 is "Why obtaining a four-year degree on my community college campus would be (or is) important to me." Entrants should explore the issues of baccalaureate degrees on community college campuses.

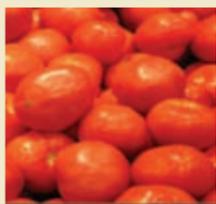
Baccalaureate degrees are offered on community college campuses throughout the United States and Canada through University Centers, 2+2 programs and Distance Learning. Community colleges in 14 states and three Canadian provinces currently confer the degrees. The CCBA is conducting the contest to determine what students think about community colleges offering baccalaureate (four-year) degrees. Any student currently enrolled in a community college is eligible, and there is no limit to the

number of students per school that can enter.

The winner of the essay contest will receive \$1,500 and an all expense paid trip to the 11th annual Community College Baccalaureate Association Conference in San Diego, Calif., Feb. 25-27. The winners' college will also receive a \$500 award in honor of the winning student.

Complete contest rules can be found at www.accbd.org. Contest entries must be postmarked by Jan. 15 and mailed to Beth Hagan, Community College Baccalaureate Association, P.O. Box 60210, Fort Myers, FL 33906, or e-mailed by midnight Jan. 15 to EssayContest@accbd.org. The winner will be notified no later than Jan. 21.

CCBA strives to promote better access to the baccalaureate degree on community college campuses and to serve as a resource for information on various models for accomplishing this purpose. For more information, go online to www.accbd.org or call 596-7990. ■



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PETS

From page 1

we'll take any animal that comes our way," says Sharon Townsend, director of Collier County DAS. "We also have a job

to protect the public. So I'll never apologize for euthanizing an overly aggressive animal. Nonetheless, do our annual statistics reflect we are sometimes euthanizing healthy, treatable animals? Yes. And we implement systematically every program that increases live release rate and reduces euthanasia."

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals estimates about half the animals that enter shelters nationwide are euthanized.

Animal control experts primarily blame the high death rates on pet owners who don't have their animals sterilized.

"I would love it if we never had to euthanize another dog or cat in the state of Florida," says William Kern, an urban pest management specialist with the University of Florida IFAS Extension and associate professor at the Fort Lauderdale Research & Education Center. "But the problem is we have too many (animals), and people are irresponsible about keeping their pets from breeding."

Far more animals are born than are adopted. And in Southwest Florida, a seeming eternal springtime exacerbates thriving, problematic feral cat communities and wonton dog mating. It seems the ultimate fix for animal overpopula-

tion is fairly simple — generally, getting all pets fixed — but not easy.

"If you deal only in the world of theory, pet overpopulation isn't unsolvable at all," Ms. Townsend says. "If only you could sterilize enough animals to make it happen."

Shelters across Southwest Florida offer low-cost incentives to owners for sterilizing their pets. County shelters are also obliged by state statute to sterilize all animals they take in.

It shouldn't be so difficult

Sharon Thomas of Charlotte County's Animal Welfare League outlines four simple steps to ending animal overpopulation: affordable and accessible sterilization programs for the public, shelters that sterilize before adoptions are allowed, a trap-neuter-return program for feral cats, and more generally, responsible pet ownership.

"I think if you have those four things in place and everybody working toward that same goal, eventually you'll reverse (animal overpopulation)," she says. "I really believe that."

Ms. Townsend of Collier County DAS recommends an aggressive education campaign beginning in grade school to highlight the importance of sterilizing pets. That's the best way to "reverse national consciousness," she says. Until then, she adds, euthanizing animals will likely continue to be an unpleasant fact.

Although pet owners who are unwilling or can't find a way to spay or neuter their cat or dog are definitely a big part of the problem, the surgical procedure itself is inherently "difficult, dangerous and expensive," Ms. Townsend adds. "It can only be performed by a licensed veterinarian, and the animal must go under anesthesia."

One solution is non-surgical or chemical sterilization, but that's not happening yet in Southwest Florida and isn't widespread on a national level, either.

And Found Animals Foundation Inc., a Los Angeles-based nonprofit dedicated to reducing euthanasia rates in animal shelters, has a \$75 million awards and grants program for developing non-surgical sterilization methods.

Trap-neuter-return

Trap-neuter-return programs aimed at feral cats are in place in some South-

west Florida communities. After being sterilized, the wild animals are returned and released where they were found. Such efforts have drawn criticism from those who say the animals continue to cause damage.

Charlotte County tried the program briefly and ended it due to complaints from residents who didn't want the cats returned. Ms. Thomas of the AWL says the program could be a benefit to the community.

"I believe in trap-neuter-return. I think that program works," she says, because ultimately feral populations will dwindle. But, she adds, it takes a few years to see that difference.

Ria Brown of Lee County DAS feels the same. Lee County started a T-N-R program last year.

"It's been kind of a hotly contested issue," Ms. Brown says. "Here's the thing: You're not going to get rid of cats by (euthanizing) them. It wasn't getting better, only worse. If you're sterilizing them, they're not going to reproduce."

In Collier County, people who want feral cats trapped, neutered and returned are referred by DAS to a private non-profit that provides that service. The county doesn't offer it because of the possible public backlash.

Euthanasia as a necessity

Urban pest control specialist Dr. Kern argues euthanasia is the best method for dealing with feral cats; otherwise, he says, they will lead what is notoriously a hard, unpleasant life and continue to be pests.

"They're hunting animals that don't belong in North America or the environment," he says. "(T-N-R) is bad science, bad wildlife management, bad animal management, because of the destructiveness of cats even after they've been sterilized and vaccinated. They're still subject to injury, subject to killing native wildlife — it's not a good solution. It is an emotionally biased idea."

Ultimately, he says, the solution to animal overpopulation rests with pet owners.

"If everyone properly took care of their pets and only bred animals they intended to breed, we could easily have the excess pet population under control in 10 to 20 years, because that's one generation for dogs and cats." ■

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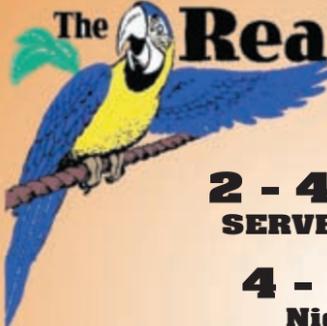
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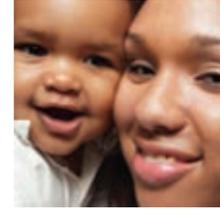
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■ **6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15:** "Living with Knee Pain? Discover Robotic Arm Knee Surgery, Only at Physicians Regional," by Dr. Frederick Buechel Jr.;

■ **6-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16:** "Newest Advances in Shoulder Surgery," by Dr. Steven Goldberg.

The hospital is at 6101 Pine Ridge Road. Seating is limited. Call 348-4180 to RSVP. Visit www.physiciansregional.com for more information. ■

Parkinson group offers drug review

The Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida offers a free service in which NCH pharmacists will review Parkinson patients' medications and answer questions from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, at PASFI headquarters in Hibiscus Center, 2950 Tamiami Trail N. Sheila Markham and other NCH pharmacists will assess over-the-counter as well as prescription medications and will be available to speak individually with Parkinson patients about their medications.

PASFI provides free services and support to more than 1,000 families in Southwest Florida. The organization's mission is to promote the quality of life for persons with Parkinson disease and their care partners. For information or to register for the drug assessment and review, call Linda Stewart at 417-3465 or visit www.pasfi.org. ■

Healthy lifestyle tips

just in time for the holidays

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Along with shopping and holiday cards come treats and parties this time of year. For many people, holiday weight gain and unrealistic New Year's resolutions cause frustration and mid-February burn out. This year, tweak your lifestyle today to start on a path of healthy eating and exercise to ensure long-term success.

Elizabeth McCormick, registered dietitian with Lee Memorial Health System, offers tips to help you set goals and make it through the holidays and beyond the New Year.

"First, it is important to set realistic, measureable goals so you know what you are accomplishing," Ms. McCormick explains. "For example, say to yourself, 'I want to eat three daily servings of vegetables at least five times a week' or 'I want to pack my lunch at least three times a week' and make sure you track your progress."

Organize your kitchen to reflect your healthy lifestyle. Keep a bowl of fresh fruit on the counter for a quick snack. Stock up on vegetables, whole wheat pasta, brown rice and lean protein. Plan your meals for the week so you take the guesswork out of breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.

Success comes with consistency, Ms. McCormick says. "For successful weight loss, or to maintain your weight, it is important to eat small, frequent meals on a daily basis and try to eat the same amount of calories every day," she says.

Consistent exercise also is important, but do not do the same workout all the time.

"Constantly switch up your exercise routine to challenge your body. Vary your routine and intensity to burn more calories and prevent a plateau."

Motivate yourself and celebrate your success with rewards, but not food-related rewards. Hold off on getting a pedicure, a massage or a new shirt until you have completed a month of healthy eating and consistent exercise. Continue to set goals for yourself and reward yourself for your hard work and dedication.

To stay on track through the holidays, Ms. McCormick suggests the following:

■ Plan ahead for special occasions. Eat your normal, healthy meals throughout the day and have a small snack prior to the event. This will help prevent ravenous hunger, which usually leads to poor food choices and overconsumption.

■ Learn how to say, "No, thank you" to people's food gifts.

■ Only eat what you feel is worth the calories. Take a small portion, eat it slowly, savor the taste and move on. You will look at it as a positive experience, and worth every bite.

■ Increase your exercise. Remember the cardinal rule of weight management: burn more calories than you consume.

Weight management, and even weight loss, is possible through the holidays. Just remember that the holidays come once a year, but your health is a long-term commitment. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

STRAIGHT TALK

The scoop about 'Straight Talk' is there's never a shortage

allenWEISS

allen.weiss@nchmd.org

This weekly column began as a means of keeping the NCH family informed about issues and successes and items of mutual concern. I initially worried that there would not be enough interesting news or opinions to share. Was I ever wrong! Four years later, I have so many associates sending e-mails, engaging me in stimulating conversations and telling me interesting stories that there's never enough space in this commentary to fit it all in.

This week I offer three stories that recently were shared with me. Each is about supporting our surgical patients.

Joe De Bellis is the creative and inspirational leader of our Transportation Department, which completed more than 143,000 trips within both

hospitals last year.

Traditionally, the primary role of transporters was to push patients around the hospital, a challenging task given the condition of many patients and the equipment their condition mandates. Mr. De Bellis and his associates have augmented the department's role to include stocking nursing unit pantries during downtime. Transporters also replenish linens and are involved with receiving and distributing many other hospital supplies.

And that's not all. Among Mr. De Bellis' proudest accomplishments has been training some transporters to perform EKGs (cardiograms). This was done in collaboration with Maria Bravo of Cardio-Diagnostics. All NCH transporters are also CPR-certified. That's a great story of going above-and-beyond.

Equally formidable is our Perioperative Team of more than 175 members who care for our almost 12,000 surgi-

cal patients every year. John Rogers' downtown teams are led by R.N.s Pam Alexander (open heart), Susan Brown (general and vascular), Vanessa Ebrite (neurosurgery), Dawn Hutchison-Finucan (urology and da Vinci robot) and Gary Kriger (orthopedics). The North Naples team leader is R.N. Deborah Ellis. She and her team are about to receive recognition at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in Orlando, where they will share their story of dramatic improvement for turnaround time between cases and prompt first-case start time.

Both campuses have da Vinci robots, which utilize minimal incisions to expedite recovery from hysterectomies, prostatectomies and other operations.

Finally, there is our Community Blood Center, which ensures rapid transfusions when need is critical. Aply led for 25 years by Sheila Phillips, this donor center is a resource for the whole community, including NCH

and Physicians Regional centers. Blood donated in Collier County stays here; we do not buy blood. And although our community is a generous one, we can always use more donors.

The Community Blood Center completed a major conversion this year to an electronic and almost paperless system with internationally recognized bar code symbols. Two weeks after conversion, we had a surprise visit from the American Association of Blood Banks, which awarded us three commendations for "exceptional and novel" achievement.

So there you have it: Three surgical support groups, working together to help all of us serve the community's health care needs.

Please keep those cards, letters, e-mails and conversations coming in to "Straight Talk." ■

— Dr. Allen Weiss is president and CEO of the NCH Healthcare System.

Mental Health Association welcomes 'Arthur' author/illustrator Marc Brown

Bullying can have tragic consequences for individuals, families, schools and entire communities. It can even lead to suicide of the victim. The feelings experienced by victims of bullying are painful and lasting. Bullies, if not stopped, can progress to more serious, antisocial behavior. The Journal of the American Medical Association recently reported that one-third of U.S. students experience bullying, either as a target or a perpetrator.

To address the seriousness of bullying and its consequences, the Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida presents Marc Brown, creator of the children's books featuring Arthur the aardvark, as guest speaker for the association's 53rd annual meeting coming up in Naples from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Naples Grande.

When his first son, Tolon, was born, Mr. Brown started telling him stories. One night the story was about an aardvark who disliked his nose. The aardvark was named Arthur, and that story became "Arthur's Nose." Now, 35 years later, the lovable aardvark is the star of a series of best-selling books.

"They relate to Arthur because he makes mistakes, and he's not afraid to ask difficult questions," the author/illustrator says about his young fans. "He's sort of an average kid. He has the same kinds of problems that most kids have and he's dealing with the same issues they're dealing with in their lives."

The "Arthur" TV audience is older than Mr. Brown's typical demographic, he says. "Kids watch the show who are sort of older, beyond 8, 9 or 10. I think it's because the stories deal with issues like bullies, and kids are still dealing with bullies in junior high school and high school."

Trained at the Cleveland Art Institute, Mr. Brown has create more than 100 picture books for children on topics such as how to be a friend, the importance of accepting each other's differences and divorce issues.

Admission to the Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida annual meeting is \$50 per person. Although registration has officially closed, some seats might be available. Call 261-5405 for details.

The association is a non-governmental, voluntary citizen organization whose primary goals are to promote healthy emotional and mental development and to advocate for mental wellness through education, prevention and support. Since 1957, MHASWFL has worked to achieve its mission through broad-based community programs and has connected many in need of mental health services to mental health care providers.

Among the association's regular programs are the following weekly support groups that meet at association headquarters, 2335 Ninth St. N., Suite 404, in Naples:

- Veterans Support Group: 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays

- Depression Support Group: 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays

- Here for Life Support Group (gay/lesbian/transgender): 6-7 p.m. Tuesdays

For more information, call the above number or visit www.mhaswfl.org. ■



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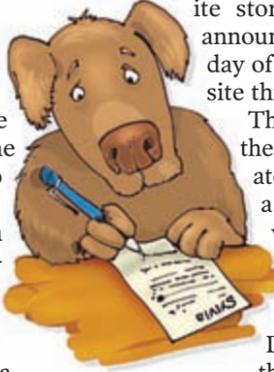
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The Naples Players wants your shaggy dog story

The dog ate your homework? A dog changed your life? The Naples Players wants to know.

In conjunction with its winter production of "Sylvia," a comedy about a stray dog and the trouble she causes the middle-age couple who adopt her, The Naples Players is sponsoring a shaggy dog essay contest. The winner will receive two tickets to the play and pre-show dinner for two at Vergina.

Essays of no more than 500 words will be accepted through Dec. 15 via e-mail at www.naplesplayers.org. The top five will be posted to The Naples Players' website and Facebook



site Dec. 20, and online visitors will have until Jan. 10 to vote for their favorite story. The winning essay will be announced Wednesday, Jan. 12, opening day of "Sylvia," and will be on the website through the show's Feb. 5 closing.

The A.R. Gurney play delves into the drama and romantic triangle created when a husband brings home a stray dog, played by a young woman. Hailed as "critic-proof" by *The New York Times* shortly after its 1995 stage debut starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Blythe Danner and Charles Kimbrough, the play appeals to "anyone who has ever owned a dog, loved a dog, wanted to wring a dog's neck or wished the dog would take a long weekend."

For more information, call 263-7990 or visit naplesplayers.org. ■

Make holiday memories with your pet



DENNIS GUYITT / COURTESY PHOTO

Mrs. Claus and a favorite golden retriever from GRR-SWF

Forget trying to get the kids to pose for that holiday card shot. Take your beloved pet, who always does what you say, for a photo sitting that will also mean something good to a rescue organization. Two Naples locations will welcome you and your canine:

For Footed Friends will host portraits with Mrs. Claus to benefit Golden Retriever Rescue of Southwest Florida from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11. Canines and their families are urged to come dressed in their holiday attire and sit for a photo by GRRSWF's Dennis Guyitt, owner of Dennis Guyitt Professional Photography in Bonita Springs. For a \$5 donation, participants will receive a 4-by-6-inch photograph. Each child and canine will receive a special gift from Santa.

GRRSWF is an all-volunteer, 501(c)

(3), nonprofit rescue organization aiding in rescuing, fostering and adopting homeless or displaced Golden Retrievers throughout Southwest Florida. All donations go to the care of rescued golden retrievers. For more information, visit www.grrswf.org.

For Footed Friends is at 13020 Livingston Road; 431-7661.

PetSmart at Pine Ridge and Airport-Pulling roads will take photos of felines and canines with Santa from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11-12 and 18-19. A donation of \$10.95 will benefit Volunteer Services for Animals.

Since 1982, VSA volunteers have provided rescue, foster and discount spay/neuter services to help homeless cats in Collier County. For more information, call 261-4768 or visit www.volunteerservicesforanimals.com. ■

Learn about Animal Assisted Therapy from Brody Project representatives

Do you and your dog or cat have what it takes to be an Animal Assisted Therapy team? Find out more about it from representatives from The Brody Project for Animal Assisted Therapy from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at For Footed Friends in the Marquessa Plaza, 13020 Livingston Road.

The Brody Project is the only formal program to offer AAT in Southwest Florida. Animals and their handlers have all received Delta Society training in providing AAT.

The Brody Project's mission is to promote an understanding of the human-animal bond and its benefits in enhancing human health. Members host workshops featuring local, national and international speakers specializing in the field of the human-animal bond.

Pets are welcome to come with their owners to For Footed Friends for the presentation. For more information, call the pet store at 431-7661 or visit www.TheBrodyProject.org. ■



- ✓ Pick up family at airport
- Order pastry & cheesecake
- ✓ Help save a child's life
- ✓ Get tablecloth at dry cleaners
- Send holiday cards

With all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, we hope you'll make helping to save a child's life part of your plans. The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida depends on philanthropy to provide excellence in care and treatment for the children of our community.

PET TALES

Adopt a holiday pet

Seasonal warnings shouldn't stop a thoughtful addition

BY DR. MARTY BECKER

Universal Uclick

You know the usual warnings: "Don't give pets as gifts"; "The holidays are the worst time to get a new pet"; "Pets are for life, not just for Christmas"; "The only good pet to give as a gift is a stuffed animal."

Lately, though, I've found myself swimming against that tide — a little. When it comes to giving pets as gifts, it's not always a good idea, but it's also not always a bad idea. If you add just one word to the word "gift," it pretty much fixes the problem. That word is "thoughtful." And getting a pet should always be done thoughtfully, whether the pet is a gift or not.

First and foremost, being thoughtful means never buying a puppy or kitten from a pet store or Internet site that ships with no questions asked. You don't want to support puppy mills, after all.

With that out of the way, what about the other common cautions? Sure, the holidays can be a busy time, with lots of activities, travel and guests. But parents often have time off from work during the holidays, and the children aren't in school. The greater flexibility of a holiday schedule can make both pets' and people's adjustments easier, not harder.

Then there's the idea that other gifts will be so much more exciting to children that they'll be distracted from a new pet.



Shelter pets need homes year-round, so if everything else is planned for, don't let the holiday stop you from adopting.

I'm a parent and a grandparent, and I'll tell you one thing about children: They're expert multitaskers. And they don't suddenly become less so on Jan. 2.

Puppies and kittens are just like little kids, and they get into things. But that's not true just at the holidays. If they aren't getting into your Christmas decorations, they'll be getting into your laundry basket. Part of acquiring a new pet is making sure that the environment is safe for him, and that the treasured family heirloom you inherited from your great-grandmother is

locked away until the new furry family member learns the ropes. And that principle applies year-round, not just between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

If the family is prepared for the new addition, then all will be well. If not, it won't — but that's true whether you get the pet for yourself or for your spouse. And if the parents have unrealistic expectations about how much of the pet's care will be handled by the kids, does that change if the pet isn't given as a gift? Of course not.

It can be hard to adopt a shelter pet, since many shelters have traditionally discouraged holiday-season adoptions. That's a trend that's changing, in part thanks to pet food maker Iams' noteworthy "Home for the Holidays" pet adoption campaign. Shelter pets would love nothing more than to move from the cage or run at the shelter to the couch at your home. Why make them wait?

So while springing an unwanted and unexpected pet on someone as a gift is always a bad idea, and buying from a pet store or click-and-ship puppy website is never a good idea, the careful and well-planned gift of an appropriate pet can be just what this veterinarian ordered for making your family happier and healthier, now and at any time of the year.

It's a great thing to have strong ideas about how pets should be cared for — I know I do. But let's not let those ideas get so set in stone that we don't question and qualify them from time to time. The "Healing Power of Pets" is a prescription I'm comfortable giving 365 days a year, and what better gift could there be than the love and companionship of a pet?

If you're ready, don't wait until the New Year. Ready, set ... adopt! ■

Pets of the Week



>> **Jemima** is a 2-year-old tabby who's gentle and quiet. She gets along with other cats very well, too. Her adoption fee is \$55.



>> **Taffy** is a gorgeous calico who's about a year old. She's shy at first, but comes around after greetings. Her adoption fee is \$55.



>> **Brooklyn** is a Catahoula leopard-hound mix who's almost 2 years old. She's beautiful, smart and strong. Her adoption fee is \$75.



>> **Bella Aaden** is a purebred Labrador retriever who's a year old. She is quick-witted and very quick physically. She loves people and other pets. Her adoption fee is \$250.

To adopt a pet

All dogs and cats adopted from Humane Society Naples come with a medical exam, vaccinations, sterilization surgery, ID microchip and 30 days of health insurance. Visit the fine pets ready for adoption at 370 Airport-Pulling Road North from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Call 643-1555 for adoption information or log onto HSNaples.org.

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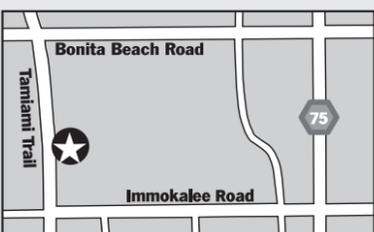
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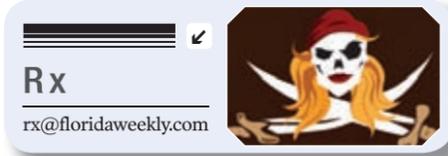
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MUSINGS

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*"Let's start at the very beginning
A very good place to start
When you read you begin with A-B-C
When you sing you begin with do-re-mi...
The first three notes just happen to be
Do-re-mi..."*

"Let's see if I can make it easy..."
— Rogers & Hammerstein,
*Sound of Music, "Maria and the
Children: Do, Re, Mi, 1959"*

*"Deeper and deeper and deeper and deep-
er; sweeter and sweeter and sweeter and
sweeter..."*

*"When you know the notes to sing, you can
sing most anything."*
— Madonna, *Erotica,
"Deeper and Deeper, 1992"*

Strictly speaking, the use of allusion is quite compelling. It takes us down customary, expectable paths of associations, culturally embedded. We begin in the world matrix of language and meaning, the ground onto which we are thrown at our very beginning. And then the proper and seemly paths prescribed by fashion and etiquette potentially burst into possibilities untoward. Opportunistic webs emerge. Vortex is created. Deeper and deeper; sweeter and sweeter: We move from wide-

eyed child to creator of wonderment.

In *Erotica*, her fifth studio album created in 1992, Madonna's song "Deeper and Deeper" uses words from *The Sound of Music*. Like the echoes of the Austrian mountains, Madonna echoes Maria's words: "When you know the notes to sing, you can sing most anything." But it seems that there the Madonna parts company with her virgin Maria foil. Madonna's album is seen as no longer acceptable, as suggestive, crass, vulgar and raunchy. The album merited a parental advisory warning. Virgin words tumble out of the mouth of a traumatized whore. The 5-year-old child Madonna had seen the mouth of her own dead mother, peaceful and grotesque, sewn shut in her casket. Perhaps the unsilenced Madonna had been calling Maria forth to mother herself even as Maria mothered the Austrian orphans. After all, the father of these orphans had also banished frivolity after their mother's death. Maria would cure all that in her teaching the building blocks of the major scale to the Von Trapp children: "Now children, do-re-mi-fa-so and so on are only the tools we use to build a song."

"Once you have these notes in your heads, you can sing a million different tunes by mixing them up."

Madonna's favorite music was the Baroque. She loved Mozart. Mozart was born in Maria's country, Austria. He came from Salzburg, the Salt Castle named for the barges that brought salt via water to this city. There, Mozart emerged into the 18th century CE. At the same young age at which Madonna experienced her moth-

er's death, Mozart was already a musical prodigy.

In the last year of his life, 1791, Mozart wrote his last opera, "The Magic Flute." Mozart's friend and fellow Freemason, Emanuel Schikaneder, wrote the libretto, managed the stage and played the role of Papageno. Many critics see the libretto as disjointed. Goethe referred to it as inane, but wanted to continue writing the libretto.

The opera, which opens in the Egyptian temple of Isis, is an amazing blend of the sacred and the profane. In this opera Mozart presents a web of Freemason ritual, political commentary and absurd comedy in music of indescribable breadth and beauty.

The character of Papageno, a bird catcher dressed entirely in feathers, is comedic foil. His mouth is padlocked when he lies about being a hero, a snake monster killer. But later he is given bells to play, which bring people to laugh and dance. When he feels he will not be able to find his love, Papageno, he contemplates suicide. But she arrives, also feather-dressed. Seeing each other, they are so stunned that they stutter their song to each other: "Pa pa papa papa..."

In "The Magic Flute" there is victory of love's union in both the realms of sacred and profane. There are sounds and grounds for every playful wonderment. We go deeper and sweeter with Madonna. We sing with Maria, beyond being orphaned or limited by legacy. Beyond illusion and delusion, we allude to that which is noted experienced through words beyond words. "Doe, a deer, a female deer



Ray, a drop of golden sun
Me, a name I call myself
Far, a long, long way to run
Sew, a needle pulling thread
La, a note to follow Sew
Tea, a drink with jam and bread:
That will bring us back to Do (oh-oh-oh)...
When you know the notes to sing,
You can sing most anything." ■

— Rx is the FloridaWeekly muse who hopes to inspire profound mutiny in all those who care to read. Our Rx may be wearing a pirate cloak of invisibility, but emanating from within this shadow is hope that readers will feel free to respond. Who knows: You may even inspire the muse. Make contact if you dare.

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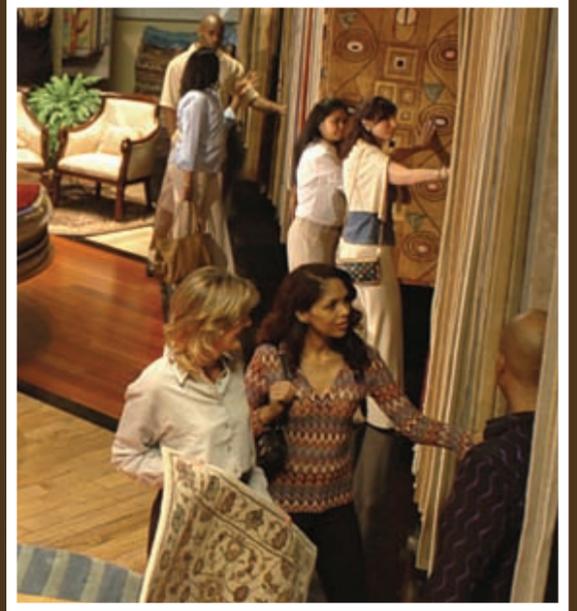


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BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9-15, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE INDUSTRIES

FLORIDA WEEKLY
TAKES ON:

THE IMPOSSIBLE: GETTING A SMALL BUSINESS LOAN



BY **BILL CORNWELL**
bcornwell@floridaweekly.com

Recession be damned, Bob Grace needed to expand his business, and that meant he needed a loan.

Mr. Grace is president and founder of the Grace Tax Advisory Group, which is based in Fort Myers and has offices in Naples, Punta Gorda and Sarasota. This year, the group will oversee the management of some \$40 million in assets for its clients. Business has been good, and, as a result, more office space was required. But Mr. Grace didn't have the necessary cash on hand.

So, about six months ago, Mr. Grace took out a loan from his bank — KeyBank — to help finance

SEE LOANS, B7 ►

COURTESY PHOTO
CEO Bob Long and President Matt Chambers of JRL Ventures/Marine Concepts in Cape Coral don't want a loan, but they know how to get one.

WEEK at-a-glance



Puttin' on The Ritz

Celebrating 25 years, and more good-for-business events. **B9, 10, 19 ►**



On the Move

Keep up with who's going where and doing what on the local business front. **B4 ►**



A tropical villa

McGarvey Custom Homes Introduces the Cipriani in Quail West. **B11 ►**

Survey says Americans invest a lot of time in the holidays

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Ever wonder how much time we devote to celebrating the winter holidays? A new breakdown based on the latest Consumer Reports Holiday Shopping Poll indicates the average American expects to spend about 42 hours buying, wrapping and returning gifts, as well as partying and traveling to visit family and friends. The full results of this latest poll are available at www.ConsumerReports.org.

"When you break down the numbers, you really get an idea of how much so many of us have invested in the holidays," says Tod Marks, Consum-

er Reports senior editor and resident shopping expert. "And it's nice to see that it's not all about shopping, but it's also about coming together."

Here's a look at how Americans will spend their time this holiday season:

Gift-giving

■ Consumers will spend lots of time shopping for gifts, 15 hours on average. Women plan to spend twice as long as their male counterparts, 20 hours versus 10 hours respectively.

■ Shoppers estimate they will wait on check out lines in stores for about 3½ hours, on average; one in four expect to stand in line four hours or more.

■ Once they get home, Americans plan to spend about three hours, on average, wrapping gifts; one in four expect to spend four or more hours doing so.

■ Americans anticipate that they will devote about an hour, on average, to returning holiday gifts; half say they won't spend any time making returns.

Entertaining

About 15 hours, on average, will be spent attending holiday parties, gatherings or events with friends or family; a quarter of Americans plan to spend 20 hours or more on such activities.

On the go

Americans estimate that they will spend 7.4 hours, on average, traveling to or from their holiday destinations; 24 percent say they will spend 10 hours or more.

The methodology

The Consumer Reports National Research Center conducted a telephone survey of a nationally representative probability sample of telephone households. Another 1,015 interviews were completed among adults aged 18 and older between Nov. 4 and 7. The margin of error is +/- 3 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. ■

MONEY & INVESTING

While Europe struggles, U.S. banks face their own problems



The world has been paying a lot of attention to problems with the banks in the EU, with emphasis most recently on Ireland's banks.

While the U.S. banks are not in the lime-light, they absolutely face a number of challenges, many of which have received news coverage. But, as Ireland loomed so large, the news on U.S. banks was seemingly in the shadows. The topic of this column is two bank issues. In truth, they are worthy of much more reading, understanding and monitoring.

The first issue focuses on new capital requirements as set forth by the Bank for International Settlements and the second issue is the potentially very large (as in many billions of dollars) liabilities against the U.S. banks for their, as claimed, shoddy mortgage underwriting practices.

Let's look at the first issue. Most know that U.S. banks do not regulate themselves in a vacuum from international banks. A long time ago, dating back to 1930, the BIS was formed. The international central bankers got together to create international standards and cooperation for banking. Over time, there was an attempt to create assurances that, in doing business with each other, there were somewhat equal and known credit risks.

In September 2010, the Bank for International Settlements announced "Basel III," a

new, yet third, accord on capital and liquidity ratios for banks. (Basel is not an acronym or a code word; it simply refers to Basel, Switzerland, where the BIS is located.)

Representatives of the top 27 central banks formulated new requirements, many of which start to go into effect by 2013. (Yes, these are the same bankers who caused the world's credit problems and who are now figuring out how to solve the very problems they caused.)

The bottom line is that U.S. banks have to start working toward significantly higher capital or equity levels and significantly higher liquidity standards.

Per the Financial Times, Nov. 21, "The top 35 U.S. banks will be short of between \$100bn and \$150bn in equity capital after the new Basel III global bank regulations are imposed, with 90 percent of the shortfall concentrated in the biggest six banks, according to Barclays Capital." How will they get this new capital? "Banks can respond by increasing their capital through retained earnings or equity issuance or they can cut their risk-weighted assets through sell-offs and by cutting back on risky business lines."

The U.S. banks have to raise capital or sell assets or do some combination of both. In the long run, a better-capitalized banking system is good news. The bad news is that, in the short term, these banks will now have to be focused on issuing equity or selling assets instead of getting on with the business of making loans.

The second issue facing U.S. banks is the litigation that is proceeding by major institutional holders and buyers of assorted sub prime, Alt-A, option-adjustable rate

mortgages issued by the big banks. The claim of the buyers is that the banks failed in their legal responsibilities and they want the issuers to take this debt back.

The unhappy holders of this mortgage debt include the biggest of the biggies: Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, Black Rock, and PIMCO. Fannie and Freddie have already "put back" \$13 billion in mortgages to Bank of America. Wowza! But the total amount of mortgages that might be put back is

sized at, "...over \$700 billion on these and other so-called nonagency mortgage securities, according to New York mortgage-research specialist and broker Amherst Securities Group." Choke.

If the "put backs" succeed, the largest losers could be: Bank of America, JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank and Goldman Sachs. Bank of America is thought to lead the pack because it bought the notorious mortgage lender Countrywide.

Some of the winners in this litigation could include bond insurers MBIA and Assured Guaranty. (AMBAC already went bankrupt under the weight of its bond insurance losses.)

It all poses a curious questions: How easy

will it be for the U.S. banks to: raise and sell equity, sell assets, disclose contingent liabilities from "put backs" and, most likely, ultimately book significant losses from these mortgages.

The bank indices have been telling a desultory story for some time. The story has not been told with words, but with prices and volume.

Talk to your advisers, review your portfolio, and discuss the impact of these issues and the suitability of your holdings. ■

— Jeannette Rohn Showalter is a Southwest Florida-based chartered financial analyst, considered to be the highest designation for investment professionals.



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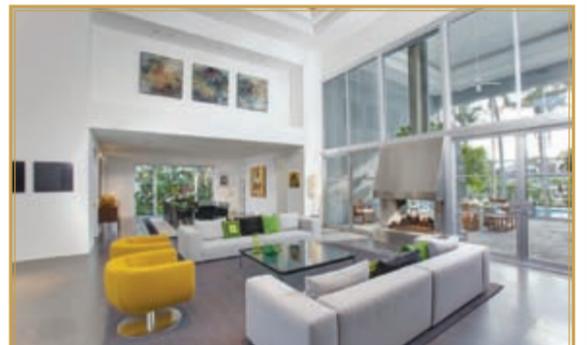
KINGS TOWN DRIVE

Dramatic views over Treasure Cove from this architectural masterpiece designed by renowned architect Kasimir Korybut. Elegant, yet comfortable, tropical living. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$5,950,000



FORT CHARLES DRIVE

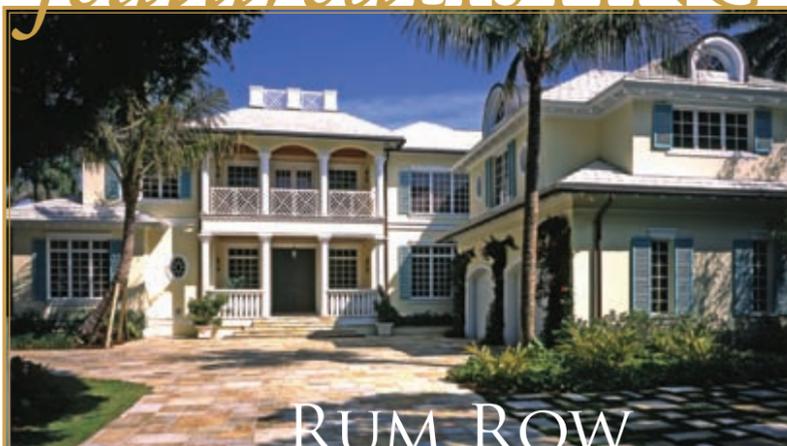
Spectacular long water view estate site. Close to the Port Royal Club. Expansive lot and one-half creates a large building envelope along Morgan’s Cove. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$5,900,000



SPYGLASS LANE

The minimalist design of this well conceived home encourages a soothing tranquility and contemporary comfort. Expansive long water views, with remarkable privacy. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$6,750,000

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RUM ROW



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ON THE MOVE

Awards & Recognitions



MITCHELL

Jen Mitchell of Betty Maclean Travel Inc. has been named one of Travel Agent Magazine's "30 Under 30" for 2010 in recognition of her commitment to travel and a sales track that marks her as a future leader in the industry. Ms.

Mitchell has been with Betty Maclean Travel for two years.

Audiologist **April Royan**, medical director and founder of Decibels Audiology & Hearing Aid Center, has received the Outstanding Customer Service and Patient Satisfaction Award from Audiology Management Group. Ms. Royan holds a master's



ROYAN

degree in audiology from the University of Illinois. She opened her Naples practice in 2009.



YOKE

Kena Yoke was named the recipient of the N.A.P.L.E.S. Group's 2010 Liz

Cashman "Lizzy" Award in recognition of her support, commitment and contributions to the group. The president of Dax Enterprises Inc., Ms. Yoke regularly and enthusiastically recruits new members, gives referrals and supports the group's events.

Board Appointments

John Gleeson and **David Kakkuri** have joined the board of directors for the Naples chapter of the Gulf Coast Venture Forum.

Dr. Kakkuri is the director of the Center for Leadership, Innovation and Economic Development in the Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University. He serves on the boards of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, the Region 24 Florida Works, the Southwest Florida BioFlorida Chapter and the Florida Network of Research, Science and Technology Parks.

Mr. Gleeson, who joins the GCVF as president-elect, owns of Gleeson Real Estate Group and CFO Vision LLC; both companies specialize in advising organizations on start-up/growth strate-

gies and business plans, with the former focusing on building/development. He serves as treasurer of the Urban Land Institute Southwest Florida District Council and as vice president-finance of the Economic Development Council of Collier County.

Roger Harrison, D. Hugh Kinsey Sr. and **Cynthia Newmaster** have joined the volunteer board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida Inc.

Mr. Harrison is the president and CEO of the Hendry County Economic Development Council. He serves on the board of directors of the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, the Henry County Regional Medical Center Foundation, and is president-elect of the Clewiston Rotary club.

Suzie Leatherbury and **Teresa Toscano** have been appointed to the board of directors for Voices for Kids of Southwest Florida Inc. Ms. Leatherbury is a vice president with Regions Bank Mortgage in Naples; Ms. Toscano is a vice president with CNLBank-Southwest Florida, also in Naples.

The N.A.P.L.E.S. Group announces



LEATHERBURY



TOSCANO

es the following members have been appointed to its 2010-2011 board of directors and executive committee:

Board of directors — **Jenny Foegen**, Port O Call Marina-Naples Princess, president; **Brett Nesbit**, Rehmann CPA, vice president; **Michelle Borders**, Naples Network Services, secretary; and **Ron Cerritelli**, InSphere Insurance Solutions, treasurer.

Executive committee — By-laws, **Dorothy Demarest**, DD Parliamentary Services, and **Ted Stallone**, Naples Flowers; legal, **John Goede**, Law Offices of John Goede; meeting programs, **Blase Ciabaton**, Naples Print Source; membership: **Liz Cashman**, Florida Universal Title; social director, **Trisha Borges**, First Class Plumbing of Florida); public relations, **Kena Yoke**, Dax Enterprises, and **Nicole Masse**, Florida Weekly; and website/IT, **Mark Cyr**, Dolphin Global Technologies.

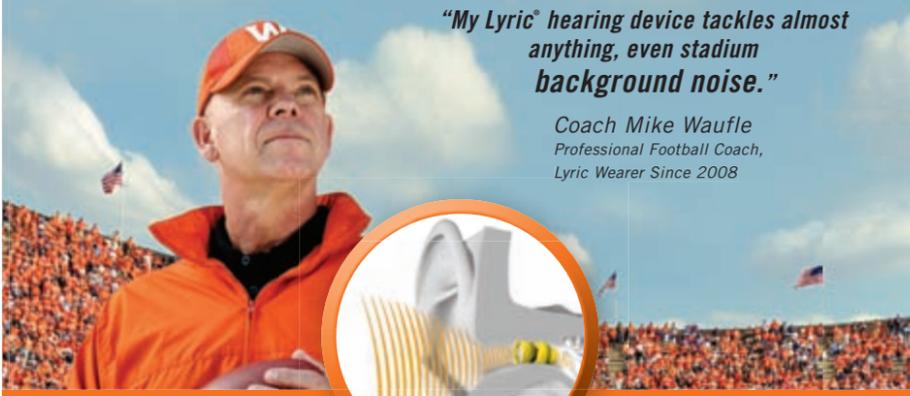
Nonprofit Organizations

• **Patricia Connell** has joined the Conservancy of Southwest Florida as director of events and corporate relations. She is responsible for coordinating fundraising events including Magic Under the Mangroves, the RedSnook Catch and Release Charity Fishing Tournament and Dining for Wildlife. She is also responsible for developing corporate relationships and securing sponsorships and support for the Conservancy. A Naples resident since 1991, Ms. Connell was formerly assistant director of development at Humane Society Naples and before that worked in the financial industry for 15 years. ■

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Local company puts old computers to good use

Have some old, outdated computers lying around that you would love to get rid of? Platinum Coast Technology, a computer service center located in Bonita Springs, may be able to help you and, at the same time, some local nonprofit organizations.

The company takes old computers, wipes them clean of all information and distributes them to area nonprofit groups. These groups then use them to help run their own operations or they make them available to those in need within the community.

The program was started at Platinum Coast Technology three years ago by company president Ray Woods and instructor/service technician for the

firm, Paul Carr. Since the program began, the company has distributed more than 50 computers to organizations like Our Mother's Home, a non-denominational residential housing program offered by Catholic Charities that provides single mothers a safe environment and educational opportunities.

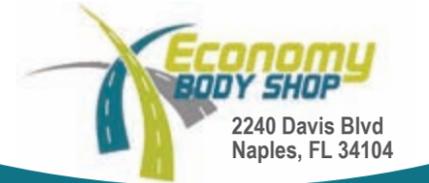
The company has also provided computers to the Literacy Council of Bonita Springs and through the Estero-Gulf Coast Kiwanis Club.

"Both the Literacy Council and the Kiwanis group have taken the computers and made them available to people in need throughout the community," Mr. Carr said, "We have heard that these individuals have been able to use them to find jobs or to further their education."

Platinum Coast requires that the computers brought to them be no more than five years old and that they contain Pentium 4 processors with Windows XP operating systems installed.

"The older computers with outdated processors and operating systems aren't really worth donating, as they will cause problems for our recipients due to their slow running speed and the likelihood of failure shortly after they're delivered," Mr. Carr said.

Platinum Coast Technology, located at 27400 Riverview Center Blvd., Suite 4 in Bonita Springs, specializes in comprehensive IT services, network services and computer support for small-to medium-sized businesses and home computer users. It provides both remote and on-site support services as well as repair and servicing of all computer brands. For more information, call 949-1033 or visit www.pctservice.com. ■



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\$5,650,000



SANCERRE

As soon as one steps from the elevator into the residence's private lobby, the dramatic design and penchant for detail is immediately inspirational. Working with both abundant natural light and specially engineered lighting, the residence comes alive with wide planked bamboo flooring and custom Bartel wooden doors. Composite wall tiles and copper wall panels provide a rich backdrop to well serve the important pieces of art and promote a deep sensory appreciation.
\$3,950,000



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An elegantly conceived residence, with expansive reception approach, was designed to encourage gracious entertaining and family comfort. Abundant use of floor to ceiling glass windows brings the outside in, creating a natural harmony with the rich marble and detailed stonework within. The residence qualifies for Port Royal Club membership eligibility and is close to all of the club's beachfront dining, tennis, and spa amenities.
\$4,995,000

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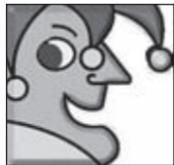
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Asset allocation and rebalancing may seem boring, but they're quite important.

Rebalancing involves periodically resetting your portfolio to your intended asset allocation. For instance, suppose that your plan called for having a certain percentage of your assets in cyclical industrial stocks, and you split it 50-50 between DuPont and Dow Chemical. Well, after a year or two, it's no longer 50-50, as the companies and their stocks have performed differently. Perhaps the split is now 65-35, between DuPont and Dow Chemical.

To rebalance, assuming you still believe in the long-term prospects of both stocks, you might sell some of that DuPont stock and buy a little more Dow Chemical. Not only will that move restore your intended 50-50 allocation, it can — pay attention here — get you more shares of Dow Chemical while they're relatively cheap.

It's like an automatic value investing

system. Foolish retirement guru Robert Brokamp is a big proponent of rebalancing for long-term portfolios, and in our "Rule Your Retirement" newsletter, he dug into the pros and cons of rebalancing strategies in detail.

Despite the sense that you might sometimes be selling winners to buy laggards, rebalancing your portfolio every year or two over a few decades can make a sizeable difference.

For example, Robert has explained that \$100,000 invested in the stock market in 1972 would have turned into about \$4.3 million today. But if you rebalanced every year, you might have added another \$330,000 to that total. While \$330,000 may not seem like much, it's three times your original investment.

There's definitely a case to be made that rebalancing every year or so isn't always the best move; there's some merit to the Wall Street adage to "let your winners run." But as a consistently applied discipline, rebalancing will tend to reduce your overall risk and increase your returns over time. ■

My Smartest Investment

Off the Radio

My dumbest mistake was buying Sirius at its high and then buying again when it dropped 5 percent, just to see it drop another 10 percent. Dumb. I thought that satellite radio was really going to take off.

— J.K.M., online

The Fool Responds: It looks like you bought your shares around \$7 apiece and sold them before they sank to \$6. That's good, since the shares proceeded to fall below \$0.12 at the end of 2008, after the company merged with XM Satellite Radio and became Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Even now, shares are still below \$2.

It's a big mistake to assume that a stock is a bargain just because it fell, or to think that it won't keep falling. Very often, stocks fall for good reasons, such as when they face tough competition, have steep debt, are losing market share or are running out of cash.

The newly combined radio company has both fans and skeptics today. Some are happy to see revenue rising, but others worry about competition from Internet radio and smart phones. ■



Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to *The Motley Fool* c/o *My Dumbest Investment*. Got one that worked? Submit to *My Smartest Investment*. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

Last week's trivia answer

Born in 1946 as a Texas feed store, today I'm one of the biggest chicken producers in the U.S. and Mexico, raking in around \$7 billion annually. My capacity tops 45 million birds weekly, or more than 9 billion pounds per year. I produce 42 million dozen eggs annually. Roughly 4,400 poultry growers supply me. In my early days, I would sell 100 chicks and a bag of feed to local farmers, who'd raise them, keep some, and sell the rest back to me. I doubled in size in 2003 when I bought ConAgra's chicken business. Who am I? ■

(Answer: Pilgrim's Pride)



Write to Us! Send questions for *Ask the Fool*, *Dumbest* (or *Smartest*) *Investments* (up to 100 words), and your *Trivia* entries to Fool@fool.com or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: *The Motley Fool*. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

What Is This Thing Called The Motley Fool?

Remember Shakespeare? Remember "As You Like It"? In Elizabethan days, Fools were the only people who could get away with telling the truth to the King or Queen. *The Motley Fool* tells the truth about investing, and hopes you'll laugh all the way to the bank.

Ask the Fool

Liquidity Matters

Q What's the financial meaning of "liquidity"?

— R.M., Modesto, Calif.

A There are several meanings. It can refer to a company's cash and assets that can be quickly converted into cash (such as money market funds and investments in stocks and bonds), minus its short-term debt.

Companies with high liquidity can be less risky, but they might also grow more slowly, as assets that could be used to grow the business are instead kept readily accessible.

Liquidity also refers to a stock's ability to handle a large volume of trading without big price swings. Major investors such as mutual fund managers care about this because if they want to buy a million shares of something, they don't want their purchases to start driving up the stock price before they finish buying.

Imagine the Free Range Onion Company (ticker: BULBZ). If it has 5 million shares outstanding at \$10 per share, there's only \$50 million worth that the market can buy or sell. If some of that is owned by company insiders, then even fewer shares are available. Compared to many large firms that trade more than \$500 million or \$1 billion worth of shares per day, it's tiny, volatile and illiquid.

Q If I buy shares of a stock after its "date of record" for a stock split, but before the actual split, will I get the additional shares?

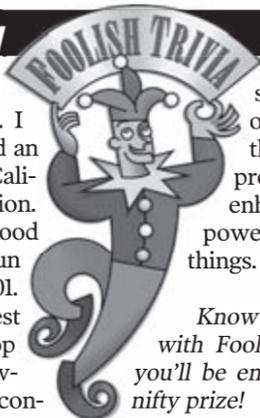
— G.R., Dallas

A Yes. The person who gets the benefit of the split shares is one who owns those shares on the day of the actual split, the pay date. As long as you're holding the stock when it splits, you'll get your due. The record date is mainly for accounting purposes.

Got a question for the Fool? Send it in — see *Write to Us*.

Name That Company

I'm worth more than \$5 billion, but you probably don't know me. I was born in 1883, when I developed an insecticide spray pump to protect California orchards from a scale infestation. By 1928, I was the world's largest Food Machinery Corporation — but I spun off my machinery business in 2001. In 1978 I became the second-largest hydrogen peroxide maker. I'm a top diversified chemical company, serving the agricultural, industrial and con-



sumer markets. My technologies have helped improve the delivery of medications, protect structures and lawns, enhance foods and drinks, and power batteries, among other things. Who am I? ■

Know the answer? Send it to us with *Foolish Trivia* on the top and you'll be entered into a drawing for a nifty prize!

The Motley Fool Take

Generic Growth

Higher profits on lower revenue is usually not a recipe for success, but for pharmacy benefit manager MedcoHealth Solutions (NYSE: MHS), that could be just what the doctor ordered.

You see, PBMs make their money by saving health insurers and employers money. Selling generic drugs results in less revenue due to their lower cost, but they result in more profits.

In the third quarter, generics made up 71.6 percent of prescriptions dispensed, up 3.9 percentage points from the year-ago quarter. The coming wave of generic drugs hitting the market should drive that number higher. Medco is looking for earn-

ings-per-share growth of 12 percent to 17 percent next year and expects 2012 to have the largest contribution from new generic introductions in the company's history.

Since PBM businesses are so valuable, insurance companies that manage their own drug business in-house might sell or spin them off, to unleash the value for investors, as a few have already done. If they sell those businesses to current PBMs, it would boost the purchasing power of the PBMs, contributing to their bottom lines.

But we're getting a little ahead of ourselves. For now, investors should just know that Medco and its peers look like they have substantial growth left in them. (MedcoHealth Solutions is a "Motley Fool Stock Advisor" pick.) ■

BUSINESS MEETINGS

► **A Job Search Support Group** meets from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Contact Karen Klukiewicz at kluk77@comcast.net or visit www.napleschamber.org.

► Thursday, Dec. 9, is the deadline to register for the next session of "Roadmap for Success," a workshop presented by the **Neapolitan Chapter of the American Business Women's Association**. The session begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the Bellasera Hotel, 221 Ninth St. S. In "Can You Afford to Go?", Angela Kidd of Kidd CPA and Chuck Sweet will discuss how to read financial statements and plan a budget. Cost is \$26 for ABWA members and \$30 for others. Register online at www.abwaneapolitan.org. Walk-ins not permitted.



► **The Naples Area Board of Realtors** holds its 61st annual meeting and installation of officers at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, at the Naples Sailing & Yacht Club. Call 597-1666.

► **The Collier County Bar Association** holds its annual holiday party for families from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, at Naples Bay Resort. Cost is \$30

for adults and \$20 for ages 5-16. Cash bar. Register at www.colliercountybar.org.

► **The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce** holds its holiday party from 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, at The Club at Grandezza. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for donations to the Bonita Springs Assistance Office. Cost is \$45. Register at www.bonitaspringschamber.com.

► **Women's Networking of Collier County** meets from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at Carrabbas at 4320 Tamiami Trail N. In addition to regular networking, a holiday auction is on the program. Register at www.wnocc.org.

► **PRACC**, Public Relations and Marketing Professionals of Collier County, holds its holiday party and annual scholarship fundraiser from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at McCormick & Schmick's in Mercato. RSVP at www.pracc.org.

► Terry Rand and Bianca Vukovic of **Rand Financial Advisors** host a complimentary lunch and estate planning seminar at noon Wednesday, Dec. 15, at Fleming's Steakhouse, 8985 Tamiami Trail N. For more information and to make reservation, call (877) 441-7263 or e-mail Bianca@KSIFA.com.

► **The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce** holds its holiday party from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at the Hilton Naples. Cost is \$20. Register at www.napleschamber.org. ■

LOANS

From page 1

business expansion. It was his second loan in three years.

“My loans from KeyBank total about \$1.4 million,” says Mr. Grace. “It’s tougher today to get a loan — that’s for sure — but it’s certainly not impossible, if you have a good relationship with your banker. I have a great relationship with my banker, and that makes a big difference. I know them and they know me.”

Joe Ariola, Mr. Grace’s banker, agrees. “To say that it is impossible to get a loan in today’s (economic) environment



ARIOLA

is a myth that is totally overblown,” says Mr. Ariola. “Banks are lending money to small businesses. There is excess liquidity, and banks actually are eager to make loans.”

But Mr. Ariola and other bankers add this important caveat: The days of loans going out to businesses that are not rock-solid financially are over. The money is there for the taking, but only for those businesses that can absolutely prove they will repay.

Because so many small businesses have been ravaged by the worst economic downturn, the pool of qualified borrowers has been greatly diminished.

Bloomberg Businessweek summed up the banks’ lending dilemma thusly: “Finding qualified (loan) applicants... hasn’t been easy.”

Sometimes, the ability of small businesses to borrow has been damaged by factors totally out of their control. For example, some have seen the value of their real estate and other assets nose-dive, which reduces their collateral.

Additionally, the National Small Business Association points out that many banks reduced existing credit lines for small business customers. This damaged credit scores because small businesses then were using a higher percentage of their available credit.

In short, there has been something a perfect economic storm engulfing small businesses over the past couple of years.

A study by the National Small Business Association reported that 41 percent of small business owners said they were unable to get adequate funding.

“There are fewer small businesses now that meet the criteria for loans,” says Robert W. Carney, a senior vice president with Shamrock Bank in Naples. “That fact is the biggest difference in the loan climate today.”

“There is no doubt that some banks were playing too fast, too loose. They didn’t survive. There’s been a cleansing of the system.”

— Joe Ariola, banker

“Yes, banks are still willing to loan,” says John Kozak, a senior vice president at FineMark National Bank & Trust, “but it is difficult (to obtain a loan) for any business that cannot show a strong cash flow.”

“Any business that can absolutely prove its ability to repay is going to get a loan,” says Bill Valenti, president and CEO of Florida Gulf Bank in Fort Myers.

In fact, Mr. Valenti says banks are scouring for good loan prospects and those businesses that meet the lending criteria are “in the driver’s seat” when it comes to getting money.

“There is competition for these (potential clients),” he says. “Banks are looking for opportunities to lend money.”

The experience of JRL Ventures/Marine Concepts in Cape Coral underscores Mr. Valenti’s assertion. The business recently won the prestigious 2010 Blue Chip Community Business Award and has drawn wide attention and acclaim for its innovative and sound management.

“We are approached often by lenders,” says Matt Chambers, the company’s president. “It would be very easy for us to obtain a loan if we would want one. (Lenders) seek us out. But we don’t want one. We think that part of our success story has been due to the fact that we don’t borrow.”

Not every business, of course, can make a go of it without benefit of a loan. More typical is the case of Danielle Santoro, who wanted to borrow money to start a business that would match qualified contractors with green energy projects.

Ms. Santoro approached Punta Gorda-based Calusa National Bank about a \$35,000 loan to get her computer-based business up and running.

“I applied for a traditional loan at Calusa and was denied,” Ms. Santoro says. “I just didn’t have the collateral to make it work.”

Ms. Santoro then applied for help through the City of North Port’s Small Business Revolving Loan Guarantee Program. The program, which is designed to attract small business to the town, said it would guarantee the loan, and Calusa National Bank then came through with the \$35,000.

“We are definitely looking to do loans,” says William Werdell, assistant vice president and community lending officer at Calusa, adding that his institu-

in the know

>> Getting a loan

The process of obtaining a small business loan can be arduous, time consuming and confusing. It is always good to have help, especially if you have never done it before. Bankers urge loan applicants to consult a CPA to help with loan applications.

“Bankers and CPAs speak the same language,” says Bill Valenti, president and CEO of Florida Gulf Bank.

“A bank wants to see a good financial statement,” says Tom Briers CPA in Bonita Springs. “A statement prepared by a CPA gives it a little bit of credibility.”

Moreover, a CPA knows what documents are required and also can provide other services.

Mr. Briers says his firm has a means of measuring how a business is performing relative to similar businesses.

“It allows (the small business owner) to see how his business stacks up,” he notes.

Different lenders require different things and the size of the loan can affect how much documentation is required.

Dun & Bradstreet provides a list of some commonly required items:

- Business tax returns for the last two or three years.
- End of year business financial statements going back two or three years.
- Interim financial statement dated less than 90 days old.
- Current accounts receivable.
- Current accounts payable.
- Customer list.
- A personal financial statement of the owner.
- The owner’s personal tax returns for the last two or three years.
- Inventory listing.
- A business plan that includes a revenue forecast.
- Building plans for construction.
- Articles of incorporation.
- A state-issued corporate charter.
- A state-issued certificate of good standing.
- Assumed name certificates.

This list is not meant to be comprehensive, but it does give an idea of the type documentation will be expected.

Dun & Bradstreet also warns against taking each document to your lender incrementally. “You will wear the lender out quickly.” Try to present your documentation in one package.

Another piece of advice: “If you promise to have something to your lender by a certain date, try to keep your promise.”

Again, the best way to ensure that a loan package is properly and thoroughly prepared is to have help from a CPA or an attorney familiar with small business loans.

tion worked closely with Ms. Santoro in developing a business plan.

“If I had tried to (get a loan) in the traditional way, it never would have happened,” says Ms. Santoro.

The Small Business Administration functions in much the same way. It guarantees loans — or parts of loans — made by private banks. SBA loans, how-

ever, are notorious for their mounds of paperwork and bureaucratic eccentricities.

“The SBA will drag you a long way before you get to that loan,” says Mr. Valenti of Florida Gulf Bank. “As a result, we don’t really do SBA loans.”

Other banks, though, see it differently. Mr. Ariola at KeyBank says his institution specializes in SBA loans and does a great many.

“We are really good at (SBA) loans,” he says. “We know the intricacies. The advantage of SBA loans is that they fill a key gap. They can help you get over collateral concerns.”

Perhaps the greatest change in bank lending to small businesses that has been wrought by the recession is the decline in loans that are made for start-ups or expansions. In that regard, Mr. Grace’s borrowing for business growth and Ms. Santoro’s funding for new business are anomalies in today’s banking environment.

Bankers say that most small business loans today are geared toward refinancing and refunding. There is some activity involving profitable businesses that acquire struggling competitors, but, for the most part, there is little in the way of new-business startups.

While the economy remains troublesome, many bankers believe there are signs things may be on the upswing, although there is little in the way of hard data to back up that feeling.

“We are starting to see a little bit of an upswing,” says Mr. Valenti. “But it’s just a little bit, and I don’t want to get too optimistic.”

Mr. Ariola says the recession essentially thinned the herd in a business sense. Those businesses that were operating on a wing and a prayer, so to speak, are gone. The ones that have survived, he says, will likely emerge stronger down the road.

“We are seeing that businesses are going back to basics,” he says. “They are taking hard looks at their budgets, and they are setting aside money for a raining day. The banks have learned a lesson, too. There is no doubt that some banks were playing too fast, too loose. They didn’t survive. There’s been a cleansing of the system.”

“We do see more optimism from our clients,” says Mr. Werdell of Calusa National Bank. “This has been true over the last six months or so. We have three or four clients who are looking to start new businesses.”

Bankers agree that small businesses should never fear seeking a loan. After all, the worst that can happen is hearing the word “no” uttered by a loan officer.

Mr. Valenti puts it this way: “I grew up in New York City, and there’s a saying there: ‘If you don’t ask, you don’t get.’” ■

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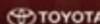
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CARS

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'88 CHEVY CORVETTE STK#U668276A, LOW MILES SUPER CLEAN.....	\$9976
'02 TOYOTA CAMRY STK#U611248A, GREAT FIRST CAR.....	\$10,685
'03 CADILLAC DEVILLE STK#U183024B, LOW MILES CLEAN CAR.....	\$10,986
'10 MINI COOPER STK#U393517A, ONLY 6K MILES.....	\$17,859
'08 MERCEDES-BENZ C300 STK#S020431A, AFFORDABLE LUXURY.....	\$22,785

TRUCKS

'01 TOYOTA TUNDRA STK#X100960A, SR5 4WD.....	\$7395
'03 FORD RANGER STK#U389364D, GAS SAVER TRUCK.....	\$8365
'01 TOYOTA TACOMA STK#S060638B, DOUBLECAB PRERUNNER.....	\$11,685
'03 FORD F150 STK#9114138B, XLT CLEAN CARFAX.....	\$11,796
'06 DODGE DAKOTA STK#M105738A, QUAD CAB ST.....	\$11,896
'05 FORD F150 STK#U664223A, SUPERCREW XLT.....	\$12,795
'04 TOYOTA TACOMA STK#0211898B, DOUBLECAB PRERUNNER.....	\$14,258
'03 FORD F150 STK#S001619B, SUPERCREW LARIAT.....	\$14,358
'04 FORD F150 STK#X024885A, 4WD SUPERCREW.....	\$15,863
'07 NISSAN FRONTIER STK#C495519A, CREWCAB LE.....	\$17,856

VANS & SUVS

'03 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER STK#U651640A, LIMITED CLEAN CARFAX.....	\$9765
'05 CHEVY EQUINOX STK#0163332A, GREAT FAMILY SUV.....	\$10,968
'04 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER STK#U038606A, CLEAN CARFAX 4CYL SUV.....	\$11,863
'06 FORD EXPEDITION STK#U583610A, LOW MILES.....	\$13,458
'07 DODGE DURANGO SLT STK#U153446B, LOW MILES.....	\$17,652
'08 HONDA PILOT STK#U151061C, CLEAN CARFAX.....	\$18,965
'05 NISSAN ARMADA LE STK#M113127B.....	\$19,863
'07 HONDA PILOT EXL STK#S066406A, CLEAN CARFAX.....	\$21,785
'10 NISSAN PATHFINDER LE STK#Z710293A, 6K MILES ONLY.....	\$23,785
'10 FORD EXPLORER XLT STK#S030413A, LEATHER SAVE \$\$\$S.....	\$23,785

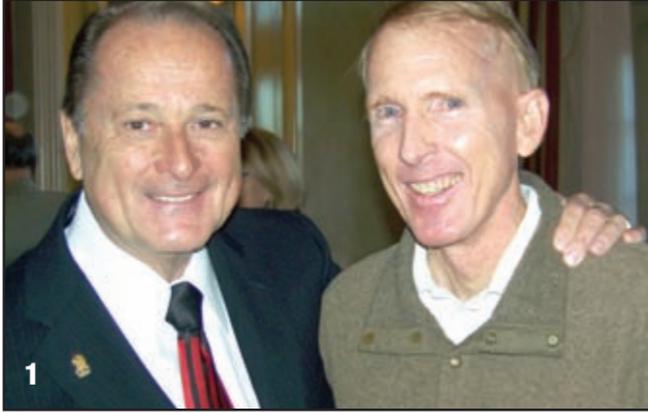
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'06 TOYOTA CAMRY LE STK#U620432A, LOW PRICE.....	\$14,258
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'08 TOYOTA CAMRY LE STK#U605447A.....	\$15,735
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'06 TOYOTA RAV4 STK#W057409A, LOW MILES.....	\$16,498
'10 TOYOTA COROLLA STK#U665288A, ONLY 209 MILES SAVE!!!.....	\$17,635
'07 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5 CREW STK#PT29032.....	\$22,745
'09 TOYOTA VENZA STK#U031491A, 9K MILES ONLY SAVE \$\$\$S.....	\$23,852
'08 TOYOTA SIENNA XLE STK#S025841A.....	\$24,375
'08 TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 STK#50015245A, LIKE NEW.....	\$24,896



NETWORKING

Celebrating the silver anniversary of The Ritz-Carlton, Naples



- *1. Jerry Thirion and Mike Watkins
- *2. Matthew Mathias and Vicki Tracy
- *3. Sam Saad and Sheriff Kevin Rambosk
- *4. Wilma Boyd and Olga Placeres
- 5. Sean Lintz, Sal D'Angelo, Chief Orly Stolts, James Bloom, Becky Bronsdon and Jerry Sanford
- 6. Jeff Allbritten, Joel Kessler and Lou Vlasho
- 7. The Ladies and Gentlemen of The Ritz-Carlton
- 8. Patty and Bud Hornbeck, Brenda O'Connor and Kathy Swank
- 9. Dick Lydon, David Kakkuri and Dary Alvaranga

* PHOTOS BY BERNADETTE LAPAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY, ALL OTHERS / COURTESY PHOTOS

We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too. Send us your society and networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@floridaweekly.com.

NETWORKING

A carol sing at the Sudgen for WGCU members



BERNADETTE LA PAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

1. Liz Poletti and Daniel Stenway
2. Members of The Naples Players from the cast of "Dickens' A Christmas Carol" Beverly Canell, Jack Weld, Lisa Federico and David Goguen
3. Dan Nelson and Barbara Linstrom
4. Lynn and Lance Shearer
5. Don and Linda Vedeler

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY
YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

Breakfast in Port Royal for the David Lawrence Foundation



CLAY CONE / COURTESY PHOTOS

1. Linda Malone, Robin Stranahan and Cheryl Stone in front of a rare Tibetan painting that will be offered for sale at the foundation gala in January
2. Brendon Tripodo and Milda Vaivada
3. Monica Biondo and Susan Levitt
4. Elizabeth Star and Polly Keller

Conservancy of Southwest Florida annual recognition luncheon



DENNIS COODMAN / COURTESY PHOTOS

1. Maureen and Arnold Lerner, Donald Comstock, Sharon and Dolph von Arx
2. Rob Moher with Ruth and Don Campbell
3. Sharen and Gary Thomas
4. Lynn and Robin Wilson, Andy Hill

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REAL ESTATE

Three leaders named to CBIA Hall of Fame

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Collier Building Industry Association inducted three members into its Housing Hall of Fame during the annual installation dinner on Dec. 8 at Olde Cypress in Naples.

The three inaugural honorees were recognized for their leadership in the building industry and for their contributions in building the foundation of the CBIA. They are:

■ **Peter Girardin**, who was the guiding steward of CBIA finances for 25 plus years — Mr. Girardin attended association events regularly until he retired two years ago as the managing partner of Girardin, Bryant & Baldwin, which had recently merged into the national firm of Larson & Allen.

Mr. Girardin's work in overseeing financials and tax returns and his general consulting was a significant reason for the CBIA's becoming one of the most financially secure and elite building associations in the country. His counsel and advice to many CBIA members helped them grow their own quality businesses.

■ **Dave Weston**, CFO of Naples Lumber & Supply Inc. — Mr. Weston has been a CBIA member since 1986 and began participating on the board of directors in 1993. Over the years, he has



WESTON

worked on committees including the political action, golf, membership, governmental affairs, building and finance committees.

Mr. Weston has also been active at the state level as a director and an alternate state director for many years. He also has received the CBIA Community Service Award and President's Award, and has been named Associate of the Year. He participates in many organizations throughout Collier County, including the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, the President's Council for Hodges University and the Neighborhood Health Clinic board of directors.

■ **Steve Lawson**, owner of Knotts Plastering and a member of CBIA since 1986 — A founding member of the membership committee, Mr. Lawson has personally



LAWSON

SEE CBIA, B15 ►



COURTESY PHOTOS

A custom wrought-iron gate opens to the Cipriani's courtyard entrance.

Envision yourself settling into a tropical villa in Quail West

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

McGarvey Custom Homes introduces its Cipriani villa model in the La Caille neighborhood at Quail West. With 2,965 square feet under air, the residence has three bedrooms, 3½ baths and a study. The fully furnished model, outfitted in a tropical style by Edgar and Tiffany West of the East Indies Home & Patio design group, is offered at \$1,188,000; the Cipriani base floor plan is priced from \$945,000, unfurnished.

An 1,180-acre master-planned community, Quail West has two Arthur Hills championship golf courses, and a clubhouse that offers casual and fine dining, a ball room, wine grotto, full-service spa and beauty salon, pro shops, fitness center, eight lighted red-clay tennis courts and a resort-style solarium pool. All of the community's amenities are owned debt-free by its members.

McGarvey Custom Homes is among the community's featured buildings, who also include: Diamond Custom Homes, Florida Lifestyle Homes of Fort Myers,

SEE QUAIL WEST, B15 ►



Clockwise from above: Bedding and window treatments feature silk imported from Thailand. The kitchen island has stainless steel sinks and a raised bar. A chocolate and cream linen sofa is the focal point in the great room. The outdoor living area has ample room for cooking, dining and conversing.

CAPTIVA



BAYSIDE VILLA 4212

- Prime Waterfront at South Seas
- Large 1 Bedroom, 2nd Floor
- Tastefully Updated Interior
- Bayside Marina Views to Bay
- **\$298,500**
- Vicki Panico or Fred Newman, 239-980-0088



"BAY JAH VIEW"

- 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
- In Heart of Captiva Village
- Open and Spacious Island Living
- Large Fenced Pool and Spa Area
- **\$1,595,000**
- Kara Cuscaden, 239.470.1516



CAPTIVA GULF FRONT

- Wolter Built 5 Bedroom Beauty
- World's Best Sunsets/Beaches
- Soaring Ceilings, Expansive Lanai
- 2nd Story Sun Deck & Much More
- **\$4,195,000**
- Fred Newman or Vicki Panico, 239.826.2704



SECLUDED ISLAND PARADISE

- 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, Pool
- Expansive Water Views
- Private Dock and Boat House
- Florida Style Two Story Home
- **\$2,350,000**
- Jane Reader Weaver 239.472.1302



ROOSEVELT CHANNEL VIEWS

- 5 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
- Boat Dock/Lift
- Deeded Beach Access
- Private Lot Just Under 1 Acre
- **\$1,484,000**
- Burns Family Team, 239.464.2984



ROOSEVELT CHANNEL ESTATE

- 5 Bedrooms and 4.5 Baths
- Turn-Key Designer Furnished
- Boat Dock & Lift & Beach Access
- Tropical Setting on 2 Acres
- **\$2,495,000**
- Jim Branyon, 239.565.3233



CHANNEL CHARMER

- 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths
- 3 Bay Garage with 1BD Studio
- Private Gulf Access Dock with Lift
- Deeded Beach Access
- **\$2,325,000**
- John & Denice Beggs, 239.357.5500



CAPTIVA GULF FRONT

- Direct Gulf Front 2 BD & Loft
- Stunning Water Views
- Community Pool & Tennis
- Deeded Beach Access
- Boat Dockage on Bay
- **\$1,900,000**
- Sally Davies, 239.691.3319

FORT MYERS



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- Over 2,300 S.F. of Living Space
- Private Backyard
- Lovely Pool & Lanai
- **\$234,800**
- Denny Grimes 239.489.4663



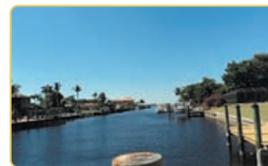
GREAT STARTER HOME

- 4 Bedrooms, 2-Baths
- Open Floor Plan
- 1,712 S.F. of Living Spcae
- 2-Car Garage
- **\$75,000**
- Michael & Jamie Polly 239.850.0487



SHENANDOAH

- 4 Bedrooms, 5.5-Baths
- Stunning Chef's Kitchen
- Vanishing Edge Pool, Open Lanai
- 4-Car Garage
- **\$2,290,000**
- Denny Grimes 239.489.4663



GULF ACCESS IN TOWN & RIVER

- 4 Bedrooms, 3-Baths
- Luxurious Master Suite
- Private Dock & Lift
- Open Lanai w/Pool
- **\$519,000**
- Michael & Jamie Polly 239.850.0487



MARBELLA

- 3 Bedrooms, 2-Baths
- Beautiful Coach Home
- Close to Dining & Shopping
- Meticulously Maintained
- **\$159,900**
- Kara Pulcher 239.292.5667



ON 5.5 ACRES

- 4 Bedrooms, 3-Baths
- Beautiful Wood Flooring
- 3,388 S.F. of Living Space
- Additional Acreage Available
- **\$234,500**
- Ellis & Heidorn 239.898.4196



THE FOREST

- 4 Bedrooms, 3.5-Baths
- Overlooking the Golf Course
- Lovely Pool and Lanai
- Over 2,500 S.F. of Living Space
- **\$374,800**
- Denny Grimes 239.489.4663



WILLOW LAKE

- Beautifully Crafted Kitchen
- 1,856 S.F. of Living Space
- 3 Bedrooms, 2-Baths
- Hurricane Shutters
- **\$74,900**
- Morgan Grimes 239.851.0880

NAPLES



AZURE @ BONITA BAY

- 3 Bedrooms, Plus Den, 3.5-Baths
- Private Elevator Foyer
- Stunning Views
- Rarely Available Residence
- **\$990,000**
- Martinovich and Nulf 239.564.5717



TERAMO @ MEDITERRA

- 1.33 Acres
- Western Exposure Lot
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Breathtaking Bayou Views
- Golf Course View
- **\$990,000**
- Martinovich and Nulf 239.398.3929



STUNNING FORMER MODEL

- 3 Bedrooms, Plus Den, 3.5-Baths
- Beautiful Lake View
- Open Pool, Spa and Lanai
- Offered Fully Furnished
- **\$1,999,000**
- Kristin Cavella-Whorral 239.821.6330



MARCELLO @ MEDITERRA

- 3 Bedroom, + Den, 4.5-baths
- Stunning Courtyard Home
- Beautiful Pool & Cascading Waterfall
- Offered Fully Furnished
- **\$1,650,000**
- Martinovich and Nulf 239.398.3929



FABULOUS DELASOL HOME

- 4 Bedrooms, 3.5-baths
- Private Tropical Lanai
- Beautiful Pool and Spillover Spa
- Gourmet Kitchen & Open Nook
- **\$449,000**
- Kristin Cavella-Whorral 239.821.6330



HARBOR LANDING @ BONITA BAY

- 2 Bedrooms, Plus Den, 2-Baths
- Private Corner Residence
- Over 1,600 S.F. of Living Space
- Resort Style Amenities
- **\$279,000**
- Martinovich and Nulf 239.564.5717



PARK SHORE

- 2 Bedrooms, 2-Baths
- Relaxing View from Lanai
- Over 1,400 S.F. of Living
- Only Minutes to Downtown
- **\$279,000**
- Frank & Debbie Dekevich 239.877.4193



RIVERBEND

- Canal with Dock
- 3 Bedrooms, 2-baths
- New Pool Package Included
- Large Lanai for Entertaining
- **\$229,000**
- Liz Appling 239.272.7201

SANIBEL



KEY WEST STYLE HIDEAWAY

- Living Area Opens to Lanai
- Overlooks 3 Intersecting Canals
- State-of-Art Kitchen
- Elevator from 2-Car Garage
- **\$1,200,000**
- Jane Reader Weaver, 239.472.1302



HERONS LANDING - SANIBEL

- 3 Bedrooms, 2Bathrooms
- Caribbean Plantation Style
- Breathtaking Bayou Views
- Light, Bright and Neutral Décor
- **\$1,295,000**
- Jennifer ann de Lignieres, 239.313.1371



EAST END NEAR BEACH

- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Pool & Spa
- Custom Kitchen with Granite
- Close to Beaches & East End Village
- Beautifully Updated
- **\$729,000**
- Burns Family Team, 239.464.2984



WALK TO BEACH AND BAY

- 4 Bedrooms, 4 Baths
- Sanibel's East End
- Large, Heated Lap Pool
- Furnished and Steps to Beach
- **\$989,000**
- Jim Branyon, 239.565.3233



COQUINA BEACH CONDO

- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
- Just Steps to Gulf
- Resort Style Pool and Tennis
- Charming, Furnished Cottage
- **\$410,000**
- John R. Van Voorhis, 239.410.3927



SPANISH CAY DELIGHT

- 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms
- Stunning Views of Sanibel River
- Bright and Open
- Deeded Beach Access
- **\$340,000**
- Sarah Ashton, 239.691.4915



DIRECT GULF FRONT

- Top Floor 2BD/2BA Condo
- Beautifully Remodeled
- On-Site Rental Management
- Excellent Investment or Vacation Home
- **\$850,000**
- John Dattola, 239.994.1878



INCOME PRODUCER

- 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath
- Updated Unit at Sundial Resort
- Grosses #40K
- Turnkey with Resort Amenities
- **\$364,900**
- Sarah Ashton, 239.691.4915



1.27 acre lot. Golf/Lake Views. New 5bed/6bath. 10,262 total sq ft. \$4,995,000 at Mediterra.



5,807 sq ft. furnished model with long lake/golf views. \$3,495,000 at Mediterra.

Open Sun. 1-4



Brand new. 7,316 total sq ft. 1 acre lot. 4bed/4bath. \$2,975,000 at Mediterra.

Open Sun. 1-4



3,786 sq ft. 4bed/4bath. Built in 2007. Private lakeviews. \$1,999,999 at Mediterra.



3,049 sq ft. furnished villa decorated by Collins & Dupont. Golf course views. \$1,998,500 at Mediterra.



Built in 2007. 3,925 living sq ft. Private lakeviews. \$1,995,500 at Mediterra.



Former model offered furnished. Golf & lake views. 3505 sq ft. \$1,499,900 at Tuscany Reserve.

Pending



Reduced 254,000! 2,080 sq ft. Fully renovated beachfront condo. \$853,999 in Moorings.



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Pelican Isle I #402
Great Gulf views, 2677SF, 3/3, 2 lanais. \$894,000



Pelican Isle I #1003
Endless waterfront views, redone 3/3, 10ft ceilings. \$1,399,000



Pelican Isle II #201
3+Den/3.5Ba. completely refurbished 2872SF end unit. \$985,000



Pelican Isle II #302
Dramatic 2677SF, elegant upgrades, beach/Wiggins Pass views. \$879,900



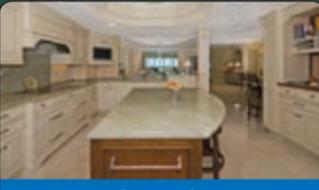
Pelican Isle II #303
Walk into breathtaking views! Wood flrs, Granite kit. 3/3. \$889,000



Pelican Isle II #304
New granite in kit, surrounded by water, end unit, 2872SF. \$895,000



Pelican Isle II #702
New A/C units & hot water heater, 2677SF, Views. \$899,000



Pelican Isle II #903
Refurbished 3/3, redesigned kit. Gulf/Bay/W.P. views. \$1,425,000



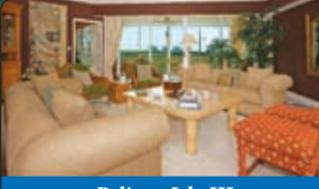
Pelican Isle III #403
Bright, spacious great room, w/ water views, 2 lanais, 2428SF. \$749,000



Pelican Isle III #602
Beautiful waterfront! New decor, 2677SF, 3/3. \$839,000



Pelican Isle III #605
3096 SF, lanais off living & Master suit, amazing views. \$1,499,000.



Pelican Isle III #702
2677SF, designer decorated, wood flrs, Gulf/Bay/River views. \$895,000



Pelican Isle III #703
3Br/3Ba, 2428SF, views of Gulf/River/Bay. \$995,950



Pelican Isle III #906
Marble flrs, new granite kit, Gulf views, 3+Den/3.5Ba. \$1,399,000



Boat Slips Available
(W-10 \$82,500) (W-31 \$191,000) (N-79 \$195,000) (N-25 \$249,000)

CBIA

From page B11

recruited more than 300 members to the association. He has been named Associate of the Year by the CBIA and the Florida Home Builders Association and served on the CBIA board of directors for many years. He also formed the Trades Council for the local and state



organizations and is a life director for both associations.

About CBIA

Founded in 1985, CBIA is a 500-member association of builders, remodelers, interior designers and other housing industry professionals. The association operates under the auspices of the Florida Home Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders. For more information, call 436-6100 or visit www.cbina.net.



QUAIL WEST

From page B11

Fox Custom Builders, Imperial Homes of Southwest Florida, London Bay Homes, Michelangelo Homes and Robert D'Angelo Jr. Construction Company.

Fully furnished models available for purchase begin in the low \$800,000s. The newest homes in Quail West, The Tamworth Collection, are being constructed on 95-by-200-foot lots and will be priced from \$1.5 million to \$2 million.

Quail West is east of Interstate 75 and one mile south of Bonita Beach Road in North Naples. For more information, visit www.QuailWest.com.



The study in the Cipriani has hand-scraped plank floors and a hand-carved teakwood writing table.

COURTESY PHOTO

Home Grown Girl!
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Doreen Vachon 643-0636

\$98,400

Lot included in sales price co-op ownership. Newer home with carport, closed porch and decks around. 55+ community. BUILT IN 2002

\$59,900

2 bed plus den, 2 bath Carport, parking for 3 cars. Workshop shed and lanai. Quiet end of the road community with pool clubhouse. Recreation room, BBQ area.

OWNER FINANCE OR LEASE OPTION

*owner finance with 15%-20% down PITI, amortized over 30 years at 6% interest

\$809 per month* **\$159,500**

161 4th St. 3/2, tiled floors, updated kitchen/baths. New windows. Wrap around covered deck, carport, workshop/shed.

\$930 per month* **\$179,900**

3587 Bolero Way 3/2 garage, all updated, oversized lot backs up to golf course.

Residential Lot • 3056 Linwood Ave.
\$10,000 Down, 6% Interest, Amortized over 20 years
\$143 per month* **\$29,900**

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RECENT TRANSACTIONS

► **Alliance Moving Inc.** has purchased a 6,420-square-foot industrial building at 472 Production Blvd., Naples, for \$250,000 from SunTrust Bank. Dan Miller of The Miller Alli-

ance at RE/MAX Realty Group Commercial Division negotiated the transaction.

► **Galati Financial** has leased 720 square feet of office space at 3033

Riviera Drive, Suite 101, from Beasley Broadcasting Management Corp. Patrick Fraley of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction.

► **The Law Offices of Alberto H. Hernandez P.A.** has leased 777 squarefeet of office space at 4280 Tamiami Trail E., Suite 303, from New Solutions Collier LLC. Clint Sherwood of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction.

► **Manuel Gonzalez** has leased 1,381 square feet of retail space at 849 Seventh Ave. S., Suite 104, from Fontana LLC. Paige Eber of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction.

► **Mattress Xpress Inc.** has leased

3,600 square feet of retail space at 5325 Airport Road from Ridgeport Limited Partnership. Patrick Fraley of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction.

► **Possibilities by Jan Inc.** has leased 7,518 square feet of retail space at 38 & 50 Goodlette Road S. from Gregg Holdings Inc. David Stevens of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction.

► **Valuecentric LLC** has leased 3,140 square feet of office space at 3530 Kraft Road, Suite 202, from Kraft Office Center LLC. Clint Sherwood of Investment Properties Corp. negotiated the transaction. ■

 Imperial Wilderness • \$128,000 Immaculate 1BR/1BA mfg. home on lake. Large screened porch. 55+ community.	 SELLER FINANCING Hawthornes at Lely • \$299,000 2BR/2BA 1st floor condo. Spacious, open floor plan. Granite, 2-car garage.	 Silver Lakes Mfg/RV Park • \$99,000 Stunning community. Vacant parcel overlooking golf course. Storage shed.
 Jacki Strategos SRES, G.R.I., e-Pro 239-370-1222 Jstrategos@att.net www.JackiStrategos.com		 Richard Droste Realtor 239-572-5117 rddsmd@comcast.net



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Free workshop will address how to prevent, defend against foreclosure

Florida foreclosure attorney David Hicks will be the keynote speaker at a free workshop about new legal strategies and potential solutions for defending against foreclosure eviction. Sponsored by the Neighborhood Community Foundation, the workshop is set for 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at Riverpark Community Center, 301 11th St. N.

A Florida court has ruled that banks must provide evidence of ownership when attempting to foreclose on a property. The decision came amid critical reports of judicial foreclosures receiving "rocket docket" processing despite missing and/or poorly prepared documents. In October, Well Fargo admitted making mistakes in 55,000 foreclosure cases but promised to expeditiously address them. Now, a growing number of concerned homeowners, including many who have missed their mortgage payments, are now moving to challenge their foreclosure proceedings.

Encouraging homeowners to learn the facts about their loans, Mr. Hicks says lender violations are typically found in eight out of 10 reviewed loan files.

Workshop topics will include:

- Loan modifications and effective techniques in working with banks;
- Federal foreclosure programs includ-

ing HAMP and HAFA;

- Loan review and how to identify errors in your loan papers;
- Simple steps to postpone a move and buy more time in your home;
- Protecting against foreclosure predators, and
- Potential legal defenses.

A question-and-answer session will follow the program.

Attendees will also receive information from participating nonprofit agencies to help them better assess a practical course of action for their needs. Participating sponsors include Legal Aid, Boys and Girls Club and Goodwill Industries and more.

Although the workshop is free, registration is required and can be made by calling (877) 306-5299.

About the NCF

Based in Sarasota, the Neighborhood Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that seeks to preserve and strengthen Florida communities by partnering with city leaders, attorneys and relief agencies in educating homeowners about foreclosure prevention. For more information, call (941) 556-4473 or visit www.neighborhood-community.org.

COURTESY RENDERING

Kraft Construction is building a new gymnasium at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School. The long-awaited addition to the school campus will include a 13,112-square-foot gymnasium with a full-size court and bleachers for 180 spectators, boys' and girls' locker rooms as well as restrooms and coaches' offices.



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In our ever-changing market, you need honest, accurate and timely advice to make an informed decision about selling or purchasing real estate. Cathy has been working with buyers and sellers in the Greater Naples Area since 1992.



PELICAN BAY | 7853 COCOBAY
Three + den pool home with guest cabana in gated neighborhood close to beach tram, tennis & fitness. Aggressively priced for quick sale. **\$1,500,000**



PARK SHORE | THE TROPICS #243
Spectacular 3 bedroom bayfront condominium with new kitchen & wood floors. Walk to beach, shops, dining of the Village. **\$950,000**



PELICAN MARSH | 9194 TROON LAKES
Three + den pool home in pristine condition. Volume ceilings & numerous upgrades. Gated community with tennis, fitness, community center. **\$620,000**



MARINA BAY CLUB | 13115 VANDERBILT
34' floating boat slip with lift. Island Marina has direct Gulf access with NO bridges. Gated 24 hr secured marina. **\$85,000**



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VILLAGE WALK VANDERBILT BEACH LOCATION

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Rarely available Windsor 4BR, 3BA plus den model offers exceptional floor plan. Home features newer appliances, tile in living areas, large screened lanai with private custom pool and lake views. **\$485,000**



3BR, 2.5 BA plus den beauty has the WOW factor for its views. Outstanding Sunset and wide water views from inside and out! Original owners have taken pride in their seasonal home and it shines throughout. **\$399,000**



The unique lot is only one of the fabulous features this 3BR, 2.5BA plus den home has to offer. Light and bright it is nicely upgraded throughout with tile in living areas, granite, private pool and more! **\$384,900**



Gracious Family Living Oakmont 3BR, 2.5BA plus den features numerous upgrades throughout, hardwood floors, granite, crown moldings, plantation shutters, custom entertainment center, and private pool with lake views. **\$381,900**



Extra clean Oakmont with real wood floors, full hurricane protection—"turn key" package available. **\$359,000**



Like new Oakmont 3BR, 2.5 BA plus den completely renovated! Features new porcelain tile in living areas, new A/C, Granite, new carpet in bedrooms, freshly painted interior hurricane protection and more! Owner Agent **\$358,900**

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Nicely appointed Oakmont model offers 3BR, 2.5BA plus den, tile throughout entire home, built-in entertainment center, and large screen lanai with lake views. Desirable location just steps from all amenities. **\$355,900 Turnkey Package Available**



The Lowest Priced Oakmont in Village Walk—need to sell quickly. Tropical retreat complete with Koi pond. **Asking \$335,000**



Capri Model 2BR, 2BA value pack! One Di Vosta most popular home styles ever and with good reason! This lovely home features upgrades galore, tile in living areas, corian counters, custom heated pool, full hurricane protection and more! **\$269,900**



Extended Capri with screened patio. Original owner, very clean, near all amenities. **\$245,000**



Capri Villa 2 BR, 2BA numerous upgrades throughout, very clean and tastefully decorated, Turnkey package available. **\$239,000**



Capri with wide water views. Clean, light and bright, ready for quick closing—enjoy it this season! **\$229,000**

ISLAND WALK VANDERBILT BEACH LOCATION



When only the Finest will do! 4BR, 3.5BA Unparalleled craftsmanship throughout the entire home, gourmet kitchen with top of the line appliances, designer finishes, private pool with lake view and more! **\$569,900**



Casual Elegance 4BR, 3.5BA, features both formal living and dining, fireplace, custom moldings, and pool w/lake views! Pristine Condition. **Furnishings Included! Shows Like New \$499,000**



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VASARI \$565,000

3+den, 2 full bathes. This fabulous Porta Rosa villa has western exposure located on Lake Vasari.



VASARI \$349,900

3 bed/2bath plus den 2nd floor carriage home with attached garage, Professionally decorated with loads of upgrades!



VASARI 349,000

Spacious carriage home boasts 3 large bedrooms+ Den 2 full baths. Bundled golf, tennis and CC amenities included.



VASARI \$219,900

2 bedrooms +den/2 baths Don't miss this newly listed 2nd floor garden home with outstanding lake and golf course views.



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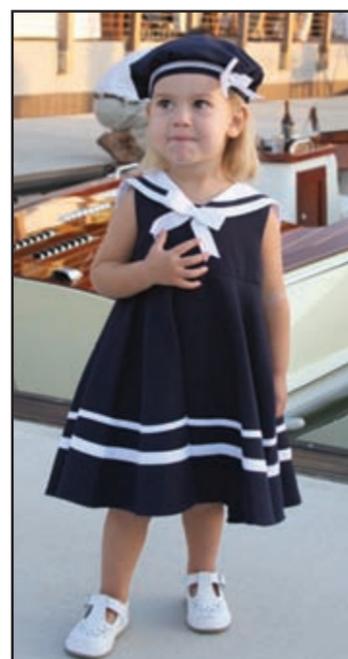
NETWORKING

All aboard with Cruise Naples and the Young Professionals



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1. Sandy Wiegman, Jason Hartgrave and Sheila Wiegman
2. Alison Amaral and Amy Ashby
3. Jackie Ritter and Amy Bensinger
4. Tricia Harlow, Tim Nash and Blair Delongy
5. Monica and Teresa McInnis and Deanna Desruisseaux
6. Michelle Schulster, Cormac Giblin and Courtney Herrell
7. John Musca, Sarah Gross and Brian Blum



The third annual luxury boat show at Hamilton Harbor Yacht Club

Far left: Nicole Guitierrez, Peterson Janvier, Cynthia Hernandez, Natalie Artimez, Julie Zepeda and Daniela Fuenzalida of the Boys and Girls Club of Collier County
Left: Emily Jentgen

COURTESY PHOTOS

We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too. Send us your society and networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@floridaweekly.com.

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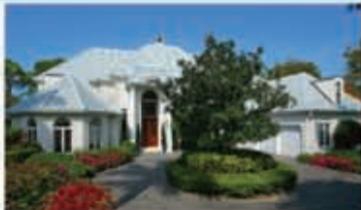
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furnished. **\$2,895,000** | Jane Darling | 290-3112



**PELICAN MARSH - BAY LAUREL
ESTATES** ▲ Southern exposure, estate sized
lot. Magnificent 2-story 4BR, family rm, den, 4,000
SF outdoor space with pool. **\$2,325,000**
Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn | 404-7887



**PELICAN MARSH - BAY LAUREL
ESTATES** ▲ Casually elegant 4BR/5.5BA+den
courtyard home. W. pool exposure, guest cabana,
over 5,000 sq. ft. lake/golf views. **\$2,125,000**
Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn | 404-7887



PELICAN MARSH - MARSH LINKS ▲
An exceptional 4BR/4.5BA+den, 4,100 SF home.
Wide golf views. Membership to the world-class
Golf Club is included. **\$1,949,000**
Ray Couret/Leah Ritchey | 293-5899



PELICAN BAY - COCOBAY ▲
7853 Cocobay Drive - Courtyard home has a
separate guest cabana with full bath and main
house with flexible plan. Heated pool, spa.
\$1,500,000 | Cathy Owen | 269-3118



PELICAN BAY - CARLTON PLACE ▲
Privacy & golf course views! End villa, over 3,200
SF A/C, 3 bedrooms with balconies and baths.
Screened pool/spa. **\$1,475,000** | Linda Piatt | 269-2322



PELICAN BAY - POINTE ▲
655 Via Mezner #203 - Completely renovated 2nd
floor. 3BR plus den with private elevator, glassed-in
lanai and 2-car attached garage. **\$1,150,000**
Richard/Susie Culp | 290-2200



PELICAN MARSH - WATERCREST ▲
Gated community, gracious split-plan
4BR/3BA+den. Lake views, special treatments
throughout. Lanai with pool & spa. **\$1,100,000**
Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn | 404-7887



PELICAN MARSH - GABLES ▲
Wonderful 4BR/3BA with wide lake views in
premium gated golf community. Den/office, heated
pool/spa, 3-car garage. **\$1,030,000**
Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn | 404-7887



PELICAN BAY - L'AMBIANCE ▲
Exceptional large, tropical aqua-scape view! Very
spacious, gorgeous 3BR/3BA+den coach home.
Incredible amenities. **\$935,000** | Ellen Egglund | 571-7192



PELICAN MARSH - GABLES ▲
Wonderful lake front 3BR/3BA pool home. Premier
gated community. Office/study, family room,
impeccably maintained. **\$899,000**
Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn | 404-7887



VILLAS OF PELICAN BAY ▲
Two-story attached villa with main level master
suite lives like a single-family home. Many recent
upgrade. Upstairs balcony off 2nd master overlooks
golf. **\$849,900** | Kathy Morris | 777-8654



PELICAN BAY - HERON ▲
Spectacular Gulf views! Light 14th floor 3BA/3BA,
southwest exposure, over 2,400 SF total, 2 lanais.
Tram to beach. **\$795,000** | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544



PELICAN BAY - CRESCENT ▲
8472 Abbingdon Circle #2021 - Close to the beach,
3BR plus family room, 2.5BA private elevator,
hurricane shutters and wet bar. Two-car garage
\$749,000 | Chris Wortman | 273-2007



PELICAN BAY - INTERLACHEN ▲
Turnkey furnished, absolutely stunning renovation
of a 3BR/2BA condominium. Beach, tennis, fitness
center & golf. **\$699,000** | Jane Darling | 290-3112



PELICAN MARSH - ISLAND COVE ▲
Stunning SE lake view! Beautifully maintained
2BR/2.5BA+den detached villa. Tile floors, newer
A/C, 2-car garage. **\$630,000**
Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn | 404-7887



PELICAN MARSH - ISLAND COVE ▲
2271 Island Cove Circle - Elegant 2BR/2.5BA with
lake views, privacy, optional den/3rd bedroom suite,
fine finishings and extended lanai. **\$599,000**
Linda Perry/Penny Lyle | 261-6161



PELICAN BAY - BREAKWATER ▲
Breathtaking view, reminiscent of a tropical luxury
resort. Cheery 2BR+den, oversized 2-car garage &
S. exposure. **\$525,000** | Janet Rathbun | 860-0012



PELICAN MARSH - VENTURA ▲
Expansive great room & kitchen. "Spinnaker" floor
plan, 3 BR plus loft/den, lanai with pool. Attached
2-car garage. **\$475,000** | Pat Duggan | 216-1980



PELICAN BAY - SANCTUARY ▲
5950 Pelican Bay Blvd. #125 - Great scenic views!
3BR/2BA with large spacious wrap-around balconies.
Spectacular amenities with beach tram & golf.
\$450,000 | Polly Himmel | 290-3910



PELICAN MARSH - SEVILLE ▲
Wonderfully appointed 3BR/2BA 1st floor lake front
coach home. Private membership golf, tennis, club.
Furnished. **\$415,000**
Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn | 404-7887



**PELICAN BAY - CHANTECLAIR
MAISONNETTES** ▲ Tranquil lake views &
vaulted ceilings highlight this special 3BR residence
just a short walk to the beach shuttle.
\$359,000 | Larry Roorda | 860-2534



PELICAN MARSH - ARIELLE ▲
2205 Arielle Drive #1301 - Long lake views &
sunsets from this 3BR+den, 2,661 total SF upstairs
corner residence with 2-car garage. **\$334,900**
Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn | 404-7887



PELICAN MARSH - CLERMONT ▲
Beautifully maintained 3BR/2BA coach home with
attached garage. Fountain views, glass/screen
enclosed sunroom. **\$332,500** | Wendy Hayes | 777-3960

PELICAN BAY

JAMESTOWN 717 Jamestown Lane - Lakeside masterpiece, SW exposure, custom designed to bring the indoor & outdoor living spaces together. Pool/spa. **\$3,900,000** | Sharon Kiptyck | 777-3899

CAP FERRAT 6597 Nicholas Blvd. #1001 - Highly desirable SW end residence, panoramic Gulf/bay views. Den, 3BR/3BA, high-end finishes, secured elevator. **\$2,800,000** | Ellen Egglund | 571-7192

COCO BAY 7922 Cocobay Drive - One-of-a-kind 2-story villa, terrific golf & lake views. About 4,400 SF under air, 4BR/4.5BA, den/office, pool/spa. **\$2,395,000** | Jane Darling | 290-3112

ST. RAPHAEL 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1105 - Luxury, pristine 3BR/3.5BA tower residence has a spacious single-family home feel plus spectacular high-rise view. **\$2,000,000** | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544

MONTENERO 7575 Pelican Bay Blvd. #508 - Beachfront, panoramic views of Gulf & natural preserve. Generous 3,400 SF of living area. Well-appointed building. **\$1,795,000** | Linda Perry/Penny Lyle | 261-6161

ST. MARISSA 6573 Marissa Loop #PH1 - Unique, updated 3BR 2-story penthouse with panoramic Gulf and sanctuary views! Four lanais, tram to private beach. **\$1,695,000** | Karen Van Arsdale | 860-0894

PINECREST 801 Slash Pine Court - Split 4BR plus office, 4 SBA, coral fireplace, outdoor summer kitchen, heated pool, spa, 3-car garage & SW exposure. **\$1,650,000** | Janet Rathbun | 860-0012

BARRINGTON 792 Tramore Lane - Privacy awaits you in this tropical oasis. Rock waterfall, black lagoon pool, bridge to the spa area. **\$1,650,000** | Janet Rathbun | 860-0012

ST. RAPHAEL 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1007 - Beautiful luxury tower residence, spectacular view! Endless enhancements, casual beach lifestyle. Private cabana. **\$1,450,000** | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544

CARLTON PLACE 310 Carlton Place - S. exposure over golf course. Private end 3BR/4.5BA+den. Pool, 2-car attached garage. Pet friendly, tram to beach. **\$1,395,000** | Linda Piatt | 269-2322

CARLTON PLACE 352 Carlton Place - Extensively remodeled 3BR/4.5BA plus den/family room villa with SW views overlooking golf. Pool/spa, beach tram. **\$1,345,000** | Jane Darling | 290-3112

CHATEAUMERE ROYALE 6000 Pelican Bay Blvd. #PH2 - Rarely available 2-story, 4BR penthouse with 280 degree Gulf views plus east lake/golf views. Furnished. **\$1,299,000** | Mary Catherine/Larry White | 287-2818

ST. RAPHAEL 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1607 - Spectacular views over Gulf, Bay & golf! Exquisitely appointed 3BR/3BA, Health club, pool, tennis, 4 guest suites. **\$1,295,000** | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544

ST. LAURENT 6849 Grenadier Blvd. #1104 - Expansive Gulf, city and golf views! Newly renovated, corner 3 bedroom. Southern exposure and two terraces. **\$1,199,000** | Phyllis O'Donnell/Patrick O'Donnell | 269-6161

TIERRA MAR 568 Tierra Mar Lane - Rare 4BR villa, lake view and S. exposure. Large pool in front courtyard, aviary-screened patio in rear. Furnished. **\$1,195,000** | Linda Piatt | 269-2322

GROSVENOR 6001 Pelican Bay Blvd. #302 - Rare direct 3BR/3BA front residence with western Gulf views. In perfect condition. Pool, fitness room, beach tram. **\$850,000** | Pat Duggan | 216-1980

MARBELLA 7425 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1105 - Wonderful Gulf views from this 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath with approx. 2,000 total SF. Full service building. **\$849,500** | Linda Perry/Judy Perry | 261-6161

THE VILLAGE 239.261.6161
THE PROMENADE 239.948.4000

PELICAN BAY

GROSVENOR 6001 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1005 - Financially stable high-rises. Beautifully-remodeled corner residence with breathtaking views. Tennis, beach tram. **\$847,000** | Kathryn Huvitz/Marilyn Mair | 659-5126

CRESCENT 8456 Abbingdon Circle #1721 - Full SE exposure 3BR + den, 2nd floor tow-house, golf/lake views. Furnished, 2,400 SF living area. Pet friendly. **\$795,000** | Jerry Wachowicz | 777-0741

GROSVENOR 6001 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1705 - Beautifully updated and renovated residence in the sky! Perfect media room, spectacular views from both balconies. **\$825,000** | Jeri Richey | 269-2203

ST. PIERRE 6825 Grenadier Blvd. #1802 - Incredible Gulf/sunset views! Premier high-rise, clean, updated, move in ready 2BR/2BA, Tennis, fitness & beach. **\$749,900** | Kathy Morris | 777-8654

TIERRA MAR 508 Tierra Mar Lane - Popular 3BR single-level villa with private courtyard pool. Beach access, fitness/tennis facility & golf available. **\$745,000** | Linda Piatt/Jeri Richey | 269-2322

STRATFORD 5601 Turtle Bay Drive #1402 - Totally renovated residence, beautifully decorated plus spectacular view! Huge living area/great room. Top quality! **\$700,000** | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544

ST. MARISSA 6573 Marissa Loop #2002 - Stunning Gulf of Mexico views from this 2BR plus den, 2BA. Completely updated. Beautifully renovated kitchen. **\$687,500** | Jennifer/Dave Umess | 273-7731

ST. KITTS 6585 Nicholas Blvd. #605 - Sunny corner 3BR+den/2BA with sunset Gulf views, 1,889 total SF & electric hurricane shutters. Turnkey furnished. **\$650,000** | Pat Duggan | 216-1980

CRESCENT 8487 Abbingdon Circle #112 - Gorgeous lake view, 3BR/2BA carriage home. Glassed-in lanai. Condominium convenience with spaciousness of a house. **\$629,900** | Janet Rathbun | 860-0012

ST. MARISSA 6573 Marissa Loop #1703 - Beautifully maintained 2BR/2BA+den tower residence, expanded living area & spectacular Gulf views! Great amenities. **\$625,000** | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544

CALAIS 7016 Pelican Bay Blvd. #102 - Not one element has been missed in this 1st floor condominium! Lives like a villa with faraway views, beach tram. **\$585,000** | Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars | 216-1973

CHATEAUMERE ROYALE 6000 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1001 - Dawn to dusk views over a lake, golf course, preserve & the Gulf! Tastefully updated 10th floor S. end residence. **\$574,777** | Esther Van Lare | 404-3045

CHATEAUMERE 6040 Pelican Bay Blvd. N. #401 - Beautiful 4th floor 3BR/3BA end residence. Lake, golf/Gulf views. Golf course (membership required), beach access. **\$549,900** | Sue Black/Kristin Mikler | 250-5611

ST. KITTS 6585 Nicholas Blvd. #505 - Fabulous vacation home with Gulf views at a fabulous price! Turnkey furnished 2BR/2BA + den. Private Beach Club. **\$499,000** | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544

CHATEAUMERE 6040 Pelican Bay Blvd. #403 - Lake & golf views! Top floor, 2BR, beautifully remodeled with new kitchen, new baths, wine bar and powder room. **\$459,000** | Jane Darling | 290-3112

AVALON 8410 Escalbur Circle #A5 - Light, bright and tidy 2BR, 2BA with one-car garage. Near community pool, walk to fitness center, tennis & more. **\$369,000** | Richard/Susie Culp | 290-2200

THE GALLERY 239.659.0099
MARCO ISLAND 239.642.2222

PELICAN MARSH

BAY LAUREL ESTATES 8732 Purslane Drive - Unsurpassed lake/fairway views. Soaring ceilings & Saturnia marble floors, granite, fireplace, wet bar, pool, spa. **\$2,895,000** | Polly Himmel | 290-3910

BAY LAUREL ESTATES 8703 Purslane Drive - Pool, spa, and waterfall on quiet preserve. Lovely main home, 2-story 5 room cabana. Large outdoor living area. **\$2,000,000** | Mary Catherine/Larry White | 287-2818

TERRABELLA 9033 Terranova Drive - Large, private lake-front property. Separate guest cabana, 4BR+den, open-air courtyard, pool, spa and 3-car garage. **\$1,825,000** | Rod Soars/Trish Lowe Soars | 290-2448

GRAND ISLE 1020 Grand Isle Drive - Lovely Mediterranean villa, spectacular lake/golf views! Huge pool, 2-story guest house, 3BR+family room main home. **\$1,599,000** | Jeri Richey | 269-2203

PORTOFINO 1481 Via Portofino - Amazing lake, golf course and Cocohatchee Strand views. Private 5BR+den/5.5BA villa with an oversized lanai. **\$1,450,000** | Ray Couret/Leah Ritchey | 293-5899

MUIRFIELD 8791 Muirfield Drive - Expansive and serene SW lake view! Impeccably maintained and updated 4BR/3BA+den home. Family room opens to pool. **\$1,350,000** | Sharon Kaltenborn/Terri Moellers | 248-1964

PORTOFINO 1414 Via Portofino - Exceptional villa lifestyle! Sensational lake and golf views. 2,833+ A/C SF, 3BR+den with 14 ft. ceilings. **\$1,979,900** | Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars | 216-1973

TROON LAKES 9194 Troon Lakes Drive - Pristine 3BR + den pool home with numerous upgrades and 2-car attached garage. Pet friendly. Aggressively priced! **\$620,000** | Cathy Owen | 269-3118

TIMARRON 1860 Timarron Way - "Spinnaker" floor plan with 3BRs, 3BAs plus den. Heated pool/spa overlooking lake. Two-car garage. Turnkey. **\$599,000** | Marty/Debbi McDermott | 364-4231

ISLAND COVE 2276 Island Cove Circle - Gorgeous sunset views from expanded lakeside lanai. Furnished 3BR/3BA detached villa. Social/golf club memberships. **\$585,000** | Sharon Kaltenborn/Terri Moellers | 248-1964

SEVILLE 1836 Seville Blvd. #1121 - Totally renovated & highly upgraded 3BR/3BA+den with 2,400 sq. ft. A/C. Steps from pool, fitness room & clubhouse. **\$560,000** | Roya Noubi | 290-9111

OSPREY POINTE 9009 Whimbrel Watch Lane #101 - Absolutely stunning 3BR/2.5BA 1st floor coach home! Quiet golf course view, access from pool and 2 miles to beach. **\$534,900** | Sharon Kaltenborn/Terri Moellers | 248-1964

SEVILLE 1816 Seville Blvd. #922 - Exceptional 3BR+den coach home on cul-de-sac & lake. Fitness ctr, pool/spa, memberships for golf, tennis & dining. **\$498,000** | Linda Perry/Judy Perry | 261-6161

CLERMONT 1610 Clermont Drive #202 - Private corner with garden and fountain view from lanai. \$30,000 in upgrades! Grand great room, 3BRs, 2BAs. **\$446,000** | Tess McCarthy/Tom McCarthy | 207-0118

CLERMONT 1610 Clermont Drive #105 - S. facing 1st floor end residence. 2-car garage. Fairway/lake views. New features, equity social/golf memberships. **\$415,000** | Mara Muller | 272-6170

ARIELLE 2110 Arielle Drive #101 - Tranquil views of lake & fairway. Light and bright 3BR plus den, 2BA, bonus gathering room off upgraded kitchen. **\$329,000** | Dina L. Moon | 370-1252

ARIELLE 2245 Arielle Drive #2101 - New wood flooring & great decor! This corner 3 bedroom plus family room/den residence enjoys a peaceful lake view. **\$315,000** | Jean Tarkenton | 595-0544

ARIELLE 2250 Arielle Drive #1904 - Wonderfully maintained 2nd floor, 3BR/2BA with beautiful southern lake views. Turnkey furnished. Attached garage. **\$299,900** | Marty/Debbi McDermott | 364-4231

FIFTH AVENUE 239.434.8770
RENTAL DIVISION 239.262.4242
OLD NAPLES 239.434.2424
DEVELOPER SERVICES 239.434.6373

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Florida Weekly's Open Houses

Open Houses are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked

>\$200,000

1 • WALDEN OAKES • 6989 Lone Oak Blvd • \$249,000 • Prudential Florida Realty - Michelle DeNomme - 404-7787

2 • VENTANAS AT TIBURON • 2748 Tiburon Blvd Units C102, C103 and C406 • \$299,900 to \$638,000 • Prudential Florida Realty - Michelle DeNomme - 404-7787

>\$300,000

3 • THE BROOKS - SHADOW WOOD - PALMETTO RIDGE • 9221 Palmetto Ridge Drive #201 • \$329,000 • Premier Sotheby's International Realty • Roxanne Jeske 450-5210

4 • PELICAN MARSH - ARIELLE • 2205 Arielle Drive #1301 • \$334,900 • Premier SIR • Terri Moellers/Sharon Kaltenborn 404-7887

5 • BONITA BAY - HARBOR LAKES • 27041 Lake Harbor Court #202 • \$389,000 • Premier SIR • Carol Wood/Claire McMahon 822-3709

>\$400,000

6 • THE STRADA AT MERCATO • Located just North of Vanderbilt Beach Rd on US 41 • From \$400s • Call 239-594-9400 • Premier SIR • Mon. - Sat. 10-8 and Sun. 12-8

7 • PELICAN BAY - SANCTUARY • 5950 Pelican Bay Blvd. #125 • \$450,000 • Premier SIR • Polly Himmel 290-3910

8 • PARK SHORE - TERRACES • 4751 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. #1403 • \$485,000 • Premier SIR • Ed Cox/Jeff Cox 860-8806

9 • FIDDLER'S CREEK - CHERRY OAKS • 9077 Cherry Oaks Trail #202 • \$499,000 • Premier SIR • ML Meade 293-4851

>\$500,000

10 • BONITA BAY - ESPERIA AND TAVIRA • 26951 Country Club Drive • New construction from the mid \$500s. • Premier SIR • Call 239-495-1105 • Mon. - Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5

11 • BOLERO AT TIBURON • 2647 Bolero Drive, Unit 101 • \$524,000 • Prudential Florida Realty - Michelle DeNomme - 404-7787

12 • THE BROOKS - SHADOW WOOD - LONGLEAF • 22110 Longleaf Trail Drive • \$579,000 • Premier SIR • Jack Despart 273-7931

>\$600,000

13 • MOORINGS • 3500 Crayton Road • \$645,000 • Judy Perry/Linda Perry 261-6161

>\$700,000

14 • OLD NAPLES - HAMILTON CLUB • 356 - 7th Avenue South • \$779,000 • Premier SIR • Virginia/Randy Wilson 450-9091 • Thur. and Sun. 1-4

15 • BONITA BAY - ANCHORAGE • 27500 Riverbank Drive • \$799,000 • Premier SIR • Gary L. Jaarda/Jeff Jaarda 248-7474

>\$800,000

16 • VILLAS PIENZA • 4852 W. Boulevard Court • \$870,000 • Prudential Florida Realty - Michelle DeNomme - 404-7787

17 • THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE • 280 Grande Way • From \$875,000 • Premier SIR • Call 239-594-1700 • Mon. - Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5

>\$900,000

18 • AQUA • 13675 Vanderbilt Drive (take Wiggins Pass Road to Vanderbilt Drive) • From the \$900s • Premier SIR • Call 239-591-2727 • Open Mon. - Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5

19 • WYNDEMERE - GOLF COTTAGES • 232 Edgemere Way East • \$995,000 • Premier SIR • Kathryn Hurvitz/Marilyn Moir 659-5126

>\$1,000,000

20 • PARK SHORE - ALLEGRO • 4031 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. #PH2F • \$1,100,000 • Premier SIR • Bette Helms 261-6200

21 • PELICAN BAY - POINTE I • 655 Via Mezner #203 • \$1,150,000 • Premier SIR • Richard/Susie Culp 290-2200

Naples

22 • PELICAN BAY - CHATEAUMERE ROYALE • 6000 Pelican Bay Blvd. #PH2 • \$1,299,000 • Premier SIR • Larry/Mary Catherine White 287-2818

23 • OLD NAPLES - VILLAS DEL MAR • 443 - 2nd Avenue South #1 • \$1,350,000 • Premier SIR • Tom McCarthy/Tess McCarthy 243-5520 • NEW LISTING • Thur. and Sun. 1-4

24 • ESTUARY AT GREY OAKS • 1485 Anhinga Pointe • From \$1,499,000 • Premier SIR • Call 239-261-3148 • Mon. - Sat. 9-5 and Sun. 12-5

25 • OLD NAPLES - CASA BELLA • 458 - 11th Avenue South • \$1,700,000 • Premier SIR • Beth Hayhoe McNichols 821-3304 • Thur. and Sun. 1-4

26 • MEDITERRA • 17001 Cortile Drive • \$1,999,999 • Amerivest Realty - David William Auston, PA - 273-1367

>\$2,000,000

27 • MOORINGS • 320 Springline Drive • \$2,195,000 • Premier SIR • Michael Lawler 571-3939

28 • BONITA BAY - ESTANCIA • 4801 Bonita Bay Blvd. #PH-102 • \$2,495,000 • Premier SIR • Carol Johnson/Michael Lickley 948-4000

29 • VANDERBILT BEACH - MORAYA BAY • 11125 Gulfshore Drive • From \$2,500,000 • Premier SIR • Call 239-514-5050 • Mon. - Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 12-5

30 • OLD NAPLES • 1133 6th Street South • \$2,695,000 • Campbell and Prebish, LLC, Real Estate Professionals - Celine Van Arsdale 404-9917

>\$4,000,000

31 • PARK SHORE • 308 Turtle Hatch Road • \$4,295,000 • Premier SIR • Paula Sims/Julie Rembos 262-6600

32 • MOORINGS • 325 Windward Way • \$4,900,000 • Premier SIR • Ruth Trettis 403-4529

33 • OLD NAPLES • 382 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. • \$4,990,000 • Premier SIR • Susan Barton 860-1412 • Thur. and Sun. 1-4

34 • GREY OAKS - ESTUARY • 1280 Osprey Trail • \$4,995,000 • Premier SIR • Call 239-261-3148

35 • PORT ROYAL • 645 Galleon Drive • \$4,995,000 • "Campbell and Prebish, LLC, Real Estate Professionals - Peter G. Reppucci 595-6500

>\$5,000,000

36 • AQUALANE SHORES • 2026 7th Street South • \$5,650,000 • Campbell and Prebish, LLC, Real Estate Professionals - William O. Farrington 572-1518

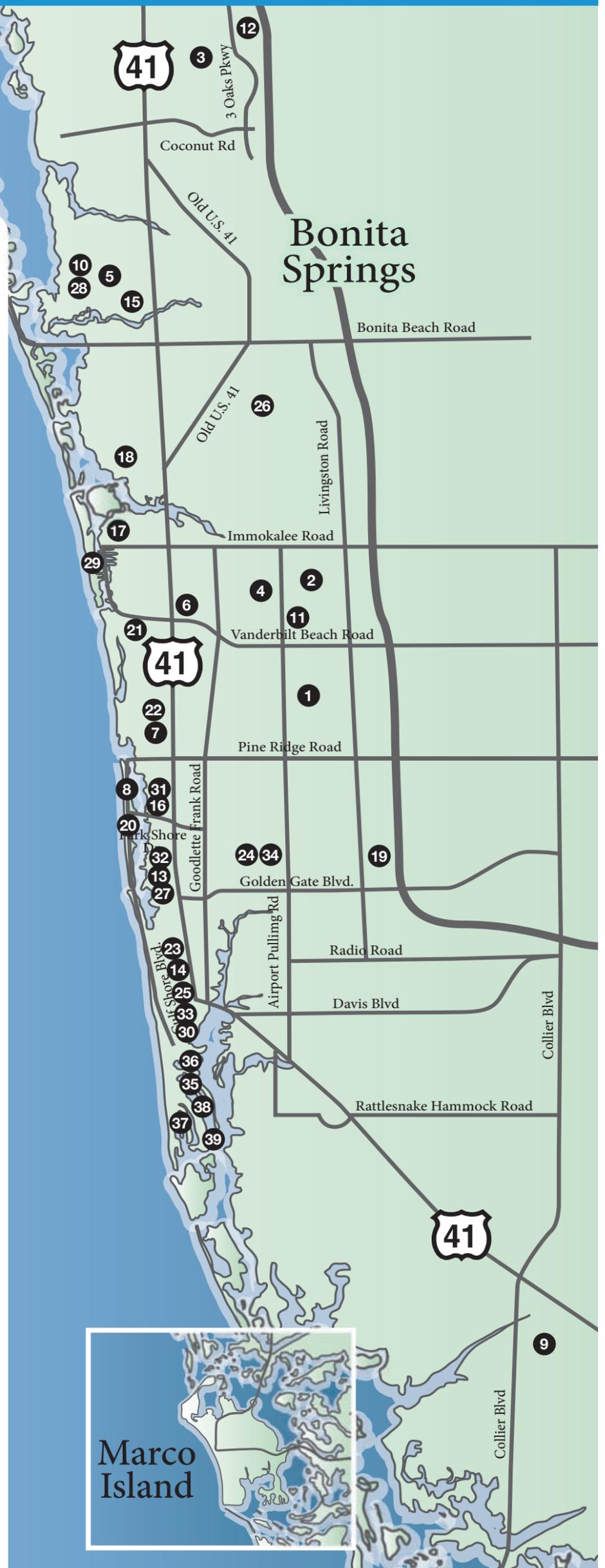
>\$7,000,000

37 • PORT ROYAL • 3075 Fort Charles Drive • \$7,400,000 • Premier SIR • Vincent Bandelier 450-5976

>\$10,000,000

38 • PORT ROYAL • 1176 Spyglass Lane • \$10,995,000 • Campbell and Prebish, LLC, Real Estate Professionals - Thomas L. Campbell, Jr 860-4923

39 • PORT ROYAL • 3775 Rum Row • \$14,250,000 • Campbell and Prebish, LLC, Real Estate Professionals - Richard G. Prebish, II 357-6628





EQUESTRIAN ESTATE ▲
An outstanding 20-acre equestrian estate zoned agriculture. Fenced, 10-stall center aisle barn, riding arena.
\$2,500,000 | Kathryn Tout | 250-3583



LIVINGSTON WOODS ▲
Four bedrooms, den, billiard room, wide-plank wood floors, fireplace. Lazy river pool, waterfall pool/spa.
\$2,495,000 | Rod Soars | 290-2448



PINE RIDGE ▲
NEW 5,000 SF home; 1.24 acres, city water; guest house; theatre, gym, game room upstairs kitchenette, pool/spa.
\$1,995,000 | Dave/Ann Renner | 784-5552



PINE RIDGE ▲
Close-in, yet private neighborhood. Picturesque home overlooks lakeside dock. Separate 2BR guesthouse, 1 acre+.
\$1,395,000 | Sue Black | 250-5611



THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE GRANDE PHOENICIAN ▲ Magnificent Gulf views! Enjoy wonderful penthouse living in this 3BR/3BA. **\$1,299,000 | Jennifer/Dave Urness & Gayle Fawkes | 273-7731**



COVE TOWERS - CARIBE ▲
Priced below market. Extraordinary Bay, Gulf & River views! Perfect 4BR/4BA+den penthouse, over 4,200 sq. ft. A/C. **\$1,295,000**
Kathryn Hurvitz/Marilyn Moir | 659-5126



BAREFOOT BEACH - SOUTHPORT ON THE BAY ▲ Estate home w/ impact glass on all 3 floors. Vaulted ceiling, fireplace. Lake view. Loft library. Pool/spa. **\$1,179,000**
Mary Catherine/Larry White | 287-2818



THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE GRANDE PHOENICIAN ▲ Panoramic Gulf views! Luxury, upgraded 3BR/3BA. Private Beach Club, on-site concierge services. **\$1,025,000**
Jennifer/Dave Urness | 273-7731



VILLAGES OF MONTEREY ▲
Lakefront, "like new" stately 4BR/4.5BA home. Family room, loft area, den, 1st floor study, plus heated pool/spa.
\$999,000 | Dave/Ann Renner | 784-5552



THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE GRANDE PHOENICIAN ▲ Magnificent water & golf course views! Tastefully furnished 3BR. World-class amenities, private beach club. **\$999,000**
Jennifer/Dave Urness/Gayle Fawkes | 273-7731



THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE GRANDE PHOENICIAN ▲ Outstanding value for a true "Florida style lifestyle" in this model-like furnished 3BR w/extended terrace.
\$997,000 | Roya Nouhi | 290-9111



COVE TOWERS - CARIBE ▲
Endless views of the Gulf/Bay & preserves! Impeccably maintained 3BR/3.5BA+den. Resort amenities. Offered turnkey.
\$995,000 | Pat Callis | 250-0562



BAREFOOT BEACH CLUB II ▲
Fantastic 3BR/2 BA on beach. Great Gulf views! Tiled living areas. New granite & SS appliances. Community pool.
\$985,000 | Roxanne Jeske | 450-5210



PELICAN ISLE YACHT CLUB III ▲
425 Docks Drive #201 - Naples ultimate island! Great views, turnkey furnished 3BR/3BA. Equity membership to private Yacht Club included.
\$939,000 | Suzanne Ring | 821-7550



PELICAN ISLE YACHT CLUB II ▲
435 Docks Drive #703 - Breathtaking Gulf views! Spacious 3BR/3BA. Member owned Club - tennis, pool/spa, fitness center & beach shuttle!
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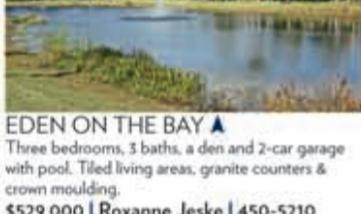
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9-15, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE

FLORIDA WEEKLY
TAKES ON:

THE IMPOSSIBLE: MAKING A LIVING AS AN ARTIST



Marcus Jansen in his Fort Myers studio during the filming of his upcoming documentary.

COURTESY PHOTO / FLIP MINOTT / MINOTTMOTIONPICTURES.COM

BY NANCY STETSON

nstetson@floridaweekly.com

Thirteen years ago, Marcus Jansen sold his paintings on the sidewalk.

Every day, he'd take the subway down from the Bronx and stand at the intersection of Prince Street and Broadway in SoHo, hoping to sell his scenes of city life. Most were small, and on cardboard, because he couldn't afford canvas.

All he had was his talent, his unique way of seeing things, and a heart full of hope.

"That was my corner. I set them up against the wall of the Victoria's Secret store," he recalls. "I saw a lot of celebrities. Some stopped, some that didn't. You learn to deal with the whole rejection thing."

And rejection seemed the one constant in his artistic

SEE ARTIST, C4 ►



COURTESY 101 EXHIBIT MIAMI / © 2010 MARCUS JANSEN

"Creeping Obstacles in Kansas"

'Good' is enough to describe Cluster Pluckin' line-up

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Ten bands and singer-songwriters will take their turn on the stage at The Norris Center for the second annual Cluster Pluckin' on Saturday night, Dec. 11. Among them are acts that play bluegrass, jazz and folk, and "some that defy classification other than just being good," organizers say.

Also billed as the "Neapolitan Opry," the performance from 7-10 p.m. is structured like the old-fashioned Grand Ole Opry radio show (though it's not broadcast over any airwaves). Each act performs a few songs while emcees do brief commercials during breaks highlighting supporting sponsors and venues.

Russ Morrison, leader of the band



COURTESY PHOTO

SEE PLUCKIN', C3 ► Avery County

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Inside



'Girls Gone Bad'

You never know what 'Nice Jewish Girls' will do when they take their show on the road. C8 ►



Ooh, la la

Films on Fifth brings French "Summer Hours" to the Sugden. C12 ►



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SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

Faced with impossible choices



ArtisHENDERSON
sandydays@floridaweekly.com

I would have understood if he preferred the naughty nurses. There were three of them, all dressed in white polyester, wearing plastic stethoscopes. Their skirts were short, their décolletage revealing, and they hailed from overseas.

"Who brought the Swedish porn stars?" a man asked at the Halloween party we all attended.

I did. But I missed the naughty nurse memo, and I rolled in as a sexy squaw instead. I mean, a classy Indian. I mean, a weak approximation of a Native American, with a homemade fringed skirt and two feathers stuck in my hair.

I had roped my friends into going to a house party where we didn't know anyone, promising them cute guys, the chance to meet new people and, most importantly, a shot at a date for the upcoming Marine Ball. Every year, at the birthday of the Marine Corps, Marines all over the world host a bash in their own honor. It's a grand fete where women wear ball gowns and the men actually take a shower and shave. The Marines are achingly young, and you can't help but want to celebrate their fresh-faced courage.

At the Halloween party the week before the ball, the Marines were in full

form. A wolf prowled among the guests, and Obi Wan Kenobi served drinks from the bar. They were muscled and clean-cut, young and brash in a way that could break your heart if you let it. Arrogant, even, with their American good looks and new-to-the world bravery.

And they loved the naughty nurses. They gathered around the women in white, making small talk, asking about their hometowns. They exchanged numbers and invited them back for future parties. I chatted with the Marines in passing — when I bought a drink at the bar, when I moved from the bar to the dance floor. One of them stopped me by the pool table. We talked about his family in Kansas, and I laughed to hear what he thought about living overseas. They were innocuous topics, not sexy in the least, so when he took me aside at the end of the night, I couldn't imagine what he wanted.

"I was wondering," he said. "Would you go to the Marine Ball with me?"

I stood there for a second, my face shocked, disbelieving. How could this handsome young man, given the choice between three bombshells in nurse uniforms, have chosen me?

Later, blissed-out on having won the grand prize, I imagined there was some lesson in it, a statement on the nature of dating, of the choices men make. I thought this confirmed everything I had ever hoped — that smarts and class beat out vulgar sexuality in the end.

A week or so later, I had dinner with a group of friends that included the naughty nurses. I mentioned the young Marine who had invited me to the ball.

One of the nurses laughed dismissively. "Him?" she

"...The Marine did not make the impossible choice between sexy and smart after all. He decided he wanted them both."

said. "He's already called me twice this week."

He had not called me. It turned out all of my highbrow theories were wrong. The Marine did not make the impossible choice between sexy and smart after all. He decided he wanted them both. ■



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PLUCKIN'

From page 1

Frontline Bluegrass by avocation and a Naples financial advisor by profession, started the event last year to highlight the wealth of local musicians.

"It's mainly meant to showcase local talent, and we have an awful lot of talent in this town," he says.

For example, Chase Padgett, who graduated from Naples High School and travels the world with his "6 Guitars" show, will play jazz. Andy Wahlberg will play harp guitar, and The WholeTones will perform their genre-bending blend of folk, bluegrass and metal. A few out-of-towners are on the program as well, including the Saw Grass Drifters, a bluegrass band led by a couple from Switzerland and Czechoslovakia. ("Bluegrass is world-wide to a certain degree," Mr. Morrison says.) Other acts include Frank Corso, Dan Banks with Matt Baxley and others, Monroe Station, Clay Hess with Jon Garon, Avery County Bluegrass and Mr. Morrison's band, Frontline Bluegrass.

Besides the Grand Ole Opry radio show, the event was also inspired by an old bluegrass band called The Cluster Pluckers, Mr. Morrison says. Getting all the performers organized on stage takes some doing, so that's another reason why the name of the event seemed apt.

"It's quite a logistics exercise, getting them all on in three hours," Mr. Morrison says.

In any case, it promises to be a lot of fun. ■



COURTESY PHOTOS

Top: Andy Wahlberg.
Above: Frontline Bluegrass

in the know

- >> **What:** The second annual Cluster Pluckin'
- >> **When:** 7-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11
- >> **Where:** The Norris Center
- >> **Tickets:** \$20 in advance, reserved center seating; \$23 at the door
- >> **Details:** Food will be available in lobby by Fred's Food, Fun & Spirits.
- >> **Info:** 213-3049 or www.facebook.com/russ.frontline1

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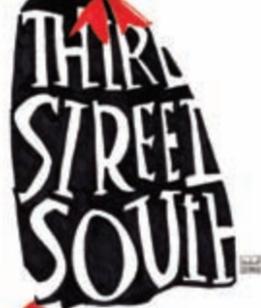
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ARTIST

From page 1

career.

Galleries in Germany, where Mr. Jansen and his wife, Michaela, had been living, didn't want to represent him. Nor did the galleries he approached in New York.

So he took his work to the streets, selling paintings on the sidewalk for \$350 and \$750. He was happy if he sold two in one week.

He was just trying to make enough money to pay the bills and keep painting.

Now, Mr. Jansen's paintings sell for as much as \$80,000 (with an average of \$20,000 for smaller pieces).

During the first week in December, he showed at SCOPE Miami Art Basel Miami Beach. Collectors from around the world came to see and buy his latest work. The director and the board of trustees from the Boston Museum of Fine Art flew down to see his paintings in person.

"Art Basel brings in lots of opportunities," Mr. Jansen says. "We go through the proposals."

He already knows that next year he will have an exhibit at the Pulse Art Fair in New York and a solo show with 101 Exhibit, also in New York. And he's in the process of setting up "something in Rome."

He's lauded as a pioneer in Modern Urban Expressionism.

Art historian/author Jerome Donson, who worked with Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg, Willem de Kooning and Jasper Johns, is quoted in one of Mr. Jansen's catalogs as saying, "I had never seen paintings like these. They gave me the feeling of seeing paintings that had leaped 100 to 150 years from the American style of the Ash Can School."

Talent, passion, tenacity

Through the years, many people told Mr. Jansen it was impossible to make a living as an artist. He has proven them wrong.

Ironically, he didn't set out for celebrity and fame.

"It's not about making huge amounts of money," he says. "It's that people are showing an interest in the work, that it's influencing others."

"It's a very, very tough business. It takes everything out of you. I've worked day and night... It's a do-or-die situation. You have to have that much passion in it."

"Some might be luckier than others."

Of course, Mr. Jansen went about making much of his own "luck."

He had not only the talent and the passion, but also the tenacity.

Art, he says "is absolutely one of the most difficult fields I know — and I was in the military. My military background clearly prepared me for what I need to do here. It got me very focused, taught me about strategy, and most important, probably, about discipline and endurance. We don't quit in the military. That's something that's ingrained. You're never finished."

"To me, success has always been measured by how well you do in the turbulent times, not how much money you make. If anything, I pride myself on doing fairly well in turbulent times and maintaining."

Mr. Jansen was in the Army for eight years, which included three tours — the Gulf War, Korea and Germany. In his eighth year, he returned from the Gulf War and was about to deploy to Bosnia, but didn't feel ready to return to a combat environment. He'd been made sergeant and would soon be made staff sergeant.



ERIC RADDATZ / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Above: Marcus Jansen sits in front of one of his most recent paintings at SCOPE Miami during Art Basel in Miami Beach. At left: Mr. Jansen while serving in the Army.



COURTESY PHOTO

But art was luring him like a siren. It was a difficult decision to leave the Army.

"I was part of this brotherhood," he says. "You do feel it's your family, and if you do anything, (it affects them.)"

The artist says he viewed serving in the military as "just a positive thing to do in life."

Now he also believes the arts are a great way to serve. For him, art has been "just a change of weapons."

"Picasso said art could be a tool of war. In many ways, I agree with that. It's been a change of weapons for me."

He learned in the military to set a short-term goal and a long-term goal, a strategy he applied to his art career. "Once I met the short-term goal, I went toward the long-term goal," he says.

The creative process, he adds, doesn't stop with his paintings.

Creating a life, not just art

"It always starts with a vision," he says. "You have to create your career like you create your life. The creative process is the whole picture: You create who you marry, what job you take, what food you'll eat. These are things that you have power-making decisions in."

Creating his career was similar creating a painting.

"It works the same way," he says. "It takes longer and doesn't happen overnight. And I'm still creating. In many ways, I'm just starting."

His work has evolved, and he now feels that he's come into his own, he says.

Graffiti as inspiration

Like all of us, Mr. Jansen is the product of his past experiences and influences.

Born to an American mother and German father in New York City, he lived there until the family moved to Germany when he was 10. When he was 14, he discovered the art of Robert Rauschenberg in a book.

"It left such an impact on me," he recalls. "It was a golden covered book, and I saw it as the bahnhof, the train station... It had this urban feel, and I saw a lot of similarity with graffiti art. Rauschenberg definitely made an impression on me."

As a young boy in the south Bronx, Mr. Jansen saw the emergence of graffiti art. Living near a train station, he saw the colorful, cartoon-like characters sprayed across entire subway cars.

"That didn't mean it wasn't art," he says. "It was done on property that

wasn't theirs; the surface was the issue."

After he left for Germany, graffiti art emerged as an international phenomenon, he says.

"It has the hip-hop elements, the rap element. And Europeans went crazy over it: What is this? They had just never seen anything like it before."

When he went back to New York in 1982 to visit, he met the well-known graffiti artist West One. "He invited me down to his apartment," Mr. Jansen recalls. "He opened his room — he had a small apartment — and the whole room was full of spray paint cans. And I thought, 'Wow!' And he had these huge stacks of binders with photos of his trains. The whole thing impressed me. For a young person, vandalism, rebellious behavior, is intriguing."

"He showed me a lot of his murals (on walls) in Manhattan, and what struck me was the vibrancy of the colors and the movement in the work. It wasn't static, it wasn't boring. It was mysterious and dark, and there was a story being told about how people lived in those areas and the issues that were prevalent to them..."

"I felt, somehow, a sense of responsibility, a sense of belonging and wanting to assist in reporting some of that."

West One gave Mr. Jansen a piece of art. "He inspired me to paint," he says.

Another person who influenced him was Daisy Dee, a German talk show host and musician.

"I met her when she was 16 and I was 18," Mr. Jansen says. "She became this huge icon. I had people like that in my life who helped me see that these things are possible, you can make a living at (art)."

When he returned to New York from living in Europe, Mr. Jansen saw the city with fresh eyes.

"The graffiti art was great, and what it did to its environment," he says. "A line of chalk or paint splashed against the wall... was great. We were living in this huge piece of art!"

The influence of graffiti is apparent in Mr. Jansen's work, in the loose, gestural lines and in the splashes, drips and stencils on the textured walls that are his canvas.

The influence of Jean-Michel Basquiat is also obvious.

"(I love) Basquiat — his spontaneity and his honesty. Most of all, his honesty. He didn't lie in his paintings."

And he greatly admires Mr. Rauschenberg.

"Not just for his work, but that he was able to open the art world up to new ways of seeing things," he says. "It was much bigger than doing art."

From Mr. Rauschenberg, he learned that, "Great art can and does come

from the most unexpected situations," he says.

Like Mr. Rauschenberg, Mr. Jansen incorporates objects into his paintings: pieces of twine, cardboard, newspaper and magazine images. His urban landscapes are at once abstract and representational — colorful, sprawling things that are both loose and detailed.

Risks worth taking

When he starts a painting, Mr. Jansen has no idea how it will look in the end. He doesn't want to know.

"That's boring. What's the point?" he says. "None of the paintings are created consciously. You get lost in them. Let them take you where they're going to take you. It's uncontrolled."

"I'm very spontaneous in my inspiration. It happens as I feel, or as I go along. I like thick textures, paintings that have a lot of textures, risk. I work with risk. I don't believe in mistakes. I use them in the work. I don't see them as something to be afraid of."

Accidents, he says, are simply learning experiences.

"The whole explanation that has to do with art in general is in that realm of possibility. And there are endless possibilities. No boundaries, no limits, no rules."

Back in the U.S.

The Jansens moved to the United States in the summer of 2001 because, "Here in the U.S. it's easier than any other place in the world to make a living as an artist," Mr. Jansen says. They lived first in Atlanta, and then moved to Fort Myers to be close to Mr. Jansen's parents.

A number of commissions and recognitions helped advance his career.

The Ford Motor Company approached him in 2003 and commissioned him to do four paintings for their 100th anniversary.

It set a price for his paintings, he says, which jumped from \$5,000 to \$7,000.

He received the Angel of the Arts Award for New Artist of the Year from the Lee County Alliance for the Arts in 2005. He received another Angel of the Arts Award in 2010 — this time, for Artist of the Year. Also in 2005, the Southwest Florida Museum commissioned him to do 11 paintings focusing on Fort Myers and its history. One of the paintings is now in the museum's collection.

In 2008, when Warner Brothers commissioned him to do a "Wizard of Oz" painting for its 70th anniversary, Mr. Jansen had never seen the film. He says he watched it "at least 20 times" and spent more than a month researching and studying the history of the movie. The result was a 48-by-60-inch painting, "E Pluribus Unum," which references the movie and comments on today's world as well.

Always something new

Though the years, Mr. Jansen stayed true to his vision.

"When I started the work, people were skeptical," he says. "No one was painting in that direction. 'Why is he doing these gritty urban scenes?' Many people were saying, 'You're never going to see those things. People are never going to buy them.' I differed in opinion."

He approached his career the same way he approached his paintings.

"It's a leap of faith... kind of like jumping off a cliff, not knowing what's going to happen during the jump," he says. "It's in that area of unknown where you discover things. And if you don't make that jump into the unknown, you stay static. You go with what everybody else knows as well. It's too rational, too studied, already known. It doesn't reveal anything."

“Our knowledge generally is limited, so if you don’t take those risks, to open up doors to things you haven’t approached or engaged in, you’ll just go in circles.

“That’s why the arts are important, because they open you up to new possibilities. There are endless possibilities. We’re tiny creatures, and there’s always a new possibility — endless possibilities.

“Every painter proves that, with every new work: He or she shows us a new possibility, a new vision.” ■

in the know

>> Who is Marcus Jansen?

Marcus Jansen was born in Manhattan in 1968. He attended the Berufsfachschule für Gestaltung in Monchengladbach, Germany, before joining the U.S. Armed Forces in 1989.

Mr. Jansen was included in the 12th international Biennial Print and Drawing in Taichung, Taiwan, and in the eighth International Biennale of Modern Art “Dialogues” in St. Petersburg, Russia. His work has been published and noted in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Kuwait Times*, *Forbes*, *Art Pulse*, *Art News*, *Art + Auction* and *Art in America Magazine*. He is included in *Who’s Who in American Art* and *Who’s Who in International Art*.

His works are in permanent collections at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, the New Britain Museum of American Art and the Smithsonian Institution. His commissions include paintings for Warner Brothers Hollywood and Ford Motor Company and work in support of the FIFA World Cup 2010 South Africa.



IMAGES COURTESY 101 EXHIBIT MIAMI/ © 2010 MARCUS JANSEN

The Collision, oil enamel collage on canvas



Obscure Lines Between Fact and Fiction, 135-by-90 inches



Surveillance after Storms, oil enamel collage on canvas

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Theater

■ **The Fantasticks** – By TheatreZone through Dec. 12 at the G&L Theatre. (888) 966-3352 or www.theatrezone-florida.com.

■ **Dickens' A Christmas Carol** – By The Naples Players through Dec. 19. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

■ **Gaslight** – By Florida Repertory Theatre, Fort Myers, through Dec. 19. 332-4488 or www.floridarep.org.

■ **The Santaland Diaries** – By Florida Repertory Theatre, Fort Myers, Dec. 9-23. 332-4488 or www.floridarep.org. See story page C20.

■ **Dead Man's Cell Phone** – By Theatre Conspiracy, Fort Myers, Dec. 9-11 and 16-18. 936-3239 or www.theatreconspiracy.org.

■ **Holly Jolly Christmas** – At the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Fort Myers, through Dec. 25. 278-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com.

■ **The Andrews Brothers** – At the Off Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers, through Dec. 25. 278-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com.

Thursday, Dec. 9

■ **One-woman Play** – “Conversations with History: Remember the Ladies” is presented by Janina Birtolo at 2 p.m. at South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway. This original work follows the life of Abigail Adams during the American Revolution. 252-7542.

■ **Flutes Galore** – “The Magical Flute” is presented at 2 p.m. at the Naples Regional Library, 650 Central Ave. The program features the great flutists, from Vivaldi and Mozart to modern folk and show tunes. 263-7768.

■ **Must be Santa** – Visit with Santa in from 5-7 p.m. tonight through Saturday in The Norris Garden at historic Palm Cottage. No reservations required. 261-8164 or www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

■ **All Aboard** – The Holiday Boat Parade at The Village on Venetian Bay sets sail at 6 p.m. 403-2204.

■ **Musical Evening** – The Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs presents “Live at the Promenade!... Naples Piano Quartet Around the World in 80 Min-

COURTESY PHOTO

The Last Dance, a 2010 painting by Naples Art Association member William Andrews, is part of “Portraying Peace,” an exhibit of NAA members’ interpretations of peace opening Saturday, Dec. 11, at The von Liebig Art Center. A preview reception takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10. Admission is free for NAA members and \$10 for others. Call 262-6517 or visit www.naplesart.org for more information.

utes” at 7 p.m. at the Promenade at Bonita Bay. \$30 members, \$35 non-members, \$35 at the door. 495-8989.

■ **Holiday Sounds** – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church presents a Christmas concert with Paul Todd and Paul Todd Jr. at 7 p.m. at 3901 Davis Blvd. \$20. 643-0197.

■ **On the Avenue** – Evening on Fifth runs from 7-10:30 p.m. on Fifth Avenue South.

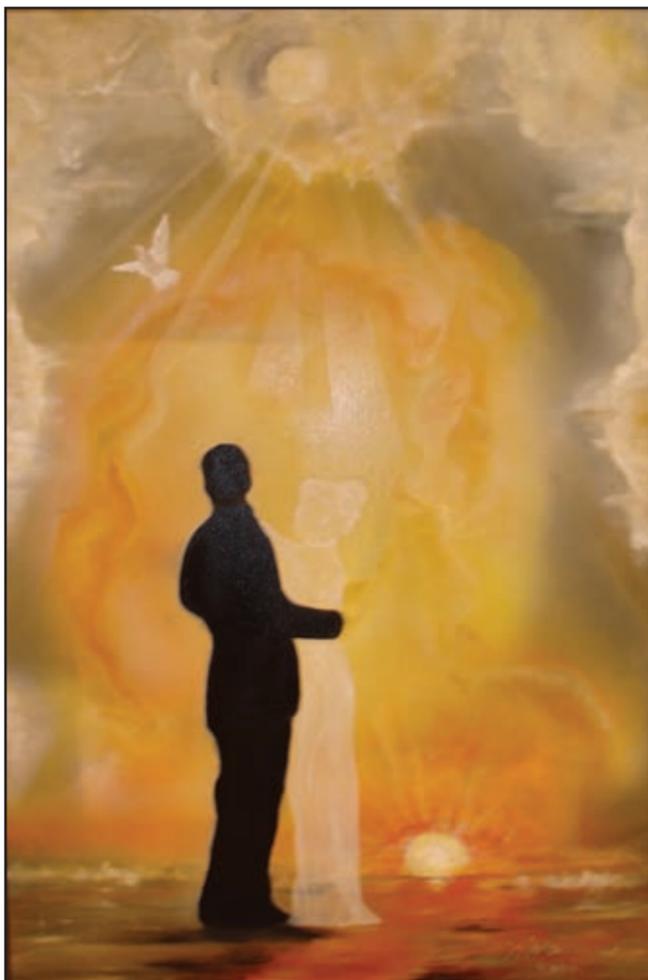
■ **Thursday on Third** – Enjoy entertainment and more from 6-9 p.m. in the Third Street South shopping district. 261-8936.

■ **Choral Music** – The 75-voice combined choirs of Ave Maria University present a program of sacred choral music to celebrate the season at 7 p.m. at Moorings Presbyterian Church, 791 Harbour Dr. \$15. 304-7032 or 280-2485.

■ **Ad Libbing** – Naples City Improv takes its brand of spontaneous comedy to the home of The Marco Players with shows at 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday in the Marco Island Town Center. \$20. 642-7270 or www.themarcoplayers.com.

Friday, Dec. 10

■ **Chamber Music** – The Chicago New Arts Trio performs a free recital of chamber music at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Bonita Springs at 3 p.m. Donations will be accepted to benefit Feed My Starving Children. 498-9884, www.FMSC.org.



of Lights runs from 5-8:30 p.m. at Ave Maria. Enjoy holiday displays, children’s ornament making and a visit from Santa Claus. 304-1236 or www.avemaria.com.

Saturday, Dec. 11

■ **Dancing Horses** – The Southwest Florida Dressage Association hosts a schooling show from 8:30 a.m. until about 1:30 p.m. at the Lee Civic Center, North Fort Myers. Spectators are welcome. www.swfda.org.

■ **Arts and Crafts** – The Naples Artcrafters Fine Arts & Craft Show runs from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today and Sunday at Cambier Park. 352-3036.

■ **Fashions Forward** – Signatures at Mercato hosts a champagne reception from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 254-5800.

■ **Naples Collects** – The “Naples Collects” exhibit opens today and runs through Jan. 9 at The von Liebig Art Center. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. 262-6517 or www.naplesart.org. See story page C15.

■ **Art Lecture** – Learn about the “Language of Art” followed by a plein air workshops at 10:30 a.m. at the Koreshan Art Hall in Estero. 992-0311.

■ **Holiday Tunes** – A holiday concert and sing-a-long with young musical talents from Hope School of Music takes place from 1-3 p.m. at Miromar Outlets. www.miromaroutlets.com.

■ **Holiday Stroll** – Enjoy holiday entertainment at the Mercato from 4-7 p.m., including photos with Santa, carolers, face painting and a fashion show from 5-6 p.m. 403-2204 or www.mercatoshops.com.

■ **Seasonal Treasures** – By the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra at 8 p.m. at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Worlds of Wine** – World Market stores in Naples, Coconut Point and Fort Myers host a free grand wine tasting from noon-4 p.m.

■ **Boats on Parade** – The Marine Industries Association of Collier County’s 21st annual Holiday Boat Parade is set for 6-8 p.m. in Naples Bay. This year’s theme is “Holiday Rock ‘n’ Roll.” Free, but donations are welcome for the Ricky King Fund. 682-0900 or www.miac.org.

■ **Orchestra and Chorus** – The Naples Orchestra and Chorus performs

org or www.steinwaypianogallery.net.

■ **Vegas Fun** – Evening in the Park Vegas Night, presented by the artists of Riverside Park in Bonita Springs, runs from 5-8 p.m. at the park on Old 41. Collect cards for poker hands at various artist cottages and play for prizes.

■ **Deck the Walls** – Singer/songwriter Bobby Goldsboro performs while visitors check out his newest paintings from 6-9 p.m. at Sweet Art Gallery, 2054 Trade Center Way. 597-2110 or www.thesweetartgallery.com.

■ **Christmas Songs** – The Paradise Coastmen Barbershop Chorus, a 60-man a capella group, sings holiday songs at 7:30 p.m. at The Norris Center. \$15.

■ **Church Concert** – The Parkway Life Church holiday concert is set for 7-9 p.m. at Cambier Park. 455-1534.

■ **A Christmas Couple** – Amy Grant and Vince Gill bring their “12 Days of Christmas Tour” to the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$49.75 to \$95. 481-4849.

■ **Holiday Lights** – The Celebration

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

at 7 p.m. at Golden Gate High School. 641-9801.

■ **Holiday Classic** – The Naples Academy of Ballet performs “The Nutcracker” at 5 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Sunday at Gulf Coast High School. \$10-\$30. 732-1000, dance@naplesballet.org or www.naplesballet.org. See story page C29.

■ **More Boats** – The 25th annual Bonita Springs holiday boat parade sets out at dusk. Decorated boats ply the waters of the Imperial River from Fish Trap Bay to the Barefoot Boat Club. Spectators can view the parade from the Imperial River public boat ramp, where the city of Bonita Springs will provide bleachers. 495-0455.

■ **Holiday Cabaret** – FGCU Theatre Lab presents “A Thistletoe Cabaret and Silent Night Auction” at 6 p.m. at the FGCU Arts Complex. 590-7268 or http://theatrelab.fgcu.edu.

■ **Tango Time** – Repun Tango hosts a Naples milonga from 8-11 p.m. at 1673 Pine Ridge Rd., Suite #1. \$15 includes class, milonga and refreshments. 738-4184 or www.PabloRepunTango.com.

Sunday, Dec. 12

■ **School Singers** – The Seacrest Singers perform from 2-4 p.m. at Waterside Shops.

■ **Christmas Tunes** – A Cahal Dunne Christmas Concert starts at 2 p.m. at Community Congregational Church, 15300 N. Tamiami Tr. \$10. 597-1000.

■ **American Opera** – Opera Naples presents “Amahl and the Night Visitors” at 3 p.m. at St. Anne’s Jubilee Hall. \$15 students, \$25 adults. 513-SING or www.operanaples.com.

■ **Orchestra and Chorus** – The Naples Orchestra and Chorus performs at 2 p.m. at Golden Gate High School. Free. 641-9801.

■ **Bonita Band** – The Bonita Springs Concert Band plays at 2 p.m. at Riverside Park on Old 41. Bring chairs or a blanket and enjoy the show. Free.

■ **Jazz in the Park** – The NDN Jazz Band performs from 2-4 p.m. at Cambier Park. 435-3793.

■ **Foreign Film** – Films on Fifth presents “Summer Hours” at 7 p.m. in Blackburn Hall of the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990.

Monday, Dec. 13

■ **Seasonal Songs** – Voices of Naples presents “Home for the Holidays” at 7 p.m. at Beach United Methodist Church, 155 Bay Road, Fort Myers Beach. No tickets necessary; freewill offering accepted. www.voicesofnaples.org.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

■ **Songs with Bling** – A holiday concert by the a capella quartet Bling starts at 2 p.m. at Headquarters Library, 2385 Orange Blossom Dr. 593-0177 or 593-0334.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

■ **Holiday Art** – The Artfelt Holiday Sale runs from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. today and Thursday at the Art League Marco Island Center for the Arts, 1010 Winterberry Drive.

■ **Open House** – “Preserving the Holiday Spirit,” a free open house, runs today through Sunday at The Naples Preserve/Hedges Family Eco-Center, 1690 Tamiami Trail N. 261-4290 or cspre-serve@centurylink.net.

■ **Tales from Woebegone** – Garrison Keillor “A Prairie Home Companion,” appears at 8 p.m. at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 8 p.m. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Upcoming events

■ **High School Holidays** – The Naples High School Holiday Concert in the Park starts at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 at Cambier Park, featuring the Naples High symphonic, concert and jazz bands and percussion ensemble.

■ **Strike up the Bands** – High School Band Night runs from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 16 at The Village on Venetian Bay. 403-2204.

■ **Pop Go the Holidays** – The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra performs “Holiday Pops” at 8 p.m. Dec. 16-19 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Country Christmas** – “The Gaither Homecoming Christmas Tour 2010” starts at 7 p.m. Dec. 17 at Germain Arena. 948-7825.

— Send calendar listings to events@floridaweekly.com.



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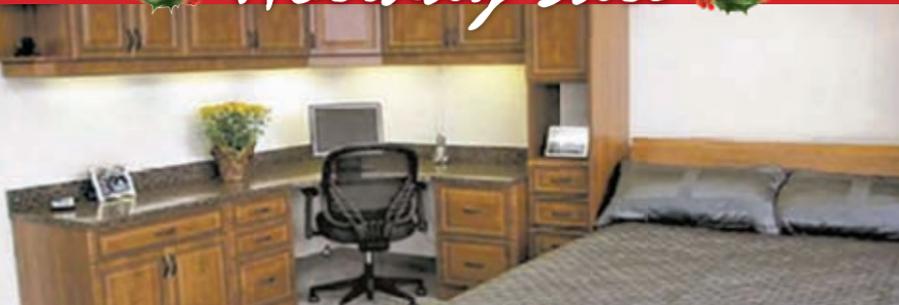
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When 'Nice Jewish Girls' go bad...

Distasteful? It depends upon your taste



They're bold, they're loud, they're brassy.

They're "Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad," a New York-based comedy troupe bringing their in-your-face humor to Fred's Food, Fun & Spirits on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Or as Susannah Perlman, the group's founder, puts it, "We're bringing our nipples to Naples."

Ms. Perlman, who prefers to be called Goddess Perlman, boasts that she "put the whore in 'Hora.'"

Their press material warns, "This ain't yo' mama's 'Fiddler.'"

As if you couldn't instantly tell that from their publicity photos: One shows five women in blue gowns drowning in a sea of bagels. Another shows four women drinking and gathered around a menorah, with one lighting a cigar from its flame.

Irreverent? Yes.

Distasteful? Depends upon your taste.

So what exactly is "Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad"?

"It's a variety show, with song-and-dance numbers, burlesque and stand-up comedy," Goddess Perlman explains. "There are all different things happening within it. A lot of the songs are Jewish-themed. It's like a Christmas extravaganza, but it's Jewish. We won't have a manger scene."

She pauses, then reconsiders.

"Well, maybe we should," she says, "because they were all Jewish. That was the original nice Jewish girl gone bad, Mary: 'I got knocked up by God!'"

But no nudity here

As David Templeton, writing in the California North Bay Bohemian describes it, "Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad" is part musical and comedy revue, (a) spoken-word and burlesque show that takes off the borscht belt and whips your ass with it."

Some, thinking it's a stage version of "Girls Gone Wild," expect nudity.

"We get some comments like, 'I thought it was going to be dirtier,'" Goddess Perlman says. "We get the gamut



COURTESY PHOTO

In a mix of comedy, music and a bit of burlesque, "Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad" deconstructs years of tradition, expectations and guilt.

— people upset it's not dirty enough, people who think it's too filthy."

You can practically hear her shrug over the phone.

"You can't please everybody."

This is the troupe's eighth year of touring, drawing from a base of 30 to 40 women who rotate in and out of the shows.

"No two shows are the same," she boasts. "Yes, we're just like snowflakes."

On the road in Florida

For a week, the "girls" will perform at various venues on the east and west coasts of Florida. Their performance at Fred's Food, Fun & Spirits is their only Southwest Florida appearance. It will consist of four performers: Dana Eagle (Comedy Central, "Byron Allen's Comics Unleashed," "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson"), Goddess Perlman herself, and Sister Schmaltz, a comedic duo.

"It's how many people I can fit into a car," the goddess says.

Their four-man klezmer band, The Four Skins, is not traveling with them.

"We can only bring so many people down to Florida," she says. "Some places we're playing are small. We wanted to keep it easy-breezy."

While they're not bringing The Four Skins, they are bringing some new pieces.

"We have an Israeli dance strip," she says, "the first of its kind. It's not on YouTube anywhere, I checked."

(This bit apparently replaces the number where two women, dressed as male Hasidic Jews, dance a striptease.)

"We have a Lady Gaga-esque number. That's a new piece. We're excited about that."

These bad Jewish girls have performed all over, hitting major cities such as Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Seattle. And yes, they've played the Catskills.

They've even taken their act to some very conservative states. For example, they've performed for Mormons in Utah, visiting not once, but twice.

How does their blue material go over in red states?

"Every red state we've ever been to, we do well," she says. "I think it's

because... I hate to get all Obama-esque, but what he said is true: There is a lot of blue in the red states and a lot of red in the blue states.

"Even if they're conservative, that doesn't mean people don't want to laugh or have a good time... Very conservative areas love it, because nothing like it comes to town."

They've also played some unusual places: "A bowling alley, a winery. We played places about to be condemned," Goddess Perlman says.

They've put on shows in everything from an adobe house to the basement of a Howard Johnson in Vancouver and a former JC Penney store in Oregon.

The goddess in everyone

Why does she call herself Goddess Perlman?

"It's more of an affirmation: I am the Goddess Perlman," she says. "It's just like, however bad I'm feeling, I say, 'I am the Goddess Perlman' (and feel better.) We're all goddesses. Everyone has to find that within themselves. Maybe you're a goddess, or maybe a princess or a queen."

In addition to "Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad," Goddess Perlman has been on two seasons of "Last Comic Standing" and has appeared on WE, TLC and the Fox network. She's performed at festivals including the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the HOWL Festival and the NY Underground Comedy Festival.

"Nice Girls Gone Bad" started at a launch party for Heeb Magazine, a take-no-prisoners publication for hip, young Jews. (The magazine closed earlier this year, but its website continues.)

"It's a fun show," Goddess Perlman says, promising, "You don't have to be Jewish to like the show. We've got lots of non-Jewish fans."

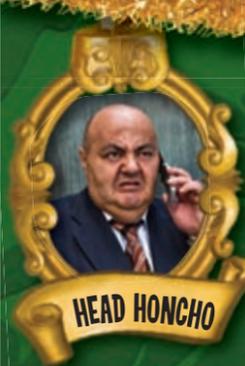
"Besides, there are what, six Jews (in Naples?)

"We're selling lots of tickets, so some body's coming." ■

in the know

- >> "Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad"
- >> **When:** 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. show, Sunday, Dec. 12
- >> **Where:** Fred's Food, Fun & Spirits, 2700 Immokalee Road, Naples
- >> **Cost:** \$34.95 dinner and show, \$20 show only
- >> **Info:** 431-7928, reservations highly recommended

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MUSIC REVIEW

Classical II at the Phil dishes out a feast of beautiful performances



In theory, last week's Classical II program at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts headlined Brahms' "Symphony No. 2 in D Major." In actuality, so special was the first half of the program that the Brahms piece became dessert. The main courses had already been served and devoured by a near-sellout audience for the third night in a row.

As well they should have been. Do you remember what you had accomplished by the time you were 24?

Richard Strauss (1864-1949) and Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) had established themselves as compositional geniuses, forces to be reckoned with in the oft-times fickle world of music.

In his personable style, maestro Jorge Mester walked the audience through the "mechanics" of the infrequently performed phenomenon known as a "tone poem." In this instance, Mr. Strauss composed his tone poem about the sexually insatiable Don Juan (based on an uncompleted poem by Nicolas Lenau, who succumbed to mental illness before his poem was finished).

Mr. Strauss expanded on Mr. Lenau's concept, with the result that wondrous things happen musically to fully encapsulate the beginnings of the brash stud who was Don Juan.

With nothing but the score to "tell" the story, you hear Don Juan's braggadoccio, sense his countless conquests and his disgust as none of the women he seduces is the one he seeks. As he tires of endless seduction, you hear a bit of anguish and some melancholy. Then you hear his joy at finally finding someone he believes to be his true love — only to have her brother stab and kill Don Juan.

Superb contributions were made by each of the orchestral sections: the strings, in essence the underbelly of the story unfolding; the sensuous harp glissandi, swooping through the tales of conquest; Judy Christy, principal oboist, with a lament that sends chills down one's spine; the tympani, suddenly heralding the shift from major to minor key; and the horns, whose contribution to the storytelling was pivotal.

If the Strauss piece was memorable — exactly something one wishes to hear again and again — then the second selection of the evening, Britten's "Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings," was most certainly over the top.

Rearranging the stage so only the

strings remained, out came Randall Bills, a young tenor with a dazzling smile, incredible diction and a knockout voice. Thanks to severe weather in Europe, Mr. Bills scarcely made it to Naples in time from Bremen, Germany, where he lives and performs with the opera. Speaking about the Britten during the Conductor's Prelude, Mr. Bills' explanation and reading of some brief segments of the poems he was about to sing left no doubt that this was going to be yet another marvelous selection.

And who were the poets Mr. Britten selected to tell his "Serenade"? There were selections from William Blake, John Keats, Alfred Lord Tennyson and from two 17th century poets with whom I was, regrettably, unfamiliar: Charles Cotton and Ben Johnson.

Without exception, the words selected were chilling:

*Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying;
And answer, echoes, answer, dying,
dying, dying.*

— Tennyson

Joining Mr. Bills was Ellen Tomasiwicz, principal horn. A graduate of Princeton University and with a master's in music from the Manhattan School of Music, Ms. Tomasiwicz was simply dazzling in her performance Saturday evening. Performing sans the use of valves, which notably alters the horn's sound, particularly in the upper register, she proved the perfect counterbalance to Mr. Bills, whose tenor voice is remarkable. Shortly before the conclusion of the piece, Ms. Tomasiwicz quietly left the stage, finally bringing the "Serenade" to its conclusion as the horn echoed in the distance, fading into the vapors.

And for dessert? The Brahms, beautifully performed and a definite crowd-pleaser, it was, to my way of thinking, superfluous after such a momentous first half of the program.

Coming up

Switching for a moment from melancholy to joy: Christmas music abounds the next two weeks:

This weekend the Philharmonic Choral performs at First Presbyterian Church downtown. And Dec. 16-19 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts is the ever-popular Holiday Pops.

Tickets are still available for both events. Call 597-1900 or visit www.the-phil.org.

— Peg Goldberg Longstreth was trained as a classical musician. She owns Longstreth-Goldberg Art Gallery in Naples.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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A	C	R	O	B	A	T	L	E	A	L	E	T				
S	H	A	M	A	N	N	B	A	M	B	A	U	G	H	D	E
P	E	S	O	T	A	C	O	B	A	R	I	R	E	S	I	D
S	H	O	O	W	O	W	K	E	G	A	N	N	E	T	M	E
H	O	E	L	E	N	G	T	H								
B	R	I	B	E	K	R	U	P	A	E	A	S	T			
C	L	A	M	O	R	L	E	G	S	N	A	R	R	O	W	E
R	A	S	P	Y	S	I	A	M	O	O	P	S	I	L	A	N
E	S	T	E	S	A	N	T	A	A	L	E	E	E	N	D	E
S	T	A	L	E	D	E	A	N	F	O	X	Y	G	E	N	E

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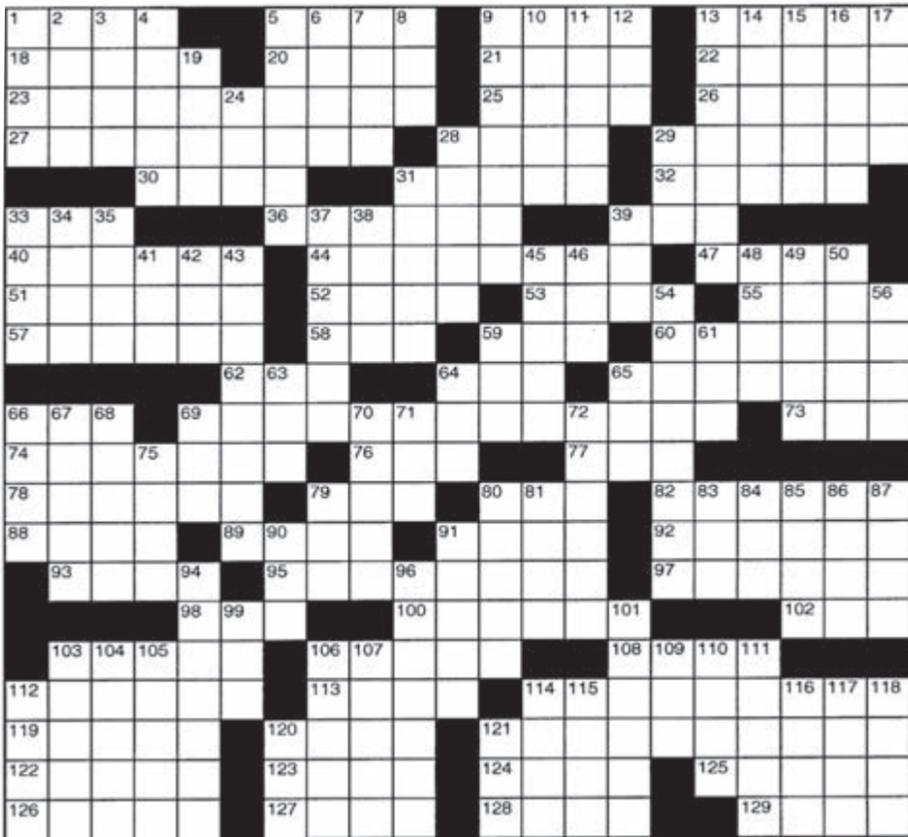
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FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

EMOTIONAL STATES



- ACROSS**
- 1 Zhivago's love
 - 5 Touch up the text
 - 9 It should be square
 - 13 "Don't — it!"
 - 18 Act like Etna
 - 20 Birdbrain
 - 21 Garfield's pal
 - 22 Fragrance
 - 23 Tennessee cry of denial?
 - 25 "— Shuffle" ('77 song)
 - 26 Long walks
 - 27 Pleasant
 - 28 Jeroboam contents
 - 29 Way up
 - 30 Vend
 - 31 Get — (be successful)
 - 32 Mikita and Musial
 - 33 Find the sum
 - 36 Spring holiday
 - 39 TV's "— Sharky"
 - 40 Mature
 - 44 North Carolina cry of encouragement?
 - 47 Seizes suddenly
 - 51 Join the leisure class?
 - 52 Item for 37 Down
 - 53 Live on lettuce
 - 55 Coasted
 - 57 Texas cry of sympathy?
 - 58 Feel
 - 59 Writer Rand
 - 60 Second
 - 62 EMT's skill
 - 64 Everything
 - 65 Dickens character
 - 66 Yak
 - 69 Pennsylvanians cry of disgust?
 - 73 — Moines, IA
 - 74 He'll bend over backward for you
 - 76 Grazing ground
 - 77 Permit
 - 78 Witch doctor
 - 79 Hoopsters' org.
 - 80 Exec's deg.
 - 82 Utah cry of revulsion?
 - 88 Chihuahua dough
 - 89 Chihuahua snack
 - 91 Italian port
 - 92 Dwell
 - 93 "Scat!"
 - 95 Illinois cry of surprise?
 - 97 Sampras
 - 98 Weeding tool
 - 100 Duration
 - 102 Chemical suffix
 - 103 Buy off
 - 106 See
 - 129 Across
 - 108 Orient
 - 112 Uproar
 - 113 Mr. Diamond
 - 114 Least
 - 119 Gravel-voiced
 - 120 Thailand, formerly
 - 121 Michigan cry of chagrin?
 - 122 Senator
 - 123 Cultural grp.
 - 124 Nautical adverb
 - 125 Concluded
 - 126 Hackneyed
 - 127 Big man on campus
 - 128 Cunning
 - 129 With 106
 - 1 Home or Olin
 - 2 "He's — Picker" ('14 song)
 - 3 German valley
 - 4 Church areas
 - 5 Fit to feast
 - 6 Barbie or Ken
 - 7 Unemployed
 - 8 Sock part
 - 9 "Le Misanthrope"
 - 10 Minneapolis suburb
 - 11 Helped
 - 12 Composer
 - Delibes
 - 13 Massachusetts cry of contempt?
 - 14 Author Jong
 - 15 Symbol
 - 16 Forebodings
 - 17 "Boss" Tweed's nemesis
 - 19 What you used to be
 - 24 Actor Kilmer
 - 28 Baby basset
 - 29 Egyptian viper
 - 31 Playwright
 - Fugard
 - 33 Taj town
 - 34 Sleuth
 - Nancy
 - 35 Kids connect them
 - 37 Jockey giant
 - 38 Darjeeling dress
 - 39 Revolutionary Guevara
 - 41 Drollery
 - 42 Psychic
 - Geller
 - 43 Inclination
 - 45 Tennyson tale
 - 46 — rummy
 - 48 About
 - 49 Bank deposit?
 - 50 Burn a bit
 - 54 Quiet
 - 56 Colors
 - 59 Maugham's "Cakes and —"
 - 61 Pro-gun grp.
 - 63 Saucepan
 - 64 Drillers' org.
 - 65 TV's "Murder, — Wrote"
 - 66 Huff and puff
 - 67 Feels sore
 - 68 Impertinent
 - 69 Cops' org.
 - 70 — grease
 - 71 Indeed
 - 72 Grievance
 - 75 "Typee" sequel
 - 79 Sgt. or cpl.
 - 80 — Carta
 - 81 Improve oneself, in a way
 - 83 Turn right
 - 84 DDE's predecessor
 - 85 Tiny coin
 - 86 Genesis setting
 - 87 Hawaii's state bird
 - 90 Veneration
 - 91 Freeway
 - sounds
 - 94 Idaho cry of excitement?
 - 96 Jack of "The Odd Couple"
 - 99 Poetic preposition
 - 101 "Hiroshima" author
 - 103 Good time
 - 104 Dread-locked one
 - 105 Set in motion
 - 106 Kevin of "In & Out"
 - 107 Range rope
 - 109 Actress
 - Meyers
 - 110 Seafood selection
 - 111 Accent feature
 - 112 Mus.
 - 114 — tendere
 - 115 Summit
 - 116 "The Never-Ending Story" author
 - 117 WWII gun
 - 118 "The — Is High" ('80 hit)
 - 120 Crestfallen
 - 121 LummoX

HOROSCOPES



■ **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** A vexing relationship seems destined to deteriorate no matter what each side tries to do. A third party's advice just might prove helpful.

■ **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Reach out to ease any tensions caused by home or workplace pressures before they threaten the relationship-building progress you've made.

■ **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** You often go out of your way to show kindness to others. So, don't be surprised if other people want to do something nice for you this week.

■ **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** People in your life respect your Pisceian wisdom, so don't hesitate to speak up about a matter that you feel isn't being handled quite the way it should be.

■ **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Although taking advice isn't always easy for the headstrong Sheep, you might want to consider what someone you respect says about an upcoming decision.

■ **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** A new offer is tempting, but don't be bullied into a quick decision. Rely on your keen Bovine business sense to alert you to anything that might be questionable.

■ **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Your

Gemini Twin nature rallies to help you deal with this week's hectic schedules, both in your personal and professional lives. One caution: Watch your diet.

■ **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Avoid rushing to make up for time lost on a stalled workplace operation. Best to set up a schedule and pace yourself. Welcome the help of colleagues.

■ **LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Despite those glittering holiday distractions you love so well, be sure to keep your feline senses set on high to alert you to anything that might require fast action.

■ **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** Making an effort to restore fraying relationships proves to be more successful than you dared hope. The holidays also bring new friends into your life.

■ **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Private and professional matters compete for your attention. Be honest in your assessment of which should get more of it, and for how long.

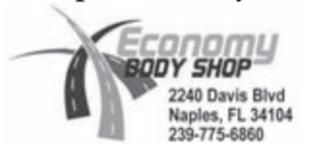
■ **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** A seemingly endless list of must-do tasks is best handled by tackling them one by one, and taking energy-restoring timeouts between each job.

■ **BORN THIS WEEK:** Your personal warmth helps you make friendships, and your sense of fair play helps you keep them.

By Linda Thistle

		9		2		7
8	3		5		6	
	7			6		2
	1			5		8
		3	4	8		9
9			1		4	5
5				6		3
	2		8	3		
		1	7		2	

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Puzzle Difficulty this week:



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ Expert

◀ SEE ANSWERS, C9

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LATEST FILMS

'Welcome To The Rileys'

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Is it worth \$10? Yes

"Welcome To The Rileys" tells an interesting story of three people in need of what each of the others eagerly wants to give. Receiving, however, isn't so easy, but thanks to strong performances from Kristen Stewart and James Gandolfini, director Jake Scott's film is fascinating to watch as the relationships evolve.

Mr. Gandolfini is equal parts soft and gruff as Doug, a small business owner in Indianapolis who's unhappily married to Lois (Melissa Leo). Things have been tough for them since their 15-year-old daughter Emily died in a car accident. Lois has such a heavy case of survivor's guilt that she cannot leave the house.

On a business trip to New Orleans, Doug meets Mallory (Ms. Stewart), an underage stripper/prostitute who ostensibly reminds him of his daughter. With Doug longing to be paternal and Mallory in need of a father figure, he offers her \$100 a day if he can move into her place. She of course accepts, and he proceeds to look out for her, teach her how to properly make a bed, etc. Lois eventually enters into the mix as well, and a surrogate family is formed.

You might think things get cozy and head toward a happy ending, but writer Ken Hixon's script is too smart for that. These are complex people living in the real world — a world that has not been kind to any of them. Watching them navigate their problems is a trying experience — because they deserve to be happy, even if they don't know how to be.

Ms. Stewart has made a career out of playing teen angst roles ("Twilight," "Adventureland"), and yes, this is another teen angst role. But Mallory is very different from Bella Swan, Ms. Stewart's "Twilight" alter ego who might be the most annoying character ever created. Whereas Bella is whiney and needy, Mallory has accepted her miserable life for what it is, and only calls Doug in extreme circumstances. What's more, Mallory is constantly brash (her



favorite adjective is the "F" word) and bruised, and at no point does she expect Doug to remove her from the hell that is her life, even if that's what she needs.

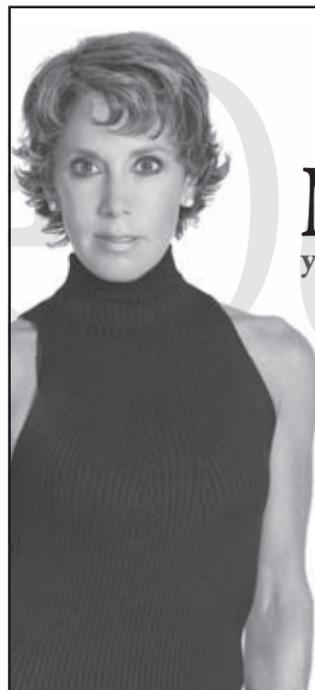
Mr. Gandolfini is very good as well, largely because we never get the sense that he is creepy or even thinking about doing something inappropriate with Mallory. Even the mere suggestion of this would undermine the entire story, and screenwriter Mr. Hixon goes to great pains to establish the symbiotic relationship amongst the three characters in ways that aren't charitable or easy. In fact, the film's greatest strength is its honesty, right down to the very end, which suffice to say is the proper way to end the film.

Movies about love, loss and redemption come and go with reasonable frequency, and most of them are forgettable. "Welcome To The Rileys" is a bit slow and illogical at times, but it's also rewarding and worth talking about on the ride home. Most movies would be lucky to inspire such discussion. ■

— Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.

in the know

>> Director Jake Scott is the son of Ridley Scott ("Gladiator") and the nephew of Tony Scott ("Unstoppable").



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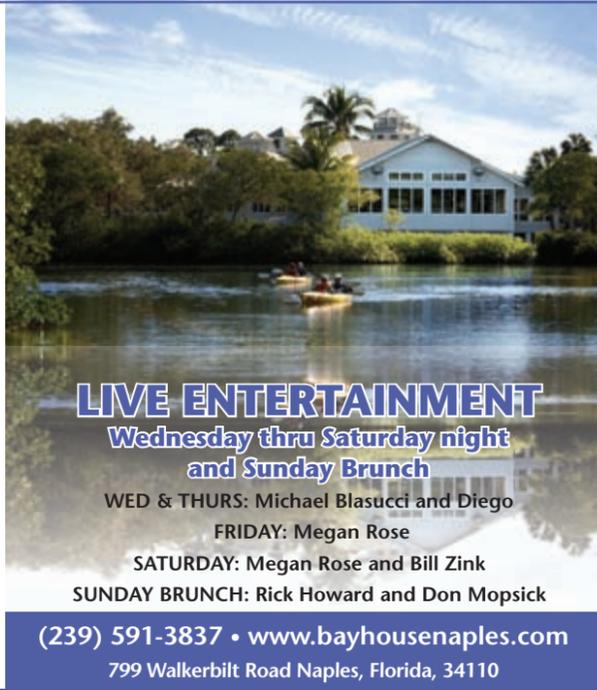
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'Summer Hours' from France next on tap for Films on Fifth



COURTESY PHOTO

Juliette Binoche in the 2005 drama "The Bee Season."

Films on Fifth, a program of The Naples Players, continues at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, with a screening of the noted French movie "Summer Hours (L'heure d'été)" in Blackburn Hall at the Sugden Community Theatre.

In a small French town, Hélène is a family matriarch who has devoted her life to preserving the legacy of her artist uncle. She summons her three adult children (played by Juliette Binoche, Charles Berling and Jérémie Renier) and charges them with deciding the fate of her extraordinary art collection. Ultimately, her children realize what she anticipated as they come to terms with their inheritance's place in their own lives. In the resulting disposition of their mother's assets, treasured heirlooms of a romantic family past drift away even as their changing modern world confronts the value of their memories.

Internationally acclaimed writer/director Olivier Assayas earned six wins, among them the L.A. Film Critics' and the N.Y. Film Critics', and five nominations for this touching drama about siblings confronting the value of their memories.

The film runs one hour and 43 minutes, is unrated and is subtitled.

(Mr. Assayas' most recent film has just been released in the U.S. "Carlos," a very different genre from "Summer Hours," premiered at Cannes in 2010 and is based on the life of the noted European terrorist the Jackal.)

The Films on Fifth series is sponsored in part by Karen Van Arsdale of Premier Properties. Subscriptions sold out for the six-film season; however, seating for individual films, at \$12 each, is sometimes available at the Box Office, 701 Fifth Ave. S. Call 263-7990. ■



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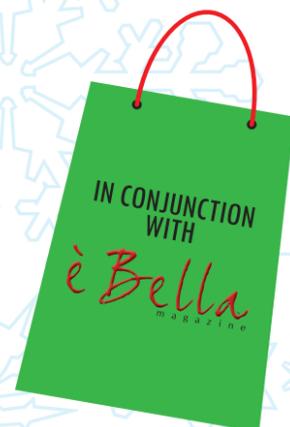
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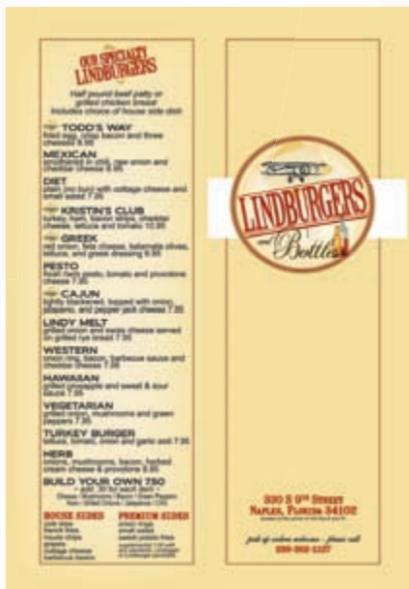


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'Naples Collects' offers a peek into private art collections

In most instances, only a personal invitation from an art collector can open the doors to private collections. Once year, however, a handful of collectors in Naples share some of their prized pieces with the public in an exhibit at The von Liebig Art Center.

Featuring paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture loaned from some of Naples' most prominent art collections, "Naples Collects 2011" offers a rare view of privately held treasures. An assortment of 35 pieces belonging to eight individuals, it's on display Dec. 11 through Jan. 9.

The opening reception takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10. The reception also celebrates "Portraying Peace: An NAA Members' Exhibition" and The von Liebig Members Gallery "Small Works" show, a juried exhibit of works by members of the NAA.

Admission to the opening reception is free for members of the Naples Art



COURTESY PHOTO
Plowing, lithograph by Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975)

Association and \$10 for others. "Naples Collects" is sponsored by Physicians Regional Healthcare System, Bentley Village, Life in Naples and Happenings Art and Entertainment Magazine.

Regular hours at The von Liebig are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 262-6517 or visit www.naplesart.org.

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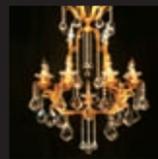
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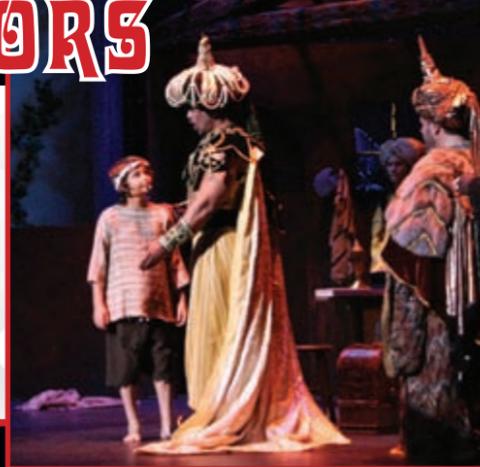


Ron Hatley
as King Balthazar



Calvin Lee
as King Kaspar

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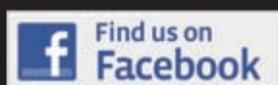
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All trips are on Saturday afternoon/evening, with pick-up at 1:30 p.m. This year's operas and dates are:

- Jacque Offenbach's three fanciful "Tales of Hoffman," Feb. 5
- Mozart's mixture of comedy and melodrama, "Don Giovanni," April 30
- Franco Alfano's portrait of the eloquent soldier/poet, "Cyrano de Bergerac," May 7

Checks can be sent to Naples Opera Society, 1200 L'Ambiance Circle #101, Naples, FL 34108. For more information, call 431-7509 or e-mail ehandjhb@gmail.com. ■



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Naples Botanical Garden celebrates the winter solstice

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Naples Botanical Garden holds its annual Winter Solstice Celebration from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-18, and Sunday through Thursday, Dec. 26-30. Visitors will enjoy holiday activities and musical entertainment as they walk along pathways lit by hundreds of tiki-torches to the Solstice Landing in the new Karen and Robert Scott Florida Garden.

“The winter solstice marks the official beginning of winter, which especially here in Florida is a season for celebration, activity and harvests,” says Brian Holley, executive director of the

Garden. “We want visitors to feel the excitement of this special occasion and to remember the importance of this natural event.”

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, the sun will be the farthest from the Earth (in the northern hemisphere), making it the shortest day and longest night of the calendar year to begin the winter season. Winter solstice has been celebrated as far back as Neolithic times as a significant natural event and has been incorporated into many cultures and religions around the world.

Garden visitors will begin their solstice adventure at the Garden Visitor Center and Store and embark on the



COURTESY PHOTO
A scene from winter solstice 2009

Kapnick Caribbean Garden to make a wish stick.

Wish stick in hand, they will enjoy live entertainment as they cross the bridge over the River of Grass to the Scott Florida Garden and the Solstice Landing. After tossing their wish sticks into the bonfire, they'll head off to explore the gardens by torchlight, walk the labyrinth and stroll through the Marcia and L. Bates Lea Asian Garden.

Admission to winter solstice at the Garden is \$9.95 for adults, \$4.95 for children ages 4-14 (children 3 and under are free) and free for Garden members. For more information, call 643-7275 or visit www.naplesgarden.org. ■

torch-lined pathway to the café stand where they can purchase a holiday drink and some snacks before wandering down to the Chattel House in the

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Wine festival auction packages cater to every exquisite taste

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The 2011 Naples Winter Wine Festival charity auction will feature travel experiences that fulfill a range of fantasies for bidders who are adventurers, celebrity followers, jewelry lovers or sports aficionados. From a private magic lesson with famed magician David Blaine to a 22-day around-the-world-trip in a specially outfitted private jet, there is something to ignite every passion.

The trips and experiences are among 70 one-of-a-kind lots up for auction at the Jan. 28-30 festival that benefits underprivileged and at-risk children through the Naples Children & Education Foundation. Placed among rare and special wine lots are offerings including prime seats at the Monaco Grand Prix; walking the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival; a walk-on role on Showtime's "Californication"; white truffle hunting in Italy; a multi-faceted trip with Audemars Piguet's watchmaking elite in Geneva, Switzerland, and in Florida, a golf pairing with Vijay Singh and Anthony Kim; an 18-night luxury trip to Thailand and Vietnam; and an African safari.

"We partnered with incredibly generous donors and let our imaginations run wild," says Bruce Sherman, festival

co-chair and a trustee of the NCEF. Following are a few highlights. Full lot descriptions are posted at www.napleswinefestival.com.

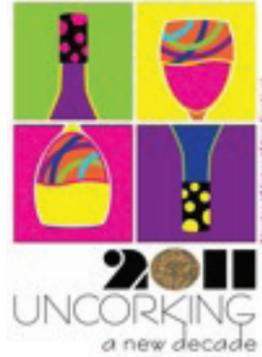
Far from the ordinary

Lot 23 is a six-night trip to Italy for two couples. It begins with three nights at Villa La Massa in Tuscany and includes a hot air balloon ride, VIP visits to wineries such as Poggio Antico and Capannelle; a private cooking class with the Alain Ducasse team at L'Andana Resort followed by a tasting lunch or dinner with the chefs. Turin is the next stop for two nights at Relais Villa d'Amelia topped off by a morning hunt for the rarest white truffles on earth. Enjoy the last night in Italy at the Park Hyatt in Milan before flying to New York for a truffle dinner.

Lot 38 is a six-night safari in Kenya with private guides who know right where the rhinos, giraffes, lions and elephants roam. Winners enjoy two-night stays at Solio Lodge, Laikipia; Sasaab, Samburu; and Sala's Camp at Maasai Mara, which has a clear view of the annual late summer migration of more than a million wildebeest.

Lot 44 is an 18-night grand tour of Thailand and Vietnam for two couples.

Lot 56 includes a 22-day around-the-world trip for two on a luxury jet specially designed for 52 passengers and crew. The jet travels to Fiji, Australia



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Celebrity sightings guaranteed

Lot 16 answers the question: How much can you pack into a six-night stay in New York? This celebrity-, culinary-, fashion- and art-infused auction lot fills every waking moment for two couples. There are accommodations in a Fifth Avenue apartment; lunch with TV's Regis Philbin and Michael Gelman and a workout session with Kelly Ripa at her gym; tickets to "Memphis" on Broadway; private magic lessons with David Blaine; a visit to the set of "Gossip Girl" and Legends seats for a Yankees' game. There's a VIP tour of Christie's Auction House and private tours at The Museum of Modern Art and The Frick Collection. And there's a private shopping experience at Saks, which includes a \$10,000 gift card and a day of beauty treatments, and tickets to Carolina Herrera's spring 2012 show during Fashion Week.

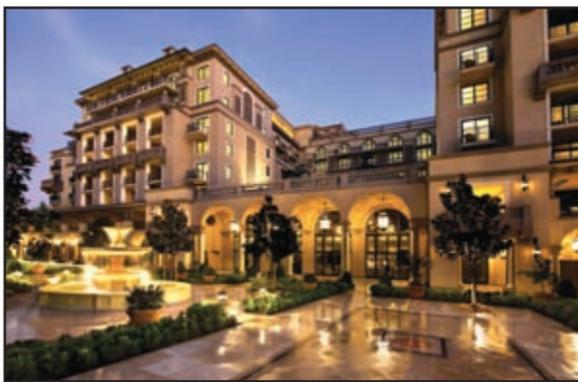
Bring on the bling

Lot 63 is an Italian vacation for two couples to Florence and Umbria for six nights, including orchestra pit seats for the premiere of "AIDA" directed by Maestro Zubin Mehta and a private cast party following the performance; private viewing of the Fratelli Piccini jewelry collection and a gift of two pairs of cufflinks and two pendants, all in 18-karat gold with precious stones and designed especially for this auction lot's winners. In Umbria, winners dine with top stylist Brunello Cucinelli and receive a private styling session as well as a \$20,000 head-to-toe Brunello Cucinelli makeover at Marissa Collections in Naples.

— Naples Winter Wine Festival ticket packages are \$7,500 per couple; \$20,000 for reserved seating at the same vintner dinner for two couples. For a festival schedule and other information, visit www.napleswinefestival.com or call (888) 837-4919.

A sporting adventure

Lot 10 is for two winning couples who will experience the 2012 Olympic Games in London in category "A" seats. For seven nights, winners stay at the luxury boutique hotel The Milestone, with tickets to the opening ceremonies and daily Olympic events. Also featured is a two-night stay at Sir Peter Michael's five-star estate, The Vineyard at Stockcross, tickets to a West End Show and private tour of Parliament.



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'Santaland Diaries' celebrates the holiday season with snark

David Sedaris' snarky holiday comedy, "The Santaland Diaries," is back onstage at Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers for a special engagement Dec. 9-23 in the new Studio Theatre.

Following the outrageous exploits of an unemployed writer who desperately takes a job as a Macy's Elf, the show enjoyed a sold-out run last year. It stars Jason Parrish, Florida Rep associate director, and is directed by Chris Clavelli, associate artistic director at the Rep.

Written by bestselling humorist and NPR and New Yorker contributor David Sedaris, "The Santaland Diaries" is a hilarious and biting honest portrait of the Christmas season that Mr. Sedaris spent working as an Elf. Adapted for the stage by Tony-winning actor and director Joe Mantello, the play takes audiences on an elfin journey from the interview process to the last crazed shopping days before Christmas. The show is not appropriate for children.

Tickets to the Florida Rep production are \$25 (\$12 for students). Call 332-4488 or visit www.floridarep.org. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

Jason Parrish plays in "The Santaland Diaries" at the Florida Repertory Theatre.

Captain Jim Albert

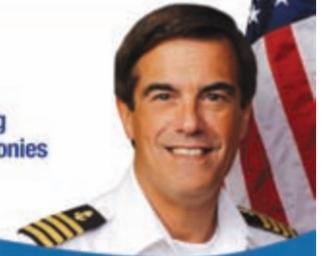
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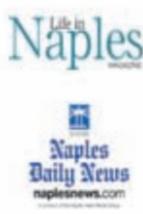
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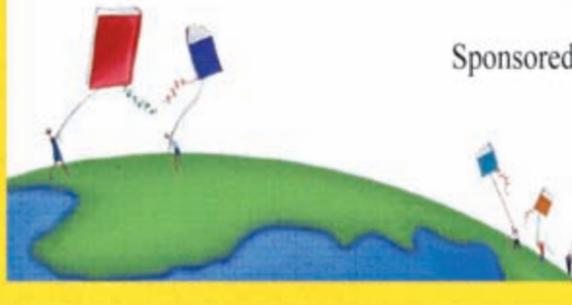
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■ The Naples Players will hold auditions for the March musical production of "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" on Saturday, Dec. 11, at the Sugden Community Theatre. Call for an appointment by 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 10: 434-7340, ext. 10.

"Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" is based on the popular 1988 film about high jinks and high living on the Riviera. It revolves around a bet between a suave con man and a punk nickel-and-dime fraudster, who wager over the fortunes of a naïve American soap heiress. The show will be directed by Dallas Dunningan, with Charles Fornara as music director and Dawn Lebrecht Fornara as choreographer.

A large singing and dancing cast is needed, including Lawrence Jameson, the older, wiser con artist; Freddy Benson, a young and inexperienced con artist; and Christine Colgate, the heiress vacationing on the French Riviera. Andre Thibault is Lawrence's French assistant; Lawrence's victims include wealthy socialites Lenore, Sophia and Muriel, who is also Andre's love interest; and other heiresses, victims and assorted denizens of the Riviera.

Callbacks will be held Sunday, Dec. 12, and rehearsals will begin Jan. 10. Performances are set for March 2-April 2, 2011.

Perusal scripts are available, with a \$20 deposit, at the box office at the Sugden Community Theatre.

■ The Marco Players will hold auditions for "Take Five" and "Baggage" the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 13-14, at the theater in the Town Center mall.

"Take Five," a new comedy about love, betrayal, divorce and a not-so-well-planned funeral, calls for five women ages 50-67 and two men, both in their 60s but one of whom looks younger. The play runs Feb. 9-27.

"Baggage" is the story of two heart-broken people who discover that, although they might be difficult for everyone else to live with, they're just right for one another. The script calls for two women ages 30-40 and two men ages 30-50. The play runs from March 16 to April 3.

Each show rehearses for six weeks prior to opening. Copies of the scripts are available by calling 404-5198

■ The Naples Orchestra and Chorus will hold auditions from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 8 at Golden Gate High School. All voices and instruments are welcome, and applicants can bring their own music or play familiar music provide at the try-outs. No appointments necessary. For more information, call Bill McKinney at 641-9801 or visit www.NEWNOC.org. ■



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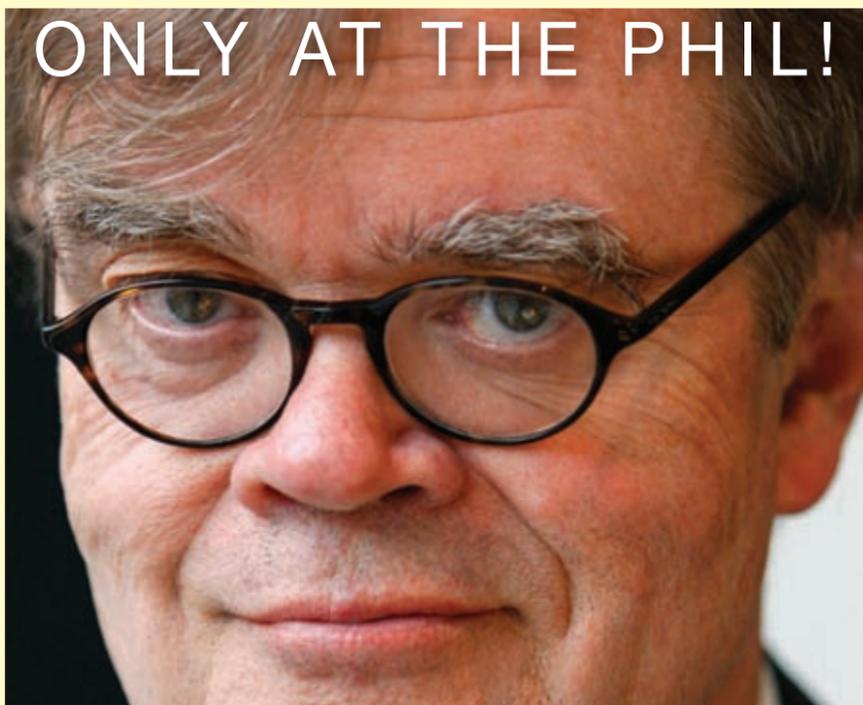
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FLORIDA WRITERS

Cypress Gardens: Flowers, oranges, water-skiers and Southern Belles

■ **"Cypress Gardens, America's Tropical Wonderland,"** by Lu Vickers University Press of Florida. 375 pages. \$34.95

BY PHILIP K. JASON
Special to Florida Weekly

Cypress Gardens, in our still-young century about to become the site of the latest Legoland, was for many decades one of Florida's — and the nation's — premier tourist attractions. In telling its story, Lu Vickers steers us through a series of interwoven narratives.



VICKERS

There is the story of the growth of Florida's tourist economy and the story of the growth of new water sports in America. There's the tale of high-powered entrepreneurial wizardry, and there's the story

of media savvy. They are all inevitably the story of Dick Pope's vision and drive, thus the subtitle: "How Dick Pope Invented Florida."

Mr. Pope's family was already part of the selling of Florida before the idea of draining swampland near Winter Haven and putting up a flower-based theme park dawned. The Pops were real estate developers, and young Dick caught on early to the endless pos-

sibilities inherent in the climate and natural beauty of the thinly populated state.

Launching Cypress Gardens in 1936 on about 30 acres of drained swamp near Lake Eloise, Mr. Pope recognized that selling Florida would sell Cypress Gardens. Thus, he built Cypress Gardens into a celebration of what, in his mind, Florida was all about.

Florida means "flowery," and Cypress Gardens was first of all a botanical garden. However, Mr. Pope pushed to improve upon the indigenous array of flowering plants by bringing in an ever-growing assortment of exotic, non-native blooms. He gowned attractive young women as flower-like Southern Belles and adorned the drained swampland with these beauties. In time, Cypress Gardens became a headquarters for crowning beauty queens, many of their titles named for flowers.

A master marketer

Because Florida was already famous for oranges, Mr. Pope made sure that the orange theme also had a prominent place in the elaboration of Cypress Gardens. And because he was a born showman and water-related activities were part of his Florida vision, he was instrumental in developing the attraction, sport and industry of

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WRITERS

From page C24

selling Florida.

Esther Williams visited and made movies there. Johnny Carson and Mike Douglas broadcast television shows from there, and Cypress Gardens was established as the epicenter of photo opportunities for advertisers as well as vacationers. It was designed and improved with an eye to photography and video.

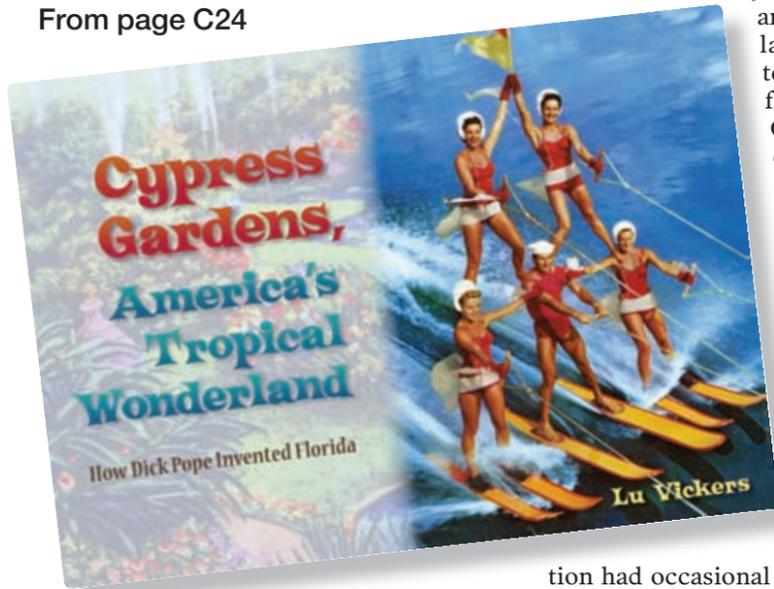
The attraction had occasional downturns, but it remained a steadily growing empire until the Disney mouse began to roar and the Florida of now countless "lands" and "worlds" became supersaturated with amusement destinations. Changing tastes also played a role in the gradual fading of the Pope enterprise.

Ms. Vickers tells the tale of Cypress Gardens in well-fashioned chapters into which she has crammed an encyclopedia of Florida history. The story is told as well by the dazzling color photographs, 262 in all, that enliven its pages. ■

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— Lu Vickers writes out of Tallahassee. She has also published the novel "Breath Underwater" and "Weeki Wachee, City of Mermaids: A History of One of Florida's Oldest Roadside Attractions."



water-skiing. Many champions of the growing sport were in the employ of Cypress Gardens, and Mr. Pope would export their talents to other venues to grow the sport while strengthening his brand.

During the 1940s, it would be hard to watch a movie house newsreel that did not have a few minutes of Cypress Gardens footage. For decades, magazine covers featured images of Cypress Gardens beauties in action or repose. In this way, Mr. Pope perfected the art of OPM — using other people's money. Although he probably had a significant advertising budget, he managed to make Cypress Gardens newsworthy and thereby garnered free publicity. In fact, he even found ways of getting paid for media attention that would sell his wares. All the while, he was also

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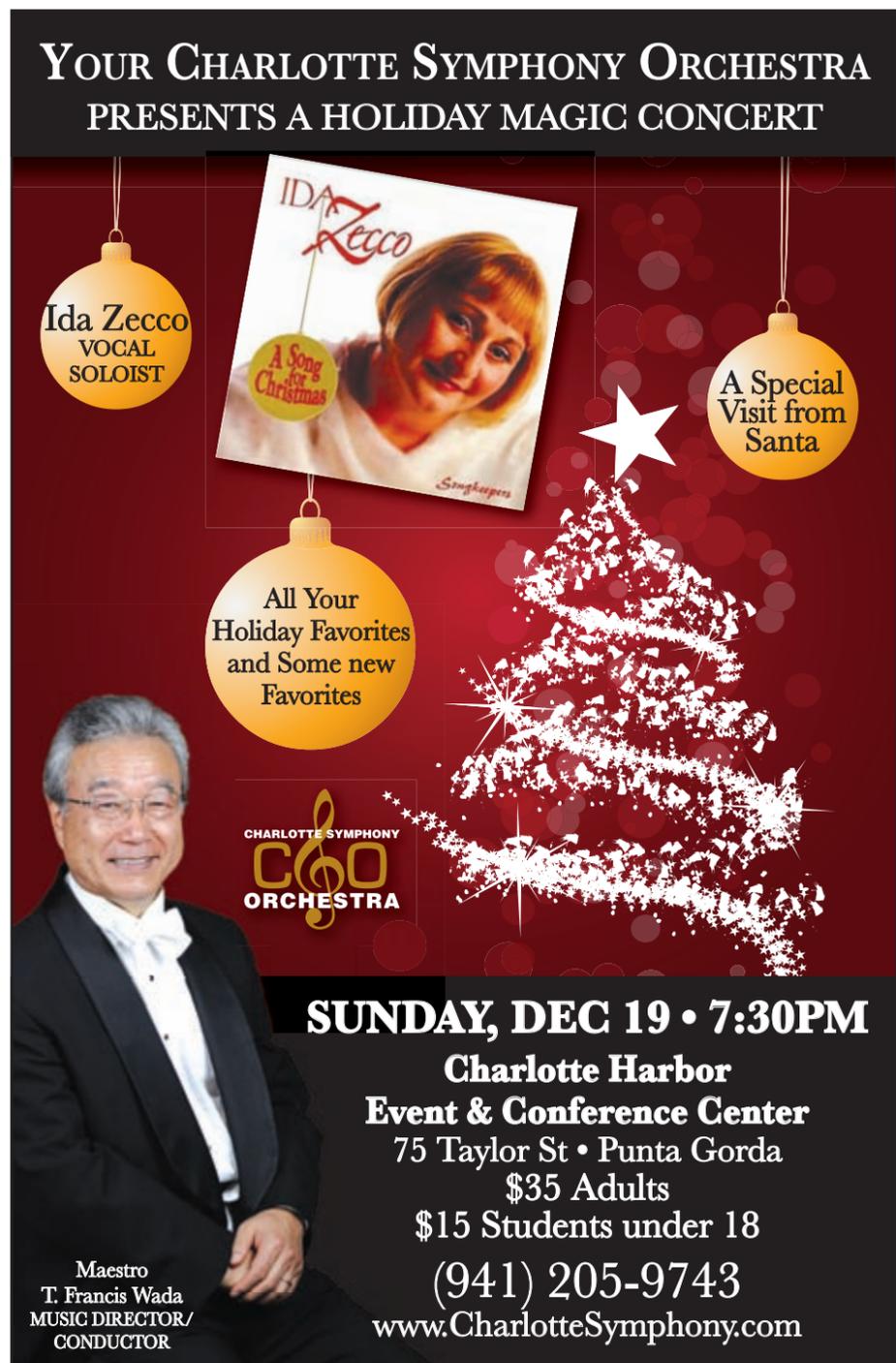
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KOVELS: ANTIQUES

Tin toys date back to European Industrial Age



across the floor. It was made in several different color combinations. The boy might have a red, green or yellow jacket. Other companies made a very similar boy-on-sled toy. All date from about 1915.

Q: I have a dessert serving set that was given to me by a great-aunt in the 1950s. There is a circular mark on the bottom of the dishes enclosing the word "Shofu" in large capital letters surrounded by the words "Made in Japan." Can you tell me who made this set and how old it is?

Because the 19th-century Industrial Revolution resulted in new technology and the creation of a middle class, the invention of tin toys was possible and profitable. Earlier toys had been made of wood, fabric or ceramics. Tin toys were made in the early years of the 19th century in Germany, England and France. The J. Hess Co. was founded in Germany in 1826. Other German toy companies, including Marklin, Bing and Lehmann, soon started up, too. Tin toys were first made in the United States in the early 1830s. By the 1860s, many U.S. companies were producing the toys. In fact, the years from 1865 to 1895 are called the "Golden Age of American Tin Toys." By the 1890s, German and French toymakers were realizing that tin toys were popular in the United States. They made large numbers of toys and pictured them in sales catalogs that now help collectors identify the makers. American toys were less complicated and more amusing than European examples.

Toys then, as now, chronicled the everyday life of children. One popular Hess toy was a windup toy shaped like a boy on a sled. Turn the key and the sled scoots

A: The history of Shofu is confusing. Shofu Kajo or Shofu Katei (1870 to 1928) made porcelain in Kyoto, Japan, beginning in 1890. He founded the Shofu Ceramics Co. in 1908 and began importing ceramics. There still is a company called Shofu in Kyoto. It was incorporated in 1922 by Kajo Shofu III and is still in business making porcelain dentures. The words "Made in Japan" are a clue to the years when the mark on your dessert set was used. On its ceramics exports, Japan used the word "Nippon" (a transliteration of "Japan") as its country name until 1921. After 1921 the U.S. government forced Japanese exporters to use the word "Japan" in their marks. Pieces made in Japan from 1947 to 1952 are marked "Made in Occupied Japan." Your dessert set was made between 1921 and 1941 or in the early 1950s.

Q: Are armadillo baskets really made out of armadillo "skin" or are they just made to look like an armadillo? When

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were they made?

A: Armadillo baskets are made from the hard "shell" of the nine-banded armadillo, one of the many varieties of armadillos. Usually the finished baskets are varnished; some have cloth linings. Charles Apelt (1862-1944), a German immigrant basket-maker who lived on a farm in Texas, noticed that the shell of an armadillo he had killed and skinned curled up into a basket shape as it dried. He started the Apelt Armadillo Co. in Comfort, Texas, in 1898 and began to make baskets from the shells. Handles were formed by looping the long tail over and wiring it to the basket. Armadillo baskets became popular after they were shown at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The company made baskets, purses, lamps and other items from armadillo shells until it closed in 1971. Armadillos have been used to conduct research on leprosy. For a while, some people thought owning an armadillo basket was dangerous because armadillos carried leprosy, but it has been proven that very few of the animals carry the disease and it can't be transferred unless a person eats the undercooked meat. A basket in good shape sells for about \$50 to \$100, depending on its size and lining.

Q: I have a 7-foot-diameter dining table with beautiful inlay. I would love to use it without pads and tablecloth, but am petrified to do so. Design magazines often show wood tables set for a meal directly on the wood surface. I know from experience that setting anything remotely warm on a bare table leaves white marks.

Are placemats or chargers sufficient for plates? What about salt cellars, other condiment dishes, crystal wine glasses or bowls of flowers?

A: The pictures in the magazine may look attractive, but you should protect your table with placemats or a tablecloth if you are serving anything hot, cold or wet. Be sure to use a pad under the tablecloth or placemats, unless they are already padded. Trivets should be used under serving dishes to make sure heat doesn't penetrate the pad.

Tip: You can clean oil, fingerprints and dust from a photograph with a wad of white bread. ■

— Terry Kovel answers as many questions as possible through the column. By sending a letter with a question, you give full permission for use in the column or any other Kovel forum. We cannot guarantee the return of any photograph, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. The volume of mail makes personal answers or appraisals impossible. Write to Kovel, Florida Weekly, King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.



COURTESY PHOTO

This lithographed tin boy-on-sled toy is 7 inches long. It sold at RSL Auction Co. for \$334.

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BOB MOONEY / COURTESY PHOTOS

Naples Ballet brings holiday classic to the stage at Gulf Coast High School

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Naples Ballet presents "The Nutcracker" on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11-12, at Gulf Coast High School. All 97 cast members will be ornamented in dazzling costumes made specially for this production by designers across the country.

In addition to studio performers, who begin gracing the stage at age 4, Naples Ballet has coordinated guest performances by professionals from The Arizona Ballet and Pacific Northwest Ballet to perform the coveted roles in the Sugar Plum grand pas de deux, the Arabian Dance and the Waltz of the Snowflakes pas de deux.

Naples Mayor Bill Barnett will make a special cameo appearance in the Sunday, Dec. 12, show as a visiting parent in the Party Scene during the first act. In addition to the mayor, a host of local residents including cheerleaders, policemen, bodybuilders, nurses and business people have assembled to bring a new dynamic to the show.

Every detail has been orchestrated by founder and Naples Ballet company director Toshiko Tompkins and artistic director Christophe Maraval, a former principal dancer with the Pacific Northwest Ballet.

Show times are 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12. Tickets are \$10 to \$30. For reservations or more information, call 732-1000 or visit www.NaplesBallet.org.



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CLUB NOTES

Porcelain painters offer free lessons

The Naples Porcelain Artists offer free lessons at 10 a.m. on the second Friday of each month at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 777 Mooring Line Drive. The group is a nonprofit organization created to inspire porcelain artists and offer a forum to learn new techniques. For more information, e-mail Wilma@PorcelainStudio.com. ■

that is a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International.

Luncheon tickets are \$150 (\$300 for patrons) and can be purchased at www.theleagueclub.org. ■

Ave Maria founders plan Christmas gala

The Ave Maria University Naples Founders Club holds its Christmas gala beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at the Hilton Naples. Cost is \$35 per person, and all are welcome. RSVP by Thursday, Dec. 9, by calling 254-9730 or e-mailing veronicaabbate@earthlink.net. ■

League Club will welcome 'The Help' author

Tickets are on sale for The League Club's annual fundraising luncheon that takes place Friday, Feb. 11, at the Naples Grande. Guest speaker novelist Kathryn Stockett will discuss "The Help," her first novel and best-selling book that soon will be a motion picture by Dreamworks.



STOCKETT

Since 1986 The League Club has contributed more than \$2 million through its Community Trust Fund to nonprofit causes in Collier and Lee counties. Membership in the club is open to women who have been or still are active members of a Junior League

Naples Bay Rotarians plan BBQ cook-off

The Rotary Club of Naples Bay will hold the first annual Ziggy Dick's BBQ Cook-Off and Festival on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 7-8, at the Collier County Fairgrounds.

The event has been sanctioned by the Florida BBQ Association, and the club expects 25-35 professional teams from across the Southeast to compete for \$15,500 in awards. There will also be People's Choice Award. Naples resident Dana "Big Papa" Hillis, who holds the 2010 Florida BBQ Association "Cook Team of the Year" and also the 2008 and 2010 "Best of the Best" Grand Champion awards, will participate in the competition.

The festivities will also include live music, children's activities and a swamp buggy display.

All proceeds will benefit three Rotary International programs: college scholarships, "Polio Plus" and the "Gift of Life," which pays for heart surgery for children from third world countries. ■

Orchid society offers class on the basics

The Naples Orchid Society presents an eight-week class on "The Basics of Orchid Culture" from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 8 through Feb. 26, at Moorings Presbyterian Church. Cost is \$40 for the series. For more information, e-mail waterwaysorchidman@gmail.com or visit www.naplesorchidsociety.org. ■

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*No Murder Mystery on Rail/Boat Trips

CLUB NOTES

Get acquainted with newcomers in Naples, Bonita

The Naples Newcomers Club welcomes women who have been permanent residents of Naples for no more than five years and who want to meet others who are new to the area.

The club meets for luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, year 'round. In addition, groups within the club plan outings and dates to share varied interests, such as mah-jongg and duplicate bridge, gourmet cooking and discussions about philosophy.

Prospective members are invited to coffee at 10 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. For meeting locations and more information, call 298-4083 or visit www.naplesnewcomers.com.

The Bonita Springs Newcomers Club welcomes women who have lived in Bonita for less than three years. Luncheons are held at area country clubs on the third Thursday of every month (December meeting is on the second Thursday).

Members must attend five luncheons a year and pay annual dues of \$40. A wide variety of other club activities are organized and directed by an all-volunteer board of directors. A monthly newsletter keeps members informed of programs and activities.

For more information, e-mail bonitanewcomers@gmail.com or visit www.bonitaspringsnewcomersclub.com. ■

Guild supports Opera Naples

The Opera Naples Guild was formed to foster community outreach and cooperation among arts organizations throughout Southwest Florida. Membership is open to all, and members become involved with Opera Naples in numerous ways, including: volunteering in various capacities during the

performance season and throughout the year; participating in educational outreach programs; attending dress rehearsals; participating in opera study groups, lectures and demonstrations; assisting with fundraising events; and traveling to performances by other opera companies.

The guild also sponsors and/or assists with activities such as luncheons in advance of each new production, opening night cast parties and end-of-season events.

Annual membership is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. To become a member or for more information, call 514-SING or visit www.operanaples.org. ■

Here's to Toastmasters

Naples Speakeasy, an advanced Toastmasters Club and Speakers Bureau, meets from 6-7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the North Naples Collier Government Building, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive. Guests are welcome.

As an advanced club, Naples Speakeasy offers members the opportunity to give longer speeches, receive in-depth evaluations and participate in a community speakers bureau. For more information, call 262-8183 or visit www.naples-speakeasy.org. ■

Ikebana members plan anniversary tea party

Members of Ikebana International Naples will celebrate the organization's anniversary with tea from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, in the social room at Park Plaza, 4301 Gulf Shore Blvd. Parking is limited, and carpooling is highly recommended. This event is for members only. For more information, visit www.ikebananaples.com. ■



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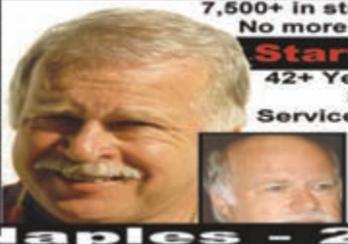


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PARADE magazine columnist, resident veterinarian on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" show and "The Dr. Oz Show" and best-selling co-author of "Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul," Dr. Becker will speak at 7 p.m. at the Pelican Bay Community Center. Admission is \$75 per person. For an additional \$75, guests can attend a cocktail party and book signing with Dr. Becker beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Reservations are required. Call Diane Koestner at 649-8040 or e-mail duk3211@comcast.net. ■



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Marty Becker

and temples, opulent royal cities and diverse kaleidoscope of landscapes. From snake charmers to elephants and the beauty of the Himalayas and the Taj Mahal, every detail will be carefully attend-

ed. East Indian attire is welcomed and encouraged.

Tickets are \$500 per person, \$1,200 per VIP patron and \$5,000 per table of 10. For more information or to reserve a ticket, contact the David Lawrence Foundation at 354-1416. ■

Lace up your sneakers for the Y

YMCA of the Palms holds its annual Sneaker Ball the evening of Saturday, Jan. 15, at the Greater Naples YMCA, 5450 YMCA Road. Leave your gown and tux at home and dress casually from head to toe for this fun event that helps the Y help underprivileged children and families in the Collier County community.

Tickets are \$150 per person. For more information, call 598-5143 or visit www.ympalms.org. ■

Explore India here in Naples

The David Lawrence Foundation will hold "India: An Exotic Journey," on Friday, Jan. 14, at the Naples Yacht Club. Dinner, dancing, live entertainment and a silent auction are on the evening's program, all designed to recreate elements of India's rich history, exquisite palaces

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SAVE THE DATE

Saint Anne School celebrates with Saks

The Saint Anne School Foundation celebrates 10 years of partnering with Saks Fifth Avenue for a benefit fashion show the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 19. The event will honor that history with a retrospective of fashions by Saks Fifth Avenue designers of the past 10 years. The elegant evening of cocktails, dinner, fashions and entertainment takes place at the Saint Anne Jubilee Center.

For more information, call 262-4110. ■

Rookery Bay plans another Bash

Friends of Rookery Bay will hold the second annual Batfish Bash from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, March 12, at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. Lavern Gaynor is the honorary chair, and Sharda Spahr is event chair.

The evening will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres featuring the Batfish Brew, a "wild" silent auction of outdoor adventures and other items including getaways to Costa Rica, a private cabin in North Carolina and a New Hampshire inn; original jewelry created just for the Bash; and a shark tagging expedition. Russell's Catering will set up Old Florida fare food stations, and the Raiford Starke Band will strike up a tune for the Batfish

Boogie, written especially for the event by Bill Beach.

A patron party with a sunset cruise will be held Feb. 24 at Hamilton Harbor Yacht Club.

All proceeds will help Rookery Bay continue its youth science education programs, environmental research projects and community outreach activities. Title sponsor of the second annual Bash is Fifth Third Bank.

Tickets are \$150 (patrons, \$250). For reservations or more information, call -417-6310, ext. 409, visit www.rookerybay.org/batfishbash or e-mail friends@rookerybay.org. ■

Ave Maria founders plan fashion show

The Ave Maria Founders Club of Naples will hold the third annual Spring Luncheon and Style Show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26, at Ave Maria University. The event benefits the Ave Maria University Student Financial Aid Fund. Free bus transportation from Naples will be provided.

A gentlemen's table will be available for spouses, who will also be able to take a guided tour of the Ave Maria oratory, the Annunciation sculpture and the school campus.

Call Sydney McManus at 250-3537 or e-mail Sydney.mcmanus@avemaria.edu for reservations. Overnight accommodations can be arranged in the university's Xavier Hall by calling 304-7206. ■

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

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2. Bob and Barbara Bowman
3. John and Peggy Ryba
4. Marya Doonan



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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

If The Shoe Fits, an evening at Saks for Take Stock in Children



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1. Amanda Jaron and Trisha Borges
2. Di Severns and Judy Cutler
3. Kaleigh Grover, Patrick Trittler and Shalyn Ormsby
4. Monica Baker, Debi Brown, Christy Brown and Barbara Minch Rosenberg
5. Katie Sawyer, Beth McCall and Susan McManus
6. Leslie Waters and Diane Lombardo
7. Caryn Buechel, Robert Baucom and Alice Carlson
8. Jullianne Smith and Lynn Knupp

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There's no need to agonize over this year's holiday shopping list. For adults, a gift of wine almost always fits.

After all, you really can't have too many bottles of good wine. The recipient can admire the bottle, anticipate opening it, drink it (with you, if you're lucky) and be left with the pleasant memory of its consumption.

It should be fairly simple to select wines for family and friends. You might already know what they enjoy. If not, ask. Even if the response is white zinfandel, go for a little upgrade (I would recommend a fruity rosé in this case).

Some members of my family were in town for Thanksgiving, and it gave me an opportunity to assess their tastes.

It's easiest to choose for my mother-in-law. Adele likes sauvignon blanc and pinot grigio. (Please, no chardonnay! She doesn't care for the flavor of oak in the wine.) I know she likes Sancerre and Pouilly Fume, but she doesn't love the New Zealand style of sauvignon blanc. For her, I'd pick the 2008 Zind Humbrecht Pinot Gris (\$24) from Alsace. The Alsatian style of wine is generally dry, crisp and has nice fruit flavors. It also pairs well with food. This pinot gris shows light peach and white flower flavors and aromas, good acid balance and

a long mineral finish.

My father-in-law, by contrast, is a red wine drinker. Jerry appreciates many reds but tends to like well-balanced, medium- to full-bodied varieties. For him a good fit would be a Spanish red wine I sampled at a Sarasota tasting. The 2006 Bodegas Alto Moncayo "Alto Moncayo" Campo de Borja (\$38) is rich and full-bodied with plum and blackberry flavors, showing touches of pepper and spice on the finish.

My older daughter, Kim, loves Italian wines, having visited the country several times, and Barolo is far and away her favorite. She'll enjoy Pio Cesare Barolo 2005 (\$60), a rich and full-bodied red made from the nebbiolo grape. Balanced with tannins and acids, it has big, ripe red fruits and plums, a flowery bouquet and a lingering finish. I hope she shares this with me in a few years when it is ready to drink!

My younger daughter was drinking German Rieslings until very recently when she Facebooked me to tell how wonderful

pinot noir is. Now she is enthusiastically exploring reds. For Heather, the Byron Monument Pinot Noir 2008 (\$60) will be perfect. Dark cherries and flowers dominate the bouquet with additional flavors of blueberries and a little spice. Big, elegant, smooth and silky, it's a really nice wine to enjoy with a feast.

We also enjoyed the company of a good friend on Thanksgiving. Michael likes zinfandel (the red kind). This is an easy choice for me to make. Orin Swift, famous for The Prisoner, a blend of zinfandel and five other grapes, has released a zinfandel called Saldo. The 2008 Saldo (\$30) is rich in color and flavor, with blackberry on the nose mixed with black cherry and spice on the palate, ending with a long finish.

Last on my list, but first in my thoughts, is my wife, Karen, whose favorites are big-bodied reds. I tasted one I know she'll like at last year's Southwest Florida Wine and Food Fest. The winery is called Tablas Creek, and it's in the Paso Robles area. The wine is Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Paso Robles 2007 (\$60). It's a Rhone-style wine, the result of a partnership between Vineyard Brands and

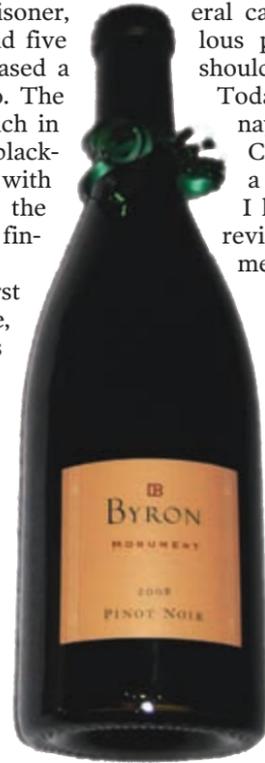
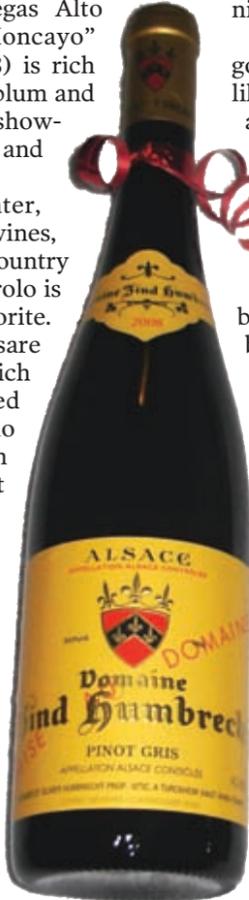
Château du Beaucastel, long famous for Chateaneuf du Pape. The wine is dry, rich and full of red plums, cherry, orange notes and spices on the nose. It has a touch of pepper and nutmeg and ends with a little oak and spice on the long finish.

And what is Santa bringing Mr.Vino? My choice would be a soulful red burgundy, long one of my favorite styles. I cut my teeth on Volnay Les Angles 1969 and managed to consume several cases purchased at the ridiculous price of \$9 per bottle (that should tell you how long ago it was). Today, Bouchard Père & Fils Volnay Caillerets Ancienne Cuvée Carnot Domaine 2008 (\$61) is a similar wine, and although I have not tasted it, the recent review in Wine Spectator draws me like a moth to the flame.

"There's beautiful purity to the raspberry, black currant and violet aromas and flavors as this compelling red moves across the palate," states the reviewer. "There's depth and detail, with a long, fruit- and mineral-filled after-taste."

Perhaps some of these selections will work for you and yours, too. Wishing everyone a joyful and wine-filled holiday season. ■

JIM MCCRACKEN / FLORIDA WEEKLY
Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir



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FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Paradise Buffet adds style, substance to the all-you-can-eat concept



karenFELDMAN
cuisine@floridaweekly.com

As a rule, I avoid buffet restaurants, having endured a plethora of high-carb, low-quality spreads full of food left to linger in its steam tray until it's either too soggy or too dried out to eat.

A couple of satisfying, healthy meals at Sweet Tomatoes, however, helped to remind me that, like other restaurants, all buffets are not created equal.

I now add Paradise Buffet, which recently opened in Bonita Springs, to the short list of out-of-the-ordinary buffets. While it offers a selection of well-known Chinese dishes, other features include an attractive salad buffet and an impressive selection of freshly made sushi.

I've seen a smattering of sushi at other places, but Paradise Buffet devotes serious real estate to it, enough that you could make a meal on that alone and get your \$15.95's worth.

The storefront is a large one, the former site of Mile High Burger in the shopping center that also houses Cirella's and Stevie Tomato's Sports Page. The management has broken up the space into sections — some with booths and banquettes — and installed half walls around them, thereby minimizing the sprawl. We were seated in a relatively cozy section near the back of the room and close to the buffet area.

The kitchen and buffet displays occupy about 30 percent of the room. The open kitchen is backed by gleaming walls of stainless steel that match the counters and work areas in the kitchen, where several cooks busily turn out food.

I like the open-kitchen concept, which allows customers to see the food being prepared. In this case, the kitchen was clean and neat, even though there was plenty of food preparation going on. The buffet tables were equally tidy.

Both the sushi and the hot dishes are displayed right in front of the kitchen, enabling the cooks to install new dishes as soon as they are ready. That differs from many buffets in which the kitchen is in the back out of sight, which means server attendants must transport the food to the buffet, with the food losing freshness every minute that passes.

Paradise Buffet divides its offerings into four sections.

One table displays salad items and



Paradise Buffet offers a wealth of sushi and sashimi as a standard part of the all-you-can-eat offerings.

appetizers such as peel-and-eat shrimp, edamame and green mussels on the half shell. I didn't eat any salad, but all the components looked fresh and appealing, including a tray of hard-boiled egg halves.

The sushi spans two sides of the display that borders the kitchen. Each type is carefully arranged on its own plate, with the name of each posted above the sneeze guards. I'd make only one recommendation here: that there be a basic description of the contents, as some weren't obvious from the name.

Nonetheless, we tasted segments of California roll, rainbow roll, tempura roll, caviar roll, spicy tuna roll, tuna and salmon nigiri as well as some sashimi (salmon, tuna and a white fish I couldn't identify). All were fresh and well constructed, although the tempura roll, which contained tofu, egg and seaweed, could have been hotter. Speaking of hot, a large bowl of wasabi and another of pickled ginger sat conveniently in the middle of the sushi display.

Hot foods take up the rest of the display area adjacent to the kitchen. Here you'll find bacon-wrapped scallops, spring rolls, fried shrimp, beef ribs, vegetables tempura, carb Rangoon, soups, vegetable lo mein, grilled salmon, sautéed string beans, chicken and broccoli and a number of other dishes that will be familiar to most people.

From this section, I liked the crisp spring rolls and well-seasoned, al dente string beans best. I found that almost all of the hot items were lukewarm to warm, which allows them to last longer on the table, but also diminishes the enjoyment of them for those who like hot food served hot.

Considering that there were a couple of other, mild soups (miso was one, I can't recall the other), the vegetable-laden hot and sour soup could have been dialed up several degrees on both hotness and sourness. This soup is, after all, known for those qualities. People who don't like heat

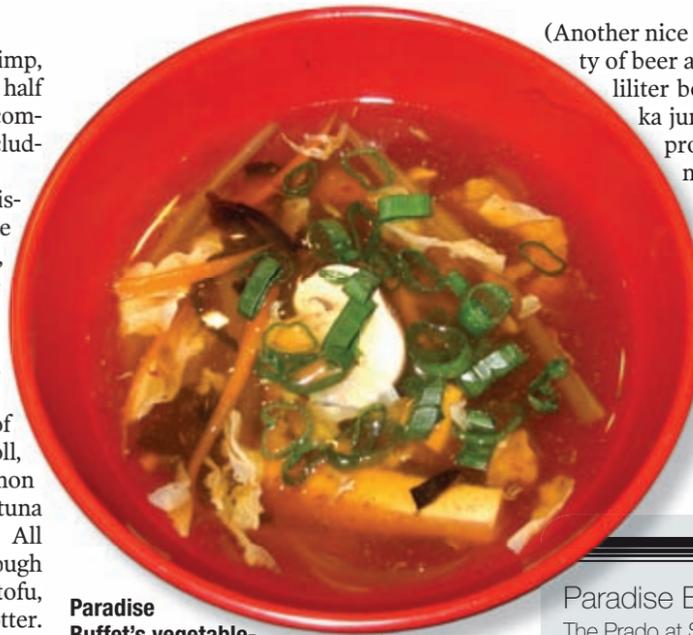


Hot items include spring rolls, ribs, fried and sautéed shrimp, sautéed green beans and grilled salmon as well as lo mein and other traditional dishes.



(Another nice feature here is the availability of beer and wine. We split a 300-milliliter bottle of well-chilled Hakusika junmai ginjo sake (\$10), which proved a pleasant accompaniment to the sushi.)

Overall, Paradise Buffet offers a well-chosen assortment of fresh food, with an impressive variety of seafood. With the management's attention to service and cleanliness as well as the reasonable price, it ought to attract all the customers it can serve in no time at all. ■



Paradise Buffet's vegetable-laden hot and sour soup.

aren't likely to try it, while those who do like this typically zesty soup will be disappointed.

A fourth area, situated near the salad section, contained fresh fruits, puddings and other desserts, watermelon, honeydew, cantaloupe, rice pudding, chocolate pudding, cheesecake, coconut cake, macaroons and cream puffs among them. Like the salad items, the fruit was fresh. The desserts were average—about what you'd expect from commercially produced items. Set up next to the dessert display was a small frozen case with ice creams and sorbets. I liked the green tea ice cream, which came in a small dish that contained just the right amount after everything else we'd consumed.

The servers were more attentive than you typically encounter in buffets. They cleared our used dishes as soon as we were done with them, kept water glasses full and made sure we had enough to drink.

if you go

Paradise Buffet

The Prado at Spring Creek, 25201 Chamber of Commerce Drive, Bonita Springs; 495-5398

Ratings:
Food: ★★½
Service: ★★★½
Atmosphere: ★★½

- >> **Hours:** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. every day
- >> **Reservations:** No
- >> **Credit cards:** Major cards accepted.
- >> **Price range:** \$9.95 for lunch, \$15.95 for dinner
- >> **Beverages:** Beer and wine served
- >> **Seating:** Banquettes, booths and conventional tables and chairs
- >> **Specialties of the house:** Sushi, green mussels prepared several ways, spring rolls, crab Rangoon, grilled salmon, vegetable lo mein, peel and eat shrimp, beef with vegetables
- >> **Volume:** Low to moderate
- >> **Parking:** Free lot

★★★★ Superb
★★★★ Noteworthy
★★★ Good
★★ Fair
★ Poor

food & wine CALENDAR

> **Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 9-11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fifth Avenue South:** Samples food from three Culinary Concepts restaurants on The Zoo Crawl, a fundraiser to help create a new giraffe habitat at the Naples Zoo. The tour goes from Pazzo! Cucina Italiana to Chops City Grill to Yabba island Grill for a cocktail safari and three-course meal with the Serengeti Slam signature cocktail, fine wines and a raffle Friday and Saturday nights. Seating is limited and by reservation only. Call 298-5015 for details and reservations.

> **Thursday, Dec. 9, 5:30-8 p.m., Decanted:** It's the final Wine Throw-down of the year, featuring five wine suppliers offering eight wines each, along with appetizers; \$25, 1410 Pine

Ridge Road; 434-1814. Reservations required.

> **Saturday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sea Salt:** Slow Food Southwest Florida hosts a visit to the Third Street South farmers' market followed by a noon lunch at Sea Salt Restaurant, featuring lasagna made with produce purchased at the market; market is free, lunch is \$33 inclusive, 1186 Third Street South. Reservations required by sending name and phone to slowfoodsvp@hotmail.com.

> **Saturday, Dec. 11, noon-2 p.m., Whole Foods:** An Audubon Society representative teaches Kids' Club participants how to create bird feeders from scratch, while shoppers can stop by at the cookout for natural Angus beef or veggie burgers, chips and a drink;

class is free, cookout is \$5 (proceeds benefit Audubon Society), Mercato; 552-5100.

> **Saturday, Dec. 11 and 18, 3-5 p.m., Tony's Off Third:** New wine manager Wayne Walker hosts a weekly wine tasting; 1300 Third St. South; 262-7999.

> **Sunday, Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m., Fred's Food, Fun & Spirits:** The restaurant features dinner and the show "Nice Jewish Girls Gone Bad," a mix of comedy, music and burlesque; \$34.95 for dinner and show, \$20 for show only, 2700 Immokalee Road; 431-7928. Reservations required.

> **Thursday, Dec. 16, 4-10 p.m., Cathy O'Clarke's Irish Pub and Restaurant:** The restaurant will donate 30 percent of all proceeds on this evening

to the Naples Orchestra and Chorus; 591 S. Collier Blvd., Marco Island; 642-9709. Reservations recommended.

> **Friday, Dec. 17, 6:30-8 p.m., Whole Foods:** The Top 10 holiday wines tasting features the favorite wines of the chain's national wine buyers; \$10, Mercato; register online at www.acteva.com/go/Lifestylecenter.

> **Tuesday, Dec. 21, 6-8 p.m., The Good Life:** Shelly Connors will teach how to make holiday appetizers; \$50, 2355 Vanderbilt Beach Road; 514-4663. Reservations required.

— Submit event listings to Cuisine@floridaweekly.com.



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