

# NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY®

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WEEK OF JUNE 21-27, 2012

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INSIDE



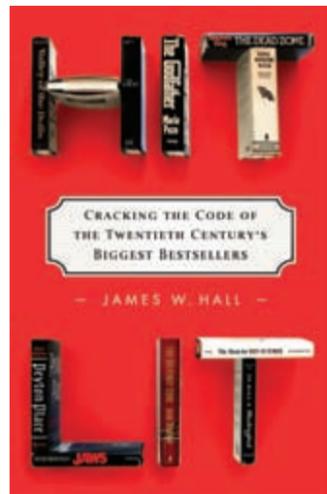
WE'RE  
#1

{ IN PUBLIC  
CORRUPTION }

BY ROGER WILLIAMS  
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

NUMBER ONE.  
In sports, it's usually cause for celebration. In sales, in earnings, in awards or accolades, ditto.  
But in public corruption, the number-one ranking serves both as cause for despair and as a wake-up call to people who elect or appoint public servants. Their question should become, "Why, and how can we fix it?"

SEE CORRUPTION, A8 ▶



**Great reads**

Novelist examines what makes for a bestseller. C1 ▶



**Fond farewell**

Naples Illustrated bids goodbye to longtime editor, and more fun around town. C21-24 ▶



**Pedaling and profits**

Bicycle sales are pumping up. B1 ▶



**Before the polls**

Attend or tune in to League of Women Voters forums; cast a straw vote at "Politics In the Park." A7 ▶

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**A hamster and his owner share health ordeals**



BY EVAN WILLIAMS  
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Hammie jut might be the luckiest hamster in the world to have an owner like 13-year-old Katie West of Naples. She makes him vegetable soup when he's sick,

COURTESY PHOTO

Katie West holds her pet hamster. Both have undergone surgery to remove tumors. Karrie West, the girl's mother, looks on.

supervises his backyard adventures and lets him swim in the bathtub.

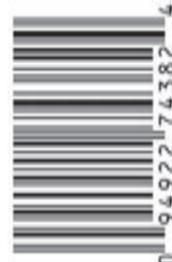
When Hammie developed a cluster of tumors near his ribs about a month ago, Katie spent an evening researching his symptoms online, in spite of warnings from her mom, Karrie West, that Hammie probably wouldn't survive.

"I thought for sure he was a goner," Ms. West says.

SEE HAMSTER, A21 ▶

PRSR STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID FORT MYERS, FL PERMIT NO. 715	OPINION A4	NETWORKING B6	FILM REVIEW C11
	PROFILE IN PARADISE A6	REAL ESTATE B7	BOOK REVIEW C12
	HEALTHY LIVING A18	OPEN HOUSE MAP B22	ANTIQUES C16
	PETS OF THE WEEK A22	PUZZLES C10	CUISINE C26-27

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# COMMENTARY

## I lift my lamp beside the golden door



(Note: Last week, President Barack Obama championed the words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty by signing an executive order to allow illegal immigrants raised and educated in the United States a chance to live and work here legally. This column considering that problem first appeared in July 2010.)

Once upon a time long ago and far away across the Nolichucky River in eastern Tennessee, there lived a man named Davy Crockett.

Word for word, that's how my oldest son's maternal grandfather used to start his stories.

He came from New York, where his own father and seven uncles were Russian immigrants. The family story was that once upon a time, long ago and far away across the Nolichucky River in eastern Tennessee, they'd arrived in New York Harbor illegally, then jumped off the boat and swum ashore. All eight of them.

I've swum in New York Harbor myself. It was sharply, strikingly cold, and I smelled like the water for a couple of days after, which made me feel like an oil-soaked bird.

Maybe that's how the Tarnowers felt. Their original name had been a little longer, but Tarnower is what they settled on, in part to wash the oil of another culture off their shiny new American feathers.

Once in New York, in addition to speak-

ing no English, understanding nothing about the culture and having few or no friends, they made a living. And survived to produce Evan's grandfather, Bill Tarnower, who became a doctor. Not only an M.D., but a widely respected psychiatrist at the famous Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas.

Imagine the immense energy and effort it must have taken to move from illegal Russian immigrant to medical doctor and full-blooded American in a single generation.

Bill used to wear cowboy boots along with silver-and-turquoise bolo ties when he attended barbecues or fished for bass in a lake at a place called the Roundup Club — the only club he ever joined. It was a "country" club actually located in the country, where his son and three daughters could grow up with horses.

For a New York Jew, country clubbing in the Midwest in the 1950s or '60s was probably fraught with hazards. But the Roundup Club was about horses — not about exclusion. Bill loved horses, along with cows and cowboys and the Western culture. His son later became a long-time rodeo cowboy, riding both broncs and bulls.

As a child and the son of immigrants, though, Bill's life was entirely different from that of his children. He used to skip school and sneak into Radio City Music Hall to catch the shows. He also contracted rheumatic fever, which almost killed him. When he was 10 or 12, his parents sent him from New York to the other end of the universe: Texas.

There, he spent part of his youth convalescing and later went back to attend medical school at the University of Texas. After that, he married a bright, capable woman

who had been raised in Wisconsin and had become a psychiatric nurse at Menninger's. That's where they met — a small-town Catholic girl named Doris Sheen and a big-city Russian Jew named William Tarnower. The love between them sparked and snapped like an exposed wire.

From my vantage, everything that happened to all of them was star struck with good fortune, because out of it came my oldest son, who writes for this newspaper. Although my marriage to his mother didn't last, in the end that was the least of it.

Evan is here. Without an immigrant experience — the Tarnowers' — he wouldn't be.

And that's only one immigrant experience. Others happened on both sides of that family, and in my own family back a couple of generations, too.

Apparently, somebody had believed the famous words offered by Lady Liberty, standing tall in the middle of New York Harbor: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Many somebodies were willing to face massive discrimination and extended periods of poverty just to prove those words true. Although most arguably had it easier than African Americans, it was never easy for any of them: the Irish or Italians, the Germans or Poles or Russians, the Norwegians or Swedes. Or for the many Chinese, and later the Japanese and Vietnamese. They got equal rights handed to them on the toe of a boot by established Americans: They were all equally ill-treated with a proverbial kick in the ass, right through the middle of World War II and the waning years of the 20th century.

And the beat goes on.

Since the 1960s, people have complained about Cuban immigrants. Since the 1970s, people have complained about Vietnamese immigrants. And since the 1980s and '90s, they've complained about — and in some cases gone out of their ways to mistreat — the newest Americans who arrive from south of the border. Once again, immigrants take the heat while the rest of us sit in the air conditioning, whining about them.

I know one boy, a high school student here in Southwest Florida, who epitomizes the kind of immigrant American we want. Although his parents can't speak the language, his English is so clear and clean you could see through it, if words were glass.

He's enrolled in the accelerated program at his school, where he earns A's. He's tough, he's kind, and since his father often travels to agricultural fields nationwide, he stands in to take care of four little brothers and sisters, with his mom.

But at almost 16, he's the only one of the five children who remains illegal himself. That's because he arrived here from Mexico when he was 1. When his father was arrested and imprisoned as part of a new crackdown on illegal aliens a few weeks ago, the boy was left in charge. His mom, also without the proper papers, can't drive and doesn't work.

Welcome to America, pal. It can suck, I know.

My only hope is that someday, that boy will be an old man sitting in a comfortable home somewhere in the country of my children and grandchildren, telling his own grandchildren an American story. And it will start something like this: Once upon a time, long ago and far away across the Nolichucky River in eastern Tennessee, there lived a man named Davy Crockett. ■

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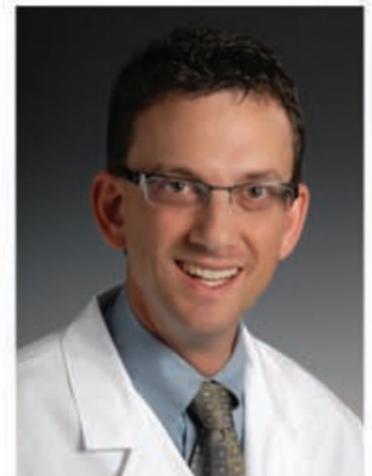
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Earl Gurevitch, M.D.

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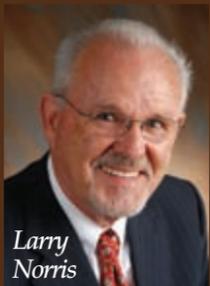
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## OPINION

# A bad case of national amnesia



**richLOWRY**

Special to Florida Weekly

The Declaration of Independence is a poor excuse for an obscure historical document. It's not the Magna Carta or the Peace of Augsburg. Its name is so straightforwardly functional, it almost makes you wonder why the Founders weren't more imaginative.

Yet only 35 percent of American fourth-graders know the purpose of the Declaration of Independence, according to a National Assessment of Educational Progress. The findings of the test — administered to representative samples of fourth-, eighth- and 12th-graders — are another dreary recitation of the historical ignorance of America's students.

Only 20 percent of fourth-graders, 17 percent of eighth-graders and 12 percent of 12th-graders were proficient in history. More than half of 12th-graders were categorized as "below basic." Only 22 percent of 12th-graders knew that North Korea was allied with China during the Korean War.

These are the symptoms of a country

engaged in a long process of erasing its memory. For decades, we have been congratulating ourselves for a broad-mindedness that is really a self-destructive national amnesia.

It's no accident that the teaching of American history became ascendant during the surge of national self-confidence in the wake of the Civil War. Back then, we infused the endeavor with an unabashed love for America. The historian Merle Curti writes that the schools "emphasized the importance of presenting vividly and attractively to children the glorious deeds of American heroes, the sacrifices and bravery of our soldiers and sailors in wartime, the personalities of the presidents, who might properly be regarded as symbols of the nation in the manner in which royal personages of Europe were regarded."

How passe. Today, we're lucky if students can pick their forebears out of a lineup.

The content of education began to change in the middle of the 20th century, and eventually tipped into embarrassment and self-abasement. Huntington cites a study of 22 grade-school readers published in the 1970s and 1980s. Out of 670 stories and articles in the books, only five were patriotic. All of the sto-

ries dated from prior to 1780. Four of them focused on a girl. Three of them involved the same girl, Sybil Ludington, the female Paul Revere.

As this transpired down below in the elementary schools, the professional historians worked to kill American history from above. They suffocated it first in data-driven "social history" and then in multiculturalism, until it seemed fit only for obsessives about race or gender.

The neglect of history leaves on the cutting-room floor all the entertaining, instructive and inspiring material involved in the world's most daring and (ultimately) successful experiment in self-government. Worse, it robs us of one of the most important constituent parts of our national identity.

Historian David Lowenthal says of heritage: "By means of it we tell ourselves who we are, where we came from, and to what we belong." Increasingly, we don't know and don't want to know. "Never forget" is an appropriate admonition for victims of atrocities. "Never remember" is a strange and ominous admonition for a nation somebody or other once called "the last best hope of earth." ■

— Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

## Across that bridge, again



**amyGOODMAN**

Special to Florida Weekly

As the election season heats up, an increasing number of states are working to limit the number of people who are allowed to vote. Already we have a shamefully low percentage of those eligible to vote actually participating. Florida, a key swing state, is preparing for the Republican National Convention, five days of pomp promoted as a celebration of democracy. While throwing this party, Florida Republican Gov. Rick Scott, along with his secretary of state, Ken Detzner, are systematically throwing people off the voter rolls, based on flawed, outdated Florida state databases.

Many eligible Florida voters recently received a letter saying they were removed and had limited time to prove their citizenship. Hundreds of cases emerged where people with long-standing U.S. citizenship were being purged. According to the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, "of those singled out to prove their citizenship, 61 percent are Hispanic when only 14 percent of registered Florida voters are Hispanic," suggesting an attempt to purge Latinos, who tend to vote Democratic. Recall the year 2000, when then-Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris systematically purged African-Americans from voter rolls. The U.S. Justice Department has ordered Detzner to stop the purge, but he and Gov. Scott promise to continue. The Justice Department has sued the state in federal court, as have the ACLU and other groups.

For Georgia Congressman John Lewis, efforts to limit access to vote are not just

bureaucratic. "It is unreal, it is unbelievable, that at this time in our history, 40 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed and passed into law, that we're trying to go backward. I think there is a systematic, deliberate attack on the part of so many of these states, not just Florida, but it's all across the country. ... Some people were beaten, shot and murdered trying to help people become registered voters. I can never forget the three civil-rights workers that were murdered in the state of Mississippi on the night of June 21, 1964," he said, recalling the murder of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, killed while registering African-Americans to vote.

Back in 1961, Lewis, just 21 years old, was a leader of the Freedom Rides, testing new federal laws banning segregation in interstate travel. He and many others were severely beaten when their buses crossed state lines into the Deep South. He sat down at segregated lunch counters, and joined the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, soon rising to chair the organization. He told me about a pivotal moment in his life, and this nation's history, the march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge:

"On March 7, 1965, a group of us tried to march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to dramatize to the nation that people wanted to vote. One young African-American man had been shot and killed a few days earlier, in an adjoining county, called Perry County. Because of what happened to him we made a decision to march. In Selma, Alabama, in 1965, only 2.1 percent of blacks of voting age were registered to vote. The only place you could attempt to register was to go down to the courthouse, you had to pass a so-called literacy test."

As Lewis and scores of others tried to cross the Pettus Bridge in Selma, at

the beginning of their 50-mile march to Montgomery, Lewis recalled, "we got to the top of the bridge, we saw a sea of blue, Alabama state troopers, and we continued to walk, we came within hearing distance of the state troopers. One said, 'I'm Major John Cloud of the Alabama State Troopers, this is an unlawful march, it will not be allowed to continue, I give you three minutes to disperse, return to your church.' ... You saw these guys putting on their gas masks, they came toward us beating us with nightsticks and bullwhips and trampling us with horses. I was hit in the head by a state trooper with a nightstick. I had a concussion at the bridge. My legs went out from under me. I felt like I was going to die. I thought I saw death."

When I asked Lewis what propelled him forward in the face of such violence, he said, "My mother, my father, my grandparents, my uncle and aunts, people all around me had never registered to vote." Universal suffrage, the right to vote, is never safe, never secure, never complete. This election season will be one where money from a few will have enormous influence, while the votes of many are being eliminated, their voices effectively silenced.

Unless people fight to dramatically expand voter participation, not just prevent the purges, our democracy is in serious danger. ■

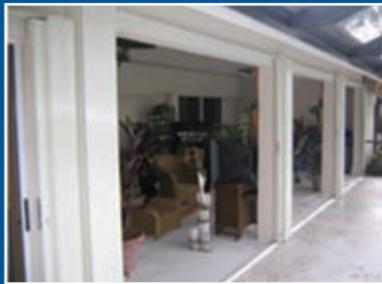
— Denis Moynihan contributed research to this column.

— Amy Goodman is the host of "Democracy Now!," a daily international TV/radio news hour airing on more than 1,000 stations in North America. She is the author of "Breaking the Sound Barrier," recently released in paperback and now a *New York Times* best-seller.

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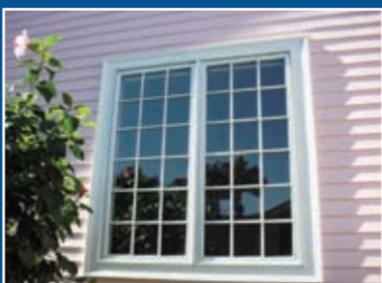
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# PROFILES IN PARADISE

## Giving his best in medicine and music



On the first Wednesday of each month, I look forward to having orthopedic surgeon George Markovich from the Institute for Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine on my show. He's always willing to discuss the politics of health care as well as the healing aspects of his profession, and I always appreciate his candor and transparency.

I know Dr. Markovich is a terrific orthopedic surgeon because he performed double full knee replacements on me in May 2006. I had been under his care since 2002, and we had been enjoying monthly Saturday bike rides with breakfast and great conversation since 2004. I consider he and his wife, Amy, great friends.

Dr. Markovich grew up in Miami after his parents emigrated from Chile in the 1950s. His dad was a neurologist and the recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation Award, which brought him and his family to North America.

Dr. Markovich remembers having a terrific group of high school friends who still occasionally meet and maintain their friendships. It was one of them, in fact, who arranged the blind that introduced him to Amy, 28 years ago when he was in medical school. Today they have three sons, the eldest at Boston University.

Dr. Markovich went to college at Uni-

versity of Florida and medical school at University of Miami. He was awarded an Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and he spent 14 years in the Navy. He also was awarded a research fellowship in orthopedic biomechanics, which he performed at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He did his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Southern California and did two additional fellowships in joint reconstruction, restoration and replacement in California and in Florida. He fulfilled his active duty Navy obligation as chief of joint replacement at Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Norfolk Naval Air Station in Virginia. He moved to Southwest Florida in 1998 upon completion of his military service.

It was fun for me to learn that the doctor is also a terrific musician, performing about once a month as the lead male singer with the local band Alter Ego. Linda and I went to see them at The Sandy Parrot for the first time about three years ago and have since returned to see them many times.

Whether it's medicine or music, Dr. Markovich's always delivers his best effort to his "audience." We are indeed lucky to have him here along the Paradise Coast. ■

— Bob Harden is the producer and host of "The Bob Harden Show," airing from 7-8 a.m. weekdays at [www.bobharden.com](http://www.bobharden.com). The show is archived for listeners' convenience.

### Talking points with Dr. George Markovich



**Something that's been on my mind:** We need less government.

**Something I'll never understand:** Man's inhumanity to man; why Oprah doesn't build a school in Chicago or Detroit.

**Something my mother was always right about:** Setting priorities.

**What makes me laugh:** Running gags.

**Something people might be surprised to find out about me:** I played in a band in college and still play occasionally. If I weren't an orthopedic surgeon, I'd be a rock star!

**What I'm most proud of:** It's quite cliché, but my wonderful, amazing wife and my sweet, caring, good-hearted children.

**Advice to my kids:** Always tell the truth. Always try your best. Treat people like you want to be treated. Flush the toilet and wash your hands.

**Last book read:** "A Million Miles in a Thousand Years" by Donald Miller.

**Last vacation:** Helicopter skiing.

**Next vacation:** Hiking in the desert.

**Favorite things about the Paradise Coast:** The weather and, especially, the people.

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## Forums bring candidates together

League of Women Voters of Collier County hosts its first candidates forum of the 2012 election season beginning at 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 25, in the Collier County Commission Chambers at the Government Complex at 3301 Tamiami Trail E. The public is welcome, and the forum will be broadcast on Channel 97, the Collier County Government Comcast channel.

Candidates running for Collier County constitutional offices will participate in this first forum. They are:

- Property appraiser candidates Abe Skinner and Kevin Lilly, who will take the podium at 5:30 p.m.

- Clerk of court hopefuls (incumbent) Dwight Brock and John Barlow (6:30 p.m.)

- Tax collector candidates Larry Ray and Steve Wagner (7:15 p.m.)

- Sheriff candidates (incumbent) Kevin Rambosk and Victor Ortino (8 p.m.)

All registered voters can vote in the Aug. 14 primary for property appraiser, clerk of court and tax collector. The candidate who wins the primary will be elected, and there will be no further vote in November. Only registered Republicans can vote in the primary election for sheriff; this is a closed primary, and the winner of each party's primary election will face off in November.

The League of Women Voters will sponsor another public forum beginning at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at the above location for candidates in the three Collier County Commission races:

- District 1 - Incumbent Donna Fiala and challenger Steve Cosgrove

- District 3 - Incumbent Tom Henning and Bill McDaniel

- District 5 - Incumbent Jim Coletta and Tim Nance.

The Aug. 14 primaries for District 1 and District 5 commissioners are closed primaries. Only registered Republicans residing in District 1 or District 5 can vote in this primary election for District 1 or District 5 commissioner, respectively. The winners of these two primary elections will face candidates from other parties in November.

The primary election for District 3 commissioner is an open primary. All registered voters who reside in District 3, regardless of their party affiliation or no party affiliation, can vote. The candidate who wins the primary will be elected, and there will be no further vote in November.

For more information about this election season's races, visit the Collier County Supervisor of Elections website at [www.colliervotes.com](http://www.colliervotes.com). ■

## Cast your straw vote on June 28

An old-fashioned political rally with multiple candidates and a straw vote takes place from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, June 28, at St. John the Evangelist Life Center, 625 111th Ave. in North Naples. "Politics in the Park" is presented by the Collier Building Industry Association. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 436-6100 or visit [www.cbina.net](http://www.cbina.net). ■

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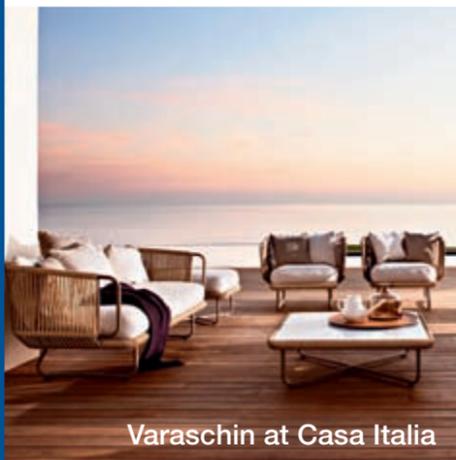
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# CORRUPTION

From page 1

Now Florida, once the pioneer and preeminent champion of open government, has taken the number-one ranking for government corruption in the United States, ahead of California, Texas and New York, each of which contains a larger population.

Florida's middle district, which includes Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties and stretches from south of Naples northward to the Georgia line, has played a significant role in spawning government corruption. Here, *Florida Weekly* offers a glimpse of that history in Southwest Florida, and the men and women who shaped it, dating back about three decades.

Ironically, that's roughly the lifespan of the Sunshine State's pioneering open-records laws — laws making public the actions of elected and appointed government officials.

"It's been (45 years) since Florida put in place government in the sunshine, and we once held the leading position in the country and maybe the world for giving the public the tools to hold government accountable," says Dan Krassner, executive director of the nonprofit watchdog group Integrity Florida. "But that's changed. Since that law was enacted, the legislature has weakened it with more than 1,000 exemptions, which shows Florida is moving in the wrong direction."

Convictions of corrupt public officials show the same thing, perhaps.

Using numbers from a U.S. Department of Justice report detailing a decade of wrongdoing from 2001 to 2010, mostly in local government, Integrity Florida reported that federal prosecutors convicted 781 men and women for corruption and fraud, most of them working in local government.

In the Middle District, according to the report, there were 220 federal convictions alone.

That's not all. The Florida Commission on Ethics, a relatively toothless arm of state government that cannot undertake investigations of officials unless complaints are filed formally first, and can only levy fines of up to \$10,000, has done business in the region as well, says Cary Stillman, a spokeswoman.

In the last five years, 30 complaints of ethics violations by government officials were filed in Lee, 13 in Collier and six in Charlotte County. Of those, there were four total violations and three probable cause rulings, in which the Ethics Commission took no further action.

Neither officials for the U.S. Attorney's office in the middle district or the state's Ethics Commission were able to provide names and descriptions of the federal convictions or ethics violations by press time. But a glimpse at the past and the present suggests that even if history doesn't repeat itself, its patterns and the tendencies of men and women who create it anew, do.

Among other things, the numbers of convictions and violations likely demonstrate that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

Which is why history may prove the best teacher.

## When corruption meant death, drugs

Within the lifetimes of the oldest men and women who live in the region, corruption could mean blood and an early

20th century version of slavery, not just financial misbehavior. Across the South, including in Southwest Florida, conscript labor camps created a widely accepted form of official corruption unequalled since.

In an era before open-government laws, black males and some poor whites were regularly arrested on trumped up charges and used as conscript labor in turpentine camps — lumber camps where pines were cut and processed for turpentine. They led brutal lives, too frequently dying in the camps and being buried in nameless graves from El Jobean to Babcock Ranch in Charlotte County, and points south, historians report.

The perpetrators were never charged with any crimes, and authorities were well paid to provide the conscripts.

Almost everything official was done differently in those days.

Travelers found dead along roads or trails, for example, were sometimes simply disposed of in unmarked roadside holes, a solution that required no inquests, no paperwork, and almost no trouble or public expense.

"It was a fairly common custom," recalled Vernon Peoples, the Charlotte County historian and former state legislator, in a conversation with *Florida Weekly* last year.

"If somebody was found dead, they'd have a coroner's jury, and men from the coroner's jury would go out and find the body and ask themselves if anybody recognized it. If no one recognized the body, it was buried on the spot by the side of the road."

For decades, officials also used the poll tax to control votes, effectively preventing many blacks and some poor whites who couldn't afford to pay it from entering the voting booth.

But Bartow native and United States Sen. Spessard L. Holland brought that corrupt exercise to a halt by sponsoring the 24th Amendment to the Constitution in 1964, which prohibited the poll tax. By 1966 it had become law in all 50 states.

As Florida grew and the population of the region began to swell beginning in the 1960s, people began to pay more attention to official corruption.

Still, it wasn't always white-collar crime. During the famous drug busts in Everglades City in 1983, for example, about 80 percent of the town's male population found itself behind bars for helping transport "square grouper" — bales of marijuana. Nobody, including local officials, seemed to care that since the 1970s many residents had been illegally taking in hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars in drug money until the arrests, which were part of President Ronald Reagan's war on drugs.

Then everything changed except white-collar corruption in local government.

## Sunshine and shadow

The key moment that would later help prosecutors convict some Southwest Florida officials for corruption was probably actually several key moments, the first of which came in 1967. That year, the state legislature passed a law requiring open meetings of elected officials.

The law was championed by then State Senator and later (from 1971 to 1979) Gov. Reubin Askew.

"You've got to remember in government whose business you're doing: the people's," he told the Florida Society of Newspaper Editors in a 2009 reminiscence. "And if you're doing the people's

J. Michael Ward, the CEO, and two other top officials, Daniel Edgar and Jay Murphy, used hospital money to build themselves fancy homes, buy jewelry, take a golf trip to Scotland, buy into island resorts and strip malls, and even melt the silver from radiology strips into bars, which were then spirited out of the hospital and used to buy cocaine.

business, you've got to give them the tools to judge the product."

In spite of that 1967 state law, many officials in local governments continued to resist providing information to reporters and other members of the public, recalled Lee Melsek, a 32-year, award-winning investigative reporter now retired from *The News-Press* in Fort Myers.

Mr. Melsek would later be instrumental in using Sunshine Laws to expose corrupt local government officials, who were then charged and convicted by prosecutors.

"By the early to mid-1970s you still had a big fight — there were thousands of records officials didn't want to open to anybody," he said.

Aggressively supporting the work of Mr. Melsek and others, *The News-Press* sued Lee County officials in a precedent-setting 1975 case called *Wisher vs. News-Press Publishing Co.*

County Administrator Lavon Wisner tried to keep personnel records, including pay records, out of the public eye — and failed.

"We got the courts of Florida to rule that those are public records," Mr. Melsek said.

That battle helped Gov. Askew create Florida's 1976 Sunshine Amendment — another key moment — that required elected officials, government employees and candidates to make full financial disclosures. When that didn't happen later, when some sought to hide their financial connections to investors asking and receiving their votes, some of them went to jail.

## Lee: for love or money?

Among the most brazen champions of financial malfeasance in the last three decades were Lee Commissioners Ernie Averill, Mike Roeder and Wade Scaffie. The three allegedly were wine and dined in Fort Lauderdale and on a party boat with prostitutes by contractor Louis Stramaglia.

"I'm a good-timer, I like to party, I ain't no Ivy Leaguer — I'm a little rough around the edges," Mr. Stramaglia said at the time.

Although the contractor was only indicted (and chased by federal officials for a variety of other breaches in and out of Florida), the commissioners were convicted of trading their influence, or perjury. All three spent time in jail.

Another corrupt official was Dick Steele, the Lee County tax collector.

In 1992, Mr. Steele finally pled guilty to theft, money laundering, income tax evasion, and embezzlement, not only in Lee but in several other Florida counties, including Putnam and Clay.

In Lee, he allowed taxpayers to spend \$80,000 to buy him recreational vehicles, and he funneled county checks to a private citizen, who then cashed them and returned \$78,000 to Mr. Steele.

At roughly the same time — 1990 — Vicki Lopez-Wolfe was elected to the county commission. In the course of her service, she maintained personal

relationships with more than one lobbyist to the commission, voting repeatedly in favor of deals that would benefit her friends.

The most prominent of those was Sylvester Lukis, a Washington, D.C.-based lobbyist who pushed the interests of several clients in Lee County.

Under pressure, she resigned in 1993, then married Lukis in 1994 — but not before denying her relationship with him. That relationship was exposed graphically by Mr. Melsek and then-reporter Pete Winton, now Lee's assistant county manager. The two reporters traveled to Washington, found Mr. Lukis's house, and observed her kissing Mr. Lukis goodbye in the doorway as he left for work one morning.

In 1995, Mr. and Mrs. Lukis were charged with honest services mail fraud and bribery, and she was ultimately convicted of honest services mail fraud, spending 15 months in prison on a 27-month sentence before President Bill Clinton commuted her sentence late in 2000.

Last year, her conviction was overturned and expunged from her record by a middle district judge after a Supreme Court ruling (in a different case) that such a conviction could be legitimate only if bribes or kickbacks had occurred.

In another mid-1990s case of local government corruption that made for a riveting *Wall Street Journal* story, three Cape Coral Hospital officials hoodwinked a blind-eye board of directors by bankrupting the hospital.

J. Michael Ward, the CEO, and two other top officials, Daniel Edgar and Jay Murphy, used hospital money to build themselves fancy homes, buy jewelry, take a golf trip to Scotland, buy into island resorts and strip malls, and even melt the silver from radiology strips into bars, which were then spirited out of the hospital and used to buy cocaine.

Mr. Ward and Mr. Edgar were convicted of such charges as money laundering, bank fraud, conspiracy to defraud the United States and tax evasion, and sentenced to more than seven years in prison.

## Where an S-storm didn't blow over

Dwight Brock, a former white-collar crime prosecutor and now clerk of courts in Collier County, was instrumental in putting a stop to the biggest fraud case in the history of Naples, known as Stadium Naples.

That began about 15 years ago when he sought to audit the elaborate \$100 million plan of ESPN founder Bill Rasmussen.

Mr. Rasmussen harnessed investors and public officials in an attempt to build a glittering and opulent golf arena in North Naples. But 10 people, including three county commissioners, a county manager, a lawyer and five investors, were ultimately charged with crimes, including a conspiracy to defraud Collier citizens of honest service by trading money, votes and influence for services and benefits.

One of them, Collier Commissioner John Norris, who sought a multi-million-dollar stake in the business in exchange for his votes, was quoted telling his colleagues that the brouhaha would blow hard "like an Oklahoma S-storm" and then disappear in a few days. He later went to jail.

Since then, Mr. Brock has had to fight county commissioners who sued to stop him from conducting audits of departments and official spending, stalling that process for almost seven years, until just eight months ago, he says.

In a landmark statement, a statewide grand jury concluded that county clerks must audit local governments to create "a constitutional check on spending that serves our counties' citizens as a fiscal watchdog."



KRASSNER



ASKEW

After all that, he remains skeptical that corruption in local government is on the decline, or that its heyday is behind us.

“When I look at what I deal with on a daily basis now, if it was any worse back in the day of Gov. Reubin Askew, then they were really in sad shape,” he says.

Commissioners “tried to go to court to stop me from auditing what they’re doing. They failed. They tried to cut off my money supplies to pay employees. That failed. And now they may try to get somebody else elected.”

In the case of Stadium Naples, commissioners did what a newer crop of elected leaders seems intent on doing also: stop him from auditing how they make deals and spend public money. But eventually his complaints helped bring down Mr. Norris, Commissioners Tim Constantine and Tim Hancock, County Manager Neil Dorrill, and several business promoters, including David Mobley, and real estate attorney Lee Salvatori.

The Rasmussen plan enjoyed a couple of at-bats. After striking out amid controversy and legal challenges the first time, he sought funding a second time with A.S. Goldman & Co., but dropped that when the firm was investigated by federal authorities.

Then-State Attorney Joe D’Alessandro, based in Fort Myers, investigated officials and entrepreneurs in the case after Mr. Brock filed a complaint. But Mr. D’Alessandro was ultimately removed from any further contact with the case and sharply criticized by a judge because he had stock investments in A.S. Goldman & Co.

Defendants ended up doing community service, paying fines and submitting to house arrest.

One financier, David Mobley, was

in the know

Where are they now?

An on-line check of their careers following their falls from official grace shows the following:

■ **Former Lee Commissioner Vicki Lopez-Wolfe, aka Vicki Lukis:** After serving 15 months in prison, her sentence was commuted by Pres. Clinton. Later, she was exonerated. She went on to become an expert in the reentry of women from prison into society. She lectures regularly on the subject, and writes a blog at [www.vickilukis.com](http://www.vickilukis.com)

■ **Former Lee Commissioner Ernie Averill:** After jail time with fellow Commissioners Mike Roeder and Wade Scaffa for partying with liquor and women courtesy of a developer who secured their votes for work, he opened his own process-serving business with his wife, Cheryl. She told *The News-Press* in 2009 that their company serves the majority of mortgage foreclosures in Fort Myers. Mr. Averill also served on the 20th Judicial Circuit’s advisory board to review certification for process servers until Judge Keith Cary shut it down last year.

■ **Former Lee Commissioner Mike Roeder:** Most recently a planning analyst and director of zoning and land use planning for the Fort Myers-based law firm Knott, Consoer, Ebelini, Hart & Swett.

■ **Former Lee Commissioner Wade Scaffa:** Went on to become program director for the country music station WTUF 106.3, in Thomasville, Ga.



■ **Former Collier Commissioner Tim Constantine:** Went on to become a radio talk show host Monday through Friday from 3 to 5 p.m. on NewsTalk 1240 WFOY, St. Augustine. He describes his conviction for corruption this way, at [www.timconstantine.com](http://www.timconstantine.com): “Tim Constantine was first elected to public office at the age of 27, beating a two-term incumbent and was re-elected four years later with 70 percent of the vote. After eight years in public office, Constantine’s political career came to an unpleasant and unexpected halt. Accusations and innuendo took on a life of their own and Tim found himself immersed in controversy. He was knocked down, but like any good Irishman, he wasn’t knocked out.”

■ **Former County Manager Neil Dorrill:** Mr. Dorrill found Jesus ([www.dmgfl.com](http://www.dmgfl.com)). “Dorrill Management Group (DMG) is a family owned and Christian-based community management company located in Naples, Florida. DMG has over 30 years of award-winning experience working directly with its clients to make their communities a special place to call home.”

■ **ESPN founder Bill Rasmussen:** Mr. Rasmussen hit the speaking trail ([http://espnfounder.com/about\\_bill.htm](http://espnfounder.com/about_bill.htm)). According to Florida records, all but one of his nine companies are inactive except TGT of Naples Inc., which now lists its address as 3646 NE 169th St., Lake Forest Park, Wash., a three-bedroom, two-bath suburban home, according to online information. He’s still considered a distinguished alumnus of Rutgers University, its reports show.

■ **Leo Salvatori:** The Stadium Naples lawyer publicly reprimanded by the Florida bar in 2006, is still practicing law. He was named in “2010 Best Lawyers” Florida edition as the 2010 Best Real Estate Lawyer of the Year in Florida.

sentenced to five years in prison.

“People were closing their eyes, the whole society was rupturing with corruption,” Judge Mike Carr told the *Naples Daily News* recently. At the time, Judge Carr was a Republican state committeeman and a vocal critic of what was happening in Stadium Naples.

For Mr. Brock, it’s still happening, he says. He discovered some months ago that a contractor doing housing work in Collier County with money from

two federal grants administered by the county was billing the county for work that hadn’t been done.

“That vendor’s request included a bill for stucco on a home, and one of my employees got the silly idea that we should drive by and look,” Mr. Brock says.

“There had not been one trowel of stucco put on that home.”

County officials are supposed to check the work before they sign a

check — and when he asked, they told him falsely they had done the checking.

Now, he’s discovering other work for which the county has been billed and paid — work that remains undone, he notes.

How it will end, is anybody’s guess.

“I used to prosecute people for white-collar crime,” Mr. Brock says. “Last time I checked, when you falsify information for purposes of extracting remuneration, that’s called a crime.” ■



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## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

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### Even mass murderers need friends

Norway is home to perhaps the most inmate-friendly prison in the world (as mentioned previously in "News of the Weird"), but the correctional system has an imminent crisis, as Anders Behring Breivik (the confessed killer of 77 people last year) is nearing formal conviction and sentencing. Officials fear the sociopathic Mr. Breivik will try to kill inmates to add to his toll, yet

Norwegian law forbids solitary confinement as cruel. Consequently, according to a May report by Norway's Verdens Gang newspaper, the officials have begun a search to select, hire and train appropriate "friends" to hang out with Mr. Breivik behind bars to win his trust and prevent further mayhem. Among Mr. Breivik's favorite recreational distractions: chess and hockey.

### Cultural diversity

■ Collections of comically poor translations are legion, but the Beijing municipal government, in sympathy with English-speaking restaurant-goers, published a helpful guidebook recently of what the restaurateurs were trying, though inartfully, to say. In an April interview with the authors, NBC News learned the contents of "Hand Shredded A\$\$ Meat" (sic) (merely donkey meat) and other baffling English descriptions (all taken from actual menus), such as "Cowboy Leg," "Red-Burned Lion Head," "Blow-up Flatfish With No Result," and the very unhelpful "Tofu Made by Woman With Freckles" and "Strange Flavor Noodles."

■ Competitive facial-hair-growers are revered in some countries, with Pakistan and India featured in recent reports. Pakistani Amir Muhammad Afridi, 42, whose handlebar lip hair extends in an arc almost to the top of his head, told reporters he had to move from his rural home to the more secular Peshawar because of threats that his pride and joy was un-Islamic. And the Guinness Book record-holder, Ram Singh Chauhan, 54, of India, offered grooming tips in an interview with BBC News, revealing that he keeps his 14-foot-long moustache conditioned by cleaning and combing it for an hour each day (treated with coconut-based

hair oil) and lamented that he must wind it around his neck to keep it from interfering with his daily activities.

■ In the spirit of the empowerment of dissidents around the world, activists in Ukraine and South Africa recently erected downright disrespectful statues lampooning leaders. In Kiev and the western city of Lvov, Ukraine, activists unveiled 5-foot-high statues of former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin urinating. (Police in both cities took them down quickly, however.) And South African artist Brett Murray museum-exhibited a red, black and yellow acrylic painting of President Jacob Zuma ("Hail to the Thief II") with his genitals exposed, an allusion to Mr. Zuma's having beaten a rape charge in 2006. (The Goodman Gallery in Johannesburg, which first resisted pressure, agreed in May to remove the painting.)

■ Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare announced in April that it would begin a national inquiry over the alarming number of bathtub deaths in 2011 — nearly three times the number of those killed in traffic accidents. News reports pointed out that many Japanese workers relax in tubs at the end of the day, even when they have overimbibed and are vulnerable to drowning.

### Wait — that's illegal?

■ In Kent, Wash., in May, Yong Hyun Kim, 21, was charged with assault at a movie house. Annoyed by a group of kids in the row behind him who were constantly talking, laughing and throwing popcorn during "Titanic," Mr. Yong slapped the nearest boy, bloodying his nose and knocking out a tooth.

■ In Pirmasens, Germany, in May, a 61-year-old woman was fined the equivalent of almost \$1,000 for assault. Frustrated by telemarketers' constantly cold-calling her, she took it out on one by blowing a whistle into the telephone, allegedly causing permanent damage to the telemarketer's hearing.

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# FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS



Here are some ways to celebrate Independence Day in Southwest Florida, starting as early as Saturday, June 30:

■ Everglades City gets into the Independence Day spirit on Saturday, June 30. Opening ceremonies are at 9:30 a.m., and a parade steps out at 10 a.m. McLeod Park hosts an arts and crafts sale and the Little Miss Firecracker and Little Mister Firecracker patriotic costume contest. Fireworks begin at 9 p.m.

For more information, call 695-2695.

■ Miromar Outlets hosts its 13th annual Independence Day celebration on Tuesday, July 3. The day includes a chance to donate blood at the Lee Memorial Bloodmobile

from 2:30-8:30 p.m. Live music by the Push Band begins at 5:30 p.m., and fireworks over the lake begin at dusk. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Admission is free. Coolers and personal fireworks are not permitted.

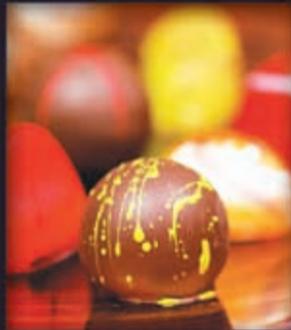
■ "Star Spangled Bonita" begins with the YMCA's ever-popular bed race at 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, along Old 41 Road near Riverside Park. The race is open to the first 10 teams that register. Participants must be at least 18 years old and be in teams of five (one person on the mattress). Beds must be of twin size and decorated in the patriotic spirit of the day.

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ships. To sign up or for more information, call the YMCA at 221-7560 or contact Jack Brown at jackdbrown@gmail.com or 325-7866.

The bed race will be followed by children's activities and live music by Wildfire and Deb & The Dynamics leading up to the 9 p.m. laser light show and fireworks display at Riverside Park. Admission is free. Food and beverages will be for sale.

For more information, call 949-6262 or visit [www.cityofbonitasprings.org](http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org).

Join friends of Opera Naples for an evening next door to the Naples Pier at the Gulf Shore Boulevard home of Bronwen Adams and Gerald Goldberg beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 4. Patriotic songs and music will fill the air, and after dinner, guests will have a front-row seat for the city's fireworks display.

Cost is \$74 per person, and all proceeds benefit Opera Naples. For reservations, call 963-9050.

Celebrate with food, fun and fireworks from the Naples Princess as a guest of the Naples Philharmonic League's final "Party of Note" for the 2011-12 season. All proceeds benefit the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and its youth music education programs.

Boarding begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 4, at Port-O-Call Way. The three-hour cruise travels Naples Bay into the Gulf of Mexico and gives passengers unsurpassed views of the city-sponsored fireworks off the Naples Pier.

Tickets for \$125 per person include buffet dinner with cash bar. For reservations or more information, call the league office at 254-2777 or Jo Ann Ward at 877-4262.

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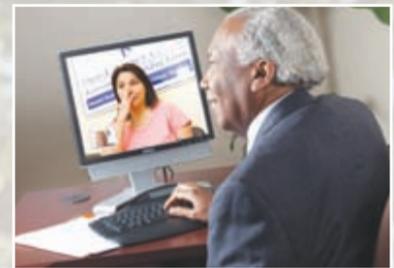


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After witnessing the unthinkable at 12 years old – her mother shot at the hands of her stepfather – Velma quit school and started picking in the fields of Immokalee to support her brothers and sisters.

Velma remained upbeat and had a family of her own, but then experienced multiple, devastating losses and trauma and was diagnosed with a debilitating health issue. She felt suicide was the only way to escape her sadness, fear and pain. For her children's sake, she finally asked for help from the David Lawrence Center.

Here she found hope, healing and tools to cope with her mental and physical health problems by working with a case manager, therapist, and utilizing the Center's new, innovative telemedicine technology to meet routinely with her psychiatrist in Naples remotely from the Immokalee office.

## Her Mind is *Our* Concern.

**Mental health is a community issue.**  
*Fortunately, there's a community solution.*

Velma is among one in four in Collier County who suffer from a mental illness. One in nine of us will experience some form of substance abuse. When a family member, friend or coworker battles a mental health or substance abuse problem, we suffer with them. Thankfully, David Lawrence Center is here for our community.

A not-for-profit organization founded and still governed by community leaders, the David Lawrence Center is the behavioral health component of our community's healthcare network. A true local resource, it relies on donations, fees and grants to invest in the health, safety and wellbeing of our community.

When you or someone you love needs help, call on the highly compassionate, committed and competent professionals of the David Lawrence Center to inspire you to move beyond the crisis towards life-changing wellness.



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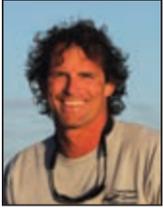
NAPLES 239-455-8500 IMMOKALEE 239-657-4434

# 'Into the Wild'

## Into the watery world of dolphins and whales at Rookery Bay

**SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY**

Capt. Gene Flipse, president of Conscious Breath Adventures, presents "Into the Wild with Dolphins & Whales" from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center.



A United States Coast Guard licensed captain for 27 years, Capt. Flipse was born in Miami and grew up on the waters of Biscayne Bay, the Keys, the Ten Thousand Islands and the Bahamas. He worked for more than 15 years captaining live-aboard dive boats operating between Florida, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic. During these years, he had his first interactions with wild dolphins and whales in their natural environment.

Over the course of his career, he has had the honor to work with world-class explorers, researchers, environmentalists, conservationists, photog-

raphers and documentary and feature film makers, guiding them to experience the thrill of swimming with dolphins and whales themselves. His work has also taken him to California, Japan, Australia and Tonga.

For his program at Rookery Bay, he will introduce guests to some of the most iconic marine species of our subtropical corner of the North Atlantic. Join him on a magical and visually stunning journey into their watery realm to learn how to meet them for yourself and the actions we can take to ensure these ocean sentinels are protected for years to come.

The Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is at 300 Tower Road, off Collier Boulevard on the way to Marco Island. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a wine and cheese reception with the speaker. The cost is \$8 for Friends of Rookery Bay members and \$10 for non-members. Registration is suggested at rookerybay.org/upcoming-events.

The summer lecture series continues Wednesday, July 11, with Denise

Boyd, research associate for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Marine Mammal Program, discussing "Helping Stranded Marine Mammals."

On July 25, Wayne H a s s o n , president of Oceans for Youth Foundation and co-founder of Aggressor Fleet, presents "Fascinating Humpback Whale Facts." The series concludes on Aug. 15 when Kati Therriault, a manatee research biologist for the Florida

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, presents "Manatee Response, Recovery and Research."

For more information, call 417-6310, ext. 401. ■



Capt. Gene Flipse at work

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- Microchip ID #453D5F192A

REWARD OFFERED!!!

Please call if you find her or have info!

Mary Ann 239-594-3902 or 419-290-6783



## Summer fun grows at the Garden

There are plenty of ways to enjoy the Naples Botanical Garden this summer. At 4820 Bayshore Drive, the Garden is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission for Garden members is always free; others pay \$12.95 for adults, \$7.95 for ages 4-14, free for ages 3 and younger. For more information, call 643-7275 or visit [www.naplesgarden.org](http://www.naplesgarden.org).

■ **Snap It Up! Photography workshops** - Master naturalist and photographer Christine Cook will lead basic classes in nature photography techniques from 8-10:30 a.m. Saturdays, June 23 and 30 and July 7 and 14. Cost is \$25 per class for Garden members, \$30 for others.

■ **W.O.N.D.E.R.** - Young Garden visitors Walk, Explore, Navigate, Draw,

Explore and Read at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. June's programming in the Smith Children's Garden is all about bees.

■ **Dogs in the Garden** - Bring your canine friend for a stroll (excluding the Smith Children's Garden) from 9-11 a.m. Sundays, 8-11 a.m. Tuesdays and 3-5 p.m. Thursdays. Dogs must be leashed at all times. One dog per adult. Admission is \$7.95 for non-members.

■ **Early Bird Hours** - Painters, photographers and hikers are welcome beginning at 8 a.m. Tuesdays.

■ **Master Gardeners Plant Clinic** - Collier County master gardeners diagnose plant problems and answer questions from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Thursdays. Free. ■

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# HEALTHY LIVING

## Assistance for those who have Parkinson's

The Parkinson Association of Southwest Florida Inc. offers numerous programs and services to those who have Parkinson's disease and their caregivers.

The organization sponsors exercise classes every week from Bonita Springs to Marco Island. In addition, PASFi holds a voice aerobics class at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at its headquarters in Naples at 1048 Goodlette Road. Also at the Naples office, support group meetings are held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays for people with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders and at 7 p.m. Tuesdays for caregivers. At 3 p.m. every other Wednesday, a support group is held for those who have lost a loved one to PD.

A "PD-101" for those who have been newly diagnosed takes place on the last Thursday of every month but can also be scheduled at other times.

The Naples office also has a lending library of books, VHS tapes and DVDs pertaining to PD, medications, stress relief, etc. Medical equipment is also available for loan at no charge.

For more information about services and programs offered by PASFi, call Executive Director Ruth Hubing at 417-3465, e-mail [pasfied@aol.com](mailto:pasfied@aol.com) or visit [www.PASFi.org](http://www.PASFi.org).

## Continuing ed workshops for health-care pros

Area health-care professionals can earn contact hours at the following workshops offered by Florida Gulf Coast University and Mission Sports Inc. at FGCU:

■ 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, July 7 - Applied Therapeutic Practices of Motor Learning Rehab through Sport Skill Movement (Lower Extremities) will give physical therapists/trainers a unique approach to preparing clients for post-rehab through the application of reinstating motor learning movements with an emphasis on lower extremity movements in conjunction with core application. Dress comfortably for demonstration and participation. Fee is \$199; 10 contact hours.

■ 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 8 - Introduction to Bio-Energetics will examine the relationship of energy, bio-energetics and performance to help the clinician/therapist

recognize symptoms and outcomes that affect client success. Fee is \$149; 7.5 contact hours.

Instructor for both workshops is William Elizuk, a nationally recognized speaker, author, educator, fitness specialist, holistic health practitioner and creator of award-winning exercise DVDs for youth and adults.

Register by June 17 and take both classes for \$229. Light refreshments will be served; bring a brown bag lunch.

For more information or to register, visit [www.registerce.fgcu.edu](http://www.registerce.fgcu.edu).

## Free counseling for caregivers

Caregivers of seniors ages 60 and older who are experiencing stress from changing life circumstances can obtain free peer counseling from the Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida.

Counseling is coordinated by Margot Escott, a licensed clinical social worker with MHASWFL. Call 261-5405 or e-mail [mescott@mhaswfl.org](mailto:mescott@mhaswfl.org). Ms. Escott can also provide information about the association's other services.

## Lighthouse classes for visually impaired

Lighthouse of Collier Center for Blindness and Vision Loss and the Florida Division of Blind Services offer programs to help blind and visually impaired be independent in Collier.

Homewood Residence Naples provides space to Lighthouse of Collier for a class in independent living skills for the blind and visually impaired. Anyone who has been recently diagnosed with macular degeneration, cataracts, tunnel vision or another eye condition and who needs help learning how to socialize, navigate, communicate and feel safe in a sighted world is welcome. Participants learn:

■ Skills for navigation at home, work and in the community;

■ Skills to live independently and safely at home, including tactile medication labeling, cooking, money identification, grooming and other daily tasks; and

■ Use of assistive technology, such as large-print displays and Braille, as well as talking PCs for accessing e-mail and the Internet.

For more information, call Lighthouse of Collier at 430-3934 or visit [www.lighthouseofcollier.org](http://www.lighthouseofcollier.org). ■

## Parenting during tough economic times

BY BRIAN FOLLWEILER

Special to Florida Weekly

Money troubles make life hard for everyone who has them, but parents often feel an extra burden from financial woes. When they have the stress of figuring out how to pay bills or find time to pick up a second job, their children still need attention and might have worries of their own.

Here are some steps that moms and dads can take to support the family and preserve their own health and well being during tough times:

### ■ Don't keep secrets

- You certainly don't want to overwhelm your child with information, but it's

probably best to share some of your family's financial situation. Reassure him by emphasizing the strong point of your situation, such as staying together as a family. Be honest, but appropriate.

### ■ Offer alternatives to activities that need to be adjusted because of financial constraints

- Community centers and libraries often offer great programs at low or no cost. By setting an example with your own cutbacks, children see that the family must work together. Economize in a way that's clear and fair.

### ■ Try to keep things as "normal" as possible

- Children like routine. Exercise, fun activities and special time with you are very important. If they are not getting the attention they require from you, acting out might be their alternative.

### ■ Get the entire family involved in the tasks and chores of the household

- Do projects that will help clean up and organize, giving everyone involved a sense of accomplishment. Letting children help gather clothes and toys to donate will build their self-esteem.



■ Take time for yourself - Raising children is a great deal of work and worry. When you feel overwhelmed by the stress, step back to compose and yourself. It's vital that you take care of yourself. Working all day and then coming home to chores and activities as well as interpersonal challenges can wear you down. Get plenty of sleep. Exercise and eat healthy. Stay connected with family and friends; don't allow yourself to become isolated. Most important, don't take your frustration out on those closest to you. No child should think the family's troubles are his fault.

■ Ask for help - Finally, if you are having trouble dealing with parenting or your day-to-day life, ask for help. And if your child is showing signs of troubled behavior, seek help for him. A mental health professional has the training to help you cope. ■

— Brian Follweiler is director of programs and outreach for the Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida.

## A comprehensive program to confront congestive heart failure



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their families about the early signs and symptoms of CHF, how to prevent re-hospitalizations and how to live better and longer.

The team has organized a multidisciplinary class for patients and families. Available in English, Spanish and Creole, it's offered every Wednesday afternoon in the Baker Tower fourth floor conference room. So far, the sessions have been nearly standing-room-only, with folks eager to learn more about the foods they consume, how to read a food label, how much salt is too much (over 500 milligrams per day is more than enough) and when to take prescription medications, including blood pressure pills.

One critical variable in CHF patients is weight gain, an early symptom of



a worsening condition, as fluid build-up shows up quickly on the scale. As a proactive measure, the NCH Foundation will donate a digital scale to every patient who needs one.

Dr. Francisco J. Quiles-Cruz, a hospitalist, is a frequent speaker at CHF seminars and has referred many patients for additional care — the next innovative link in our CHF clinical education program. Dr. Herman Spilker has started an outpatient CHF clinic specifically to care for patients experiencing exacerbation of their disease manifested by fluid retention, weight gain, shortness of breath and other symptoms of CHF. We treat these sufferers quickly at the Naples Heart Institute, in most cases the same day. Currently an astounding 30 percent of CHF patients are readmit-

ted within one month of discharge, and 50 percent return to the hospital within one year.

Our goal in this multi-level effort is to reduce the number of CHF hospital admissions. Attacking the problem with a team composed of a physician assistant or nurse practitioner along with a dietician, social worker and others has worked effectively in many communities.

Next on the agenda is expansion of the CHF initiative. Barbara Evans of the NCH Foundation has spoken with Dr. Spilker to understand how the integrated CHF program, including the outpatient clinic, might be expanded to benefit everyone in Southwest Florida. Ms. Evans' next step is to share these thoughts with interested members of our community.

Best of all, our CHF classes are available, free, to the entire community, not just to NCH patients and their families. Call 552-8336 for more information. ■

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

## Area clinics provide free HIV testing

In recognition of the 19th annual National HIV Testing Day on June 27, and to remind the public that HIV testing is an important step in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, the Collier County Health Department and other organizations offer free HIV testing at various locations June 25-29.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone between the ages of 14 and 64 take an HIV test at least once a year. The decision to take the test is the first step in taking responsibility for your health and the health of others with whom you may be intimately involved.

An estimated 52,000 Americans each year are newly infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Approximately 8 percent of those new infections occur in Florida. New CDC data indicates that there are now more than 1.7 million Americans living with HIV, and at least 25 percent of those do not know that they are HIV-positive.

In Collier County, there are more than 1,500 reported cases of HIV/AIDS, and the number of new cases for the past five years has averaged 50 a year.

For free testing, visit the following:

■ Collier County Health Department, 3339 Tamiami Trail E. - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 27-28 for free Rapid HIV testing and STD and HEP screening. Call 252-8593.

■ Planned Parenthood of Collier County, 1425 Creech Road - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 27 for free Raptic HIV testing. Call 262-8923, ext. 322.

■ Marion E. Fether Medical Center, 1454 Madison Ave. W., Immokalee - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 25-29 for free HIV testing. Call 658-3000.

■ Collier County Health Department, 419 First St., Immokalee - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 27-29 for free Rapid HIV testing and STD and HEP screening. Call 252-7300.

■ Island Coast AIDS Network, 3400 Radio Road - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 28-29 for free HIV testing. Call 261-0096. ■



## BOOK REVIEW

### 'Book follows two-year quest to become 'Drop Dead Healthy'

"Drop Dead Healthy: One Man's Quest for Bodily Perfection" by A.J. Jacobs (Simon & Schuster, \$26)

REVIEWED BY LARRY COX

Bestselling author A.J. Jacobs ("The Year of Living Biblically" and "The Know-It-All") chronicles his two-year quest to retool his body from a "mushy, easily winded, moderately sickly blob" to a perfect specimen in his new book, "Drop Dead Healthy."

Think of it as a "Super-Size Me" in reverse.

His first step was to compile a list of things he needed to do to improve his health. The list soon became a whopping 70 pages that included goals such as eating more leafy green vegetables, watching more baseball (since it lowers blood pressure), lifting weights, humming to prevent sinus infections and even winning an Academy Award (since he read that Oscar winners live three years longer than non-Oscar winners).

Mr. Jacobs broke down his body into

various parts, from lungs to stomach to brain to lower back and beyond. As his wife rolled her eyes and made occasional pithy observations, he trudged on, implementing a "Vice Diet" that included more chocolate, booze and coffee (based on

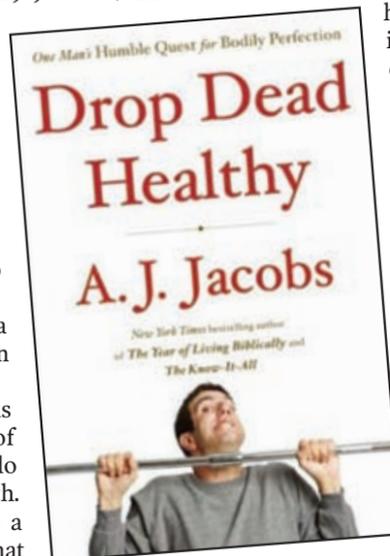
reasoning that chocolate is high in antioxidants, alcohol is good for the heart in judicious amounts and coffee lowers the odds of certain types of cancer).

He explored the benefits of "chewdaism," chewing on food for up to 100 chomps per mouthful. He also added raw foods to his diet, learned portion control and figured out ways to eliminate as much sugar as possible.

Part memoir, part adventure, part how-to manual, "Drop Dead Healthy" is laugh-out-loud funny as it tests our culture's assumptions and obsessions with

what makes for good health. Brimming with data, photographs and a narrative that is both inspiring and witty, it'll have you laughing so hard it will flood your bloodstream with endorphins, making you feel healthier after just a few pages.

It could be just what the doctor ordered. ■



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- #1 cause of tooth loss is gum/periodontal disease
- 80% of all adults have periodontal disease
- Periodontal Disease may be a contributing factor to:
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  - Respiratory Disease
  - Low Birth Weight Babies
  - Stroke • Pneumonia
  - Over All Health

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- Red, swollen, or tender gums
- Gums that have pulled away from your teeth
- Persistent bad breath
- Pus between your teeth and gums
- Loose or separating gums
- A change in the way your teeth fit together when you bite
- A change in the fit of partial dentures

**Dr. Piotrowski is a diplomat of the American Academy of Periodontology.**

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# NONPROFIT NEWS

## Immokalee kids enjoy success on the court

During the last three years, Jim and Sulbey Holt have brought tennis instruction to the children of Immokalee. The partnership with The Immokalee Foundation began with the Holts seeking volunteer opportunities with the organization; they wanted to reach out to the children in Immokalee. Tennis was the perfect match. They are members of the Pelican Marsh Tennis Club, and Jim is assistant coach of the Gwynedd-Mercy College women's tennis team in Gwynedd Valley, Penn.

This year the Center Court Athletics program served 32 students in grades 2-8. The Holts enlisted the help of 23 Pelican Marsh coaches who volunteered every Tuesday from January through early May. The Immokalee Foundation, coaches and the Holts also secured donations of tennis rackets, balls and miscellaneous equipment with the hope that the students will continue to play with family members or friends.

The children were also treated as VIPs with front row seats at an exhibition match between the veteran Pelican Marsh ladies and the Gwynedd-Mercy women's tennis team at the Pelican Marsh Tennis Center.

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and career development, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broaden-



Immokalee students and some of their volunteer coaches in the Center Court Athletics program at Pelican Marsh Tennis Club.

ing experiences and life skills development. To learn more about volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 430-9122 or visit [www.immokaleefoundation.org](http://www.immokaleefoundation.org).

## Healthcare Network receives \$20,000

Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida (formerly CHS Healthcare) has received two grants from Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church and its Archangel Fund for Collier County Charities. Healthcare Network received \$10,000 for the Sister Veronica Fund and another \$10,000 for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program.

The Sister Veronica Fund is a resource of last resort for low-income, uninsured patients who need urgent prescription

medications, dental care or eye exams.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a mobile dental/medical unit for children. Use of the vehicle is provided by Ronald McDonald House Charities, while staffing and services are the responsibility of Healthcare Network. The grant will be used to purchase an intraoral camera as well as a printer and will also help pay for screenings and dental treatments onboard the Care Mobile.

For more information, visit [www.healthcareswfl.org](http://www.healthcareswfl.org).

## Kiwanians give \$1,000 to Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida has received a \$1,000 donation from the Kiwanis Club of Naples-on-the-Gulf. The funding will enable 50 children

in Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties to participate in Junior Achievement programs. Several members of the club have been involved as Junior Achievement classroom volunteers and have seen first-hand the impact of JA programs on local youth.

## Charity for Change students know how to give

As participants in the school "Giver" program, more than 3,500 students at five Collier County elementary schools, along with their community partners, raised more than \$20,000 for 72 charities during the school year that just ended.

"It is our honor to connect children with their community and teach them the importance of giving back," says Karen Conley, president and CEO of Charity for Change, which oversees the program.

Charity for Change's 30-week "Giver" curriculum reinforces character traits such as respect and tolerance, while connecting children to charities that they support with their spare change.

Charity for Change itself is a nonprofit organization, but it offers the "Giver" program for free to schools and does not keep any of the money the students raise. Instead, it relies on contributions, grants and proceeds from fundraising events.

For more information, call Ms. Conley at 592-6787 or visit [www.charityforchange.org](http://www.charityforchange.org). ■

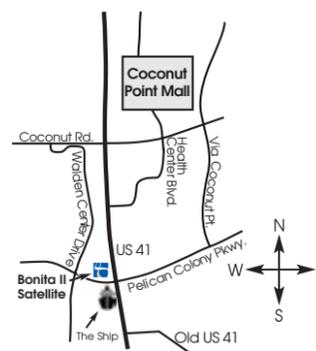
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# HAMSTER

From page 1

But Katie felt a special empathy for Hammie. After all, only a few years ago she had a tumor, too. Katie's tumor was growing on the left front temporal lobe of her brain.

Doctors in Michigan (where she grew up) were able to remove it, and today Katie is a bright, ebullient teenager who enjoys the hit "twilight" series and the classic sitcom "Charmed." So when she discovered Hammie had a tumor, she reasoned that perhaps it could be removed successfully, too.

"She's like, 'Mom, we have to save him. I had a tumor and they took it out, so we can do the same thing,'" her mom recalls.

The family couldn't afford the nearly \$400 surgery. But when Ms. West told veterinarian Scott Gregory at Old 41 Animal Hospital in Bonita Springs about the situation, his heart melted like ice cream on the beach. He decided the only thing to do was to try his best to save Hammie's life.

"The girl was just adorable," he says about Katie. "I mean, no one could turn that down."

So Dr. Gregory hooked Hammie up to a tiny nosecone facemask that delivered an anesthetic gas called Sevoflurane (which is used for people as well). Then he made an incision around what turned out to be several tumors and removed them.



COURTESY PHOTO

## Katie West and Hammie.

The surgery was a success, but Hammie ripped out the stitches while he was recuperating and had to be briefly readmitted. An employee at the animal hospital even took Hammie into her custody for a night of close supervision. Now Hammie is back with the West family, an energetic ball of twitchy fuzz, happily climbing down Katie's leg or bumping into furniture.

Like Katie, he's doing just fine, but will require some extra tender loving care. A website called petMD advises, "A hamster recovering from surgery requires supportive care."

Katie is all over that. She's preparing special meals for Hammie and is even thinking of teaching him a sort of hamster yoga as part of his rehabilitation plan.

"I spoil him," she admits. ■



GREGORY

## Special delivery: Pilot transports 1,000th rescue pet

Humane Society Naples partnered with Jeff Bennett, a volunteer with Pilots 'n' Paws, on June 15 to receive Mr. Bennett's 1,000th pet rescued and transported for adoption and a forever loving home.

Pilots 'n' Paws is a South Carolina-based organization that whisks "death-row" dogs, cats and other animals to safety by connecting shelters and animal rescue organizations with pilots and plane owners. Since the organization was founded in 2008, more than 2,700 pilots have spent their own time and money transporting thousands of animals all over the United States.

Mr. Bennett has participated in many transports of pets from animal control agencies to the no-kill HSN shelter next door to the Naples Municipal Airport. Of the 1,000 pets he has rescued to date, 63 have come to HSN; the others have been taken to other no-kill shelters in Florida and throughout the Southeastern United States.

In recognition of his efforts, Mr.

Bennett was presented with the Anim-altarian Award at HSN's 2011 Pet Lovers Gala. The annual award, sponsored by Cheryl Deering and Jim Del-las, recognizes individuals and agencies that go above and beyond in their service to pets in need.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Matt Miller of Humane Society Naples receives pilot Jeff Bennett's 1,000th pet rescued and transported for adoption.**

For more information about HSN or Pilots 'n' Paws, call 643-1555 or visit [www.humanesocietynaples.com](http://www.humanesocietynaples.com). ■

## Black cats will cross your path for adoption

Clive Daniel Home and the Collier Community Cat Coalition have partnered for cat adoption day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at the interior design studio and showroom, 2777 Tamiami Trail N.

Black cats and kittens will be up for adoption to loving forever homes. Bring some canned or dry cat food for donation to the coalition, enjoy some refreshments and take home a new feline friend. ■

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# PET TALES

## Help your pets get along

Don't expect predators and prey to act like family

BY GINA SPADAFORI

Universal Uclick

Last month, after years of dreaming about it, I moved onto a small property that allowed me to have my horses live in my backyard instead of at a boarding barn. There is also room for my pet chickens and ducks, and of course, my dogs and my cat.

All the animals get along, not only the "farm" animals, but also the more traditional household pets. This happens not because we're all one happy family, but because I know enough about animals to realize that we are not family at all.

In more than 30 years of writing about pets and a lifetime of living with them, I have shared my life with everything from hermit crabs to parrots to bunnies to snakes to horses and a lot in between, along with the more common pets of dogs and cats. For the most part, the interactions have been safe ones because I take care to keep them that way. Here's how:

■ Don't anthropomorphize, but do generalize ... a little. You love all your pets, so it's natural to expect that your pets not only love you, but also feel at least warm toward each other. Let me put it this way: Even though you loved your siblings growing up, I bet there were times when you punched them, right? And you're the same species.

■ Don't expect pets to get along

because you think they're "family." There's never a bird born who can truly see a cat as a brother, and never a dog who isn't fighting the instinct to look at Brother Rabbit as an appetizer.

■ And be aware that, in general, some breeds of dogs are highly unlikely to be safe around smaller pets. Even if you had a Jack Russell who ignored your daughter's pet mouse, don't expect most Jack Russells to do so. Learn not only about the species of your pets and what's generally normal behavior in a pet household, but learn in particular about dog breeds and what they were bred for. A sight hound such as a greyhound may be very placid when everyone's relaxed, but if your cat dashes across the yard, your hound may give chase.

■ Respect the nature of things. Big dogs are born predators, even those who'd seemingly never act on their genetic coding. Small dogs and cats are both predators and prey (although small dogs often don't seem to know it). Almost everything else we keep as a pet is viewed by some other animal as lunch. That's especially true for rabbits and pet rodents, and true as well for parrots and backyard birds such as chickens and ducks. It's even true of many reptilian pets.

■ When you mix predators and prey, you take chances. And you must never forget that. If you want a household of different species, look for those

more likely to get along, or be determined to keep them forever apart. And even then, never take chances: Always oversee the interactions of your pets. The lion may lay down with the lamb from time to time, but that's not how the smart money bets on the interaction. Don't let predator and prey species such as cats and birds "play" together.

■ Divide to prevent conquering. Good fencing may make good neighbors, but secure barriers have kept many a small pet alive. When you are not actively engaged in overseeing your pets, keep small ones such as rabbits and birds in their enclosures, and use baby gates to add a layer of protection by keeping dogs out of a room where small animals such as hamsters are in cages that can be easily broken into.

In my case, I have my chickens and ducks in a spacious yard with good, standard fencing supplemented by electric fencing, not only to deter any wild predators, but also dogs — my neighbors' and even my own.

I love living with many kinds of animals — I'm adding a pair of pet goats after I'm well settled in — but I'm always aware that my pets would not choose to live with one another if I didn't make them do so. That means I'm always careful to keep everyone safe, because ... we're family, even if they don't think so! ■

### Pets of the Week



>>>**Bo Duke** is a 2-year-old, 54-pound, neutered coonhound mix who loves people and other dogs. Housebroken and crate trained, he is learning many cues for good manners.



>>>**Chowder** is a 4-year-old, 17-pound, neutered pug/beagle mix. He's a great little guy who likes other dogs as well as people.



>>>**Dream Catcher** and his siblings are 4-month-old mountain cur/Labrador mixes who are full of sweetness and fun.



>>>**Freestyle** is a 1-year-old, neutered Jack Russell terrier who has a delightful disposition.

### To adopt or foster a pet

— Dogs and cats adopted from **Humane Society Naples** come with vaccinations, sterilization surgery, ID microchip and 30 days of health insurance. Visit the main shelter at 370 Airport-Pulling Road N. (11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday) or the satellite adoption center at Coastland Center during mall hours. Call 643-1555 or visit HSNaples.org for more information.

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# MUSINGS

## Maieutic



Rx  
rx@floridaweekly.com

Perhaps you didn't mean to reveal the interconnection of your identities so thoroughly and so unmistakably. Perhaps you forgot about time, about chronos and her ways, about how she traces and marks and makes linear ostensibly inescapable declarations. You can't quote what has not yet been said or merely said behind veil seven-layered and unparted, knot imparted. That is the ruling consensus in this context. Or maybe you were well aware of all that, wondering if I'd realize. I did see. And this is my very verily happy thought: the concealing that was revealing. Oh, happy daze... New turning talking points...

"A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." "Star Wars" opening crawl

"Love like all knowledge is recollection."

— Soren Kierkegaard

"A nude never descends the stairs — a nude reclines."

— comment from the hanging committee at the Salon des Independants regarding their rejection of Marcel Duchamp's Nu Descendant un Escalier

"It is easy to see that anyone wanting to have a literary lark merely needs to take some verbatim quotations... and print them together as if they were all my words, as if the author were a kind of lunatic."

— Soren Kierkegaard

"I went immediately to the show and took my painting home in a taxi. It was really a turning point in my life, I can assure you."

— Marcel Duchamp

" — Maha?... Ahha... What priceless gifts does the Raja bring?... Nyating... Yoiks!"

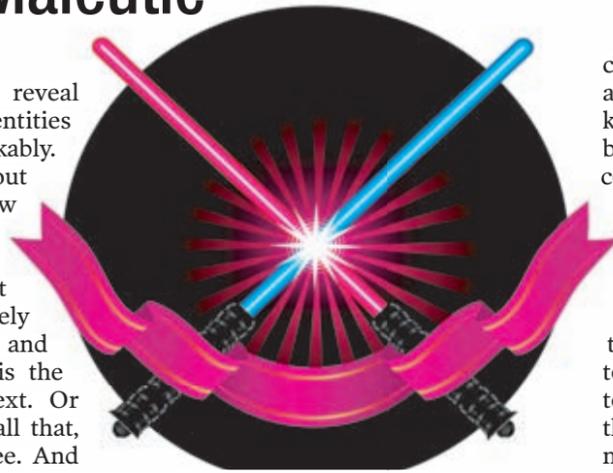
— Three Stooges

*This — the above text — was the prequel.*

*This — the text below immediately — is the stage set.*

There is a being prone, prone to light, supine to light: lit. And this being is in the posture of awaiting delivery, or some might say deliverance. And in the being, clearly filling, is light of beings' light. And surrounding is another being: Maia, by trade. (Make no mistake: Greek, not the Sanskrit illusion and not all Greek to me.)

*This — the text following — is the future recollection, becoming present as you see, up to we, knowing:*



content shifting responding twisting all ways willing to be in service of the knowing but in the showing is also shadowing conceal-ation (or can the shadow be the show?)

and how to go like this in tandem to say to see: Me to Thee and Thee to Me to escape the box: to sea-say with the all/feeling/ thought/ nought dancing like this: how else knowing a we ?

Texting, texting: Essence necessarily permitting all possibles. This field of playing: that creative nature spontaneously revealing. And we: Knowing.

*And this poesy review is following, following that very verily happy thought on the inviting breath of Socratic in/out Q & A spiral-ation:*

the thought/feeling in the way it was there is ever there the thought/feeling in the way it was never there is never where the knowing is a' moving now from one creating creating to another: all of them all available and knot like putting on clothes and changing masks all cosseted in a closet timeless hung with mirrors in every part fun house frolic

will this sayer for that saying be dressed like sooth? or *embarazada* by conquistador vermouth? does disclaimer come? or embrace? or all mixed up? and would this know *la difference*? this is the showing: that revealing/ great con-sealing maha-magic (ah-ha bliss) ■

— 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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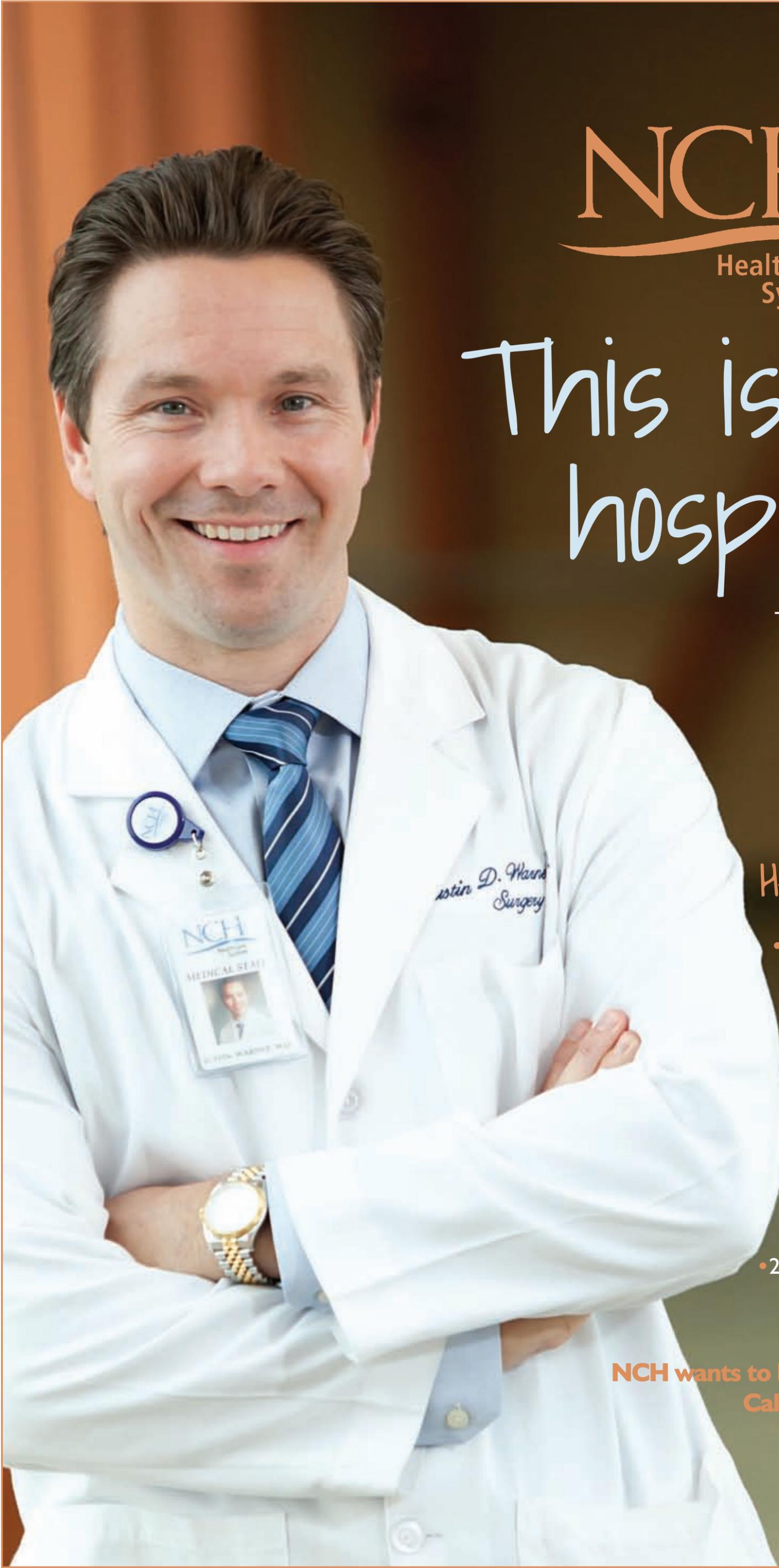
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WEEK OF JUNE 21-27, 2012

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE INDUSTRIES

“... our last two years have been some of the best ever, so I can’t complain now.”

— **Keith Newman**, co-owner of The Bike Route in Naples



Keith Newman, co-owner of The Bike Route in Naples, holding a Giant road bike.

EVAN WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

## Biking paradise

Bicycles for sale at The Bike Route in Naples.



### Sales in town are rolling

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

A SEGMENT OF BICYCLE SHOP CUSTOMERS DISAPPEARED IN the last five years along with many jobs. As employment figures begin to look brighter, active retirees in particular, and others looking for recreation and exercise, are turning the trend around.

Mike Holm said sales at Fort Myers Schwinn Cyclery were off 30 percent at the worst of the recession. He saw a 15 percent jump in sales during

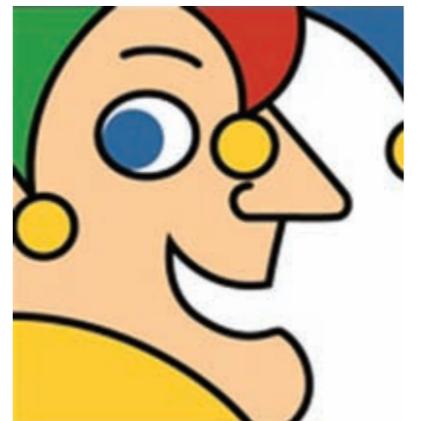
SEE BIKES, B4 ▶

### INSIDE



#### Meet the press

Naples Press Club hosts members of the media at Seasons 52, and more Networking events. **B6** ▶



#### Ask the Fool

Name the pharmaceutical company whose biggest sellers include Plavix and Abilify. **B5** ▶



#### House Hunting

Royal Harbor could be Naples' best-kept waterfront secret. **B7** ▶



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# MONEY & INVESTING

## Making sense of gold's place in the financial world



Gold is an important investment topic because fiat currencies are being challenged and China clearly wants to end the U.S. dollar's reign as the world's sole reserve currency.

Short term retail investors want to know whether gold will soon have a meaningful move; long term retail investors ponder whether gold's ultimate zenith will be \$3,000 to \$5,000 an ounce — numbers often bandied about by gold bugs.

Quite possibly, the central banks, which have foreign reserve surpluses (and particularly China), will have the greatest impact on gold prices in years to come. So far, in 2012, these dollar-surplus countries have been buyers.

Gold hit a high in September 2011 at \$1,921 an ounce and has been contracting for more than eight months in a narrowing triangle formation. The triangle's bottom remains in the low \$1,500s as that price shows big buying interest. Upside resistance is somewhere around \$1,700. Often this pattern coils price so tightly that at the triangle's apex, there is a break out establishing a new trend, either up or down.

What is behind this back and forth price action? Why hasn't gold continued its several-year upward trajectory? Here are some ideas.

Gold's role in central banks' coffers might

be morphing. Gold has been a form of currency in past centuries. It once backed the U.S. currency (e.g., gold standard and, as such, a form of currency); and, by the 1970s, it became an inflation protection asset.

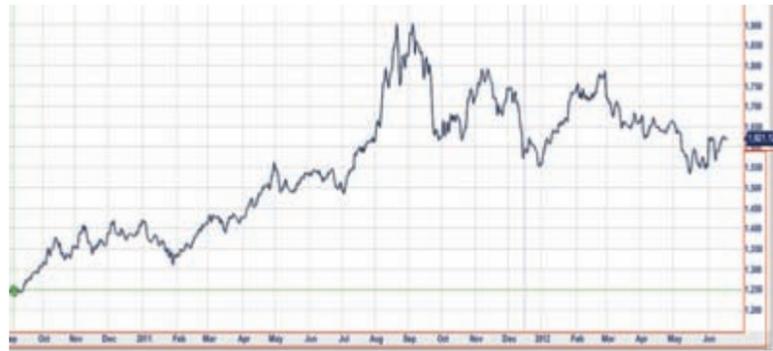
But what is it now? Sure, it is scarce... but scarcity without value would not command a market move from \$250 an ounce in 2002 to \$1,921 in 2012.

Although Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke protests that gold is not a currency and Warren Buffet's partner, Charlie Munger, takes media center stage to pronounce that gold is not worthy of investment purchase, some well-capitalized and smart central banks have recently made large purchases of gold. So could it be that at some fundamental level, these central bankers perceive gold as having value tangential to currency? Otherwise why would they keep buying it?

Central banks self-report their gold holdings. A country is deemed to have "a lot" of gold based on the ratio of its central bank's gold size relative to GDP size. Based on this measure, the U.S. has "a lot" of gold, but Congressional requests for gold audits are consistently declined by the Federal Reserve. The mystery as to "who has how much gold and where" extends across the Pacific to China. The Bank of China has not shown its cards since 2009 when gold holdings were last reported to be 1,054 tonnes (or 1.6 percent of its foreign exchange reserves)... assuming a then

accurate number.

What we do know is that China was a heavy buyer of gold in the first quarter of 2012: "Imports from Hong Kong were 135,529 kilograms... between January and March, (up) from 19,729 kilograms in the year-earlier period," per Hong Kong's Census and Statistics Department. That is a



jaw-dropping increase! (Bloomberg, May 8, "China's Gold Imports Jump as Country May Become Biggest User".)

China is not alone in its purchases, according to Gold Core's May 25 online report: "The IMF central bank gold demand figures for April were very bullish and suggest that (global) central bank demand in 2012 may be even higher than the 456.4 tons added last year — which was the most in almost five decades." Even the "Bank of Russia plans to keep buying gold on the domestic market in order to diversify their foreign exchange reserves." So two out of four BRIC countries are meaningful gold buyers.

But the big news is the recent moves by China as part of its long term plan to

become a major force in physical gold trading. China recently made a hefty bid (and then tabled it) for the London Metals Exchange, which controls 80 percent of all global metals futures trades and is big in industrial metals, too. This comes on the heels of China's creation in 2011 of PAGE (Pan Asian Global Exchange) where physical spot gold is sold in RMB to global participants. PAGE is in addition to the Beijing Gold Exchange, which has 60 retail outlets across China.

You don't need to be a Wall Street whiz to see the picture created by these puzzle pieces: countries that are not broke and that have foreign exchange reserves are buying gold at current levels and are making bigger and longer term plans.

Seems as if the story with gold "ain't over until it's over." And China may be saying, "We've only just begun." ■

— *There is a substantial risk of loss in trading futures and options on futures contracts. Past performance is not indicative of future results. This article is provided for informational purposes only. No statement in this article should be construed as a recommendation to buy/sell a futures/options contract or to provide investment advice.*

— *Jeannette Showalter, CFA is a commodities broker with Worldwide Futures Systems, 571-8896. For mid-week commentaries, write to showalter@wwfsystems.com.*

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A charming Port Royal home with expansive water frontage and multidirectional long water views over Buccaneers' Bay and Naples Bay. In the style of the islands, the home is artfully constructed with high ceilings, rich wood floors, and epitomizes comfortable elegance. Port Royal Club membership eligibility. \$7,600,000



### PORT ROYAL - RUM ROW

With captivating long water views of Galleon Cove, this beautiful Costa del Sol architectural masterpiece captures the essence of Florida's indoor-outdoor lifestyle. Located on one and one-half Port Royal lots, this five bedroom home is designed for glorious water views. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.  
\$6,850,000



### PORT ROYAL - 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



### PORT ROYAL - FORT CHARLES DRIVE

This property has beautiful panoramic views overlooking Morgan's Cove, which, allows a substantial building envelope, and is one of the most desired areas of Port Royal as evidenced by the extraordinary quality of the homes recently built around it. Port Royal Club membership eligibility.  
\$5,295,000



### AQUALANE SHORES - 8TH STREET SOUTH

Wonderfully designed by Stofft Cooney Architects, this home captures the true essence of cottage living while providing the finest of modern day conveniences. The home is situated on an extraordinarily deep, Western exposure lot, which provides the owner with expansive green spaces and open vistas to the wide waters of Flamingo Cove. \$4,990,000



### SANCERRE, A CONDOMINIUM - UNIT 401

The turquoise Gulf waters, the ebullient palms, and the fresh white sand merge in the mind's eye with the soft palette of interior finishes. Effortless living with available concierge services.  
\$4,290,000



### AQUALANE SHORES - 17TH AVENUE SOUTH

Beautiful south facing home with elevated pool that augments the wonderfully appointed first floor living area, thus creating a private indoor/outdoor entertainment environment. Soaring ceilings and carefully placed windows illuminate the interior spaces. Significant recessed boat slip with lift and no-bridge access to the Gulf of Mexico.  
\$3,850,000



### GULF SHORE BLVD. CONDOMINIUM

Located in the Waldorf, one of the most sought-after condominium addresses in Naples, this first-floor living residence is directly proximate to the pool and the sugar sand beach of the Gulf of Mexico. West-facing living and dining rooms afford daily displays of dazzling sunsets.  
\$1,750,000

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# BICYCLING

From page 1

the 2011-12 busy season, from October through May, over last year.

"We have to double that again to get back to where we were," Mr. Holm said amiably as he tuned up a bike at his shop on U.S. 41. "It'll come back to it. I'm sure it will."

Cycling is big business in Florida's Congressional District 14, which includes 800,000-some people in Lee, and parts of Collier and Charlotte counties. There are 76 retail bicycle stores representing 319 jobs and \$29.8 million in gross revenue in the district, according to a 2012 report by League of American Bicyclists.

"The recession hurt us bad," admits Earl Lang, co-owner of Acme Bicycle Shop in Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte. But the 2011-12 season was his best of the last three in sales. He attributes that to "cabin fever" (pent-up demand) and general optimism.

"I think this year people looked tired of not spending money," said Matthew Walthour, owner of Island Bike Shop in Naples and on Marco Island.

Many of those tired of not spending money appear to be senior citizens who are more active than ever.

"Since the housing boom evaporated that type of person working in the housing industry that might spend \$300 to \$700 to \$800 on a bike — they're gone," said Keith Newman, co-owner of The Bike Route in Naples. "Most of them have left the area. But retirees have come on strong to take that over — our last two years have been some of the best ever, so I can't complain now."

One of the best sellers at shops in Naples, Fort Myers and Punta Gorda are bicycles that are easier on retirees' well-worn knees or hips. These are sometimes called "flat foot" bicycles because you can board from a nearly natural standing position and put both feet flat on the ground at a stop.

Kim Campanella, owner of Bicycle Center in Port Charlotte, is one of the top dealers in the country for Trek's Pure line.

"Most bicycles have you sitting on a stool," said Ms. Campanella. "This has you sitting on a chair."

Mr. Lang of Acme said a "flat foot" model, the Electra Townie, has been one of his trendiest models.

"It really builds people's confi-

dence," he said. "They feel comfortable and safe." Some of the most popular models — such as "hybrid" bikes good for a trip to the store, a ride to the beach, or wherever — cost between \$400 and \$500, but dedicated cyclists can spend upwards of \$10,000 on an ultra high-end road bike that weighs less than 3 pounds, has electronic gear shifting and carbon fiber wheels.

## Sticking with their cars

Meanwhile, people looking to lower their gas budgets by riding more are the minority, shop owners said. Even \$5 or \$6 per gallon gas prices wouldn't change that much, some say, even along with other benefits such as personal and environmental health.

"Every year when the gas goes higher people love to do stories on it, but I'm not seeing it," said Ms. Campanella of Bicycle Center.

Mr. Holm of Schwinn is skeptical that there will be a surge in people who use a bicycle as a primary mode of transportation any time soon, even if gas hit \$10 per gallon.

"People aren't giving up their air-conditioned cars yet," he said.

Mr. Newman of Bike Route figures it would take gas prices of \$7 or more per gallon to see a significant spike in bicycle commuters.

"Our customer base is pretty much recreational and fitness-type riders," he said. "Not so much in the transportation end of it. I still don't find there are many people using the bicycle strictly as a gas substitute."

"It's tough to pry them out of their cars. There are plenty of ways around town to use the existing roads, but most people choose to use their vehicle."

That includes himself most of the time, he admits.

## Pedaling commuters stymied

Bicycle commuters as defined by the federal government — those who use a bicycle only, no car and no public transportation to get to work — are an even more rarified group.

That's not to say there aren't thousands of them. For instance, there were 429 people in Cape Coral who

said they commuted only by bicycle in 2010 (about .7 percent of total commut-

ers). By contrast, 6 percent of commuters in Portland, Ore., considered one of the most "bicycle friendly" cities in the nation, get to work by bicycle.

Those who commute only by bike grew by 39 percent nationwide from 2000 to 2010. But many challenges, including large swaths of urban sprawl or showers at the workplace, are holding that group of consumers back.

"People who are commuting to work are those who have no choice, by and large," said Darla Letourneau of BikeWalkLee, a Fort Myers-based group that advocates alternative transportation. "We don't do a good job of providing accommodations at the other end."

Getting to work on your bicycle may depend on the street layout between you and a job.

"I love the idea (of commuting by bike) and I encourage it," Ms. Campanella said. "But just the way Port Charlotte is laid out you won't see a lot of people like in Boston (her hometown), or New York or even Fort Myers, doing that."

Employees often have no other facilities besides a bathroom to clean up or change in after a ride to work.

"When they get to work they feel sweaty and a lot of people don't provide lockers and showers and things like that," said Mr. Walthour of Island Bike Shop. While shop owners expect to continue to see strong sales continue with the retiree market, commuter sales aren't likely to surge as long as the culture and practical considerations for that sector remain the same.

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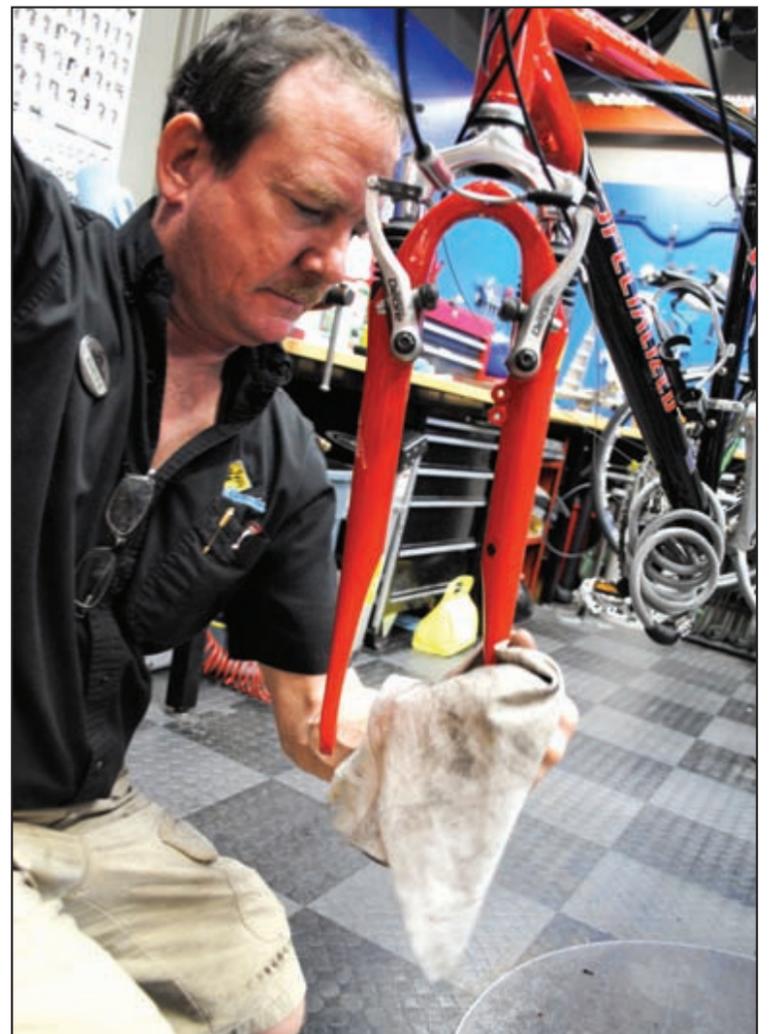
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EVAN WILLIAMS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Benjamin Kurke works on a tune-up at The Bike Route in Naples.

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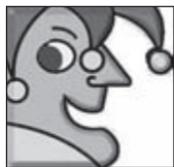
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## Fool's School

### Insiders and Institutions

If you're studying a small company in order to decide whether to invest in it, it's good to find out whether insiders or institutions own many shares.

Insider holdings are generally a good thing. If employees own a chunk of a company, they have an incentive to make it succeed. Insiders buying shares is also promising, as they must expect the shares to rise in value.

Don't be alarmed by insider sales, though. Company stock is a major portion of many executives' compensation, so they may occasionally sell some shares to send a kid to college or to buy a car.

Still, lots of executives selling is a red flag.

With small companies, we like to see insiders owning 15 percent or more — and little ownership by institutions such as mutual funds and pension funds.

When promising small companies have little or no institutional ownership, it's often because the big players are sidelined. Small firms usually have relatively few shares outstanding, and their total value is modest.

Imagine Scruffy's Chicken Shack (ticker:

BUKBUK), with just 10 million shares outstanding, valued at \$10 each. (Total market value: \$100 million.) Institutions that might typically buy \$10 million worth of shares can't do so with Scruffy's without buying fully 10 percent of the entire company, something they're often prohibited from doing.

Those of us who discover Scruffy's early and buy shares before Wall Street does stand to benefit. Once Wall Street gets involved and institutions begin buying lots of shares, high demand will boost the stock price — and the wealth of existing shareholders.

Discovering a small but growing company with significant insider ownership and low institutional ownership is a promising scenario. The company should be sound, though, with growing sales and earnings and a strong competitive position, among other things. You can call any public company and ask its investor relations department about insider and institutional ownership. Or look them up online, at sites such as [finance.yahoo.com](http://finance.yahoo.com).

Just remember that small companies can be volatile and are often best for investors with some experience. ■

## My Dumbest Investment

### Lucky Speculation

Not so very long ago, I invested in a pink-sheet penny stock. It was purely speculative and purely on a recommendation in an e-mail touting a gold-mining company. I didn't check anything out other than the stock's past performance. It had surged recently, and once I bought, it kept rising some more. I got scared, in spite of what looked like investor confidence, and bailed at nearly twice what I paid.

Today the stock is trading for less than a 10th of what I bought it at. I was dumb and didn't do my due diligence. Fortunately, it worked out to give me a 95 percent return over the course of 20 days — but it was a stupid purchase and just dumb luck. I learned along the way that the e-mail promoting the company had actually been paid for by the company.

— M.M., Abilene, Texas

**The Fool Responds:** You did indeed luck out. Remember that reputable and established companies don't send out emails hyping their own stock and urging people to buy. It's usually best to avoid stocks trading for less than \$5 per share. ■



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

I trace my roots back to 1847 and to a confectionary company in New England. Known for a certain colorful round treat, I also produce Sweethearts, Mary Janes, Candy Buttons, Clark Bars, Squirrel Nut Zippers, Slap Stix and Sky Bars. In 1847, a newly invented lozenge cutter made my first product possible. I offered profit-sharing to employees back in 1906. During World War II, I provided rations and emergency items for the armed forces. In 2007, I was bought by the private equity firm American Capital Strategies. Based in Massachusetts, I'm America's oldest continuously operating candy company. Who am I? (Answer: Necco) ■



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](mailto: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

### Deciphering Fund Types

Q What are "fixed income" and "equity income" mutual funds?

— P.T., Kankakee, Ill.

A When you see the term "fixed income," think bonds. That's because most bonds have fixed interest rates, letting you know exactly what kind of income they will offer you.

Meanwhile, "equity" funds focus on stocks, and "equity income" funds will likely hold stocks that pay relatively high dividends, aiming to provide investors with regular streams of income.

This is different from growth or value funds, which invest in companies whose stock is expected to advance, regardless of whether the companies even pay a dividend. Many fast-growing companies don't pay any dividends, as they prefer to funnel most of their income into fueling their growth.

Mutual funds that focus on income are generally best suited to those who need regular distributions of cash, such as people in retirement. However, even retirees might remain invested in some other funds or stocks, simply selling off a portion each year to generate the income they need.

Research funds at Morningstar.com and learn about promising ones via our "Rule Your Retirement" newsletter, which you can try for free at [fool.com/shop/newsletters](http://fool.com/shop/newsletters).

\*\*\*

Q I own a few stocks. One has lost value, one is about the same after several years, and some have done well. I need to pay my son's college tuition soon, so which stocks should I sell?

— S.F., Norwich, Conn.

A First, forget how the stocks have done in the past. What matters is each company's future. Try ranking them by how much confidence you have in their health and growth prospects. Sell the ones in which you have the least faith. Your money should always be concentrated on your best ideas.

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

## Name That Company

Tracing my roots back to 1858, I'm the product of a big 1989 merger that created what was then the world's second-largest pharmaceutical company. In my past, you'll find a laxative mineral salt, Clairrol hair products, Vitalis hair tonic for men and Mum underarm deodorant. I introduced the first electric toothbrush in 1961. In the 1940s, I had the largest penicillin production plant in the world. I rake in more than \$21 billion annually, and spend close to \$4 billion on



research and development. My biggest sellers include Plavix for preventing clots and Abilify for mental health. 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

### Meet National Oilwell Varco

Though its history goes back to 1841, you probably haven't heard of National Oilwell Varco (NYSE: NOV). Still, you might want to invest in it.

With a market cap of nearly \$30 billion, the company, which specializes in equipment and supplies for oil and gas exploration and production, is bigger than General Mills or Dell. Its recent quarterly report featured revenue of \$4.3 billion, up 37 percent over year-ago levels, and net income up 49 percent. Rig technology revenue grew nearly 41 percent, and the segment's backlog of orders now tops \$10 billion.

The company's strengths include a

diverse product line, growing oilfield-equipment demand and a healthy balance sheet, with billions in cash and little debt. Great opportunity for the company lies in deepwater drilling and shale drilling, and it is benefiting from shorter construction cycles in Asian shipyards. In addition, several major oil companies have discovered large new reserves and will be investing billion of dollars on new drilling rigs. Already, National Oilwell Varco's equipment sits on some 90 percent of the world's oil rigs.

There are risks, too, of course. For example, if natural gas prices stay low or fall further, it might not be worth spending a lot of money drilling for it in difficult locations.

With a low P/E ratio and steep growth rates, the stock looks attractive. ■

# 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](mailto:kluk77@comcast.net) or visit [www.napleschamber.org](http://www.napleschamber.org).

■ **The American Business Women's Association-Neapolitan Chapter**, meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 26, at the Hilton Naples. Guest speaker Karl Gibbons of Third Eye Management will discuss business networking. Cost is \$29 for ABWA members, \$34 for others. Reservations are required by June 22 and can be made online at [www.abwaneapolitan.org](http://www.abwaneapolitan.org).

■ **The Collier County Lodging & Tourism Alliance** hosts a tourism update beginning at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 27, at Bellasera Hotel. Jack Wert, executive director of the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention & Visitors Bureau, will summarize the past winter tourism season in Collier County and discuss summer marketing efforts. Free for CCLTA members, \$10 for others. Seating is limited and reservations are required. E-mail Pam Calore at [pam.cclta@gmail.com](mailto:pam.cclta@gmail.com).

■ **The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce** holds its next Wake Up Naples at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 11, at

the Hilton Naples. Guest speaker Joseph Schmitt of DynCorp International will discuss his recent time in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The morning's sponsor is Purely You Spa. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for others. Sign up at [www.napleschamber.org/events](http://www.napleschamber.org/events).

■ Members and guests of the **Women's Network of Collier County** meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at Shula's at the Hilton Naples. Cost is \$22 for members, \$25 for others. The next meeting is July 10. Sign up at [www.wnoc.org](http://www.wnoc.org).

■ **SCORE** Naples and the Greater

Naples Chamber of Commerce present "Create Loyal Customers," a workshop beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 14, in the Leadership Collier Foundation room at chamber headquarters, 2390 Tamiami Trail N. Cost is \$25. Sign up at [www.napleschamber.org/events](http://www.napleschamber.org/events).

■ **The Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce** invites members and guests to Business After Five from 5:30-7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month. The location changes from month to month. The July 18 gathering is aboard the Marco Island Princess. For more information, e-mail [Katie@marcoislandchamber.org](mailto:Katie@marcoislandchamber.org). ■

# NETWORKING

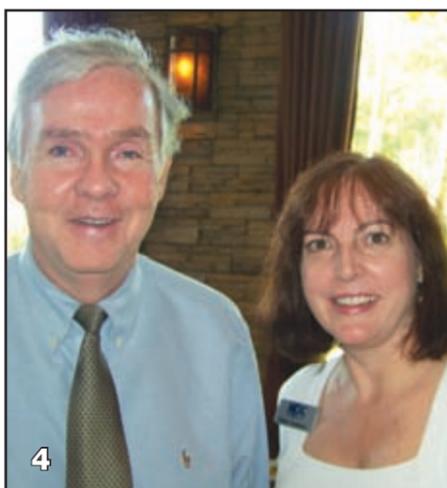
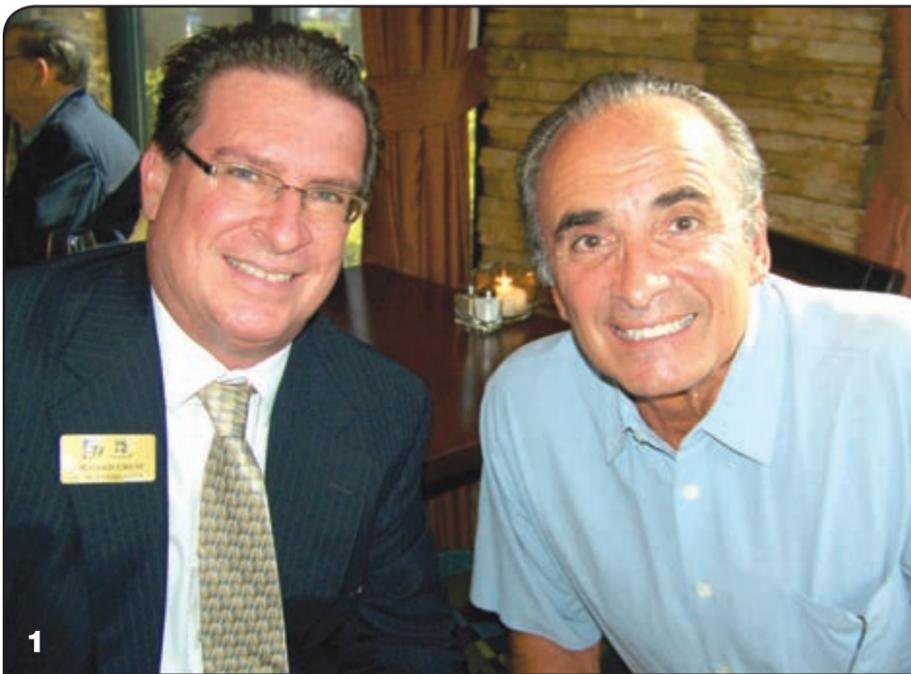
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## Naples Press Club welcomes the media at Seasons 52



1. Richard Crum and Chuck Togias
2. Sue Huff, Chris Doyle and Michele Sfakianos
3. Robert Dean Bair and Denyse Smith Mesnik
4. Dan Sheridan and Robin DeMattia
5. Phil Jason and Dorothy Mills
6. Barbara Miller and George Walmsley

BERNADETTE LA PAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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](http://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](mailto:society@floridaweekly.com).



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# House Hunting:

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When considering waterfront communities in Naples, most buyers think of Port Royal, Aqualane Shores, Old Naples, The Moorings, Coquina Sands and Park Shores. Then there's Royal Harbor, perhaps the best-kept secret on the local waterfront.

A stone's throw across the bay from Port Royal, Royal Harbor is a picturesque, quiet, secluded and secure community, just minutes from pristine beaches by day and lively downtown by night.

Royal Harbor offers an array of home styles. Original quaint cottages remain but are selling fast, while renovation, remodeling and new construction show significant growth.

Rebuilt/renovated by South West Shores Construction into an elegant, modern, open floor plan, this home at 1443 Marlin Drive lists for \$1,209,000.

For a virtual tour, visit [www.gerihowardnaplesrealestate.com](http://www.gerihowardnaplesrealestate.com). To arrange a private showing, call Geri Howard at Keating Associates, 417-2996 or (617) 413-8955. Or stop by during open house from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. ■



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2BR+den/2BA villa with 2-car garage and private pool, furnished. \$2,500

### Mediterra – Calabria

3BR+den/3BA's 1st floor carriage home. 2-car garage \$2,700

### Bonita Bay - Esperia

Stunning water views. 3BR/3BA's, furnished or unfurnished. \$3,000

### South Ft. Myers - Belle Lago

Single family home with 2BR + den and pool. Furnished. \$3,500

### Bonita Bay - Estancia

Gulf and Golf views. 3BR/3BA 2,867 sq. ft. Furnished. \$4,000

### The Colony -Bellagio

Furnished pool home, 4BR/3.5BA. Pets with approval. \$6,000



## NAPLES AREA

### Coquina Sands-Banyan Club

2BR/2BA's, within walking distance to beach. 2nd floor, unfurnished. \$1,175

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1BR/1BA fully remodeled 1st floor condominium. Walk to beach & 5th Ave. Unfurnished. \$1,600

### Old Naples-Castleton Gardens

Furnished 2BR/2BA, close to shopping and beach. Gated entry. \$1,695

### Moorings Port-au-Villa

Bayside 1st floor 2/2 furnished \$1,800

### Wyndemere

Gated community, 2BR+den, 2nd floor with elevator. Covered parking. \$2,200

### Pierre Club

Unfurnished, 2/2.5, 2nd floor walk to beach. \$2,200

### Park Shore-Vistas

Updated, beachfront building, 2BR/2BA's, 16th floor, gulf views, unfurnished. \$2,500

### Old Naples-5th Avenue

Furnished 2BR/2BA located above shopping district. Pool. \$2,800

### Pelican Marsh - Island Cove

Beautiful detached villa, 2BR+den, 2-car with garage, furnished. \$3,000

### Olde Cypress

Furnished pool home with 3BR+den/3BA. Golf transfer available for fee. \$4,500

### Port Royal

Single family pool home 4BR/3BA's. With boat dock and lift. Gulf access. \$9,500

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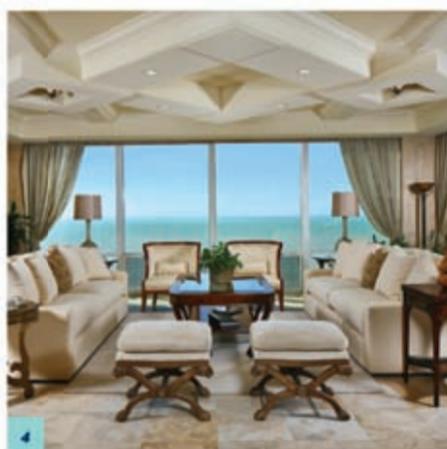
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premierair.com/id/211509411 \$739,000



**Parkside #B**  
Richard/Susie Culp 239.290.2200  
premierair.com/id/211517878 \$545,000



**Pierre Club #15**  
Marty/Debbi McDermott 239.564.4231  
premierair.com/id/211519300 \$479,900



**635 8th Street North**  
V.K. Melhado 239.216.6400  
premierair.com/id/211501537 \$478,000



**Naples Bay Resort - The Cottages #F-204**  
Peter Dixon/Simon Dixon 239.450.0496  
premierair.com/id/212019121 \$349,900



**Naples Bay Resort - The Cottages #E-104**  
Peter Dixon/Simon Dixon 239.450.0496  
premierair.com/id/212019203 \$275,000

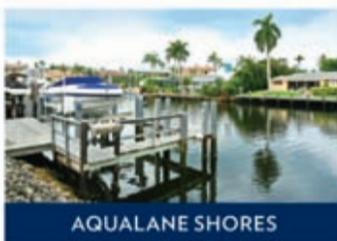


**Bayview #18**  
Heather Hobrock 239.370.3944  
premierair.com/id/212012106 \$199,000

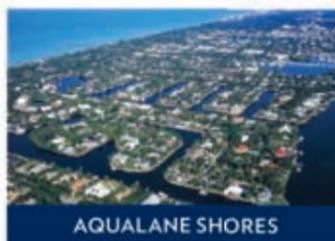
## Aqualane Shores / Royal Harbor



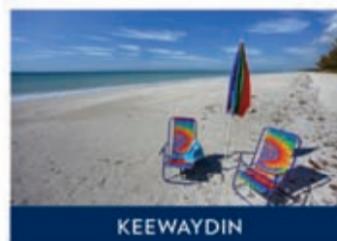
**1935 8th Street South**  
Ruth Trettis 239.403.4529  
premierair.com/id/210034188 \$6,500,000



**1990 6th Street South**  
Marty/Debbi McDermott 239.564.4231  
premierair.com/id/210024499 \$2,695,000



**2232 Southwinds Drive**  
Nick Stepan/Gordie Lazich 239.287.0622  
premierair.com/id/212019245 \$2,250,000



**10467 Keewaydin Island**  
Beth McNichols 239.821.3304  
premierair.com/id/211507648 \$737,500



**Oyster Bay - Four Winds #D-34**  
Kathy Morris 239.777.8654  
premierair.com/id/212016685 \$435,000

## Coquina Sands



**1760 Gulf Shore Blvd. North**  
Tom Gasbarro 239.404.4883  
premierair.com/id/21003291 \$2,595,000



**1779 Crayton Road**  
Michael G. Lawler 239.213.7475  
premierair.com/id/211503982 \$2,195,000



**266 Yucca Road**  
Linda Perry/Judy Perry 239.404.7052  
premierair.com/id/207026310 \$1,399,500



**Charleston Square #302**  
Lodge McKee 239.261.0053  
premierair.com/id/212014801 \$1,390,000



**1515 Murex Drive**  
Virginia Amoroso 239.860.1099  
premierair.com/id/212019048 \$975,500

## Park Shore



**4033 Belair Lane**  
Michael G. Lawler  
premierair.com/id/SHE  
239.213.7475  
\$2,495,000



**La Mer #204**  
Angela R. Allen  
premierair.com/id/COC  
239.825.8494  
\$1,795,000



**Park Shore Tower #8-C**  
Angela R. Allen  
premierair.com/id/HEN  
239.825.8494  
\$1,639,000



**Ardissone #203**  
Michael G. Lawler  
premierair.com/id/212012678  
239.213.7475  
\$1,450,000



**La Mer #1203**  
Susan Barton  
premierair.com/id/212012317  
239.860.1412  
\$1,195,000



**Venetian Villas #500**  
Patrick O'Donnell  
premierair.com/id/210036546  
239.250.3360  
\$1,000,000



**507 Turtle Hatch Lane**  
Jutta V. Lopez/Al Lopez  
premierair.com/id/212019204  
239.571.5339  
\$915,000



**The Tropics #312**  
Jane Darling  
premierair.com/id/212009518  
239.290.3112  
\$895,000



**Allegro #7C**  
Marlene Suarez  
premierair.com/id/212002725  
239.290.0585  
\$849,000



**Hidden Lake Villas #D-38**  
Angela R. Allen  
premierair.com/id/210038630  
239.825.8494  
\$225,000

## Pelican Bay / Pelican Marsh



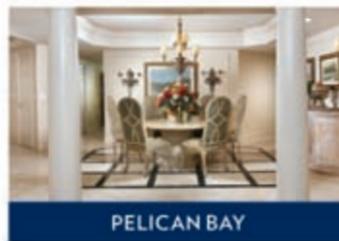
**708 Hollybriar Lane**  
Cathy Owen  
premierair.com/id/211002376  
239.213.7442  
\$2,000,000



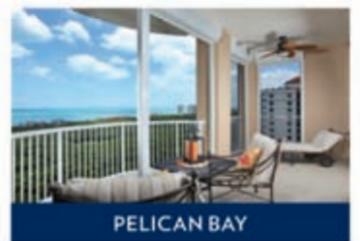
**1691 Persimmon Drive**  
T. Moellers/S. Kaltenborn  
premierair.com/id/RAE  
239.404.7887  
\$1,800,000



**Montenero #508**  
Linda Perry/Judy Perry  
premierair.com/id/210002103  
239.404.7052  
\$1,695,000



**St. Raphael #901**  
Jean Tarkenton  
premierair.com/id/212019321  
239.595.0544  
\$1,495,000



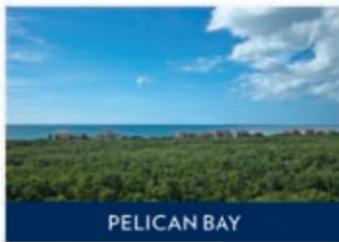
**St. Raphael #1907**  
Jean Tarkenton  
premierair.com/id/212019122  
239.595.0544  
\$1,365,000



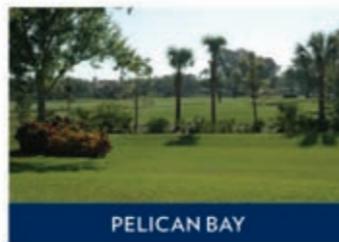
**1010 Spanish Moss Trail**  
T. Moellers/S. Kaltenborn  
premierair.com/id/212015596  
239.404.7887  
\$975,000



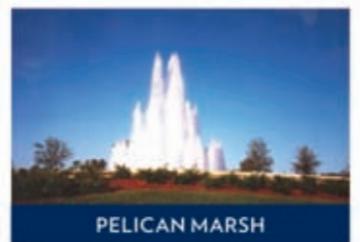
**707 Heathery Lane**  
Linda Piatt  
premierair.com/id/212009835  
239.269.2322  
\$925,000



**Marbella #1105**  
Linda Perry/Judy Perry  
premierair.com/id/208047592  
239.404.7052  
\$625,000



**Calais #102**  
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars  
premierair.com/id/210036395  
239.216.1973  
\$585,000



**8723 Spikerush Lane**  
Ray Couret  
premierair.com/id/212014933  
239.293.5899  
\$499,000

## Bay Colony



**7234 Tory Lane**  
Dorcas Briscoe  
premierair.com/id/212007065  
239.860.6985  
\$6,995,000



**9779 Bentgrass Bend**  
Leah Ritchey/Amy Becker  
premierair.com/id/210006355  
239.289.0433  
\$5,400,000



**9927 Brassie Bend**  
Cliff Donenfeld  
premierair.com/id/211518146  
239.398.0335  
\$2,975,000



**Toscana #106**  
Tom/Tess McCarthy  
premierair.com/id/BUT  
239.243.5520  
\$1,750,000



**Marquesa #602**  
Carol Gilman  
premierair.com/id/212008665  
239.404.3253  
\$1,295,000

## Moorings



**365 Windward Way**  
Michael G. Lawler  
premierair.com/id/210030300  
239.213.7475  
\$2,695,000



**520 Portside Drive**  
Gary L./Jeff/Becky Jaarda  
premierair.com/id/212009054  
239.248.7474  
\$2,295,000



**Westgate #N35**  
Michael G. Lawler  
premierair.com/id/212000250  
239.213.7475  
\$1,295,000



**Southern Clipper #303**  
Pat Callis  
premierair.com/id/211013089  
239.250.0562  
\$650,000



**Commodore Club #114**  
Dave/Ann Renner  
premierair.com/id/212019412  
239.784.5552  
\$368,000

## Naples / North Naples



**NAPLES CAY**

The Seasons #1903  
Carol Gilman 239.404.3253  
premiersir.com/id/211516055 \$5,995,000



**ESTATES HOME**

7055 Sandalwood Lane  
Ann Marie Shimer 239.825.9020  
premiersir.com/id/211518410 \$1,399,000



**THE DUNES**

Grande Preserve - Grande Excelsior #PH06  
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731  
premiersir.com/id/212008045 \$1,395,000



**THE DUNES**

Grande Preserve - Grande Excelsior #403  
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731  
premiersir.com/id/212011847 \$1,288,000



**PINE RIDGE**

92 Center Street  
Sue Black/Kristin Mikler 239.250.5611  
premiersir.com/id/210017940 \$1,050,000



**VILLAGES OF MONTEREY**

7641 Ponte Verde Way  
Dan O'Dea 239.250.2429  
premiersir.com/id/212002595 \$899,000



**VILLAGES OF MONTEREY**

8027 San Simeon Way  
Dave/Ann Renner 239.784.5552  
premiersir.com/id/212000845 \$669,000



**OAKES ESTATES**

1661 Oakes Blvd.  
Patrick O'Connor 239.293.9411  
premiersir.com/id/212019170 \$639,000



**WILSHIRE LAKES**

3907 Midshore Drive  
Patrick O'Connor 239.293.9411  
premiersir.com/id/212006875 \$545,000



**LEMURIA**

Lemuria #1001  
Tom Gasbarro 239.404.4883  
premiersir.com/id/212019241 \$529,000

## Marco Island



1539 Heights Court  
Cathy Rogers 239.821.7926  
premiersir.com/id/211520502 \$3,450,000



1075 Caxambas Drive  
Cathy Rogers 239.821.7926  
premiersir.com/id/211510560 \$2,095,000



Royal Marco Point II #733  
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.2222  
premiersir.com/id/212010075 \$2,000,000



Madeira #1006  
Laura/Chris Adams 239.404.4766  
premiersir.com/id/212019292 \$1,695,000



Madeira #1007  
Laura/Chris Adams 239.404.4766  
premiersir.com/id/211521559 \$1,575,000



930 Giralda Court  
Michelle L. Thomas 239.860.7176  
premiersir.com/id/212002709 \$589,900



South Seas Tower II #707  
Helga Wetzold 239.821.6905  
premiersir.com/id/212002078 \$479,000



Sussex #603  
Brock/Julie Wilson 239.595.5983  
premiersir.com/id/211016271 \$399,000



2015 San Marco Road  
Darlene Roddy 239.404.0685  
premiersir.com/id/212003556 \$325,000



Beach Club #407  
Roe Tamagni 239.398.1222  
premiersir.com/id/212001788 \$199,000

## Vanderbilt Beach



Moraya Bay #806  
Frank Pezzuti 239.216.2445  
premiersir.com/id/212011195 \$4,490,000



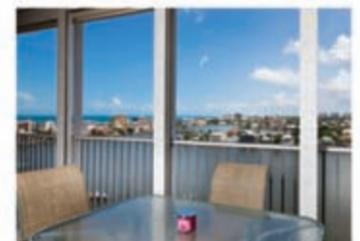
361 Tradewinds Avenue  
Teri Purvis 239.860.6226  
premiersir.com/id/212009804 \$1,100,000



478 Bayside Avenue  
Michael G. Lawler 239.213.7475  
premiersir.com/id/CRI \$795,000



Vanderbilt Gulfside I #502  
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731  
premiersir.com/id/211515417 \$739,900



Regatta I #PH08  
Patricia Bucalo 239.248.0694  
premiersir.com/id/211502836 \$675,000

## Grey Oaks



2804 Silverleaf Lane  
Carol Gilman 239.404.3253  
premiersir.com/id/211517276 \$4,100,000



2955 Bellflower Lane  
Carolyn Weinand 239.269.5678  
premiersir.com/id/212006087 \$3,350,000



2928 Indigobush Way  
Michael G. Lawler 239.213.7475  
premiersir.com/id/211511774 \$2,795,000



**OPEN MON-SAT 9-5 & SUN 12-5**

Estuary  
1220 Gordon River Trail  
premiersir.com/id/EST 239.261.3148  
\$1,500,000



Terra Verde #2458  
Jutta V. Lopez/Al Lopez 239.571.5339  
premiersir.com/id/212016400 \$639,000

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## GREY OAKS



### PALATIAL AND GRAND ESTATE HOME

- 6 + Bedrooms, 7 Full & 4-Half Baths
- 800 Bottle Wine Room Plus Movie Theater
- Chef's Kitchen & Butler's Pantry
- Absolutely Stunning Swimming Pool & Spa
- \$7,995,000 MLS 212017879
- Steve Suddeth & Jordan Delaney 239.784.0693

## VANDERBILT BEACH



### EXPANSIVE BAY VIEWS

- 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 3 Full & 1- Half Baths
- Soaring 20 Foot Ceilings
- Large Master Suite w/Fireplace
- Gulf Access, Boat Dock & Lift
- \$1,970,000 MLS 212017871
- Jo Ellen Nash 239.537.4785

## MEDITERRA



### BEAUTIFUL DETACHED VILLA RESIDENCE

- 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 3-Baths
- Superior Upgrades w/3-Car Garage
- Oversized Loggia for Entertaining
- Shimmering Lake Views
- \$1,299,000 MLS 210036387
- Milton Collins 239.565.2139

## LONGSHORE LAKE



### STUNNING DETAILS THROUGHOUT

- 3 Bedrooms, 2-Baths
- Every Imaginable Upgraded
- Spectacular Heated Pool & Spillover Spa
- 3-Car Oversized Garage
- \$496,500 MLS 212016536
- Jo Ellen Nash 239.537.4785

## HERITAGE BAY



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4:00

### 10250 HERITAGE BAY BLVD., #3616

- Exceptional 2 Bedrooms, + Den, 2-Baths
- Bundled Golf Community
- Picturesque Lake & Golf Views
- Numerous Upgrades
- \$265,000 MLS 212012131
- Jackie Sweet 239.298.9000

## OLDE NAPLES



### GULF SHORE BLVD S. 19- ROOM ESTATE

- 7 Bedrooms, 9 Full & 2-Baths
- 10,000 S.F. Custom Estate
- 3 Fireplaces, Wine Cellar, Elevator & Theater
- Beautiful Pool & Fountains
- \$7,400,000 MLS 212008187
- Michael & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

## MEDITERRA



### CUSTOM DESIGNED AND FURNISHED

- 5 Bedrooms, + Den, 4.5-Baths
- Guest Cabana w/ 2 Br, 2-Ba
- Gourmet Kitchen w/Stone Granite Counters
- Tropical Lane w/Heated Rock Pool & Spa
- \$1,925,000 MLS 212014586
- Kristin Cavella-Whorral 239.821.6330

## BONITA BAY



### ELEGANT & CLASSIC RESIDENCE

- 2 Bedrooms, + Den, 3-Baths
- Beautiful Curved Bay Windows
- Private Sun Balcony
- Gulf, Bay & City Views
- \$949,000 MLS 212005117
- Martinovich & Nulf 239.564.1266

## PELICAN BAY



### SERENDIPITY AT PELICAN BAY

- Unusual Opportunity -3 Bedrooms, 3-Baths
- 1,925 S.F. of Living Space & Furnished
- Beautiful Interior w/Fireplace
- Peaceful Water Views
- \$490,000 MLS 211520567
- Marya Doonan 239.450.4000

## BEAR'S PAW



### BEAR'S PAW VILLAS

- 2 Bedrooms, 2-Baths
- Exceptional Views
- Fully Furnished & Golf Cart Included
- Gate Golf Course Community
- \$254,900 MLS 211514969
- Jo Ellen Nash 239.537.4785

## PORT ROYAL



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4:00

### 1205 SPYGLASS LANE

- 4 Bedrooms, + Den, 4-Baths
- Dramatic Soaring Ceilings
- Gulf Access w/Boat Dock and Lift
- Beautiful Open Heated Pool
- \$5,200,000 MLS 212016138
- Lauren & Michael Taranto 239.572.3078

## BONITA BAY



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4:00

### ROOKERY LAKE

- 3 Bedrooms + Den, 3.5 Baths
- Beautiful Curb Appeal w/Circular Drive
- Living/Dining Room w/Fireplaces
- Gourmet Open Kitchen
- \$1,849,000 MLS 211521962
- The Lummis Team 239.289.3543

## SHADOW WOOD



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4:00

### KENWOOD

- Popular Covington Model
- Extensive Lake Views - SE Facing
- 4 Bedrooms + Den; 3 Bathrooms
- Extensive Upgrades
- \$899,000 MLS 212017119
- Bob Nemece 239.273.2556

## MEDITERRA



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4:00

### 17035 PORTA VECCHIO WAY, #101

- 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 3-Baths
- Maple Hard Wood Floors & Custom Bookcase
- Custom Designed Coach Home
- Situated on a scenic Lake
- \$475,000 MLS 212005488
- Martinovich & Nulf 239.398.3929

## FIDDLER'S CREEK



### DEER CROSSING

- 3 Bedrooms, 2-Baths
- Expansive Wrap Around Lanai
- Dramatic Volume Ceilings
- Award Winning Club & Spa
- \$229,000 MLS 211519181
- Carolyn Rzaca 239.877.1006

## QUAIL WEST



### QUAIL WEST ESTATE HOME

- 6 Private Suites & 7.5-Baths
- Beautiful Lake Front Views
- 2 Story Estate w/Guest House
- Pool w/Spa, Lanai w/Full Kitchen
- \$3,480,000 MLS 211013943
- Michael & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

## SHADOW WOOD



### LAKE FOREST

- Stunning, Custom Built by Frey & Son
- 4 Bedrooms + Den, 4 Baths, 2 Powder Rooms
- 3,655 Sq.Ft, Pool Side Cabana 465 Sq.Ft
- Water, Golf View, 4 Car Garage
- \$1,775,000 MLS 212014778
- Greg Lewis, The Lewis Team 239.287.1158

## PARK SHORE



### SOLAMAR AT PARK SHORE

- 3 Bedrooms, 3-Baths, 2 Balconies
- Lovely Kitchen w/Dry Bar & 2 Wine Coolers
- Gulf, Bay & Cityscape Views
- Private Beach Access
- \$799,900 MLS 211507508
- Liz Appling 239.272.7201

## EDENROCK



### NEW CONSTRUCTION AT EDENROCK

- 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 3.5-Baths
- Small Enclave of 14 Homes
- Screened Lanai w/Saltwater Pool
- Tray Ceilings & Hurricane Shutters
- \$429,900 MLS 212003247
- Liz Appling 239.272.7201

## OLDE NAPLES



### CASTLETON GARDENS

- 1 Bedroom, 1-Bath
- Totally Upgraded & Tastefully Furnished
- Private Gated Courtyard
- Community Pool & Spa
- \$219,000 MLS 211523947
- Liz Appling 239.272.7201

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**FORT MYERS**  
1870 Clayton Court  
Ft. Myers, FL 33907  
239.689.7653

**BONITA SPRINGS**  
26811 S. Tamiami Trail  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134  
239.992.9100

**SANIBEL ISLAND**  
959 Periwinkle Way  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
239.472.0078

**SANIBEL ISLAND - TAHITIAN GARDENS**  
1997 Periwinkle Way  
Sanibel, FL 33957  
239.472.0078

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Real Estate

MEDITERRA



**STUNNING FORMER MODEL HOME**  
• 4 Bedrooms, +Den, 5-Full & 2-Half Baths  
• Exquisite Details Throughout  
• Unbelievable Master Suite & Bath  
• 2 Grand Pools, Spa and Fireplace  
• \$2,997,000 MLS 211001986  
• Kristin Cavella-Whorral 239.821.6330

BONITA BAY



**BEAUTIFUL LUXURY HIGH RISE**  
• 3 Bedrooms, Plus Den, 3.5-Baths  
• Luxury Corner Residence  
• Private Elevator Foyer  
• 270 Degree Water Views  
• \$2,475,000 MLS 210039372  
• Martinovich & Nulf 239.564.5717

BONITA BAY



**AZURE AT BONITA BAY**  
• 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 4-Baths  
• Sweeping Views of The Gulf and Bay  
• Exquisite Kitchen w/ Wine & Beverage Refrigerators  
• Multiple Terraces & Summer Kitchen  
• \$2,289,000 MLS 212003759  
• Martonvich & Nulf 239.564.1266

GOLDEN SHORES



**CUSTOM CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN**  
• 5 Bedrooms, + Den, 5.5-Baths  
• Gulf Access & 3 Lots from Naples Bay  
• Pool, Spa and Boat Dock  
• Designer Finishes can Still be Chosen  
• \$1,995,000 MLS 212016326  
• Steve Suddeth & Jordan Delaney 239.784.0693

BAREFOOT BEACH



**BAREFOOT BEACH ESTATE**  
• 4 Bedrooms + Den, 4.5-Baths  
• 22' Soaring Ceilings & Private Elevator  
• Breathtaking Rotunda Foyer  
• Spacious Outdoor Living Area & Pool  
• \$1,775,000 MLS 211512671  
• Michael & Lauren Taranto 239.572.0066

THE BROOKS



**SHADOW WOOD**  
• 4 Bedrooms, + Den, 3.5-Baths  
• Stunning Kitchen w/ Authentic Brick Pizza Oven  
• Temperature Controlled Wine Room  
• Dramatic Infinity Edge Pool & Summer Kitchen & Bar  
• \$1,495,000 MLS 212015350  
• Lauren & Mike Taranto 239.572.3078

MEDITERRA



**PRIVACY AND SERENITY ABOUND**  
• 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 3.5-Baths  
• Second Story Private Guest Suite  
• Soaring Ceilings & Custom Architecture  
• Spacious Center Island Kitchen  
• \$1,475,000 MLS 212016592  
• Martinovich & Nulf 239.564.5717

BONITA BAY



**MIRA LAGO**  
• Impeccable 4 Bedroom + Den Villa  
• 3 Car Garage w/ Many Updates  
• Lush Tropical Courtyard  
• Lake View From Rear Lanai  
• \$1,399,000 MLS 212015980  
• The Lummis Team 239.289.3543

COVE TOWERS



**NEVIS AT COVE TOWERS**  
• 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 3.5-Baths  
• Over 2,500 S.F. of Living Space  
• Bay, Preserve & Gulf Views  
• World Class Amenities  
• \$785,000 MLS 212018981  
• Jordan Delaney & Steve Suddeth 239.404.3070

BONITA BEACH



**CASA BONITA II**  
• Gorgeous Sunrises & Sunsets  
• 2 Bedrooms/ 2 Baths/ Carport  
• Remodeled! Tile throughout  
• Turnkey Furnished! Great Rental Potential  
• \$599,900 MLS 212004833  
• Jamie Lienhardt 239.565.4268

MEDITERRA



**INCREDIBLE LAKE VIEWS**  
• 3 Bedrooms, 3-Baths  
• Beautiful Chef's Kitchen  
• Custom Features Throughout  
• Private Beach Club  
• \$599,000 MLS 211516383  
• Martinovich & Nulf 239.564.5717

MEDITERRA



**SPECTACULAR LAKE & PRESERVE VIEWS**  
• 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 3-Baths  
• Custom Designed & Furnished  
• Custom Built ins: Entertainment Center & Wet Bar  
• Beautiful Gourmet Kitchen  
• \$594,000 MLS 212009182  
• Kristin Cavella-Whorral 239.821.6330

BELLA TERRA



**ESTATE HOME**  
• 3 Bedrooms, 3 + 2 Half Baths, Den & Bonus Rm.  
• 3,300 Sq. Ft. / Formal Living & Dining  
• Family Room, Gourmet Kitchen, Breakfast Bar/Nook  
• 30 Ft. Kidney Shaped Pool/ Preserve View  
• \$409,000 MLS 212015522  
• Sandy Kass, The Fagan Team 239.292.4044

BONITA SPRINGS



**HIGHLAND WOODS**  
• Rarely Available Single Family Pool Home  
• 3 Bed/2 Bath/ Den, Tastefully Turnkey Furnished  
• Great Amenities with Bundled Golf  
• Large Pool Area Overlooking Scenic Lake  
• \$399,000 MLS 212016883  
• Cory Lauer 239.465.9290

GOLDEN GATE ESTATES



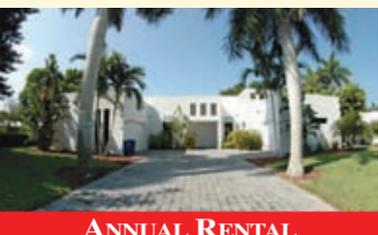
**BEAUTIFUL UPGRADED HOME ON 2 AND 3/4 ACRES**  
• Granite Countertops, Wood Floors, Open Floorplan  
• Beautiful Oversized Pool  
• Extra Building In Rear with Entertaining Area  
• Beautiful cleared acreage with Pine trees  
• \$299,000 MLS 212015039  
• Kurt Petersen 239.777.0408

AUTUMN WOODS



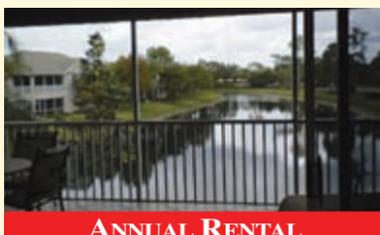
**6431 BIRCHWOOD COURT**  
• 2 Bedrooms, + Den, 2-Baths  
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• Jackie Sweet 239.298.9000

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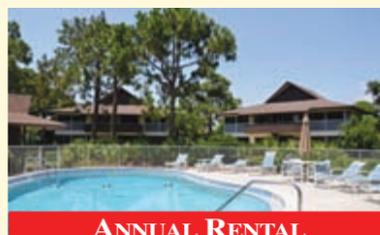
**CEDAR RIDGE**  
• 3 Bedrooms, + Den, 2-Baths  
• Bright 2nd Floor Coach Home  
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11499 Andy Rosse Lane  
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239.472.0078

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239.213.9100

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## Miromar Lakes Beach Club earns Gold Nugget merit award

Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club received high honors in the 49th annual Gold Nugget Awards, an international program recognizing exceptional concepts in design, planning and development in the building industry. Judges considered more than 400 entries from as far away as China and Bahrain.

The Miromar Lakes Beach Club earned the Gold Nugget Merit Award for "Best Use of Recreational Space." In addition, Miromar Lakes was one of four finalists for the Grand Award. The winner will be announced during an awards ceremony at San Francisco's Moscone Convention Center later this

summer.

The Beach Club is the centerpiece of Miromar Lakes. The Beach Clubhouse offers dining indoors and out and has a private beachside dining room as well as wine rooms, a library, billiard room, card room, 50-seat theater and business center. The Blue Water Beach Grill, a 10,000-square-foot pool and a spa with full-service beauty salon complete the club.

Home prices at Miromar Lakes range from \$600,000 to more than \$5 million.

For more information, contact the sales center 425-2340 or visit [www.MiromarLakes.com](http://www.MiromarLakes.com). ■



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<p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p>  <p><b>Sand Dollar Villas</b> \$155,000</p> <p>Corner unit w/2 BR/2 BA. Pergo flooring, crown molding, private lanai. New washer/dryer.</p>	<p><b>GREAT AMENITIES</b></p>  <p><b>Model Village</b> \$239,000</p> <p>2 level condo, on the water. New Kitchen &amp; baths. Multiple balconies. Bright and cheerful.</p>
<p><b>GREAT FOR RENTALS</b></p>  <p><b>Smokehouse Bay</b> \$165,000</p> <p>Popular complex close to everthing. Excellent condition, offered furnished. 2 BR/2 BA – ground level.</p>	<p><b>Jacki Strategos</b> SRES, G.R.I., e-Pro 239-370-1222 <a href="mailto:JStrategos@att.net">JStrategos@att.net</a></p> <p><b>Richard Droste</b> Realtor 239-572-5117 <a href="mailto:rddsmd@comcast.net">rddsmd@comcast.net</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.JackiStrategos.com">www.JackiStrategos.com</a></p> 



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## beach & boating

Gulf Shore Boulevard, a sunny 3 bedroom, 3 bath residence, built in 2004. Private, onsite, deeded boat dock is included. Beach access is just across the street in City of Naples Lowdermilk Park. This comfortably elegant home is in gorgeous, move in condition. **\$1,295,000**



## perfect parkshore

WOW ... this updated 4 bedroom, 4 bath home is on a private and quiet, large interior lot. It has impact resistant glass and doors, a newly installed, large, paved pool area with bath access and a beautifully landscaped lot ... ready to move in. **\$849,000**



## secluded moorings

Come home to this ideally located 4 bedroom, 4 bath home with lots of terrific features. West of Crayton Road. Surrounded with mature trees and plantings, including the deeded City park and green space that is just across the street with 100+ year old oak trees. Terrific, open back yard with pool area, close to Moorings resident's beach access and a new Publix. **\$1,095,000**



## tranquil & private

Serene 4/3 courtyard design in Pelican Marsh, quiet cul-de-sac, lake & golf course view. **\$799,000**

## panoramic vistas

3/2 in Bayfront, large open terrace, shopping & dining within property, walk to 5th Avenue. **\$599,000**

## vanderbilt beach

2/2 with Gulf views, turnkey furnished, steps to Vanderbilt Beach & Delnor-Wiggins State Park. **\$395,000**

# SUMMER OPPOR-2-NITY in TWIN EAGLES!

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**June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> 2-4PM**

**\$429,900**

**PRIVATE GOLF VIEW..overlooking the new Eagle golf course in TwinEagles. Home sits across from an open park. This immaculate 2-2-1/2 bath den, 2 car garage single family home is a must see! Granite kitchen countertops including sitdown desk, upgrade cabinets. Den easily converts to 3rd bedroom. GOLF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDED. TwinEagles is again host to the Ace Classic senior tournament played on the Nicklaus course. The new Eagle golf course will host LPGA Titleholders November, 2012.**



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**Pelican Isle II #402:** Granite kit, wood/tile flrs, Gulf of Mexico views, 3/3 2677SF. \$839,000



**Pelican Isle II #302:** 2677SF, wood flrs, Gulf views, LaPlaya membership avail. \$729,000



**Pelican Isle II #303:** Walk into breathtaking views, wood flrs, granite kit, furnished. \$829,000



**Pelican Isle III #803:** Expansive water views, turnkey furnished, 2428SF \$759,000



**Pelican Isle III #602:** Waterfront! Marble floors, new decor, 2 lanais, 2677SF. \$799,000



**Pelican Isle II #404:** Waterfront, amazing views, furnished, 4/3.5Ba., end unit. \$1,099,000



**Pelican Isle III #601:** 3050SF, end unit, 2 lg. wrap around lanais, Views! \$989,000



**Pelican Isle Boat Slips:** Boaters dream 1200 yards from your slip to the Gulf of Mexico

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Quiet Neighborhood in The Colony Golf & Bay Club, Bonita Springs. Expansive courtyard home with guest home is offered fully furnished. 4BD 4BA 2GA \$1,250,000



At Horizons in Bonita Bay. Beautiful 21st floor unit overlooks the golf course, lakes, Estero Bay and the Gulf of Mexico from three large balconies. Luxuriously furnished. 2BD+Den 4BA 2GA \$1,795,000



Sorrento Tower at The Colony Golf & Beach Club. Unique and spacious mezzanine level residence with southern expose makes the unit light and bright. Extended patio. 3BD 3BA 1GA \$529,000



Quail Creek Estate home with spectacular golf course view. Approx. 7000 total sq ft with 1BD 1BA guest home. 4BD 6BA 3GA \$2,150,000 Call for an appointment.



Grand Reserve at Pelican Strand. Immaculate and bright first floor condo has southern exposure, spacious lanai with phenomenal lake and golf course views. 2BD 2BA 2GA \$254,900

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# Village Walk of Naples Resort Style Living at its Best!



## FEATURED LISTING



Village Walk Town Center is the focus of the community's unique lifestyle- a lifestyle people dream about; meeting friends for a swim, a work out or a set of tennis...then grabbing lunch or dinner at the on-site restaurant...relaxing to the soothing sounds of fountains or taking a relaxing stroll back home around the many lakes and footbridges.

Village Walk offers a full array of activities, and full recreational facilities reserved exclusively for resident's use with no equity or membership fees!

- Town Hall with office for the Town Manger and Activities Director
- Fitness Center with heated screened lap pool, Fitness Classes, Bone Buildersm and Yoga.
- 3 Community Pools - Water Aerobics
- On-site L'Osteria Restaurant  
Breakfast Club, Lunch or Dinner with a friend
- Real Estate Office  
Stop by to schedule your appointment to view our inventory
- Travel Agency - Sign up for many of the scheduled day trips or Cruises
- Library - Join the Village Walk book Club
- Tennis - 6 Har-Tru Tennis Courts
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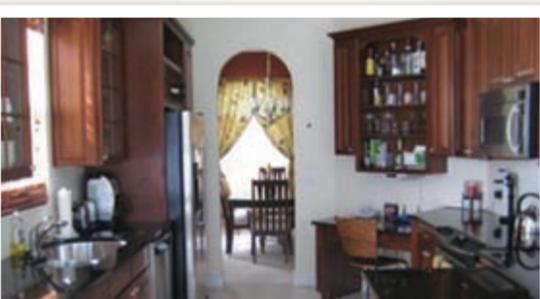
**PENDING**



**STOP YOUR SEARCH!** This is the one you have been looking for! Pristine 3BR, 2.5BA Oakmont has all the features today's buyer is looking for! New kitchen cabinets, granite, stainless, newer A/C, complete hurricane protection, screened lanai with lake views and more! **\$369,900**



**UPGRADED CUSTOM POOL HOME!** 4BR,3BA plus den, Windsor model offers formal dining and living room, updated kitchen,granite, newer appliances, large tile in living areas, large screened lanai with private pool and lake views! **\$480,000**



**Oakmont 3BR,2.5 BA** with custom kitchen and custom pool, east facing lanai, quick closing available. **\$399,000**



**Oakmont 3BR,2.5BA** with huge screened patio facing South. Full hurricane shutters, great location and a spotless home. **\$367,000**

## ISLAND WALK



**Pristine Pool Home!** Pristine 4BR,3.5BA Carlyle with Southern exposure, features plenty of windows to let in the natural light! Cherry, bright neutral interior, upgraded throughout, screened lanai with lake views and heated pool.  
**OWNER WILL CONSIDER ALL REASONABLE OFFERS. \$465,000**



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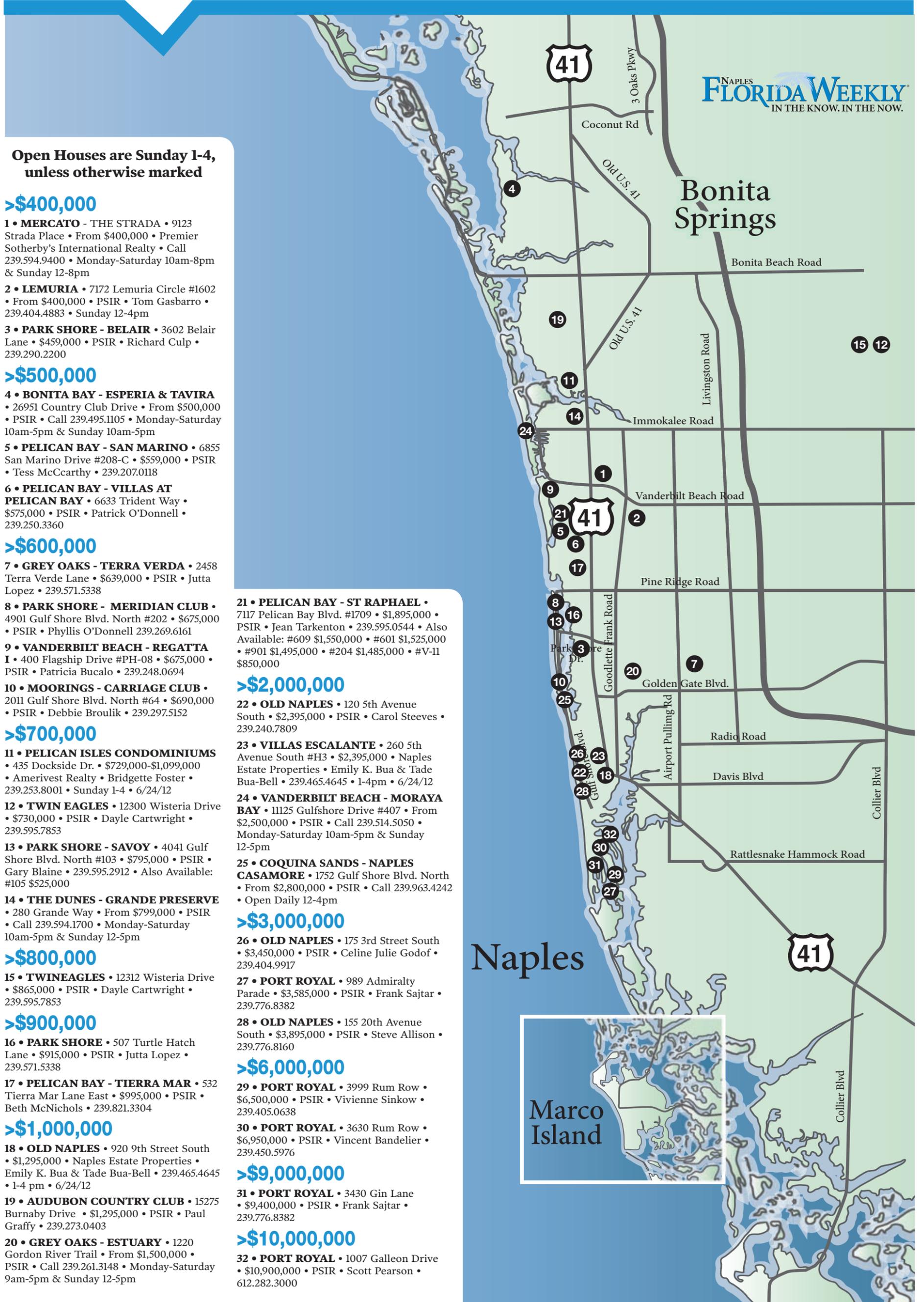
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# Florida Weekly's Open Houses



**Open Houses are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked**

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- 1 • MERCATO - THE STRADA** • 9123 Strada Place • From \$400,000 • Premier Sothby's International Realty • Call 239.594.9400 • Monday-Saturday 10am-8pm & Sunday 12-8pm
- 2 • LEMURIA** • 7172 Lemuria Circle #1602 • From \$400,000 • PSIR • Tom Gasbarro • 239.404.4883 • Sunday 12-4pm
- 3 • PARK SHORE - BELAIR** • 3602 Belair Lane • \$459,000 • PSIR • Richard Culp • 239.290.2200

**>\$500,000**

- 4 • BONITA BAY - ESPERIA & TAVIRA** • 26951 Country Club Drive • From \$500,000 • PSIR • Call 239.495.1105 • Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 10am-5pm
- 5 • PELICAN BAY - SAN MARINO** • 6855 San Marino Drive #208-C • \$559,000 • PSIR • Tess McCarthy • 239.207.0118
- 6 • PELICAN BAY - VILLAS AT PELICAN BAY** • 6633 Trident Way • \$575,000 • PSIR • Patrick O'Donnell • 239.250.3360

**>\$600,000**

- 7 • GREY OAKS - TERRA VERDA** • 2458 Terra Verde Lane • \$639,000 • PSIR • Jutta Lopez • 239.571.5338
- 8 • PARK SHORE - MERIDIAN CLUB** • 4901 Gulf Shore Blvd. North #202 • \$675,000 • PSIR • Phyllis O'Donnell 239.269.6161
- 9 • VANDERBILT BEACH - REGATTA I** • 400 Flagship Drive #PH-08 • \$675,000 • PSIR • Patricia Bucalo • 239.248.0694
- 10 • MOORINGS - CARRIAGE CLUB** • 2011 Gulf Shore Blvd. North #64 • \$690,000 • PSIR • Debbie Broulik • 239.297.5152

**>\$700,000**

- 11 • PELICAN ISLES CONDOMINIUMS** • 435 Dockside Dr. • \$729,000-\$1,099,000 • Amerivest Realty • Bridgette Foster • 239.253.8001 • Sunday 1-4 • 6/24/12
- 12 • TWIN EAGLES** • 12300 Wisteria Drive • \$730,000 • PSIR • Dayle Cartwright • 239.595.7853
- 13 • PARK SHORE - SAVOY** • 4041 Gulf Shore Blvd. North #103 • \$795,000 • PSIR • Gary Blaine • 239.595.2912 • Also Available: #105 \$525,000
- 14 • THE DUNES - GRANDE PRESERVE** • 280 Grande Way • From \$799,000 • PSIR • Call 239.594.1700 • Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 12-5pm

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- 15 • TWINEAGLES** • 12312 Wisteria Drive • \$865,000 • PSIR • Dayle Cartwright • 239.595.7853
- 16 • PARK SHORE** • 507 Turtle Hatch Lane • \$915,000 • PSIR • Jutta Lopez • 239.571.5338
- 17 • PELICAN BAY - TIERRA MAR** • 532 Tierra Mar Lane East • \$995,000 • PSIR • Beth McNichols • 239.821.3304

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- 18 • OLD NAPLES** • 920 9th Street South • \$1,295,000 • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645 • 1-4 pm • 6/24/12
- 19 • AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB** • 15275 Burnaby Drive • \$1,295,000 • PSIR • Paul Graffy • 239.273.0403

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- 20 • GREY OAKS - ESTUARY** • 1220 Gordon River Trail • From \$1,500,000 • PSIR • Call 239.261.3148 • Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm & Sunday 12-5pm

- 21 • PELICAN BAY - ST RAPHAEL** • 7117 Pelican Bay Blvd. #1709 • \$1,895,000 • PSIR • Jean Tarkenton • 239.595.0544 • Also Available: #609 \$1,550,000 • #601 \$1,525,000 • #901 \$1,495,000 • #204 \$1,485,000 • #V-11 \$850,000

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- 22 • OLD NAPLES** • 120 5th Avenue South • \$2,395,000 • PSIR • Carol Steeves • 239.240.7809
- 23 • VILLAS ESCALANTE** • 260 5th Avenue South #H3 • \$2,395,000 • Naples Estate Properties • Emily K. Bua & Tade Bua-Bell • 239.465.4645 • 1-4pm • 6/24/12

- 24 • VANDERBILT BEACH - MORAYA BAY** • 11125 Gulfshore Drive #407 • From \$2,500,000 • PSIR • Call 239.514.5050 • Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 12-5pm

- 25 • COQUINA SANDS - NAPLES CASAMORE** • 1752 Gulf Shore Blvd. North • From \$2,800,000 • PSIR • Call 239.963.4242 • Open Daily 12-4pm

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- 26 • OLD NAPLES** • 175 3rd Street South • \$3,450,000 • PSIR • Celine Julie Godof • 239.404.9917
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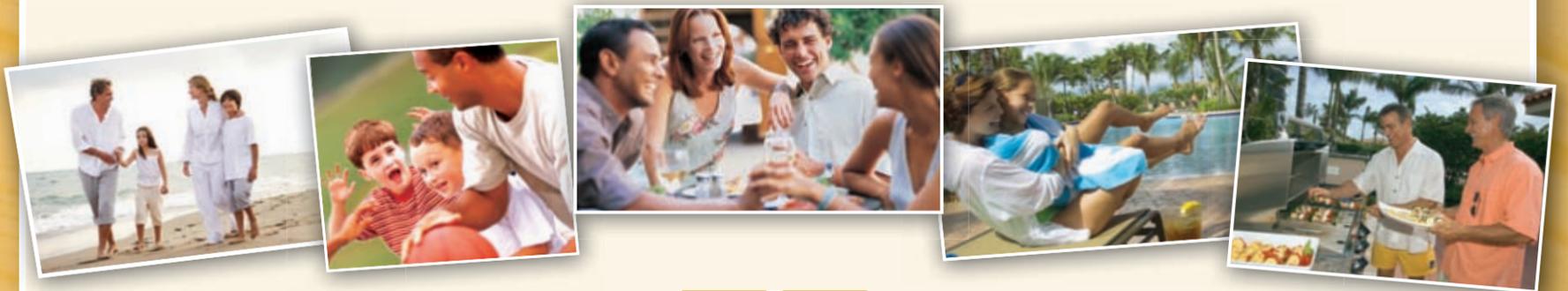
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF JUNE 21-27, 2012

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



*Novelist  
looks at  
bestsellers  
from a non-  
fiction angle*

BY NANCY STETSON

nstetson@floridaweekly.com

WHAT MAKES A NOVEL A BESTSELLER?

What makes millions of people buy one book and not another?

Writers, literary agents and publishers have grappled with these questions for decades, often mystified by the titles that succeed.

Even the most experienced in the industry can't predict what will be a bestseller.

"If there were a formula, it would make my life easier," says novelist



HALL

SEE HIT LIT, C4 ►

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## INSIDE



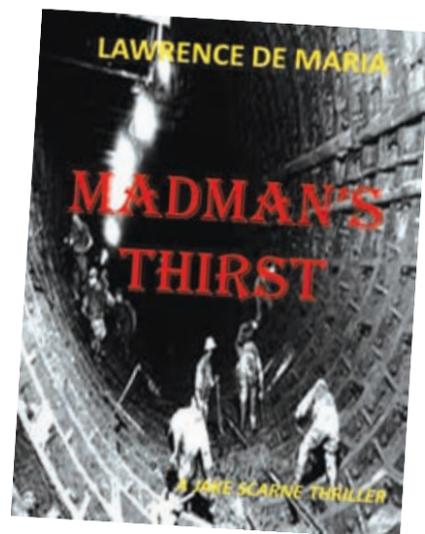
### Great 'stache

South Street hosts a "Mustache Bash" for Cancer Alliance of Naples, and more summer fun. **C21-24 ►**



### Playing the damsel

Sometimes women need saving. **C2 ►**



### Tough-guy thriller

Staten Island comes alive in a mix of cerebral and bull-headed detection. **C12 ►**

## Photographic exhibit goes 'Over, Under, Sideways'



SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

"Over, Under, Sideways," an exhibit of fine art photographs by celebrity and fashion photographer Jennifer Graylock, opens with a reception from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 28, at RAPT art&design, 291 Broad Ave. S. The evening will also include the auction of a chair from Ms.

Jennifer Graylock

Graylock's "Sit On My Face" collection, with proceeds benefitting Naples-based ABLE Academy.

The artist describes "Over, Under, Sideways" as a culmination of four years of travel and "experiences with Damien Hirst and the butterfly collection, Jeff Koons and his irreverent view of culture, Marina Abramovi and her performance art... and backstage with Valentino, as he held up his show to

SEE EXHIBIT, C20 ►



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# SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

## Every hero needs a lady in waiting



I listen to pop songs on the radio and here's what I hear: a litany of pleas from young women begging for a man to save them. And I think, are we still doing this?

Sure, popular dating books like "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" tell us that every man wants to be a hero, and in order for him to play knight in shining armor, someone has to be cast as the damsel in distress (that's us, ladies).

But what happens when those men drop the ball?

A few years back I took a photography class in New York. When the teacher assigned us night shots, I fretted about heading out alone in the city after dark. I e-mailed another student in the class, a guy I knew socially, and asked if we could work on the assignment together. I'm not one to play the damsel, but damn, I needed a knight.

"I'm pretty busy this week," the guy wrote back. "Better not to rely on me for the night assignment."

Better not to rely on him? Where was the hero I needed for the city's mean streets? Unavailable, evidently.

I decided then that perhaps all this hero worship is misplaced. If men aren't going to step up and save me, I thought, then I don't need to be the type of woman who needs saving. So I learned to set my jaw and square my shoulders and stop asking for help.

Until this morning.

On my way to work I heard someone holler from across the street and looked up to see a man with frazzled hair and rumpled clothes waving in my direction.

"Hi," he yelled.

I looked around. Was he talking to me? I waved my fingers in a little hello.

"Hi," he said again, louder, waving his whole arm. "Aren't you going to say hello?"

I picked up a vibe from him, a vibe most women know, that told me to watch out.

Still on the far side of the street, the man yelled again. "I'm just trying to get you to say hello. Say hello to me."

I held my breath and looked straight ahead. A man stepped out of his car on the sidewalk in front of me and our eyes met. He looked at the guy yelling across the street and turned back



to me, and in the space of that second something about my face must have said *help*, because he waited for me at the corner.

"How you doing?" he said as I neared. "Doing OK," I said. "How about you?"

We walked together for half a block, enough time for the creep across the street to stop yelling and wander off.

"Well, have a good day then," the man said. He turned and headed in his own direction.

It took me a moment to see what had happened for what it was: a chivalrous act. Just when I thought I was done needing to be rescued, a stranger swooped in to prove me wrong.

All it took was a moment of distress — and for me to play the damsel. ■

# let's get naked



90 days after one treatment. Photo: Flor Mayoral, M.D.

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# Seven young pianists will perform in recital at IberiaBank on Marco

Seven finalists in the 11th annual FGCU-Steinway Young Artists Competition will present a free recital beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 27, at IberiaBank on Marco Island. Greg Billings, president of the Steinway Piano Society, will emcee the evening.

Taking a seat at the piano bench will be:

■ **Martin Smith**, a sixth-grade student at Cypress Lake Elementary School in Fort Myers – A student of the piano for the past six years, Martin currently studies with Mingshan Kong and has been a winner in the FGCU-Steinway Young Artists Competition every year since 2008.

■ **Amy Wu**, a fifth grader at Pelican Marsh Elementary School – Also a student of Ms. Kong, Amy has been playing piano for five years. This was her first year in the FGCU-Steinway competition.

■ **Christopher Myers**, a Pine Ridge Middle School seventh grader – A winner of the 2011 Naples Music Club competition, Christopher has played piano for six years and studies with Elena Hall.

■ **Elizabeth Berg**, a home-schooled seventh grader – Elizabeth has been studying piano for seven years and is also a student of Ms. Kong. She is a previous winner in the FGCU-Steinway competition and the Naples Music Club competition.

■ **Bennett Lanni**, a freshman at Barren Collier High School – Bennett has studied the piano for nine years and is a past winner of both the FGCU-Steinway competition and the Naples Music Club program.

■ **Andre Chu**, a sophomore at Naples High School – Andre studies with Ms. Hall, has been playing the piano for nine years and is a past winner of both the FGCU-Steinway and the Naples Music Club competitions.

■ **Joseph Lang Jr.**, a senior at St. John Neumann High School – A student of Lan Lam, Joseph has been playing piano for nine years. He is a two-time recipient of the Mary Jane Schneider Outstanding Music Award, the overall winner in the FGCU-Steinway Piano Competition. He has also won awards from the Naples Music Club.

The Steinway Piano Society is dedicated to the advancement of young pianists and conducts numerous scholarship competitions.

IberiaBank on Marco Island is at 605 Bald Eagle Drive. Although attendance is free for this “In the Round” presentation, seating is limited and reservations are required. Call Keith Dameron at 403-5169 or e-mail keith.dameron@iberiabank.com.

For more information about the Steinway Piano Society, visit [www.steinwaypianogallery.net/steinway-piano-society](http://www.steinwaypianogallery.net/steinway-piano-society). ■

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# HIT LIT

From page 1

and writing professor James W. Hall. But, he adds, as much as some writers might wish for its existence, a formula for Instant Bestseller (mix A and B with two-thirds of X) simply doesn't exist.

Though Dr. Hall's mysteries have yet to hit the *New York Times* Bestseller List, they've made lists in South Florida, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and in Europe. They've also won Edgar and Shamus awards.

## 'Pretend this is equal...'

More than 20 years ago, Dr. Hall happened upon a reference book that listed bestsellers year-by-year. He was so intrigued by it that he became inspired to teach a class at Florida International University called Bestselling Fiction.

The idea was to have students examine bestsellers with the same academic vigor with which they studied Henry James or Virginia Woolf.

"There's stuff to be learned in these books, if you get over that initial hurdle: Oooh, this is like drinking Thunderbird wine. The prose is rough on the palate and doesn't go down smoothly."

After all, what could "The Godfather" or "Jaws" possibly have in common with "Gone With the Wind"?

After a lot of resistance at first, he says, he was able to get his students to "pretend that this is equal to Faulkner" as they dissected contemporary bestsellers to figure out what made them so appealing.

"It's not that their standards dropped or they dumbed themselves down to appreciate these books," he explains. "(They discovered that applying) literary criticism could help them see stuff (in these bestsellers) they wouldn't have imagined."

## Cracking the code

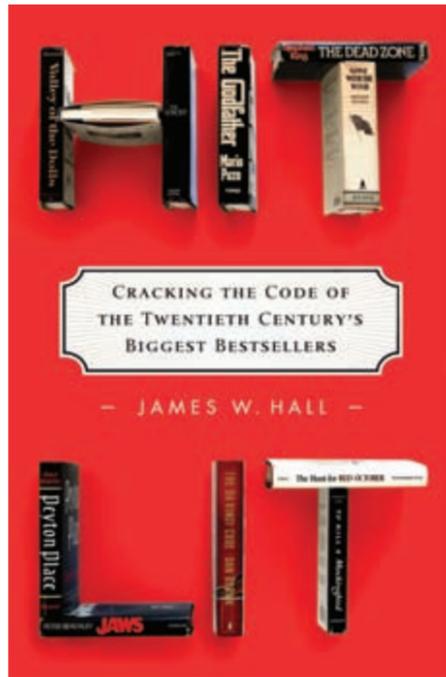
Over the years, Dr. Hall has taught about a dozen sessions of Bestselling Fiction at FIU.

Earlier this year, he released "Hit Lit: Cracking the Code of The Twentieth Century's Biggest Bestsellers" (\$16, Random House), in which he looks at a dozen of the biggest bestselling novels from 1936 to 2003.

The list, of course, includes works by Stephen King, John Grisham and Tom Clancy, authors who consistently appear on the *New York Times* Bestseller List.

The books he discusses in "Hit Lit" are what he calls "a unique sampling of bestsellers, the biggest of the big." They are:

- "Gone With the Wind"
- "Peyton Place"
- "To Kill a Mockingbird"
- "Valley of the Dolls"
- "The Godfather"
- "The Exorcist"
- "Jaws"
- "The Dead Zone"
- "The Hunt for Red October"
- "The Firm"
- "The Bridges of Madison County"



## ■ "The DaVinci Code"

Each has a factor of 10 times greater sales than the average bestseller on the list this week, he says. "That means these books sold 10 million instead of 200,000. And any writer would be happy to sell 100,000."

Sales of these titles have been astronomical. For example, since its release in 1936, "Gone With the Wind" has sold more than 30 million copies worldwide, and "The DaVinci Code," released in 2003, has sold 81 million copies worldwide.

"I think there's some kind of qualitative difference, some other thing that works in these books that put them in the stratosphere," he says. "What I was trying to understand was, is there something that huge numbers of readers are consistently drawn to, and if so, what does that tell us about the culture at large? Why do readers love these books?"

## The commonalities

At first glance, the "Hit Lit" books don't seem to have very much in common. What does a book about a killer shark have to do with a short love affair in Iowa between a photographer and a housewife? What could be similar in a story about the Mafia and one about a spoiled Southern girl during the Civil War?

Dr. Hall and his students found a number of commonalities in these mega-bestsellers. In "Hit Lit," he discusses a dozen of them, including:

- A celebration or critique of some of America's most cherished myths.
- A divisive or controversial issue of the day that also has deeper roots.
- Simple prose with a high concept and a minimum of backstory or psychological introspection.
- A threat of danger that grows in intensity as the story progresses.
- Broken or dysfunctional families.

■ Characters who are "rebels, loners and mavericks."

And of course, sex, sex and more sex. That bestsellers include a healthy dose of sex scenes didn't surprise him, especially in books such as "Peyton Place" and "Valley of the Dolls." (With his typical humor, he calls Jacqueline Susann's "Valley of the Dolls" "an early incarnation of 'Sex and the City,'" and says it "follows in the tradition of Harold Robbins, whose 'Carpetbaggers' was once described by a reviewer as 'a collection of monotonous episodes about normal and abnormal sex.'")

"I was surprised to see that each of the books had not just a sexual incident, but one that was pivotal," he says. "That without it, none of the events would've occurred."

For example, he adds, "Jaws" starts with a couple having sex on a beach. The woman then goes for a swim, and the shark, attracted by her scent, attacks her.

Though Dr. Hall only writes about a dozen traits the mega-bestsellers share, he says he and his students found "an abundance" of commonalities among the books. One not included in "Hit Lit" is the concept of a sacrificial lamb, a character that has to die in order for the book to work.

"I was surprised by the whole process, that you could

actually say interesting and thoughtful things and discover things about our culture by reading books that were literally not up to snuff," he says. "I didn't try to make an argument that these books are literarily valuable... There is nothing in the prose or the depth or complexity or characterization that would set these books on the high cultural consideration. They wouldn't be considered valid novels worth academic time to study in a classroom."

"But we found... using the critical language they had developed in reading Faulkner, Hemingway, Edith Wharton... that there was stuff in these books that was interesting to talk about in class."

## There is no formula

Dr. Hall was studying bestsellers for personal reasons too.

"I'm a Ph.D. in lit, and I'm supposed to revere a certain set of books," he says. "And yet I'm writing these thrillers that are frequently looked down upon by people in the academic life. I was trying to heal the split."

But, like the novels of authors such as Benjamin Black and James Lee Burke, his own books are more literary than the average thriller.

"Increasingly, a lot of these books are getting a lot more literary respect," he says.

He acknowledges that plenty of bestsellers don't possess the 12 characteristics he discusses in his book and that the converse is true as well: Plenty of books do possess those qualities yet never reach bestseller status.

People who read "Hit Lit" looking for a formula for a guaranteed bestseller will be disappointed.

"It's still very difficult to write a novel that's any good at all, that will attract readers," says Dr. Hall. "The study I've made is not really about finding a formula. I don't think it exists. There are trends — vampires and what have you. I'm sure there's going to be a spate of '50 Shades of Grey' soft-porn novels now."

And usually, by the time a trend is evident, it's too late to write a book to try to cash in on it.

"That's not the way anybody should be writing books," he says. He doubts Margaret Mitchell, Harper Lee, Jacqueline Susann or any of the other authors he writes about were consciously aware of the common characteristics their books shared, save for one: They were trying to write the best book they could write.

"They were trying to find a thematic issue that was relevant to the time, a hot-button issue of the day. I'm certain that was true. All of them were writing as weather-vanes of their particular moment. They picked up the vibrations of their time and expressed them, encapsulated them, and worked them out in an interesting way." ■



# Hooked on reading by a dead nude woman

BY NANCY STETSON  
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

Author James W. Hall begins "Hit Lit" by recalling how he transformed from a non-reader into a reader.

"My love affair with books began as most serious romances do, when I was least expecting to fall in love," he writes.

When he was 10 or 11, his mother

dropped him off at the local library while she ran some errands. He was horrified, scared one of his friends would see him there.

But when he randomly picked up a book and feigned interest in order to look "legitimate" to the librarians, the word "nude" jumped out at him from the first page, captivating him as it would any boy.

He read on and discovered it was a nude woman — a dead nude woman.

He'd picked up a mystery book.

He kept reading.

He was hooked.

That boy grew up to be not only a voracious reader, but a writer of thrillers, creating plenty of fictional dead bodies himself.

To this day, Dr. Hall doesn't know

what the book was. It was only when he had to write about his own evolution as a writer that he even remembered the incident.

"It was British," he says. "It may have been a kind of Agatha Christie-era book... It deposited this fascination in my memory banks."

"It was a watershed moment in my life." ■

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# WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

## Theater

■ **Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella** – At the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Fort Myers, through June 23. 278-4422 or [www.broadwaypalm.com](http://www.broadwaypalm.com).

■ **Click, Clack, Moo** – By The Naples Players in the Tobby Studio at the Sugden Community Theater through June 24. 263-7990 or [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org).



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Pick your seat at Hollywood Stadium 20 and settle in for an encore presentation of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" from the Metropolitan Opera's "Live in HD" series beginning at 6:30 p.m. June 27. The performance stars Mojca Erdmann as Zerlina and Mariusz Kwiecien as the title character. \$12.50. [www.themet.org](http://www.themet.org).

■ **Grease** – At the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Fort Myers, June 28-Aug. 18. 278-4422 or [www.BroadwayPalm.com](http://www.BroadwayPalm.com).

■ **All Shook Up** – By The Naples Players at the Sugden Community Theatre June 29-July 29. 263-7990 or [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org). See story on page C14.

## Thursday, June 21

■ **Garden Tour** – Enjoy a guided tour of The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage, home of the Naples Historical Society, beginning at 10 a.m. \$10 per person (free for children and NHS members). 137 12th Ave. S. Reservations: 261-8164.

■ **Tribute Show** – A Neil Diamond Tribute Show starts at 7:15 p.m. at The Stage, 9144 Bonita Beach Road. Dinner seating begins at 5:45 p.m. Call for details about other tribute shows, including The Eagles, The Beatles and Jimmy Buffett, coming up. 405-8566.

## Friday, June 22

■ **Hot Summer Night** – The Collier County Sheriff's Office welcomes students in middle and high school for fun and games from 6-9 p.m. at the Golden Gate Community Center, 4701 Golden Gate Parkway.

■ **Swamp Rock** – The Gladezmen perform a "Swamp Rock Super Show" at 8 p.m. at Fred's Food, Fun & Spirits. 2700 Immokalee Road. 431-7928.

## Saturday, June 23

■ **Grill Skills** – Clive Daniel Home presents a complimentary barbecue tasting with tips from Chef Eric of SMH Catering from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring a donation of canned food for St. Matthew's House. 2777 Tamiami Trail N. 261-4663 or [info@clivedaniel.com](mailto:info@clivedaniel.com).

■ **Dixieland Jazz** – Enjoy a celebration of Dixieland jazz from 1-3 p.m. at The Norris Center, 755 Eighth Ave. S. 213-3049.

■ **Zumba Fundraiser** – Meet Miss Southwest Florida 2012 and take part in a high-energy Zumba workout with proceeds benefitting the Miss Southwest Florida Scholarship Pageant. Registration begins at 3 p.m. and the class starts at 3:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Marco Island. \$20 per person. [kimoui@comcast.net](mailto:kimoui@comcast.net).

■ **It Takes Two** – Learn the basics in a beginning tango class with Pablo Repun from 7:30-8 p.m. and then practice other dancers during the milonga from 8-11 p.m. \$15 per person. 1673 Pine Ridge Road. 738-4184 or 785-8899.

## Sunday, June 24

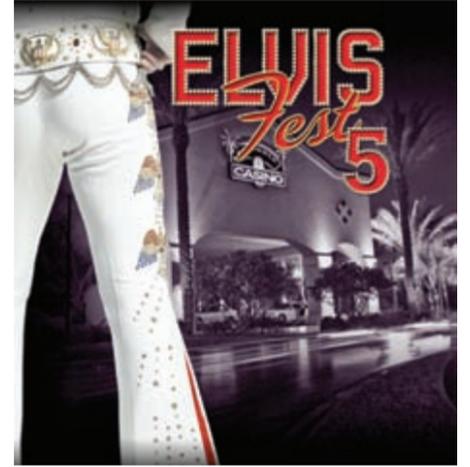
■ **All-American Music** – The Gulf Coast Symphony presents its "Happy Birthday, America" youth concert" at 2 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers. Beginning at 1 p.m. in the lobby, there will be an instrument "petting zoo" and birthday party with cake and favors to celebrate the U.S.A. 481-4849.

## Monday, June 25

■ **Movie Night** – The Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs presents a screening and discussion of "Before Sunset" beginning at 7 p.m. at the Promenade at Bonita Bay. \$8. 495-8989 or [www.artcenterbonita.org](http://www.artcenterbonita.org).

## Tuesday, June 26

■ **Cinema Under the Stars** – Gulf Coast Town Center presents a free screening of "Yogi Bear" beginning around 8:30 p.m. on the Market Plaza Lawn. 267-0783 or [www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com](http://www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com).



COURTESY IMAGE

The King is alive and well for "Elvis Fest 5" June 22-24 at Seminole Casino Immokalee, where Elvis tribute artists from around the country compete to become King. The weekend kicks off at 8 p.m. June 22 with a concert by Dwight Icenhower. [www.elvisfest5.com](http://www.elvisfest5.com).

## Wednesday, June 27

■ **Love That Dress!** – Laser Lounge Spa hosts a dress collection party as a prelude to PACE Center for Girls-Collier at Immokalee's "Love That Dress" event coming up in August. The spa plans a sushi and sake party from 6-9 p.m. Bring a gently used dress or fashion accessory for donation. 20400 Trailside Drive, Estero. 676-9756.

## Coming up

■ **Model Home Tours** – Designer Kelly Bridwell of Clive Daniel Home leads tours of the Victoria model by Lenar Homes in Treviso Bay at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. June 28. Free. Reservations: 261-4663 or [info@clivedanielhome.com](mailto:info@clivedanielhome.com).

■ **Art & Music** – Art Walk at the Center for the Arts Studios runs from 5-7 p.m. June 28 at the Promenade at Bonita Bay. Free. 495-8989 or [www.artcenterbonita.org](http://www.artcenterbonita.org).

■ **Food & Wine Fun** – Decanted Wine & Beer hosts a wine and food pairing to benefit the Ricky King Children's Fund from 6-9 p.m. June 28. RCKCF provides disabled children with medical equipment and services that are not covered by Medicaid or insurance. \$75 per person. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. (800) 980-5766. [www.decantedwines.com](http://www.decantedwines.com).

■ **Art Opening** – Sweet Art Gallery hosts an opening reception for the next show in its "Sizzling Hot Summer"

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# WHAT TO DO

series from 6-8 p.m. June 29. The show features new works by expressionist artists Alberto Cruz and Stuart Glazer. Free. 2054 Trade Center Way. 597-2110 or [thesweetartgallery.com](http://thesweetartgallery.com).

■ **Live Music** – The Little River Band, Brian Howe and PUSH perform June 29 at Ballyorney Irish Pub, 13851 S. Tamiami Trail. Gates open at 6 p.m. and music starts at 7 p.m. 628-1444.

■ **Love That Dress!** – Noodles Italian Cafe and Sushi Bar hosts a dress collection party as a prelude to PACE Center for Girls-Collier at Immokalee's "Love That Dress" event coming up in August. Bring a dress or fashions accessory for donation and enjoy mingling and dancing from 6-9 p.m. 676-9756.

■ **Art & Fun** – The Center for the Arts of Bonita Springs hosts Alla Prima, Alla Fun, "Hearts," from 5:30-8:30 p.m. July 5 at 26100 Old 41 Road. Enjoy pizza and wine while learning to paint under the direction of Patty Kane. \$42. 495-8989 or [www.artcenterbonita.org](http://www.artcenterbonita.org).

■ **NIFF Movie Night** – The Naples International Film Festival hosts a screening of "Memento" beginning at 7 p.m. July 10 at Silverspot Cinema in Mercato. \$25 per person includes a glass of wine, beer or soda, savory bites and sweet treats. 775-3456 or [www.naples-filmfest.com](http://www.naples-filmfest.com).

■ **Be a Kid Again** – The monthly grown ups-only evening at the Golisano Children's Museum of Naples takes place from 5-8:30 p.m. July 12. Enjoy food, drink

and "big kid" fun for \$15 for C'mon members, \$25 for others. 514-0084 or [www.cmon.org](http://www.cmon.org).

■ **SummerJazz** – The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club continues its "SummerJazz on the Gulf" series with Late Night Brass (July 21), New Groove City (Aug. 25) and Eight to the Bar (Sept. 22). The free concerts are from 7-10 p.m. on Watkins Lawn. 261-2222 or [www.naplesbeachhotel.com](http://www.naplesbeachhotel.com).

## Ongoing Events

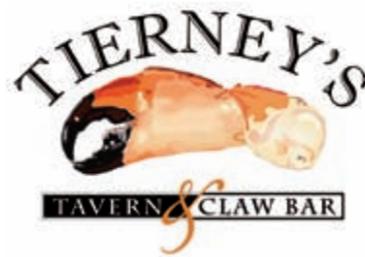
■ **Ship to Shore** – "Ship to Shore Featuring the Titanic" runs through June 30 at the Patty and Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art. The exhibition includes paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and more, including a 10-foot-long model of the Titanic constructed of 75,000 toothpicks. 597-1900 or [www.thephil.org](http://www.thephil.org).

■ **Holocaust Museum** – The Holocaust Museum and Education Center of Southwest Florida presents "American Cartoonists, Nazi Germany and the Holocaust" through July 31. The exhibit highlights how American artists used comic book superheroes to inspire patriotism and boost the country's morale during World War II. 4760 Tamiami Trail N. 263-9200 or [www.holocaustmuseum-swfl.org](http://www.holocaustmuseum-swfl.org).

— Submit calendar listings and high-resolution photos to [events@floridaweekly.com](mailto:events@floridaweekly.com). E-mail text, jpegs or Word documents are accepted. No pdfs or photos of flyers. The deadline for calendar submissions is noon Sunday.

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## SIDEWALK SALE

Thursday, June 28 – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Friday, June 29 – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday, June 30 – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sunday, July 1 – 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Enjoy firecracker savings—shop our top-quality merchandise at discounted prices. Live music Friday through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

## Enter our Father's Day Photo Contest!



Win a \$250 gift certificate to The Village. We want to see your best photo with Dad enjoying your favorite waterside activity together. Visit our Facebook page to enter; contest ends June 30, 2012. [facebook.com/VenetianVillage](http://facebook.com/VenetianVillage)

## DANCING



## FOUNTAIN

Thursday, June 28 – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
On the last Thursday of each month, join Modern Steps School and DJ Michael J. Levaul for dancing demonstrations, entertainment and more.

# ARTS COMMENTARY

## A wake for 'Awake': Goodbye to depth and mystery



I resisted at first. I'd been suckered in by TV shows before, only to wind up disappointed. A premise would seem promising, but the characters would be clichéd, the dialogue would ring false or the plot would be too simple or too ridiculous. I'd fallen in love before and been jilted, left flat. Sometimes a show wouldn't even finish out a season, or the network would shuffle it around like a con man moving it by sleight of hand, so you were never really sure where you'd find it. So, yes, I resisted at first. I was wary. I didn't want to invest my time, only to be sorry.

But friends who'd started watching "Awake" raved about it, saying it wasn't like anything else they'd seen; they couldn't wait for each week's episode.

I have to admit, the premise intrigued me: A detective is in a car accident with his wife and son. Afterward, however, he seems to be living in two alternate realities. In one life, his wife is alive and their son has died. But then, the detective goes to sleep at night and when he wakes up, the reverse is true: His wife has died and his son is alive.

I began watching, catching up on past episodes on Hulu.com.

And once I did, just like my friends, I was anxiously waiting to see what unfolded next.

Was one of the detective's realities real and the other a dream? Were they both a dream? Was he dead? Dying? In a coma and imagining all of this? Was there a conspiracy behind it all? Was someone somehow manipulating his sense of reality?

### The irresistible premise

The introductory sequence that played every week showed the crash, and then Detective Britten (Jason Issacs) visiting a psychiatrist in each reality.

"So tell me how this works," one asks. "I'm awake with my wife. And I close my eyes. I open them, I'm awake with my son," Detective Britten answers.

"And this has been happening since the accident?" the other therapist, in the other reality, asks.

First therapist: "So you begin working on one case, here, in reality, and then suddenly you begin working another case, there, in your dream."

"It all feels completely real to me,"

Detective Britten replies.

First therapist: "You can't tell whether you're awake or asleep at this very moment?"

Second therapist: "Well, I can assure you, Detective Britten, this is not a dream."

"That's exactly what the other shrink said," he replies.

And basically, he finds it impossible to chose one reality over the other — and who could? — because he doesn't want to let go of either his wife or his son.

### Thirteen solid episodes

One reality has warm, red tones, while the other is imbued with cooler, green tones.

Sometimes, the realities bleed into each other, and he discovers a clue to a case he's working on in the alternate reality. Sometimes reality is somewhat surrealistic, just like a dream.

"Awake" is also an insightful portrayal of the grieving process, how the loss of someone we love affects us, and how others react to us as we grieve.

The two therapists are played by Cherry Jones and BD Wong.

Known for her work on Broadway, Ms. Jones has received Tony Awards for her roles in "The Heiress" and "Doubt." She's performed in movies and on other TV shows, winning an Emmy for her role as President Taylor in "24."

Mr. Wong won a Tony Award for his work on Broadway in "M. Butterfly," playing opposite John Lithgow. He's appeared in numerous movies and is also known for his television roles in "Oz" and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

Mr. Issacs, the lead, also has a history of

performing on stage, in movies and on TV. His recent TV role was the evil, criminal brother in "Brotherhood," and some might recognize him as the villain Lucius Malfoy in the Harry Potter films.

"Awake" has quality acting and quality writing.

Not your typical TV network fare. So, of course, NBC cancelled it in May, after 13 episodes.

Apparently, I'm not the only one who feels heartbroken.

Fans have taken to the Internet, making comments such as:

- "Please, please, please don't cancel this thought-provoking show."
- "One of the most intelligent and interesting shows ever."
- "This is one of the best-written shows ever on television."

They complain that NBC did little to promote the show and didn't give it a chance.

They question whether the network also tracked viewers who watched the show on Hulu (as I did.)

Some say the show should have run on a cable network, where they think it might have found a friendlier home, and others are urging creator/writer/executive producer Kyle Killen to shop the show to another network.

Fans have started a campaign, "Save Awake." TV Series Finale, an online site "devoted to TV show endings, reunions and revivals," is urging viewers to sign petitions, write to the show's advertisers and to the head of NBC: Bob Greenblatt, chairman, NBC, 3000 W. Alameda, Burbank, CA 91523.

If somehow you missed it, you can still catch the show online. Unfortunately, nbc.com is only showing the last few episodes

online now. You can watch the entire 13 episodes on Hulu, but you have to subscribe to Hulu Plus to see the first eight.

You can buy instant episodes to watch on your computer via Amazon. Or you can wait to see if it comes out on DVD. But you could wind up waiting a long time. (Two years ago, AMC cancelled "Rubicon," a similarly intelligent show, after one season, and the DVD has yet to be released.)

It's a shame that when a network finally gets it right, offering something with quality and complexity, they often **a)** fail to promote it; **b)** fail to stand behind it; and **c)** cancel it prematurely.

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of predictable, formulaic TV shows. I like something that keeps me guessing, that makes me think, that gives me something new. Something, in other words, that keeps me tuning in each week.

If you were a fan of "Awake," I urge you to sign a petition and write to the network.

### Spoiler alert

Fans were split about the last episode of "Awake."

Some felt that the writer had taken the easy way out and concluded with an episode where Detective Britten wakes up and it was all a dream — his wife and son are very much alive. But according to interviews Mr. Killen gave after the last show ran, those viewers were misreading the plot. In fact, Mr. Killen says, Det. Britten has created a third reality, and in the second season of "Awake," they were planning on examining how the character could deal with three separate realities and what problems that might cause. ■

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## Naples Art Association invites applications for 2012-13 festivals

Artists can apply now to participate in any of five annual festivals hosted by the Naples Art Association. Such festivals are the primary funding source for education programs at The von Liebig Art Center. For its 2012-13 art fairs, the association reduced the entry fee to \$25.

■ **Nov. 24-25:** The ninth annual Naples Fall Fine Art and Craft Festival – This downtown Thanksgiving weekend festival draws about 110 artists and more than 4,000 area residents and guests. Deadline to apply: Sept. 5

■ **Jan. 5-6, 2013:** The 17th annual Downtown Naples New Year's Art Fair – This event is distinguished by its Fifth Avenue South location and a set-up that gives every artist gets a corner booth. Deadline to apply: Oct. 3

■ **Feb. 23-24, 2013:** The 34th annual Naples National Art Festival – This show awards \$5,000 in prizes. It takes place in Cambier Park and along Eighth Street South. Deadline to apply: Nov. 7

■ **March 2-3, 2013:** The fourth annual Mercato Fine Arts Festival – The NAA's newest festival showcases works in all media by 110 artists from across the country. Deadline to apply: Dec. 3

■ **March 23-24, 2013:** The 25th annual Downtown Naples Festival of the Arts – More than 250 artists exhibit in this show that sets up along Fifth Avenue South. Deadline to apply: Jan. 2, 2013

Applications for the five festivals are available by visiting [www.juriedartservices.com](http://www.juriedartservices.com). For more information, call Marianne Megela at 262-6517, ext. 103, or e-mail [marianne.megela@naplesart.org](mailto:marianne.megela@naplesart.org).

## PUZZLE ANSWERS



9	8	7	6	3	4	1	2	5
3	2	1	5	7	8	6	9	4
6	5	4	2	1	9	7	8	3
7	3	6	4	8	5	2	1	9
1	4	8	9	2	7	3	5	6
5	9	2	3	6	1	4	7	8
4	1	9	7	5	3	8	6	2
8	6	5	1	4	2	9	3	7
2	7	3	8	9	6	5	4	1

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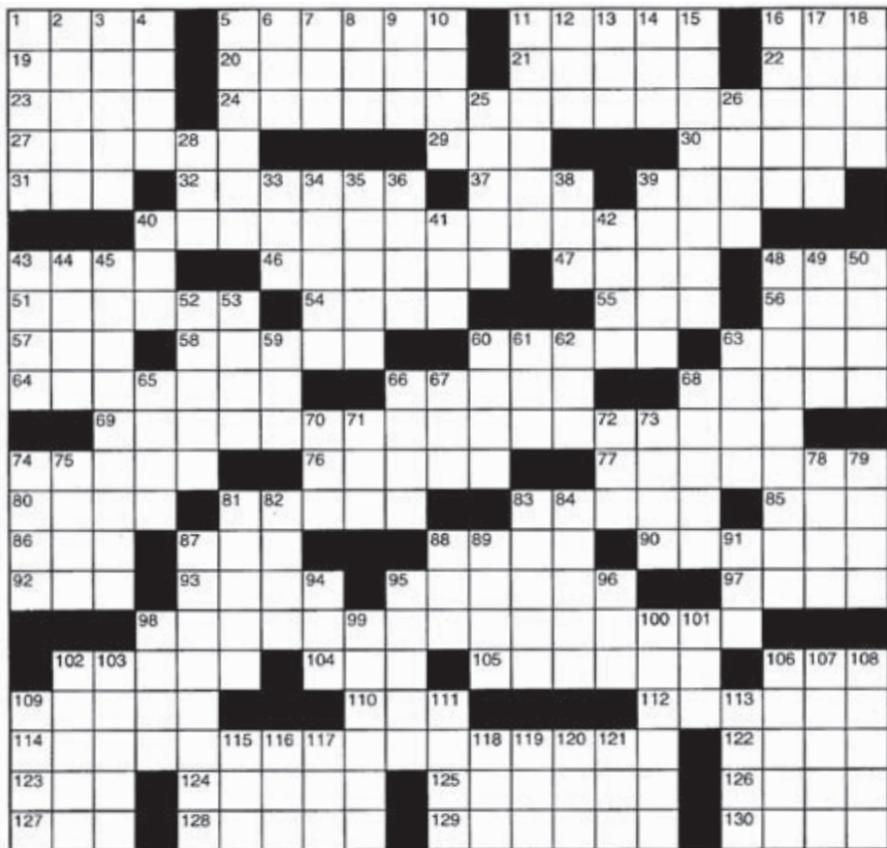
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# FLORIDA WEEKLY PUZZLES

## FOREIGN FILMS



- ACROSS**
- 1 Voucher
  - 5 Plane place
  - 11 Big bargain
  - 16 "Major Barbara" monogram
  - 19 Clair or Coty
  - 20 Swimmer Gertrude
  - 21 Garrulous
  - 22 School subject
  - 23 "Bus Stop" playwright
  - 24 Peter O'Toole film
  - 27 Medal material
  - 29 Pine product
  - 30 Incongruous state
  - 31 Command to Fido
  - 32 Eventually
  - 37 Where the buoys are
  - 39 Glaze
  - 40 Judy Davis film
  - 43 Jury member
  - 46 Mr. Miyagi's forte
  - 47 Emcee's site
  - 48 Spigot
  - 51 Kindred
  - 54 Aussie rockers
  - 55 Plant disease
  - 56 What a feller needs
  - 57 In-your-face item
  - 58 Dancer Jose
  - 60 Pamphlet
  - 63 Floor covering
  - 64 Hoarder
  - 66 Taxing time?
  - 68 "I Love a Parade" composer
  - 69 Gregory Peck film
  - 74 Jeweler's weight
  - 76 Exodus figure
  - 77 "Butterfly" ('66 hit)
  - 80 Ken of "Hill Street Blues"
  - 81 Conductor's concern
  - 83 Endangered herbivore
  - 85 Solidify
  - 86 In error
  - 87 Twisted
  - 88 Way over yonder
  - 90 Little laugh
  - 92 Kyser or Starr
  - 93 Rushes
  - 95 Giza god
  - 97 Raison d'—
  - 98 Bob Hope film
  - 102 On — (doing great)
  - 104 Down meas.
  - 105 Clone
  - 106 A Bobbsey twin
  - 109 Intense
  - 110 — Claire, WI
  - 112 "Blueberry Hill" singer
  - 114 Jane Fonda film
  - 122 Leave out
  - 123 Fireworks reaction
  - 124 Gives the green light
  - 125 Pageant props
  - 126 Misplace
  - 127 Neighbor of Ger.
  - 128 Actress Davis
  - 129 Least conventional
  - 130 — in-the-wool
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Corn holders
  - 2 Matisse or Rousseau
  - 3 Gold brick?
  - 4 "— Wolf" ('85 film)
  - 5 Montana's capital
  - 6 Periodontists' org.
  - 7 Contemporary
  - 8 "Don't touch my bone!"
  - 9 Ginger —
  - 10 Dollars for quarters
  - 11 Audiophile's equipment
  - 12 Eastern "Way"
  - 13 Wee one
  - 14 "America's Most Wanted" abbr.
  - 15 Ira Gershwin, for one
  - 16 Breville's land
  - 17 Escort
  - 18 Command to Fido
  - 25 Immobile class
  - 26 "La Rondine" rendition
  - 28 Energy
  - 33 "For shamel"
  - 34 Albeniz or Asimov
  - 35 Peripatetic
  - 36 "Gracious mel"
  - 38 Pitch in
  - 39 Numskull
  - 40 Onassis' nickname
  - 41 Catchall abbr.
  - 42 DEA officer
  - 43 Theatrical Joseph
  - 44 Literary pseudonym
  - 45 Thrill
  - 48 Motorcycle feature
  - 49 Wagon part
  - 50 Hammer head
  - 52 Marsh sight
  - 53 Olive —
  - 59 Monty's milieu
  - 60 '82 Jeff Bridges film
  - 61 Volcano part
  - 62 Clerical garb
  - 63 Baseball's Speaker
  - 65 Genghis —
  - 66 Curly coil
  - 67 Supportive of
  - 68 Blue hue
  - 70 Tasty tuber
  - 71 Weaken
  - 72 Agt.
  - 73 Got off
  - 74 Quiche creator
  - 75 — Romeo
  - 78 Swerve
  - 79 Gen. Robt. —
  - 81 Experiment
  - 82 Checked out
  - 83 "Scent of a Woman" dance
  - 84 Chilean pianist
  - 87 Without reservation
  - 88 Bonaparte's buddy
  - 89 Ward (off)
  - 91 Shoe width
  - 94 Farm feature
  - 95 Examine
  - 96 PD alert
  - 98 Coll. brass
  - 99 Forsyth's "The — File"
  - 100 Firstborn
  - 101 Rock's — Speedwagon
  - 102 Blessed sound?
  - 103 Mercedes of "The Fisher King"
  - 106 Shatner co-star
  - 107 Absinthe ingredient
  - 108 Famous
  - 109 Perched on
  - 111 Proverb reposition
  - 113 Shape
  - 115 Turner or Pappas
  - 116 Rob Roy's refusal
  - 117 Writer Rand
  - 118 "— not!"
  - 119 Math abbr.
  - 120 Vein contents
  - 121 Bell and Barker

SEE ANSWERS, C9

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## HOROSCOPES

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** You might feel somewhat "crabby," as you fuss over plans that don't seem to work out. Maybe you're trying too hard. Ease up and let things happen without forcing them.

**LEO (July 23 to August 22)** Heed that keen Leonine instinct. It's trying to tell you to delay making a decision until you're sure there are no hidden problems that could cause trouble later on.

**VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** This is a good time to reach out to those who might be nursing hurt feelings over recent events. Best advice: Ignore any pettiness that could delay the healing process.

**LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Your understanding helps a colleague get through a difficult period. Although you didn't do it for a reward, be assured that your actions will be repaid down the line.

**SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** You score some high marks in the workplace, which will count in your favor when you face the possibility of changing direction on your current career path.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** Your goal lies straight ahead. Stay focused on it and avoid distractions that could throw off your aim and cause potentially detrimental delays.

**CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Keep that burst of exu-

berance in check and resist pushing through your new project before it's ready. In your personal life, a family member again needs help.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** Paying attention to your work is important this week. But so are your relationships with those special people in your life. Make time for them as well.

**PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Good news. Someone is about to repay a long-standing debt. But be warned. That same someone could try to charm you into lending it back unless you say no and mean it.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Be prepared to face some challenges stirred up by an envious colleague. Your best defense is the Arian's innate honesty. Stick with the truth, and you'll come out ahead.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Your sensitivity to the needs of others is admirable. But be careful to avoid those who would take unfair advantage of your good nature, especially where money is involved.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** Having an optimistic attitude is fine, as far as it goes. But don't be lulled into a false sense of confidence. There are still problems to deal with before you can totally relax.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You are sensitive to matters that involve your home and family. You would make a fine family-court judge or social worker. ■

By Linda Thistle

	8	7	6		1	
	2			7		9
6					9	3
	3		4			1
		8		2	7	3
5				6		8
	1				3	8
		5	1			7
2				9		4

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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

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# LATEST FILMS

## 'Rock Of Ages'

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were from one band; in "Rock Of Ages" the music is from a number of bands, so imagine the chaos.

But, oh, the music. How it takes me back to my youth. Hair bands. Spandex. Perms. It was all so ridiculous. And so awesome.

Some of director Adam Shankman's ("Hairspray") music sequences fall flat, but Cruise provides inspired editions of Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead Or Alive" and Def Leppard's "Pour Some Sugar On Me." Boneta (who lacks screen presence) shows off a nice voice with Twisted Sis-

★★½

### Is it worth \$10? Yes

"Rock Of Ages" is like watching a movie star cover band reimagine your favorite '80s rock music.

Is it fun? Sure!

Is it worth a night out? Yes, if your enjoyment can be derived solely from music. But if you want a decent story, good pacing, above-par acting, etc., look elsewhere.

Given that the only thing "Rock of Ages" is looking to do is entertain with classic rock, it warrants a moderate recommendation. After all, a movie can only be as good as it's trying to be.

Based on the hit Broadway musical of the same name, the film follows small-town girl Sherrie (Julianne Hough) on her 1987 adventure to L.A. Of course, upon her arrival in the City of Angels, she promptly gets robbed. No matter: New friend Drew (Diego Boneta) gets her a job at the famous Bourbon Room, where rock star Stacey Jaxx (Tom Cruise) is scheduled to appear at the end of the week. This is important because Patricia (Catherine Zeta-Jones), the new mayor's (Bryan Cranston) wife, is trying to shut down the club and return decency to the Sunset Strip.

Too bad Stacey is unreliable and his manager (Paul Giamatti) is a scumbag. Bourbon Room owner Dennis (Alec Baldwin) and his assistant Lonny (Russell Brand) clearly need all the help they can get, so it's a good thing Sherrie and Drew are natural music talents.

The story plays out in predictable ways, and to be honest, it's pretty lame. At 123 minutes, it's also too long, especially because some songs feel forced in rather than naturally emerging from the storyline. But therein lies the problem with "jukebox" musicals: When everything revolves around the music, and you need to cram in as much music as possible, illogical actions and plot holes often run rampant.

Remember "Across The Universe," based on The Beatles' music? The story was all over the place, and the songs



ter's "I Wanna Rock," and Baldwin and Brand provide some laughs with REO Speedwagon's "Can't Fight This Feeling." Hough sings well with Foreigner's "Waiting For A Girl Like You" and others.

So yes, this child of the '80s was thrilled to see some of his favorite classic rock ballads on the big screen. But you know how I knew the music in "Rock of Ages" was good beyond that? My father — who when I was a kid listening to these songs would come into my room and say, "What's this crap?" — even liked it. And if dad liked it, anyone can. ■

### in the know

>> American Idol" finalist Constantine Maroulis earned a Tony nomination when he originated the role of Drew Boley in "Rock of Ages" on Broadway.



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## FLORIDA WRITERS

### Staten Island comes alive in tough-guy thriller tradition

philJASON

pkjason@comcast.net



**"Madman's Thirst" by Lawrence De Maria. St. Austin's Press. \$4.99 e-book.**

"Madman's Thirst" is the second "Jake Scarnes" novel, following "Sound of Blood." The author has also launched a second series with "Capriati's Blood" featuring Alton Rhode. While the first Scarnes novel is available as a trade paperback, the other two thrillers by Mr. De Maria are so far offered only in e-book format. Regarding trends in book publication, the future is now.



De Maria

Who would want a sweet high-school beauty like Elizabeth Pearsall murdered? The two contract killers who tail her home from school couldn't care less. It's a payday. They plan to make the murder look like a botched robbery, but one member of the team, Lucas Gallo,

gets carried away and rapes her. His partner in the caper, a cancer-ridden old pro named Banaszak, is disgusted. In the world of Jake Scarnes, any lowlife can have a bit of conscience. Banaszak kills Gallo and manages things so that there is no corpse to discover.

What's likely is that Elizabeth's father, the prize-winning newspaper editor of the Richmond Register (Staten Island, N.Y.), is being sent a message. He leaves town in a hurry. What has he been poking into? Well, someone with a shoddy reputation, a former plastic surgeon named Nathan Bimm, has been adding to his real estate investments, buying up land on opposite ends of Staten Island. There's some talk of a NASCAR racetrack on one of the sites. Influence peddling is rampant. A major crime family is involved, perhaps even the borough president. Two of Robert Pearsall's best reporters have been digging into Bimm's activities. Now Pearsall's daughter is raped and slaughtered. The botched robbery ploy doesn't hold up for long.

A guy named Dudley Mack, an Irish gangster and funeral parlor tycoon, has a moral code of sorts. When he hears about a mysterious confession to a priest, perhaps by Banaszak, Mack gets his old buddy, private detective Jake Scarnes, involved.

From here on in, readers can enjoy Jake's mix of cerebral and bull-head-

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ed detection. Strange thing, though: Every lead he gets leads to someone who's just been killed. Who's snuffing out everyone who knows about what lies behind the crime before Jake can extract new information? And just what does lie behind the race to buy up all that real estate?

Warr, a great sounding board for the private eye and capable in every way.

There's also Beldon Popp, managing editor at the Richmond Register, whom Jake thinks is spending way too much time in the company of the rich and famous.

The real hero of this book, however, may well be Staten Island itself.

For all his attention to character and plot, Mr. De Maria does nothing better than evoke the feel of this forlorn piece of New York City. He lovingly paints its neighborhoods, restaurants and saloons; its government buildings; its poorly maintained streets and facades; its history, sounds and smells.

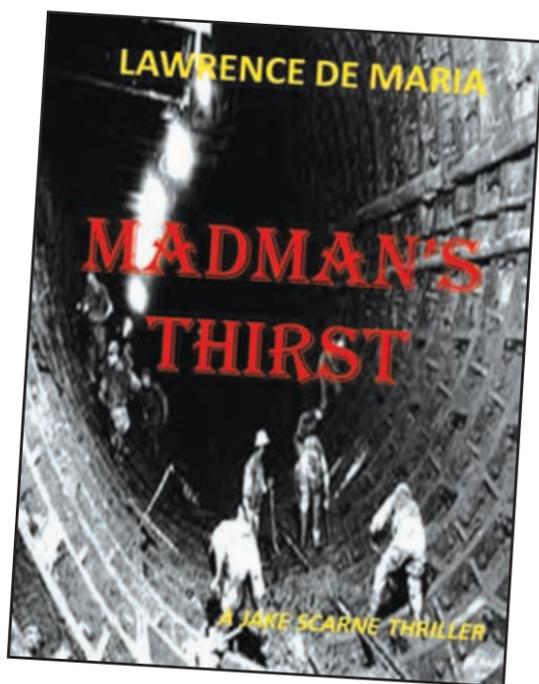
Mostly, he concocts a moral stew in which the good guys and bad guys are all mixed up. This is a place where you can be assaulted by a cop and helped out by a crime boss. It's an ambiguity with a history: "In Italian families of a certain generation, there was a thin line that separated the career paths of cops and robbers." Many people are able to cross back and forth over this line. They are moral magicians: saints one moment, sinners the next.

The book is not without its problems. When Emma asks for a slice of "flowerless" chocolate cake (one of many such gaffes), the reader knows that the author overpaid his proofreader.

In spite of its lapses, however, suspense, gritty scenes, clever banter, the visceral rendering of Staten Island and a dogged private eye combine to make "Madman's Thirst" and Jake Scarnes a strong contribution to the tough-guy tradition. ■

Interesting characters abound. There's gorgeous and brainy Emerald "Emma" Shields, rising star in the Shields family's media empire. Jake is strongly attracted to Emma, but she seems interested in a Donald Trump wannabe named Aristotle Arachne. What's going on? Arachne is clearly among those involved in whatever Dr. Bimm has been up to.

Then there's Jake's secretary, Evelyn



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## Shakespeare gets 'All Shook Up'

The Naples Players present "All Shook Up," a rocking musical inspired by the music of Elvis Presley with an all new story by Joe DiPietro, June 29-July 29 at the Sugden Community Theatre.

Based on Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and set in 1955, "All Shook Up" is a story about the magic of romance and the power of rock 'n' roll in small-town middle America. Chris Valente and Alana Neuman perform the lead roles and are supported by a large

ensemble cast from The Naples Players and its KidzAct troupe of young performers. Dallas Dunnagan directs. Charles Fornara is the musical director and Dawn Lebrecht Fornara is the choreographer.

Show times are 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for children 18 and under. A dinner-and-show ticket is \$55. Call the box office at 263.7990 or visit [www.naplesplayers.org](http://www.naplesplayers.org). ■

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COURTESY PHOTOS  
Among the colorful cast of characters in "Flea Bitten" are, clockwise from left, Good Time Charlie, Cap'n Baldrick and Earlene.

## Comedy duo is back with dinner show

"FleaBitten," the newest dinner-show production by the comedy duo of Compton & Bennett, premieres Thursday, June 21, at Mongello's restaurant on the East Trail. Rick Compton and Betsy Bennett created and star in the show that they describe as a romp through "a retail experience that's more garage sale than Macy's, with staffers who are more carnies than fashion consultants, and where the wine doesn't breathe... it gasps."

Among the 15 colorful characters performed by the two creators are Cap'n Baldrick, who financed his flea market stall called "Golden Bud's" with, well, golden buds; Good Time Charlie, a down-on-his-luck blues guy; and hairdresser/wigmaker Earlene, who promises that all her wigs are locally grown.

In true flea market style, tickets originally \$199 are marked down to \$24.99. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 793-2644. ■

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# KOVELS: ANTIQUES

## American symbols: From Indian Queen to Uncle Sam

**terryKOVEL**  
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Many figures have been used through the years to represent America. The earliest was the Indian Queen, who was the European symbol for North America from about 1570 to 1776. The attractive American Indian woman was represented in figurines and textiles. In 1776 her looks changed to a younger Indian Queen, who remained popular until about 1815.

There was also Miss Liberty, a woman who wore the French cap that represented liberty, and Miss Columbia, similar to Miss Liberty but wearing a tiara and standing near a flag and eagle. They are both seen in paintings as early as the 1770s, but Miss Liberty soon lost favor.

Columbia remained a symbol into the 1860s, when she lost out to Uncle Sam. He was invented in 1812 and is the most important and enduring representative of the United States. Legend says that during the War of 1812, Samuel Wilson, a meatpacker, stamped meat packages for soldiers with the letters “U.S.” for United States. Folks joked that the meat came from “Uncle Sam,” and soon the tall, thin man with white hair and beard, top hat and striped pants was created and seen in political cartoons, ads, packaging and even toys. He is still a favorite.

**Q:** My mother has a Little Red Riding Hood mechanical bank. It has Grandma in bed and Little Red Riding Hood sitting on the bed. If you pull the lever, Grandma’s head comes up and reveals the Big Bad Wolf’s face underneath. If you put a penny in, Red Riding Hood’s head tilts back as if she is startled. The bank is marked “Red Riding Hood” on the side just below her skirt. On the bottom, below Grandma’s head, are the words “Bits and Pieces.” The paint and condition are excellent. We would like to know if it’s a reproduction or an antique and what its value is.

**A:** The antique Little Red Riding Hood mechanical bank does not have a maker’s mark but is thought to have been made by W.S. Reed Toy Co., which was founded by William Reed in Leominster, Mass., in 1876. The company was known for its wooden toys. Reed made three different mechanical banks in the 1880s: Old Lady in the Shoe (patented in 1883), Girl in Victorian Chair and Little Red Riding Hood. The Little Red Riding Hood bank came in three variations, with a blue, green or yellow bedspread. The company became Whitney-Reed Co. in 1898. Your bank is marked “Bits and Pieces,” the name of a company in Lawrenceburg, Ind., that sells reproduction mechanical banks, puzzles and other gift items. The original banks sells for more than \$30,000. Bits and Pieces sells reproduction banks for about \$25 to \$35, but the Red Riding Hood bank is no longer listed on the company’s website.

**Q:** My antique clothes iron has a little

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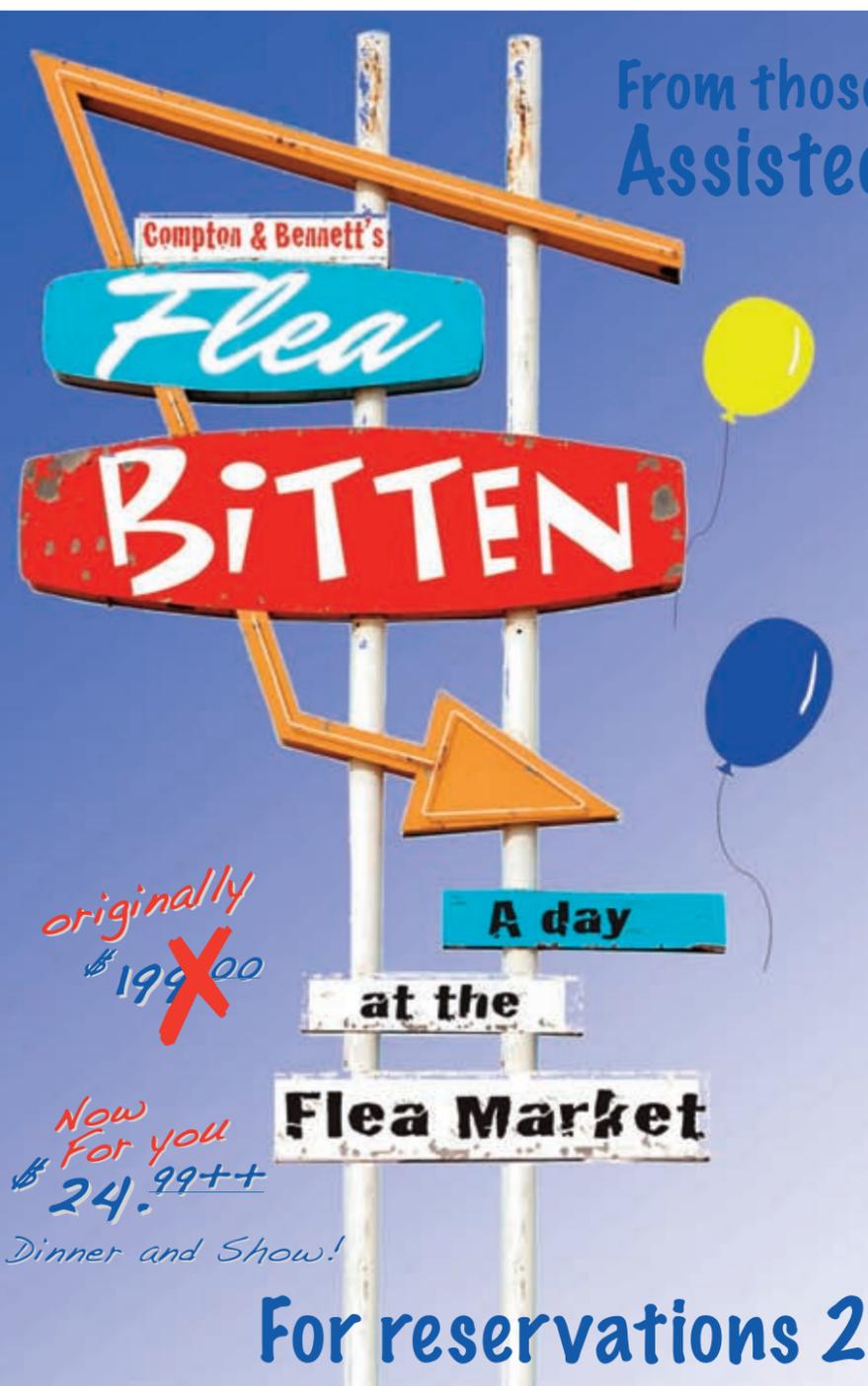
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fuel tank attached to the front end. The top of the iron is marked "Sunshine" on one side and "Pat Pending, Made in the USA" on the other. The iron is 7½ inches long. Please tell me what type of fuel it burned, when it was made and what it's worth.

**A:** The manufacturer of your Sunshine iron is unknown, but it's not hard to find the model at flea markets. Sunshine irons date from the early 1900s and burned gasoline. Other liquid-fuel irons burned kerosene, alcohol or liquefied natural gas. Irons that burned liquid fuel were a big improvement over irons that burned coal, which produced smoke and soot. Your iron is worth \$75 to \$100 if it's in good condition.

**Q:** I got a pressed-glass toothpick holder from my grandmother. She told me it's in the Crocus pattern and that she's had it for a long time. Can you tell me something about this pattern? Is the toothpick holder valuable?

**A:** Your pattern is probably "Croesus," a pattern first made by the Riverside Glass Co. of Wellsburg, W.Va., in 1897. Riverside Glass Co. was founded in 1879 and closed in 1907. The pattern features C-scrolls separated by crosshatching and fan shapes. It was first



The Uncle Sam image not only represented the United States but was also used to endorse products. This 100-year-old lithographed sign praised the Jackson razor that was used to shave Uncle Sam's beard. William Morford Auctions in Cazenovia, N.Y., sold this sign for \$1,925 last fall.

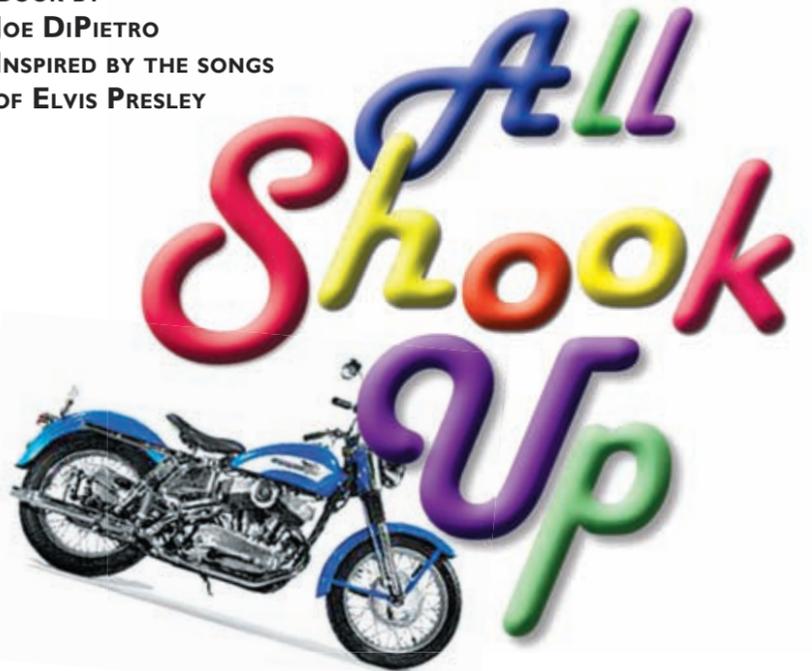
made in amethyst, emerald green or clear glass, with or without gold trim. Several different tableware items were made, including a butter dish, pitcher, salt and pepper shakers, sugar and creamer, toothpick holder and other serving pieces. The National Glass Co. made Croesus at the McKee factory from about 1907 to 1917. Reproductions have been made since the early 1970s. The toothpick holder was one of the first items reproduced. The value of your Croesus toothpick holder is about \$35.

**Tip:** If you are storing a large closed container like a trunk for a long time, put a piece of charcoal in it to absorb odors. ■

— 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. Names, addresses or email addresses will not be published. We cannot guarantee the return of any photograph, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. Write to Kovel, Florida Weekly, King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

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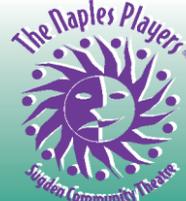
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# CONTRACT BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

## The race against time

Good timing is extremely important in the play of many hands. When declarer has several different things to do, the order in which he does them frequently makes the difference between success and failure.

Consider this deal where West leads a club against four spades. How should South proceed? Let's say he starts by winning the club with the king and returns a trump. East takes the ace and plays another club. South must now go down one, losing a trick in each suit, since the diamond and heart finesses both lose when they are attempted.

The outcome is surely unlucky, but it can be traced to a wrong choice of plays. Declarer should not stake his chances on either of the red-suit finesses working when there is a more promising approach available.

When dummy comes down, he should realize that there is more urgent business to attend to than tackling trumps at once. An early trump lead gives the defense time to establish a club trick. Instead, declarer should win the club lead with the king and play the A-10 of hearts, deliberately rejecting the heart finesse in order to establish an immediate heart trick in dummy.

If South plays in this fashion, he winds up losing only a spade, a heart and a diamond, and so makes the contract. West can take his king of hearts and return a club, but South wins with dummy's ace

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

<b>NORTH</b>			
♠	Q 10 7 4		
♥	Q J 6		
♦	A 10 5		
♣	A 8 2		
		<b>WEST</b>	<b>EAST</b>
		♠	6 5 3
		♥	K 9 4
		♦	8 3 2
		♣	J 10 9 4
		♠	A
		♥	8 7 5 3 2
		♦	K 9 7 4
		♣	Q 6 5
		<b>SOUTH</b>	
		♠	K J 9 8 2
		♥	A 10
		♦	Q J 6
		♣	K 7 3

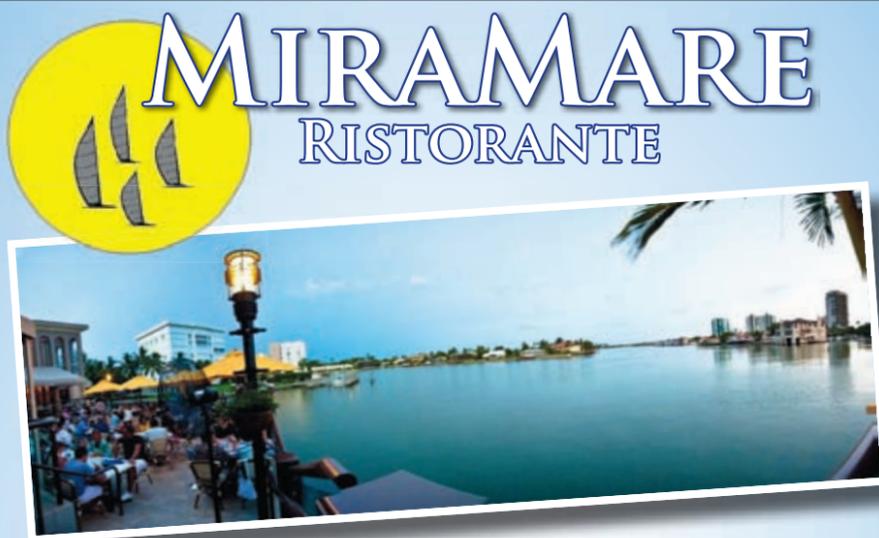
The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

and discards his remaining club on the queen of hearts.

By attacking hearts first, South wins the crucial race against time. He develops a heart trick before the defense can develop a club trick. If declarer leads the wrong suit at trick two, he loses a vital tempo and goes down one. ■



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be asked to match pitch and, depending on their musical background, may be asked to sight-read.

Under the direction of James Cochran, the Youth Chorale rehearses weekly on Saturday mornings with breaks that coincide with public school vacation schedules. Annual tuition is \$125, and the one-time music fee is \$25. Some scholarship assistance is available.

Auditions will be held in the administration building at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. For more information or to schedule an audition, call 254-2642 or e-mail [jlwfer@thephil.org](mailto:jlwfer@thephil.org). ■



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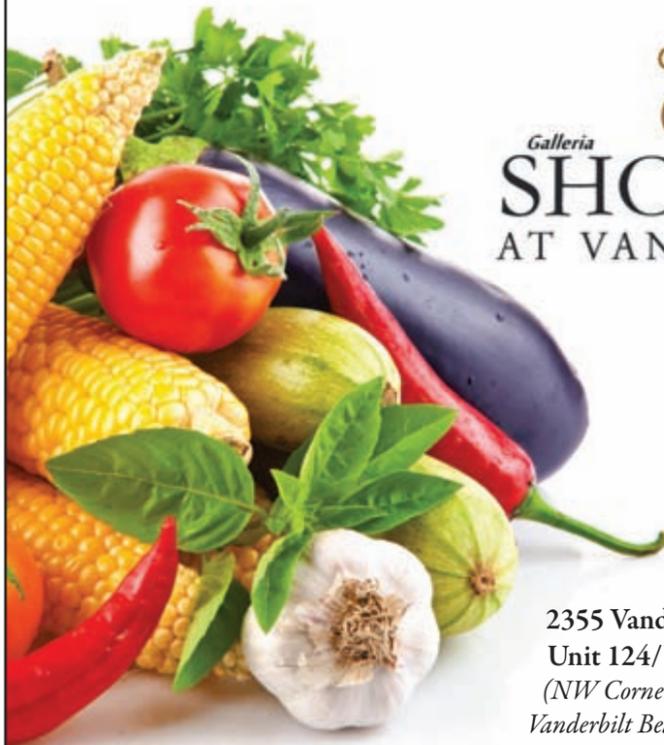
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# EXHIBIT

From page 1

walk me through his couture collection, explaining each bead and why he chose that color, that pattern.”

Ms. Graylock says her quirky view of the world has been inspired by Man Ray’s innovative approach to bringing life to inanimate objects, combined with Cecil Beaton’s hauntingly beautiful usage of lighting with a touch of film noir, Richard Avedon’s freezing movement, Jean Cocteau’s unusual and eerie juxtaposition of the surreal and Andy Warhol’s use of color and breaking all the rules.

She hopes her fine art photographs provoke wonder and curiosity and give the viewer a (sometimes altered) glimpse of ideas and vignettes from her life inspired by the cultural events and artists with whom she has collaborated.

### Up for auction

Ms. Graylock’s “Sit on My Face” collection consists of vintage chairs that she restores before applying one of her photographs to the seat to make a one-of-a-kind piece. Up for auction to benefit ABL Academy will be a Michael Thonet chair featuring Ms. Graylock’s image of George Clooney taken the moment he learned he had been nominated for an Academy award. Another chair featuring her photograph of Angelina Jolie at the 2012 Oscars will be on display. Several pillows bearing the artist’s celebrity images will be available for purchase.

ABLE Academy provides services to children with autism, developmental delays and neurological disorders.



COURTESY PHOTOS  
Angelina Jolie and George Clooney chairs



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# SOCIETY

## A send-off for Naples Illustrated's Kathy Becker at Barbatella



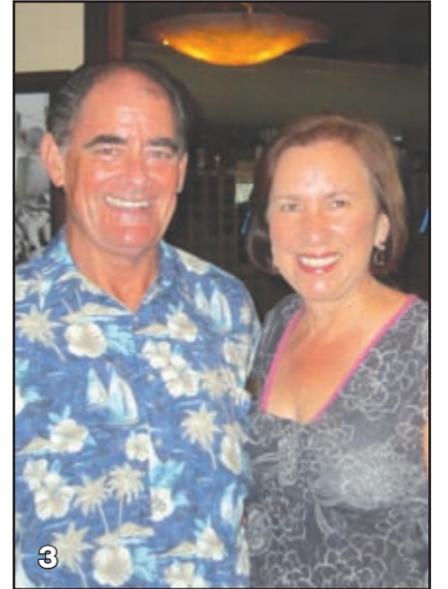
1. Marla Ottenstein and Shawn Holiday
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CINDY PIERCE / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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# SOCIETY

## Happy hour at Aqua with the Wine Tasters of Naples



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2. Maria Murati, Bill McGuigan and Deborah Martins
3. Kevin Kelly and Sandi Wilson
4. John and Sue Lu Goodwin
5. Phyllis Ordogne and Tom Settineri
6. "Mr. G." Goce Sipinkoski, Sherri Weidman and Dan Leamon



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# SOCIETY

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STEPHEN WRIGHT / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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# SOCIETY

A rainy start for 2012 'SummerJazz on the Gulf' series



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4. Judson Carr, Joan and Tony Dignoti and Shirley Carr
5. Brandi Torres and Armani
6. Cathy and Bob Klomprens
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8. Heather and Michael Milner with Todd Saunders and Rebecca Taylor

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BERNADETTE LA PAGLIA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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# Florida Weekly's Restaurant Guide


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# PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

➤ **Agave Southwestern Grill**, 2380 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples; 598-3473

With its blend of Northern Mexican and American Southwestern cuisines, Executive Chef Thomas Rieman's menu puts a sophisticated spin on humble, homespun food the likes of which hasn't previously been seen in Southwest Florida. Brought to us by the folks behind Angelina's Ristorante in Bonita Springs, Agave is a great concept executed with panache. The restaurant pays tribute to the agave plant with 200 varieties of tequila, which can be ordered in flights so you can compare; for those less inclined to take it straight, there are delicious fruit-and-herb-infused margaritas. Tortillas are pressed in house, and sumptuous guacamole is turned out tableside with your choice of ingredients such as roasted garlic, queso fresco and bacon. From a quickly marinated seafood ceviche to a slowly simmered poblano mole, dishes highlight flavorful ingredients and skillful cooking while never sacrificing authenticity. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½

Service: ★ ★ ★ ★

Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★

Reviewed October 2011

➤ **Bokamper's Sports Bar & Grill**, 8990 Fontana Del Sol Way, Naples; 431-7611

With 70-plus flat-screen televisions, you won't miss out on your favorite team's game at this trendy sports bar, the brainchild of former Miami Dolphin Kim Bokamper. What makes this a great choice for sports lovers is an inventive

menu that includes shrimp, calamari, tuna wontons and fish tacos in addition to the usual burgers, wings, sliders and chili. Bo's Banging Shrimp, in a sweet and spicy sauce topped with sesame seeds, were tasty and cooked just right. The signature chicken wings were excellent, too, grilled then topped with a medium hot barbecue and garlic sauce accompanied by a bounty of celery and blue cheese dressing. The fish tacos, made with mahi, were terrific. Apple pie a la mode was a perfect finish to a winning meal. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ½

Service: ★ ★ ★ ½

Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★

Reviewed November 2010

➤ **Mimi's Cooking**, Orange Pine Plaza, 2099 Pine Ridge Road, Naples; 566-2275

There's no bad time to visit Mimi's, but the slow summer season means there likely won't be a crush of people there, leaving the staff to lavish its wonderful service and great food on you. The intimate dining room has the charming ambience of a Parisian café, and the kitchen serves up food to match. Both the classic bouillabaisse and coq au vin were flawless, as were appetizers of endive salad — with spinach, Roquefort cheese chunks and sesame dressing — and organic carrot and ginger soup. Portions are realistically sized, just right for a single sitting. And don't miss dessert. We shared an outstanding warm apple tarte tatin with whipped cream. Service was efficient and warm. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★

Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½

Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½

Reviewed June 2011

➤ **Seasons 52**, 8930 Tamiami Trail N., Naples; 594-8852

This small chain, new to Southwest Florida, has a lot going for it. Start with the regularly changing menu that features seasonal ingredients at their peak of flavor in dishes that forswear indulgence (nothing contains more than 475 calories) without sacrificing flavor. Consider the globe-spanning wine list (more than 100 selections, 52 or more by the glass). And then there's the casual but plush atmosphere that feels organic, with earthy colors, polished woods and stacked stone. Start with one of the flatbreads, cracker-thin pizzas carpeted with precisely arranged toppings and baked in a super-hot brick oven. The menu achieves a good balance of seafood and meats. An artichoke-stuffed shrimp dish was succulent and redolent of sage, while wood-grilled T-bone lamb chops were perfectly cooked and remarkably tender. Save room for dessert without guilt: Seasons 52's "Mini Indulgences" are tiny treats — red velvet cake, pumpkin mousse and much more — served in shot glasses. They're the perfect way to end a meal without going over the edge.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½

Service: ★ ★ ★

Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★

Reviewed November 2011

➤ **Tarpon Bay**, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa, 5001 Coconut Road, Bonita Springs; 444-1234

For a casual seafood bistro, it would be

hard to beat Tarpon Bay. It features a ceviche bar, several varieties of raw oysters and lots of fresh fish. Wine devotees will find a host of interesting selections from which to choose. Dishes are attractively plated and served by a well-informed staff. We loved the sampler platter of ceviche (choose from one, two, three or eight types), particularly the Peruvian, a mix of scallops and mahi in a spicy marinade, and the shrimp with roasted corn, tequila, coriander, cumin and cayenne. This could be a meal unto itself. A Caesar salad contained fresh ingredients and a tasty white anchovy, but the dressing needed a flavor boost. A grilled red snapper paired well with both the young soy white miso sauce and the slightly sweet ponzu sauce, but a spicy tropical salsa was a little overpowering. A tasty lobster pot featured clams, mussels, lobster tail, fingerling potatoes, corn and roasted tomato (we also added seafood sausage, which was delicious). For dessert we ordered a flight of house-made ice creams, and although we loved the peaches and mascarpone cobbler and the kahlua flavor, we'd skip the spiced banana next time. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½

Service: ★ ★ ★ ½

Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★

Reviewed January 2012

**Key to ratings**

★★★★★ Superb	★★ Fair
★★★★ Noteworthy	★ Poor
★★★ Good	



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# CUISINE

## Seafood, scenery make Big Hickory a big attraction



**drewSTERWALD**  
pgnews@floridaweekly.com

Big Hickory Seafood Grille has long been a favorite spot to recommend to visitors and friends looking for a dining experience that offers both memorable food and a unique setting.

For years, the restaurant has been known for pairing seafood with unlikely ingredients — grouper and bananas, for example — and thus showcasing the flavors of Florida and the Caribbean in innovative ways. As for its location, the restaurant exploits the rustic charm of a marina that dates to 1969 and affords an impressive view of bay waters, mangrove islands and the finned and feathered inhabitants of each.

If you're lucky, you might even catch a rainbow arching over the horizon, as we did on a recent stormy night.

It had a been a few years since I visited Big Hickory, and the restaurant has changed hands at least once in the meantime, so I was eager to know how it has weathered the tides of change. I am happy to report that it remains a destination worthy of recommendation. And a destination it is, well north of Bonita Springs' commercial corridors and south of touristy Estero Island.

The off-the-beaten-path restaurant appears to have expanded its outdoor deck since my last visit, but an approaching storm sent us indoors to a nearly packed dining room. An all-you-can-eat Friday night fish fry probably was responsible for the unexpected crowd, but we were just in time to procure a prime window-side table at the back of the house. The room's yellow walls are decorated with marine paraphernalia and colorful original paintings; rope hammocks hanging from the ceiling and reggae music conjure a carefree island atmosphere.

A party of 14 was seated shortly after us, and our server was considerate and candid enough to suggest that we get our orders in soon to avoid the inevitable backup in the kitchen.

The main menu lists only house wines by the quarter-liter, half-liter and liter. My companion wasn't drinking and I didn't want to take my chances, so I settled for San Pellegrino (\$3.95). Later — as we were preparing to leave

— I learned there is a separate list of a dozen whites and reds available by glass and bottle. The server forgot to mention it, even when I asked if it had a full bar.

Seafood, of course, is the main attraction at Big Hickory. But there are other options including burgers, flatbread, tacos, a steak and a couple of chicken dishes. We decided to start with conch fritters and one of the eight salads offered.

The fritters seemed overpriced at \$14 for a half-dozen. But they were better than most, fluffy-light and studded with bits of conch and scallion. They were perfectly fried to a uniform golden brown and accompanied by a raspberry-chipotle dipping sauce that harmonized sweet and smoky.

A small serving of corn and black bean salsa added a splash of color to the plate.

The Big Blue salad (\$11) contained fresh, crisp greens tossed with walnuts, red grapes and crumbled blue cheese. It was a sizeable portion, served with balsamic dressing on the side, as requested.

Because our friendly and efficient server expedited our order ahead of the pending kitchen crush, the entrees arrived before we were quite ready for them. To be fair, we were probably partly to blame for gabbing too much over the first course (my friend and I had a lot of catching up to do).

We decided to steer clear of main dishes we'd enjoyed before at Big Hickory: the aforementioned Cubana grouper with plantains and banana liqueur, and the coconut-crust mahi-mahi with rum and pineapple beurre blanc.

In a similar vein, the apple mango grouper (\$26) was offered as a chef's special and it was indeed special. The fish (noticeably more than the 8 ounces promised on the menu) was nicely bronzed and its thick flakes perfectly moist. The sweetness of the apple-mango salsa served on top was nicely contrasted by a tart passion fruit sauce. A mélange of vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, car-



Above: Big Hickory Seafood Grille is in a Bonita Springs marina.



Left to right: Grouper is paired with apple-mango salsa and passion fruit sauce. Conch fritters come with a delicious raspberry-chipotle dipping sauce.

rots, zucchini) was sautéed to a tender-crisp state. All in all, it was a worthy addition to the restaurant's fruit-and-fish repertoire.

From the seasonal menu, I opted for the shrimp and lobster scampi (\$29), which turned out to be a good choice. Surprisingly, the dish contained as much seafood as it did pasta: large chunks of tender, sweet lobster meat and a trio of jumbo shrimp sautéed just until cooked through. The fettuccine was laced with a light wine and butter sauce with just enough garlic to assert its presence without overpowering the seafood. Buttery toasted bread was provided to sop up any remaining sauce.

Those entrees were a hard act to follow, and desserts aren't made on the premises. The bread pudding (\$7) was dry and unremarkable; the Chocolate Madness (\$7.50) was a dense, moist cake with chocolate mousse and icing — satisfying, but nothing you can't get in any number of other restaurants.

Dessert was never a big reason to visit Big Hickory anyhow. The seafood and scenery are more than reason enough. ■

**in the know**

**Big Hickory Seafood Grille**  
26107 Hickory Blvd., Bonita Springs; 992-0991

**Ratings:**  
Food: ★★★★★  
Service: ★★★  
Atmosphere: ★★★★★

>> **Hours:** 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday  
>> **Reservations:** Accepted  
>> **Credit cards:** Accepted  
>> **Price range:** Appetizers, \$8-\$18; entrees, \$12-\$29  
>> **Beverages:** Beer and wine served  
>> **Specialties of the house:** Seafood  
>> **Volume:** Moderate to high  
>> **Parking:** Marina lot; boat accessible  
>> **Website:** Facebook

★★★★★Superb  
★★★★Noteworthy  
★★★Good  
★★Fair  
★Poor

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