

NAPLES FLORIDA WEEKLY®

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WEEK OF MAY 8-14, 2014

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INSIDE



Here's to moms

From the silver screen to the local stage, mothers are on our minds. **C1** ▶



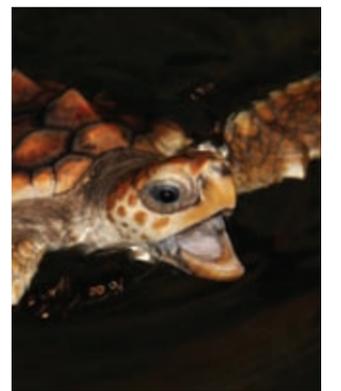
'Old Bags' and more fun

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Here's to the people, places and things that make Southwest Florida so special

2014 Best

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SPECIAL SECTION

D1

Home invasions have law enforcement, residents on high alert



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BY DON MANLEY

Florida Weekly Correspondent

The evening of Feb. 13 at the home of Steve Said and his family was well on the way to closing out as an uneventful one.

By about 8 p.m. that Thursday, everyone — Mr. Said, his wife Diane, their three children ages 13, 16 and 19 and his mother-in-law Victoria — was wiling away the hours by watching television or

getting lost on a computer.

That communal calm was shattered with a breathtaking suddenness when five masked men burst into the White Boulevard home, firearms in hand, through an unlocked door. By the time the intruders departed, the Saims were left shaken, their hands and feet bound by duct tape. They had been robbed of thousands of dollars

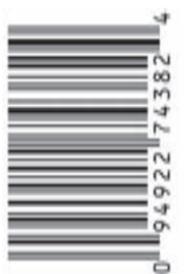
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COMMENTARY

Summer camp

roger WILLIAMS

rwilliams@floridaweekly.com



Too often, parents and grandparents simply accept the status quo when it comes to imprisoning their children in summer camps.

They commonly buy themselves a kid-free week by shuffling their young charges off to the usual art camp or science camp or music camp or nature camp or sports camp, without ever considering a more worthy alternative.

They might even do it two or three times a summer, on each occasion patting themselves on the back for being good parents.

But I want to suggest a much more relevant option: the Issues Camp.

Since nobody has come forward to outline such a camp, I will do it here, for free.

The Issues Camp provides children a hands-on opportunity to safely experience the adult world into which they will soon charge headstrong and self-righteous. The Issues Camp will allow them to experience the activities of adults who were once children, too, but never had such an opportunity for camp, and are now running our world.

Here's how the camp is organized for a five-day period.

Issues Camp, Days 1 & 2: Governance.

Children will practice the key skills required to carry on as federal, state, county or city elected officials.

On these important days they will learn to shake hands (this is also good exercise, especially after shaking hands 300 times in a hot sun); accept lavish treatment from lobbyists (such treatment will include fine meals, special deals on vacation homes or cars, future employment for family members, and future income-producing opportunities, all in return for favors); accept bribes under the table, in which children are taught the basic skills required to pass \$100 bills back and forth under the table without dropping them, or being seen; and decision making.

As future decision makers, children will learn such crucial skills as commissioning a lengthy study, ordering a closed meeting, accepting public records requests with open smiles and then shredding the requested records electronically as well as physically — or simply refusing to provide them until they are sued.

To round out this important portion of Issues Camp, children will be given a short course in the art of blame, titled, "How To Blame The Media." Here, they are taught to mutter two words — "the media" — in an accusatory tone that suggests both nauseated disgust and the detection of a sudden highly unpleasant odor, all while shaking their heads in a negative fashion and pointing their fingers.

They are also taught key expressions, including "the liberal media," or "the one-sided media," or even such historic terminology as "those muckrakers."

Issues Camp, Days 3 & 4: The Environment.

This important two-day introduction

to official stewardship of Florida's natural places can be conducted in one of several locations, depending on the expertise or preferences of camp counselors and instructors. Staff will be specially chosen either from the retired ranks of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or from private industry. For example, veteran instructors might hail from the management teams of the Fanjul Brothers, owners of Domino Sugar and Florida Crystals; or the Dan A. Hughes Co., oil prospectors from Houston, Texas; or Collier Resources, owners of the mineral rights on more than 800,000 of land in and around the western Everglades; or the Deseret Cattle & Citrus ranch near St. Cloud, with the largest poop-producing cow herd in the United States (more than 45,000, producing 33,000 calves a year, according to some reports). That's to name just a few.

The Dumping Hour: Typically, students will gather either along the Kissimmee River near its mouth just north of Lake Okeechobee, or on the Indian River Lagoon System's St. Lucie River east of Lake Okeechobee, or at the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River on the west side of the lake for what the Issues Camp will call, the "Dumping Hour."

This is very likely to be a favorite among both students and staff.

During the Dumping Hour — which may, in fact, last several years or decades — each student will be positioned on the river's edge and supplied with 50-gallon drums of liquid phosphorous, liquid nitrogen, a variety of water soluble pharmaceuticals, containers of traditional household septic waste and big bags of trash.

Following the instructor's count of "One, Two, THREE-STANDS-FOR-INDUSTRY," each student will dump the contents of his or her barrel into the water.

Issues Camp, Day 5: Development.

During this final day of Issues Camp, students will be taught the rudimentary skills required to drive a bulldozer. They will also be given hands-on demonstrations in the laying of asphalt, in which students ride with instructors who allow them to pull the release levers as asphalt is spread across the earth.

In the bulldozer portion of the day, each student will be asked to sit in the driver's seat, lower a massive bucket, put the machine in gear, and drive it forward through an actual patch of native scrub, provided for each student enrolled in Issues Camp. Students are required to remove such anti-development, anti-business, anti-jobs species as saw palmetto, scrub oak, gopher tortoises, new-growth cypress, scrub-jay habitat and the like.

Future Issues Camp courses will teach the art of building large, dense developments on lands where local-government codes restrict them.

By enrolling your child or grandchild in such a camp, you can help provide him or her with real-world skills and an understanding of the realities behind them, presented in an environment full of bonhomie and the warm approval of adults who will be both supportive and very knowledgeable guides to a prosperous Florida future. ■



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OPINION

Challenge to Hillary is Democratic win-win



richLOWRY

Special to Florida Weekly

Hillary Clinton is in a formidable position to win the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, should she decide to run. But someone else also is in an enviable position: Whoever challenges her.

The dynamics of the Democratic 2016 race so far feel more like an incumbent president clearing the primary field of any potential spoilers prior to a re-election bid rather than a wide-open nomination contest. At this early juncture, the question is not so much who will be her opponent(s), but whether she will have any, or even one.

She certainly should. Any serious Democrat with some gumption and ambition would be a fool to pass up the race based on the forecast of a Clinton coronation. Running against Hillary in 2016 is the greatest growth opportunity in the Democratic Party.

Whoever runs against Hillary will, for at least some period of time, be the hottest thing in American politics. On the

cover of Time. Interviewed on all the Sunday shows. A figure of fascination whose every move is followed obsessively by every political outlet in the nation.

All of this happens right out of the gate. It would be a massive barrage of free advertising in exchange for the act of showing up. What politician with national aspirations wouldn't want such a prominent platform?

What he or she would do with it is anyone's guess. That would depend on the proficiency and message of the challenger's campaign, but history suggests that it would more likely than not get some traction.

As much as politics abhors a vacuum, the media hate a stale political narrative. Watching Hillary Clinton march unopposed to the Democratic nomination would be nightmare of tedium for journalists who thrive on conflict and drama. The rooting interest of the press will be for someone to run against Hillary, and to make a real race of it.

As a presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton 2.0 so far looks as though it will be like Hillary Clinton 1.0, only more so. Her campaign will operate on the basis of sheer blunt political force and cold hard cash. Its rationale will be inevita-

bility and the history-making prospect of the first woman president.

She is very unlikely to face anyone with the sheer political skill of Barack Obama, or with a narrative that fits the moment as precisely as his did in 2008. But she hasn't changed. Some of the same factors that accounted for her vulnerability last time haven't gone away: She lacks a deft political touch; the energy of the party is to her left; she has a resume, but not accomplishments; she is cautious to a fault.

There will be a tendency among some Democrats to want to see Hillary spared the rigors of a competitive nomination battle. This is a mistake. The only thing worse for Democrats than Hillary getting roughed up in the primaries would be her getting nominated without any chance to exercise her atrophied political muscles.

Whoever runs against her would in fact be doing her a kind of service, although surely an unappreciated one. And who knows? Hillary's prospective candidacy may look unbeatable, but she's been inevitable before. ■

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

When cruel and unusual punishment becomes usual



amyGOODMAN

Special to Florida Weekly

The state of Oklahoma tortured a man to death last week. On Tuesday, April 29, Clayton Lockett was strapped to a gurney in the state's execution chamber. At 6:23 p.m., before a room of witnesses that included 12 members of the media, the first of three drugs was injected into his veins. Ziva Branstetter, enterprise editor at Tulsa World, was among the reporters who watched. She later reported Lockett's ordeal, minute by minute:

"6:29 p.m. Lockett's eyes are closed and his mouth is open slightly.

"6:31 p.m. The doctor checks Lockett's pupils and places his hand on the inmate's chest, shaking him slightly. 'Mr. Lockett is not unconscious,' (Oklahoma State Penitentiary Warden Anita) Trammell states."

Branstetter's detailed eyewitness account goes on:

"6:38 p.m. Lockett is grimacing, grunting and lifting his head and shoulders entirely up from the gurney. ... He appears to be in pain."

Suddenly, the blinds were lowered, concealing the grim activity in the execution chamber. The reporters were told to exit. Lockett was pronounced dead at 7:06 p.m. Branstetter said on the "Democracy Now!" news hour, "We were told by the Department of Corrections last night that they haven't even determined that this qualified as an execution, because he died of a heart attack 43 minutes later." Most Oklahoma executions last about six minutes. Department of Corrections Director Robert Patton later explained, "His vein exploded."

Oklahoma had never used this particular "lethal cocktail" before: midazolam, a sedative; vecuronium bromide, to stop respiration; and potassium chloride, to stop the heart. Charles Warner was scheduled to be killed on the same day as Lockett. After the horrifically botched execu-

tion of Lockett, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin issued a 14-day stay of execution for Warner. Announcing a review of lethal injections, Fallin said on Wednesday that "the state needs to be certain of its protocols and procedures for executions and that they work." While the review she has ordered will include an autopsy of Lockett by an independent pathologist, the overall review is being conducted by a member of her cabinet, so its independence is being questioned.

Lockett and Warner had sued Oklahoma, claiming that the secrecy surrounding the source of the drugs and the execution cocktail violated their constitutional rights. One Oklahoma judge agreed and issued a stay last month. Justices of the Oklahoma Supreme Court ultimately agreed and issued their own stay of execution on April 21. On April 22, Gov. Fallin, claiming the Supreme Court had no jurisdiction, ignored the stays and rescheduled the executions to April 29. The next day, the Supreme Court rescinded its stay, stating that the inmates do not, in fact, have the right to know the chemicals to be used in their execution.

"After weeks of Oklahoma refusing to disclose basic information about the drugs for tonight's lethal-injection procedures, tonight, Clayton Lockett was tortured to death," said Madeline Cohen, attorney for the other condemned man, Charles Warner. "The state must disclose complete information about the drugs, including their purity, efficacy, source and the results of any testing. Until much more is known about tonight's failed experiment of an execution, no execution can be permitted in Oklahoma."

Lockett's botched execution follows on the heels of a similar debacle in Ohio. On Jan. 16, Dennis McGuire was subjected to a two-drug cocktail. His son, also Dennis, witnessed the ordeal: "My dad began gasping and struggling to breathe. I watched his stomach heave. I watched him try to sit up against the straps on the gurney. I watched him repeatedly clench his fists. It appeared to me he was fighting for his life, but suffocating. The agony and

terror of watching my dad suffocate to death lasted more than 19 minutes."

There are many more such stories. States are desperate for the execution drugs, as pharmaceutical companies in Europe refuse to sell to state governments in the U.S. any chemical that might be used in an execution. The Colorado Independent obtained email documents showing the assistant Oklahoma attorney general joking with a Texas colleague that he might be able to help Texas get the drugs in exchange for 50-yard line tickets for a top college football game.

The Death Penalty Information Center lists 144 people who have been exonerated from death row since 1973. These are innocent people who might have been executed. An article published in the respected Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, released just a day before Lockett's execution, suggests that more than 4 percent of all death-row prisoners would be exonerated, given enough time to properly review their cases. Even in cases where guilt is not in question, an argument can be made on a purely financial basis. It costs three to four times more to execute a prisoner than it does to incarcerate for life with no chance of parole.

Most developed nations have banned capital punishment. The United States stands shoulder to shoulder in continuing this barbaric practice with countries like China, Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia. As states commit atrocious experiments on prisoners like Lockett, it is vital to remember that the Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. Sadly, cruel and unusual is becoming more and more usual. ■

— 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 1,200 stations in North America. She is the co-author of "The Silenced Majority," a New York Times best-seller.



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Ice cream shop fundraiser for accident victim

Treat yourself to a sweet frozen treat from Uncle Louie G's Homemade Gourmet Italian Ices and Ice Cream between noon and 11 p.m. Friday, May 9, and your indulgence will benefit a young Naples resident and his family in need. Owner Kenneth Dorian will donate 100 percent of the day's proceeds from ice cream and Italian ice sales to a fund for Nick Healey, the Barron Collier High School student who was involved in an automobile accident over spring break in Georgia and subsequently had his leg amputated.

Numerous local merchants have donated gift cards for a raffle at the ice-cream shop as well. Money raised will help the Healey family cover travel expenses during Nick's recovery in Georgia and other expenses during his rehabilitation at home. The family is moving this week from a second-story apartment to a one-level home to accommodate Nick's recovery.

Uncle Louie G's is at 7385 Radio Road, next to Beef O'Brady's in Berkshire Commons. ■



PROFILES IN PARADISE

Airport director lands Civil Air Patrol award



The Florida Wing of the Civil Air Patrol recently named Ted Soliday, who celebrates 20 years with the Naples Airport Authority this year, as the recipient of the 2014 Frank G. Brewer Sr. Civil Air Patrol Memorial Aerospace Award.

As a U.S. Marine Corps helicopter pilot, Mr. Soliday flew more than 700 combat missions and later served as captain and air traffic controller. He volunteers as a career advisor to college students, with a special interest in those considering military service, and his efforts as president of the Florida Airports Council scholarship council successfully reinvigorated the scholarship program and raised funds to support those pursuing aviation careers.

Mr. Soliday's ongoing support of the Civil Air Patrol began in the early 1980s in Oregon, where he fostered a partnership between CAP and the Boy Scouts that launched a program for several Eagle Badge projects. Since then, he has served for more than 50 years in every capacity in Boy Scouts, including his current position as a district representative to the Southwest Florida Council and an Eagle Scout board of review member.

Under his leadership, Naples Municipal Airport was named the Florida

Department of Transportation 2012 General Aviation Airport of the Year and was recognized with the Florida Airports Council 2013 Community Affairs Award.

He grew up in Wheeling, W. Va., as the youngest of five siblings. His father worked on the Manhattan Project, and his mother taught elementary school. After serving in the military, he earned a bachelor's degree in aviation management from Auburn University.

A graduate of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce Leadership Collier and Leadership Institute programs, Mr. Soliday belongs to the Rotary Club of Naples-North, the Retired Officers

Association and the Marco-Naples Reserve Officers Association, Chapter 27.

Married for 45 years, he and his wife Cheryl have served as a shelter family and foster parents, hosted international exchange students and provided housing and support to families brought to the U.S. for medical services by Rotary. Their two sons, also Marine Corps veterans, have given them eight grandchildren. ■

— Bob Harden is the producer and host of "The Bob Harden Show," airing from 7-8 a.m. weekdays at www.bobharden.com.

Talking points with Ted Soliday



Something your mother was always right about: Her example showed me the importance of education and the value of kindness.

First job(s): I had my first paper route in the seventh grade and had two routes by the time I was a freshman. I began mowing lawns for many of the people on my paper routes and later pumped gas, sold oil and cleaned boats at a boat club on the Ohio River. Some of the club members let me use their boats, and that led to teaching water skiing.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? A pilot or a musician. In high school I played trombone in a band called Teens Six.

Most memorable vacations: To New Zealand and Germany to visit our former exchange students.

Something you'll never understand: How people who lie can face themselves in the mirror.

Something people might be surprised to find out about you: I competed in a multi-state racquetball league.

Advice for your grandkids: First, don't expect an inheritance. And second, take full advantage of all the educational opportunities offered you.

Last book read: "Marble Mountain: A Vietnam Memoir" by Naples author Bud Willis. His account of his 1966 combat tour as a Marine helicopter pilot reflects my experiences in the Marines.

Pet peeve: I don't carry a Santa Claus bag of grudges and aggravations.

Guilty pleasure: Gin, and I don't feel guilty about it at all!

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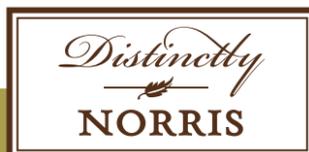
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Baby sea turtle named 'Betsy' in honor of longtime advocate

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

In an emotional meeting at the Conservancy Nature Center on April 18, longtime sea turtle advocate and volunteer Betsy Sandstrom met her new namesake. Ms. Sandstrom, who is terminally ill, was surrounded by more than 120 friends and family members as Conservancy President and CEO Rob Moher announced the Conservancy's baby loggerhead sea turtle would be named "Betsy."

"How all of this came together is nothing short of magnificent and miraculous," said Andrea Jones, a longtime friend of Ms. Sandstrom.

One of the Conservancy's most accomplished and long-running projects is its research and work to monitor and protect loggerheads. It is one of the few organizations that hold a permit to house the species.

When staff learned about the baby turtle's pending arrival at the Nature Center, they knew they would want to use it toward educating the community about the importance of the species to Southwest Florida's ecosystem.

"We believe if we can connect people with nature, the more willing they are to protect it," Mr. Moher said.

Following the hatchling's arrival, a contest was launched on social media to help give the little loggerhead a name. When she learned of the contest, Ms. Jones knew it would be the perfect way to honor her friend.

Ms. Sandstrom is beloved among friends and colleagues as a passionate supporter and defender of the threatened species as well as a longtime volunteer with the Bonita Springs/Fort Myers Beach organization Turtle Time. After losing her hair during treatment for her cancer, she decided to further



Betsy Sandstrom with a loggerhead hatchling in August 2012.

COURTESY PHOTOS

demonstrate her passion for protecting sea turtles by placing temporary tattoos on her head for every turtle nest found last season.

"I wanted to do something nice for my friend," Ms. Jones said. "I love her and would do anything for her. The opportunity to leave a legacy in her name which continues inspir-

ing awareness for the animal she so loved, is just incredible."

The result has been something even greater, however, according to David Webb, Conservancy director of environmental education. "Betsy Sandstrom's devotion to protect sea turtles has brought us together," he said.

in the know

Loggerhead sea turtle facts

- >> **Scientific name:** *Caretta caretta*
- >> **Adult length:** 3 feet
- >> **Weight:** 250-300 pounds
- >> **Lifespan:** 50-plus years
- >> **Habitat:** Widely distributed throughout temperate and tropical regions of the ocean. Here in Florida, sea turtles forage in sea grass beds, rocky patches and reef areas, just like visitors can see in the Conservancy's 6,000-gallon aquarium.
- >> **Diet:** Primarily carnivorous
- >> **Protection status:** Threatened in Florida, endangered in other parts of the world
- >> **Threats:** As hatchlings, sea turtles face several natural predators, but as adults their only predators are sharks and humans. Human threats include habitat loss, poaching, pollution, litter (such as plastic bags), commercial fishing and boat collisions.

For more information, visit www.Seaturtle.org, www.turtletime.org or www.conservancy.org/seaturtles.

Loggerheads have a very low survival rate in the wild. Only one in 1,000 sea turtles survives to adulthood. True to its mission of protecting Southwest Florida's water, land and wildlife, the Conservancy began the Florida Sea Turtle Monitoring and Protection Program in 1982 on Keewaydin Island. Now, in its 32nd year, the program has saved nearly 260,000 little loggerheads.

The new nesting season began on May 1 and extends through October. Female loggerheads return the beaches where they are hatched 25 years later when it is their time to nest. They lay 100-120 eggs per nest and

SEE BETSY, A9 ►



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BETSY

From page 8

can return multiple times during a nesting season to lay clutches.

Hatchlings follow the lightest part of the horizon (reflected light over the water), which is how they find their way from the nest to the water. This is why beachfront residents are urged to keep lights off at night during the nesting season.

Florida is one of only two epicenters in the world where loggerheads come to nest. Through patrolling beaches, marking nests, tagging turtles, counting hatched eggs and educating the community, the Conservancy's team works to protect and monitor the success of loggerhead sea turtle nests.

"Imagine the devastation to this amaz-

ing species if our protection program didn't exist," said Dave Addison, senior biologist at the Conservancy.

Back at the Conservancy's Nature Center, Betsy the loggerhead now serves as an educational ambassador for the species. She will be released into the wild when she reaches the size by which she can survive on her own; the hope is that she will return to create nests of her own.

"We hope that everyone who hears this story and visits our Betsy will be inspired to support sea turtle protection too," Mr. Moher said. "We are proud to give our baby sea turtle a name that carries with it such a wonderful legacy." ■

Right: Betsy the loggerhead, named in honor of longtime sea turtle advocate Betsy Sandstrom.



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Business leaders impart networking lessons to Immokalee students

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Students of The Immokalee Foundation gained valuable knowledge and insight from some of the area's most respected business leaders during the organization's third annual networking reception at the Hilton Naples.

Thirty high school juniors and seniors participating in TIF's career development program came dressed to impress and interact with local businessmen and women, sharing their goals, ambitions and how they plan to achieve their vision. The business executives shared stories of their own experiences and lessons learned throughout their lives and careers to help guide students in preparation for their transition to college and beyond.

Prior to the afternoon reception, students attended an etiquette training session and luncheon with Dawn Magaril and Dirga Buwana of The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. Then they were ready to practice their skills and prepared to ask questions about their prospective career paths. They mingled throughout the room, introducing themselves to more than 30 professionals in a variety of leadership positions from companies such as Edison State College, Arthrex, Coldwell Banker, the Hilton Naples, The Print Shop, McKenney Home Care, Collier County Sheriff's Office, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Central Bank, Bay Colony Golf Club, NCH Healthcare Systems and Gravina, Smith, Matte & Arnold Marketing and Public Relations. In addition, several TIF board members, staff, ambassadors and mentors gave their encouragement and advice to the students they support all year long.

In preparation for the networking recep-

tion, Lori Kleiman, an entrepreneur and member of National Speakers Association, hosted a networking training for the students in March. The students also created business cards prior to the event, which included their college of choice and major. While working the room, they exchanged cards with the business professionals in hopes of making connections that could further their potential job opportunities. Their face-to-face interactions with local pros are instrumental in helping these future business leaders build confidence and gain skills necessary to achieve their dreams, and the students were grateful for the opportunity.

Maria Sebastian-Jimenez, an Immokalee High School junior who wants to major in nursing at Edison State College, was happy to be a part of the day's activities. "It allowed me to meet new people and feel more comfortable," she said. "The business leaders have inspired me to reach for my goal and not give up."

Jovenel Benjamin, a member of TIF's Take Stock In Children program, has dreams of attending ESC and then transferring to receive a degree in mechanical engineering. "It's great to meet people with connections and beneficial to have confidence when meeting new people."

Kenia Jean-Pierre, a senior at Immokalee High School, aims to attend community college to become a paralegal and then transfer to Florida State University to study criminal justice and international relations. Ultimately, she wants to become a judge at an appellate court. She is especially indebted to TIF for helping to open her eyes. "Coming from a small town, I had small views," she said. "TIF gives me hope and makes me believe if I work



COURTESY PHOTO

Jeff Allbritten, president of Edison State College, discusses the finer points of networking with Immokalee High School juniors and seniors during The Immokalee Foundation's third annual networking reception at the Hilton Naples.

hard, I can achieve my dreams."

With business leaders representing numerous companies and careers, students appreciated the confirmation that a wide variety of options are available to them. The business professionals also provided insights into making connections and building lasting beneficial relationships that are crucial to securing a job and advancing in a career.

Manuel Ramirez, a junior at Immokalee High School, picked up some tips for the interview process and heard about the importance of money and time management — all helpful information as he prepares for his future. He wants to major in business management at University of South Florida.

The students also came to realize that social skills make a noticeable difference in the business community. Anita Munoz-Trejo,

a senior at Immokalee High School who hopes to major in health science at Florida Gulf Coast University, said the manners lessons she learned will boost her confidence when dining at a business event.

Junior Edwin Herard said he learned something equally significant: "It's important to major in something you love, follow your heart, set goals and prioritize yourself."

The Immokalee Foundation has a range of programs that focus on building pathways to success through college and post-secondary training, mentoring and tutoring, and opportunities for broadening experiences, life skills development and economic independence. To learn more about TIF, volunteering as a mentor or for additional information, call 430-9122 or visit www.immokaleefoundation.org. ■

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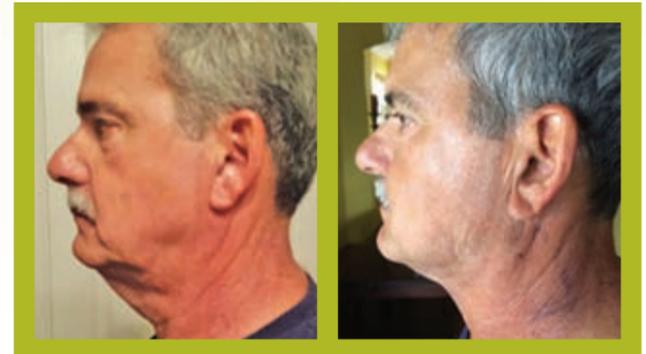
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38th annual Great Dock Canoe Race makes a splash

The 38th edition of a beloved Naples tradition, the Great Dock Canoe Race, is set for Saturday, May 10, at Crayton Cove. The fun begins at 11 a.m. with a parade of boats decked out to this year's "Zombies in Paradise" theme in hopes of winning the \$1,000 best-dressed prize.

Long-time emcee and race founder Vin DePasquale of The Dock restaurant will be joined by co-emcee Jerry Conti. John Cox, president and CEO of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, will serve as grand marshal of the race.

An important element of the race every year is the \$5,000 grant awarded to a local children's charity each year. This year's beneficiary is Drug Free Collier; funds from

the Great Dock Canoe Race will support drug and alcohol abuse prevention clubs, known as the CORE Society, at Naples High School and Gulfview Middle School. Funding will provide materials for the school-wide and community outreach initiatives led by students and compensation of the faculty advisor who works with the students each week. New CORE clubs are starting at other schools throughout Collier County.

After the parade of decorated boats, the Great Dock Canoe Race sets out in three heats. Those who are racing largely for the fun of it will set off around 1 p.m. in three categories: Ambitious Amateurs, Next Generation (12- to 17-year-olds paddling

with a parent or guardian) and Truly Tenacious (both canoeists age 65 or older). This means there'll be some "contra-flow" as teams pass each other racing in opposite directions, with the hoped-for result being a tighter race overall and more interest for spectators.

In addition to The Dock, this year's race is sponsored by Riverwalk at Tin City. Underwriting for the VIP Sprint is provided by the Lutgert Companies/Lutgert Insurance/Premier Sotheby's International Realty and First National Bank of the Gulf Coast. Wiegold One Hour Air Conditioning & Heating is sponsoring the Ambitious Amateurs race, and the Cove Inn is sponsoring the Truly Tenacious race. This year's media sponsor

is Renda Broadcasting, including Mix 104.7 and 98.9FM WGUF. Naples Extreme Family Fun Spot is sponsoring the safety boats, Bleu Provence French Restaurant is the canoe crew sponsor, and Sierra Grande and Childs & Childs Cosmetic Dentistry are the trolley co-sponsors. The city of Naples also is a long-time race sponsor.

Trolley service from parking areas along Eighth Street South at Sixth Avenue South and Eighth Avenue South will be available from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on racy day. Spectator boats must stay within the designated area, and safe boating rules will be enforced.

For more information, visit www.great-dockcanoerace.com. ■

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Monday, May 12 - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, 1225 Piper Blvd.; 498-5734.

Tuesday, May 13 - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Germain Toyota, 13315 Tamiami Trail N.; 269-6050.

Thursday, May 15 - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Germain Toyota (see above).

Friday, May 16 - 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vineyards, 6231 Arbor Blvd.; 732-5310.

Tuesday, May 20 - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, 15600 Tamiami Trail N.; 269-6050.

Thursday, May 22 - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Marco Lutheran Church, 525 Collier Blvd, Marco Island; (734) 968-3105. ■

Floridians' confidence in economy stays fairly flat

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Floridians' consumer sentiment declined one point in April to 79, according to a new University of Florida survey.

"As we expected, the overall consumer sentiment index is remaining relatively flat given the lack of significant economic news," says Chris McCarty, director of UF's Survey Research Center in the Bureau of Economic and Business Research. "Here in Florida, the economy remains on a steady path without any big changes either negative or positive."

Three of the five components making up the index decreased, and two increased.

Respondents' overall opinion that they are financially more secure than a year ago fell three points to 69 from a post-recession high in March. Their expectations of improved personal finances a year from now also fell, dropping six points to 77. Confidence in U.S. economic conditions over the next year dropped five points to 77, but expectations that the nation's economy will do better over the next five years rose five points to 82. Finally, the component

measuring whether the present is a good time to buy a big-ticket item, such as a car, increased three points to 89.

Florida's unruffled consumer sentiment, however, is five points lower than the national level of 84. Concern over employment might help explain why. Last month Florida's unemployment rate ticked up one-tenth of a percent to 6.3 percent. This, however, is not necessarily bad news, Mr. McCarty says.

"A typical pattern after most recessions is for unemployment to temporarily increase, as previously discouraged workers see more job availability and reenter the labor force," he explains. "There is no doubt that Florida lost workers from the labor force. The question is whether they permanently left to take early retirement, or whether they temporarily left for job training or are just biding time until the labor market improves."

Florida's labor force also got bigger.

"While it is too early to tell, this increase could signal improvements ahead in Florida's job market, at least for those workers having a job even if the wages for those jobs are lower than they were prior to the recession," Mr.

McCarty adds.

Housing continued to improve in March with the median price for a single-family home rising to \$173,000, a level not achieved since last August. However, a recent report on national new home sales for March was down 14.5 percent, indicating there may be a slowdown in housing this year compared to last year.

Floridians can expect consumer confidence to remain in the upper 70s to low 80s, given the dearth of significant economic news. However, international developments, such as the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and a continuing decline in the growth of the Chinese economy could darken consumers' mood.

Conducted April 1-24, the UF study reflects the responses of 402 individuals, representing a demographic cross-section of Florida.

The index used by UF researchers is benchmarked to 1966, which means a value of 100 represents the same level of confidence for that year. The lowest index possible is a two; the highest is 150.

Details of the April survey can be found at www.bebr.ufl.edu/cfi. ■



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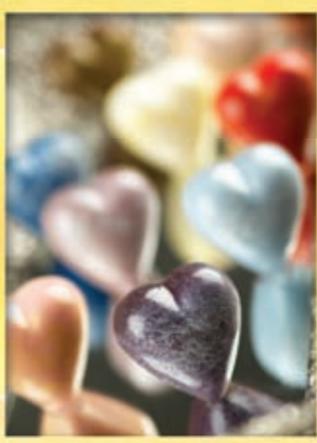
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

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Price of friendship

"Whoever said, 'Money can't buy you friends' clearly hasn't been on the Internet recently," wrote *The New York Times* in April, pointing to various social media support services that create online superstars by augmenting one's Facebook "friends," Twitter "followers" and Instagram "likes." The reporter described how, by paying a company \$5, for example, he immediately acquired 4,000 "friends," and had he splurged for \$3,700, could

have had a million on his Instagram photo account. Such services have been around for two years, but earlier, cruder versions (sometimes, just unmonitored email addresses) are now sophisticated "bots" — groups of computer code created on algorithm farms in India and elsewhere — that "behave" on social media with original messaging (often "drivel," wrote the *Times*) as if they were real people.

The entrepreneurial spirit

■ In April, Haagen-Dazs announced it will introduce two new ice creams (thankfully, only in Japan): carrot orange (with bits of pulp and peel) and tomato cherry (made from tomato paste).

■ A South Wales ice cream maker ("Lick Me I'm Delicious") announced in April that it has perfected an ice cream containing about 25mg of Viagra per scoop (though it is not yet generally available).

■ In January, London's *Daily Telegraph* found three British companies in compe-

dition to sell deodorant supposedly made especially for women's breasts. According to one, Fresh Body, "We're replacing 'swoobs' — dreaded boob sweat — with smiles."

■ Owner Christian Ingber recently opened a sandwich shop in Gothenburg, Sweden, named "A F***ing Awesome Sandwich." An American expatriate told Stockholm's *The Local* news service that Swedes think English "curse words" are "cute and charming."

Science fair

■ China's *Chengdu Commercial Daily* reported in March that Liu Yougang, 23, finally had surgery to remove that whistle he had swallowed when he was 9. He had been experiencing worsened breathing — and had been making "shrill whistle sounds" nightly after falling asleep.

■ London's *Daily Star* featured Sarah Beal, 43, of Arley, Warwickshire, England, in a March story demonstrating her skin condition in which writing words on her skin makes it puff up for about an hour before it recedes. It is referred to by doctors as the "Etch A Sketch condition" (formally, dermatographia), and despite occasional pain, she described it as "cool" and a "party trick."

■ Cornell University graduate student Michael Smith, disappointed at the paucity of research on the pain of honeybee

stings, decided to evaluate the stings himself (but in line with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 on safe self-experimentation). Mr. Smith's protocols required five stings a day on various body locations for 38 days — at least three on each of 25 body areas. The worst, according to his pain index, were the nostril (9.0) and the upper lip (8.7).

■ North Carolina's Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine is already well known to News of the Weird readers for creating functional organs in the lab (most notably, perhaps, growing a human bladder and a rabbit's penis). In an April article in the *Lancet*, the program announced that it had implanted artificial vaginas in four women in the U.S. A functioning vagina, the director told BBC News, "is a very important thing."

Leading economic indicators

■ While Medicare continues to be among the most costly federal services, and U.S. doctors continue to drop out of the program because of paltry fees for some procedures, other specialists are rewarded with such outsized compensation that almost 4,000 physicians were paid \$1 million or more for 2012 and about 350 of those totaled nearly \$1.5 billion, according to Medicare records released in April 2014. Ophthalmologist Salomon Melgen of West Palm Beach, Fla., took in more than \$20 million and treated 645 Medicare patients with a total of 37,000 injectable doses of Lucentis (a much more expensive drug than the popularly regarded equivalent, Avastin), according to Business Insider. (In fact, taxpayers

could have saved more than \$11 million with Avastin on Dr. Melgen's billings alone, according to an April *Washington Post* analysis.)

■ Visitors to the New York City office of Clear Channel radio station group chairman Bob Pittman are greeted exotically as they step off the elevator by a "tunnel" of "fine mist." However, a spokeswoman told a *New York Post* reporter in March that it "isn't for cooling or humidifying," but to impress advertisers, in that Clear Channel knows how to project the advertiser's logo against the mist. (Clear Channel, the *Post* reported, is \$21 billion in debt and has laid off "thousands" of employees.)

Intelligent design

■ In a springtime rite in Narcisse, Manitoba, tens of thousands of red-sided garter snakes slithered out of pits in March so that writhing males could hook up with "pheromone-spewing" females. London's *Daily Mail* called it the largest gathering of snakes on the planet — with balls of males wrapped around females.

■ Once again this year, the Toads on

Roads charity in Sleaford, England, called for volunteers in February to police a highway where post-hibernating female toads carry horny males on their backs across a road to mate in marshes. Without help, said the charity, up to two-thirds of the amorous toads would not survive oncoming cars. ■



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Students earn Take Stock scholarships

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Champions For Learning-The Education Foundation congratulates the 26 newest graduates of its Take Stock In Children scholarship and mentoring program. Each has earned a scholarship to a Florida state college or university.

A graduation celebration was held at the Bower Chapel at Moorings Park on April 24.

The 2014 Take Stock In Children class was named in honor of longtime Naples resident Lavern Gaynor.

"Mrs. Gaynor so graciously models the importance of giving back and investing in our community and young people," said Susan McManus, president of Champions For Learning.

Elaine Hallfin, who has mentored two young women through the Take Stock In Children program since 2008, was recognized as the 2014 Mentor of the Year.

Take Stock In Children identifies eighth-grade students who are economically challenged, who do not have discipline records and who promise to maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average, meet weekly with a mentor and remain drug- and crime-free. Many of these students excel above these requisites by maintaining honor roll grades, participating in clubs and community service and holding down part-time jobs.

Champions For Learning has had more than 435 Collier County students in the program since 1999 and currently has 167 students participating. Statistics show that 90 percent of the students

who enroll complete the program and earn their scholarship and that 95 percent graduate high school.

Champions For Learning is able to purchase 65 two-year college scholarships for \$4,000 each for the Take Stock In Children Program through the Florida Prepaid Foundation's Stanley Tate Project STARS Matching Fund. For more information or to find out about becoming a Take Stock IN Children mentor, call 643-4755 or visit www.ChampionsForLearning.org. ■

in the know

The 2014 graduates of the Champions For Learning Take Stock In Children program, listed by school:

- >> **Barron Collier High:** Valerie Damasini
- >> **Golden Gate High:** Beatriz Angeles, Jason Bigler, Gabriela Caballero, Jessica Dorestil, Sherly Latortue, Sarah Macedo, Nolmie Marc, Jose Martinez, Sulem Morales, Jesye Reyes, Jacob Sahagian, Marisa Santoyo Solorio, Yrline Seraphin, Nellie Victor, Emily Weekes, Jamie Williams and Tierra Woods
- >> **Gulf Coast High:** Nageb Elayan
- >> **Lely High:** Elizabeth Garcia, Melissa Gomez and Kristen Porreca
- >> **Naples High:** Brian Donnelly, Trenton Rocco and Sava Vukovic
- >> **Palmetto Ridge High:** Antoine Gonzalez



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Paris-themed evening raises funds for early childhood scholarships

The CCCR Business 100, a group of 40-plus businesses that support Collier Child Care Resources, raised \$12,000 for the cause at "Une Nuit à Paris." Proceeds will provide scholarship assistance to families of children at the NCEF Early Childhood Development Center on the campus of Edison State College. Approximately 40 percent of the families whose children attend CCCR's early learning program live at or below poverty level, and 75 percent receive tuition assistance.



COURTESY PHOTO
"Ballerina in Pink Sneakers" was auctioned off at "Une Nuit à Paris." See more photos from the evening on page C25.

"A Night in Paris" featured a live auction of French-inspired artwork including paintings, sculptures, Faberge-like eggs and hand-painted scarves, all created by children ages 2-5 enrolled at the center. The young artists worked under the guidance of the center's Paisley Bailey. Event co-chairs were Carolyn Tieger and Miranda Sharkey.

In addition to the NCEF Early Childhood Development Center, CCCR operates "A Step Up" programs at Golden Gate High School and Immokalee High School, providing childcare for more than 100 children so their teen parents can continue in school. CCCR also offers training classes and continuing education for early learning professionals and sponsors an annual early childhood conference (see related story on this page). ■

Registration open for conference

Collier Child Care Resources presents "Rethinking What It Means to Teach: The Teacher's Role in a Constructivist Classroom" at its seventh annual Early Childhood Conference on Saturday, May 24, at Hodges University.

CCCR Executive Director Niccole Howard, executive Director of Collier Child Care Resources, describes constructivism in the classroom as "problem-based, adaptive learning that integrates new knowledge with existing knowledge resulting in learners who are self-directed, creative, innovative and able to draw upon multiple intelligences."

Conference keynote speaker is Alise Shafer, the founder of Evergreen Community School in Santa Monica, Cali. Ms. Shafer is

the author of "Teaching and Learning: Collaborative Exploration of the Reggio Emilia Approach" and has presented at the Tedx Conference.

The conference takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with continental breakfast and registration starting at 8 a.m. More than 250 early childhood educators and parents of young children are expected to attend.

Registration is \$60 if received by May 17 and \$75 after that. Four CEUs are available for \$20. Limited scholarships are available for attendees, and various levels of sponsorships are available for businesses and individuals who wish to support the conference.

For more information, call 643-3908 or visit www.collierchildcare.org. ■



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Author Unknown

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Easter weekend was a significant one for teamwork at NCH, particularly for our blood bank colleagues, who are usually in the background but whose contributions should never be underestimated. The following email from Danielle Byers, R.N., tells the story:

"On Saturday in the Operating Room, we received a call from obstetrics about a patient delivered two hours prior and was hemorrhaging. Dr. Emily Clements scheduled a D&C for control of bleeding. Dr. Tom Cook and an anesthesia student went to assist in the transfer to OR.

"While waiting, I was called again by Cathy Stevens, R.N., from OB stating the patient was crashing and on her way ... It was a crazy situation.

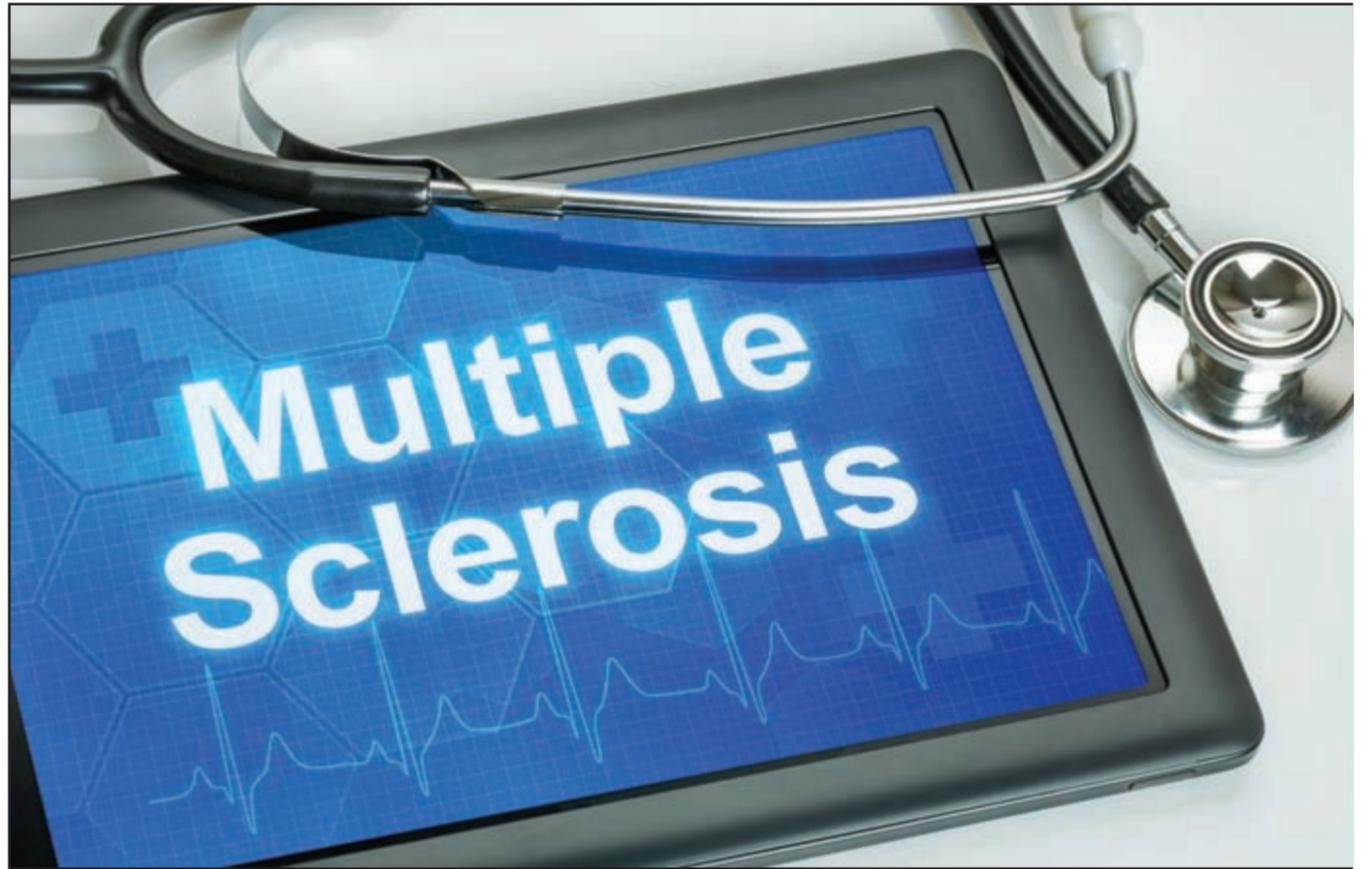
"... As Dr. Cook and some anesthesia students worked feverishly to resuscitate her ... Dr. Clements decided an abdominal hysterectomy would be necessary.

"Our people were amazing. Melody Bacon, Chris Raphael and the nurses from OB were vital in getting the patient to the OR with amazing speed. The young anesthesia students, Samantha Thomas, Erin Wilson and Nathan Moos, and Dr. Cook were able to resuscitate the patient with 17 units of blood products and fluids ... es Whitright, CRNA, also came to assist the anesthesia team and was imperative to this patient's survival. Thank you to all of them.

"The situation was dire at best ... Endo nurses Carolyn Davie and Janet Tipper, R.N.s, came to help of their own accord and aided in the checking of blood products and anything that needed to be done to help.

"My scrub tech, Yves Desruiseaux, was phenomenal in providing the physicians with what they needed to care for this patient. In all my years of OR experience, I have come to realize that the caliber of a

SEE WEISS, A23 ►



Combined therapies show improvement in MS symptoms

Combining the estrogen hormone estriol with Copaxone, a drug indicated for the treatment of patients with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis, or MS, may improve symptoms in patients with the disorder, according to preliminary results from a clinical study of 158 patients with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis. The findings were presented recently by Rhonda Voskuhl, M.D., from the University of California, Los Angeles, at the American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The study was funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health; and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

"While these results are encouraging, the results of this Phase II study should be considered preliminary as a larger study would be needed to know whether benefits outweigh the risks for persons affected by MS. At present, we cannot recommend estrogen as part of standard therapy for MS. We encourage patients to talk with their doctors before making any

changes to their treatment plans," said Walter Koroshetz, M.D., deputy director of NINDS.

MS is an autoimmune disorder in which immune cells break down myelin, a protective covering that wraps around nerve cells. Loss of myelin results in pain, movement and balance problems as well as changes in cognitive ability. RRMS is the most common form of the disorder. Patients with RRMS experience relapses, or flare-ups, of neurological symptoms, followed by recovery periods during which the symptoms improve.

Numerous laboratory studies have suggested that estrogen may have neuroprotective effects and may help decrease inflammation, which occurs in MS. In addition, it has been reported that MS patients experience improvement in symptoms during the phase of pregnancy when levels of estrogen increase. However, studies looking at the effects of estrogen therapy on women's health have shown mixed results. Estriol, the form of estrogen examined in this study, is only produced in the

body during pregnancy.

In this two-year study, patients received Copaxone along with 8 milligrams per day of estriol or placebo pills. The primary goal of the trial was to determine if estriol helped decrease the number of relapses experienced by RRMS patients who were also taking Copaxone.

Researchers found that at 12 months, estrogen combination therapy was associated with a greater reduction in relapse rates compared to Copaxone and placebo. However, at 24 months, the difference between the treatment groups was not as great as it was at 12 months.

"The findings presented by Dr. Voskuhl suggest that there may be benefits to supplementing Copaxone therapy with estrogen. A longer study, with more patients, would be necessary to definitively validate these provocative, although early, findings," said Dr. Koroshetz.

For more about MS, visit www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/multiple_sclerosis/multiple_sclerosis.htm ■



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Watch out for traffic deputies

Here's where Collier County Sheriff's Office traffic enforcement deputies will be posted the week of May 12-16:

- Monday, May 12**
 Goodlette-Frank and Solana roads: Speeding
 U.S. 41 East and Rattlesnake Hammock Road: Red-light running
 Osceola Trail at Osceola Elementary: Aggressive driving
- Tuesday, May 13**
 Vanderbilt Beach Road and Collier Boulevard: Speeding
 Naples Boulevard and Pine Ridge Road: Aggressive driving
 Golden Gate Parkway and I-75 south-bound exit: Aggressive driving
- Wednesday, May 14**

- Sunshine Boulevard: Speeding
 Santa Barbara Boulevard at Calusa Park Elementary: Speeding
 Collier Boulevard and U.S. 41 East: Red-light running
- Thursday, May 15**
 Immokalee Road and Juliet Boulevard: Red-light running
 Radio and Airport-Pulling roads: Aggressive driving
 Vanderbilt Beach Road and Oakes Boulevard: Speeding
- Friday, May 16**
 Goodlette-Frank Road and Pelican Marsh Boulevard: Speeding
 Pine Ridge Road and U.S. 41 North: Red-light running
 Collier and Golden Gate boulevards: Speeding ■

WEISS

From page 22

scrub tech is imperative to the outcome of a procedure. Yves is an A-plus surgical technician.

"Josh Weeks from SPD also made himself available for anything we needed. Finally, Mariesa Menghini, blood bank lab assistant, performed her job with amazing speed and skill ...

"The bottom line is that all those involved in the care of this new mother worked as a team to (save her life). As life-threatening a situation as this was, I am proud to be part of a team that was able to provide Level I trauma care to a very ill patient, which resulted in a positive outcome."

This is an amazing story of incredible teamwork. In recognition of the recent Laboratory Appreciation Week, I want to focus on the contributions of our laboratory technologist and blood bank specialist Jim McGrady along with the aforementioned Ms. Menghini, who supplied 17 units of blood products ... all within an astounding 30 minutes. Our labs on both campuses have this capability, as they are supplied by the Community Blood Center, an affiliate of the NCH Healthcare System, which supplies every hospital in Collier County with life-saving blood products.

And thanks to our blood donors and all of our dedicated NCH colleagues, these kinds of stories are, thankfully more often than not, the heroic and happy result. ■

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

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Tuesday, May 13 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Carlos Cuello, M.D.
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An Alternative to Total Knee Replacement

Learn about diagnosis and treatment advancements, including joint resurfacing, an innovative new treatment option for early to mid-stage osteoarthritis of the knee.

Wednesday, May 14 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Frederick Buechel, M.D.
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Brain Attack: Treatment Options

Did you know that if you have a stroke, you have three hours to get treatment to avoid long-term disability? Join us to learn about the latest life-saving technology and innovative treatment options for acute stroke, brain aneurysms and other brain and carotid artery diseases.

Wednesday, May 21 | 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Brian Mason, M.D. and Eric Eskioglu, M.D.
 Hospital Lobby | 6101 Pine Ridge Road



Solutions for Foot and Ankle Pain

Are foot and ankle pain turning the joys in your life into challenges? Learn about the latest treatments for bunions and other foot deformities, as well as plantar fasciitis, tendonitis and osteoporosis from our fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon.

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PET TALES

Chicken tales

Keeping chickens as pets and egg-layers is a popular pastime, but it's a good idea to know what you're getting into

BY DR. TONY JOHNSON
Universal Uclick

About three years ago, my wife and I "happened" upon some chickens. A family friend had gotten caught up in the recent rage of urban chicken acquisition and had obtained six chickens. They had forgotten to obtain any housing for them, so we offered to help out and take three of the birds.

We read up on chicken husbandry, built a coop and drove over to bring home our new flock in cat carriers.

Here's the upside to chicken ownership:

- Great, fresh eggs, every day (on average, each chicken lays one egg per day).
- No need to buy eggs anymore — a cost savings, and we know our chickens are humanely treated.
- Fun for the kids to watch (us, too — chickens are hilarious goofballs).
- Easy disposal of our kitchen waste — they eat everything (as long as it's not moldy or an avocado; avocados are chicken kryptonite). With two 2-year-olds at home, we have lots of leftover "I won't eat that!" food.

Now, here's the downside:

- They are noisy: They squabble and fight like junior-high girls at the Filene's Basement shoe sale rack. Sometimes, I have to go out back and shout a loud: "SHHHHHHHH! If you don't shut up, I am calling The Colonel!"
- Poo. Everywhere. There's no way to potty train a chicken, and no such thing as a chicken diaper. We let them out for some



Chickens eat bugs and weeds in your yard, generate great fertilizer and even make your breakfast.

fresh air and bug-eating, and they poo. A lot. Everywhere.

• Although ours have tested negative for salmonella, I do worry about our family's exposure to it, given the large amount of poo around. (More on this below.)

• We will never, ever have nice landscaping. In their obsessive quest to find the juicy bugs and worms, they dig up everything. Then, for good measure, they poo on it.

Chickens have become a feathery emblem of the "new naturism" — if you fancy yourself a self-sustaining, eco-minded person, a wee flock is de rigueur these days. And, like many fads, the initial rosetinted joy soon fades to reality.

Chickens can carry salmonella and a few other bacterial baddies. These can do a number on your GI tract and really put a hurting on you if you're very young, very

old or have weakened immunity. If you get it, you'll be hugging the commode for a few days, or worse.

We constantly clean up after them, and even then I feel like we always have some poo lying about. Washing hands after handling them or the eggs is a must. Here is some CDC info on safe home chicken ownership: blogs.cdc.gov/publichealth-matters/2010/10/thinking-about-keeping-live-poultry

Another great source of information and support is the community at Backyard Chickens: www.backyardchickens.com.

Egg handling is important, too. There is a healthy debate about washing the eggs: Some say it removes an invisible slime layer that keeps bacteria out, while some say to wash them. Since we eat them as soon as we collect them, we don't wash our eggs (unless they are really dirty), but just wipe them off. Here is a link to safe egg-handling information: www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/foodnut/09377.pdf.

The life of a chicken owner is easy, delicious and fun. It's a great way to lessen your eco-footprint and teach your kids where their food comes from. But you don't want to get halfway into it and say to yourself, "What the CLUCK were we thinking?"

With a little prep, a little reading and a little precaution you, too, can safely enjoy all the benefits of having your own flock! ■

— Guest columnist Tony Johnson, DVM, is an emergency and critical care specialist and serves as minister of happiness/medical director at Veterinary Information Network.

Pets of the Week

>>Fiona is a small, spirited 3-year-old German shepherd mix who loves being petted, playing ball and going for walks on her leash.



>>Lilly is a playful 6-year-old tortie who purrs loudly when she's getting the attention she loves.



>>Omar is a friendly 1-year-old orange and white domestic shorthair who loves to have his rich, thick coat stroked.



>>Wally is a handsome and smart 6-year-old male Maltese who weighs about 11 pounds. He loves going on walks and playing ball and then snuggling up next to you for a nap.



To adopt or foster a pet

This week's pets are from Collier County Domestic Animal Services. Adoption fees for cats are \$60 and dogs are \$85 and include sterilization surgery, vaccinations, pet license, ID microchip and a bag of food. Visit DAS at 7610 Davis Blvd. from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. For more information, call 252-7387 or visit www.colliergov.net/pets.

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Pitch in to help 'Stamp Out Hunger'

"Stamp Out Hunger," the U.S. Postal Service's nationwide food drive, takes place Saturday, May 10. Letter carriers will collect non-perishable food items left by mailboxes along their routes.

Postal customers can use grocery bags they should have received in their mailboxes during the past week, or they can use any bag from home. Most area post office locations also have food collection bins in the lobby.

All foodstuffs collected in Collier County will be distributed through Collier Harvest. Items especially in need

are peanut butter, tuna, rice, beans and canned meats, fruits, vegetables and soups.

Volunteers are needed to help sort and palletize donations as they arrive at Collier Harvest headquarters at 4450 Mercantile Ave. Helpers are welcome anytime after 2 p.m.; the bulk of the donations arrive after 4 p.m. Participation qualifies as service hours required for high-school graduation. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

For more information, call 455-3663 or visit www.collierharvest.org. ■

Pet owners can take advantage of low-cost vaccines and more

The Collier Spay Neuter Clinic offers low-cost vaccine and wellness clinics where dog and cat owners can obtain vaccines, basic veterinary medical support and parasite prevention treatments for their pets. Available services include rabies, distemper/parvovirus, feline distemper and leukemia vaccines; heartworm testing for dogs and feline leukemia testing for cats; and discounted Trifexis and Comfortis heartworm preventative and flea control products.

Upcoming clinic hours are:

- 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 10
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 30

No appointments are necessary, as customers are seen on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no income qualifications required, and pet owners do not need to be residents of Collier

County.

New volunteers are always welcome to join the ranks of those who help run the clinic in numerous capacities. Among the areas of experience/expertise needed are: computer/office skills, event planning, marketing and public relations, writing, fundraising, education, trapping feral cats for the trap/neuter/return program, web and graphic design and assisting clinic veterinarians and technicians in examination/operating procedures.

The clinic is at 2544 Northbrooke Plaza Drive off Immokalee Road just west of Interstate 75. For more information, call 514-SNIP (7647) or visit www.collierspayneuter.org, where there is also a downloadable \$5 discount coupon. ■

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INVASIONS

From page 1

in cash, jewelry and laptop computers.

It is a traumatizing scenario that has played out at four other Collier County homes over the ensuing months, leaving victims and residents on edge and leading local law enforcement officials to join forces to bring the home invaders to justice.

Naples has been the scene of two home invasions; three others have occurred in unincorporated Collier County.

"We've had the five cases since Feb. 13, the last one being April 3, and there's a good possibility of the five cases being related. We wanted to put as many resources as we can on it and work together," says Lt. John Morrisseau of the Collier County Sheriff's Office, who is a task force member.

The task force formed on April 7 and also includes members of the Naples and Marco Island police departments, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the FBI. A home invasion tips hotline — 252-0300 — has been established by the CCSO for anyone to call, and Southwest Florida Crime Stoppers is offering a \$26,000 reward for tips that lead to arrests in connection with the crimes. The Crime Stoppers hotline is (800) 780-8477.

Lt. Morrisseau says he is not aware of a similar rash of non-drug related home invasions in the county and that there's no way of knowing why they are happening now until the perpetrators are captured.

Thus far, the thieves have taken cash, jewelry, precious metals and some fire-



arms from their victims. There has only been one injury, sustained during the Feb. 19 invasion of a home on Golden Oaks Lane in which the resident, Mark Smith, was struck in the face by a robber. Mr. Smith was treated at NCH and released.

None of the crimes have involved forced entry, says Lt. Morrisseau. In some instances, the perpetrators have entered through unlocked doors, while in other cases, they have confronted the victim outside the home and forced them inside.

While Lt. Morrisseau could not go into detail about the ongoing investigation, he did say that law enforcement has detected some patterns to the crimes.

"We're not able to determine for sure right now if it's one group or multiple groups, but there are definitely some similarities in the cases," he adds.

Like Lt. Morrisseau, Naples Police Chief Thomas Weschler cannot recall a similar outbreak of home invasions in his jurisdiction.

"Just like it's been happening in the county, there's not one type of neighborhood that it's occurring in," says Chief Weschler. He adds he and Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk were in communication as soon as the first home invasion occurred in the city on Feb. 24 at a home off 17th Avenue South. The robbers struck again in Naples on March 11 at an Osprey Trail residence.

Mr. Said's family's ordeal began while everyone was in relaxing their bedrooms.

"What happened next is my dogs started barking and ran out of my bedroom door. As they ran out, a guy with a mask came in with a gun and pointed it at me and said, 'Is anybody else here?'" he recalls. "It was a 45 (caliber) revolver. It was five guys all with guns and masks, long sleeves and pants."

After escorting everyone to the master bedroom, at gunpoint, the thieves set about relieving the family of their valuables. Mr. Said says his family was worried, but largely composed throughout the roughly 90-minute robbery.

"The bad guys said if you don't cooperate, we're going to kill you," he says. "They said if you tell us where everything is, we'll be out of here in a few minutes and no one will get hurt."

The robbers took Mr. Said's cash, his wife's jewelry and laptop computers and tossed the family's cell phones into the toilet before leaving. The police were notified when Mr. Said was able to free himself and run to a neighbor's home.

Sgt. Rebecca Gonzalez of the CCSO Crime Prevention Bureau has been educating residents in a group setting or individually on home-invasion prevention techniques, as well as how to be a good witness.

in the know

Protect yourself

The Collier County Sheriff's Office offers the following suggestions for creating a family safety plan:

- >> It is important to activate security measures especially when you are home.
- >> Lock your doors and windows.
- >> Always set your alarm. If you have video surveillance, make sure it is on and recording and that the lense is clean and well maintained.
- >> Keep outside lights on.
- >> Close blinds and curtains to prevent your routine from being observed.
- >> Increase the awareness of your surroundings.
- >> Consider placing your valuables in a safety deposit box.
- >> Get to know your neighbors. If you see someone who appears out of place, call CCSO.
- >> Be a good witness. If you are a victim of a crime, try to remember as much detail as possible to convey to law enforcement.
- >> Discuss with your family members possible emergency scenarios and how to respond.

"There are things that can discourage criminals from making them a target," says Sgt. Gonzalez. "So if you can put those obstacles in front of the opportunity, the criminal will select a different target. We've seen that time and time again."

Cpt. Tim Guerrette of of CCSO Patrol Division urges residents to be vigilant and to not hesitate to call police if something seems amiss in their neighborhood.

"It's a team effort," says Cpt. Guerrette. "We really need the community, if they see something that doesn't look right in their neighborhood, to not hesitate to call us." ■

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THE DIVA DIARIES

Watching the royals never goes out of style



Don't laugh, but I'm totally bummed out that Prince William, Duchess Kate and Baby Prince George's royal tour of Australia and New Zealand is over.

What's that you say? You didn't even know that the junior royal family toured down under for three fun, festive and fashion-filled weeks? Well, they did. And being the dutiful royal watcher that I am, I followed every moment on the Interwebs with an interest that bordered on obsessed.

But, this is nothing new. I was one of those girls who woke up 3 a.m. to watch Charles and Diana's royal wedding on TV when I was 16. I'll never forget the horse and carriage, her bouquet that was bigger than her head and almost reached the ground, that enormous gown and, most especially, the lovely, sparkling tiara she wore.

It was then that I knew I was destined to be a princess — or at least to wear a tiara on a regular basis. I set my sights on the youngest of Queen Elizabeth's sons, Prince Edward — mostly because he was closest to my own age and because, at the time, I thought he was the cutest (a recent Google image search proved that he no longer holds that title, and in fact, none of the Queen's children have aged particularly well — bless their hearts). The only thing that held me back was making my way to

England ... then somehow getting invited to a royal event ... and then wrangling an introduction ... and I was a little worried that once the prince fell madly in love with me at first sight, it might be a problem that I was American ... Oh, well — I'd think about that another day. The first step was getting across the pond, which alas, still has not happened, and since I'm married and Edward is married, I've given up the dream. Sigh.

Nevertheless, all through my 20s and early 30s, I followed Princess Diana in the magazines: the births of her boys, her stunning style, the break-up of her marriage. When she died, I cried for days.

My fascination and admiration for the royal family dwindled, and when Prince Charles married that Awful Woman, I was just livid.

But, then along came Kate.

At first, I was determined to keep her at arm's length (no one could measure up to Diana), but in the photos of Wills looking at her, his eyes were just so much like his mother's. And then he gave her Diana's super-fabulous sapphire engagement ring. And Kate has that amazing, bouncy, shiny hair. And then she gave birth to that chubby-cheeked adorable little George, and now I'm all Queen of the Royal Fan Club again. (I just pretend that Charles' miserable wife doesn't exist. I'm sorry. I do hold grudges.)

For a Royal Watcher such as *moi*, the recent

tour felt like Christmas every day, with pretty Kate in a plethora of delightful frocks by Jenny Peckham, Alexander McQueen, Issa and more.

If you're as into this sort of thing as I am, you'll want to visit www.whatkatewore.com or surf over to www.whatwouldkatedo.com. The people who run these sites have a lot of time on their hands and can direct to where you can pick up your own versions of Kate's fashions (it helps to be a size 2 and 5'9" though, so good luck with that).

While the tour is over (sniffle), at least handsome Prince Harry is single again, after just recently breaking the heart of his girlfriend of two years, Cressida Bonas (I'm not sure I liked her anyway). Hopefully, he'll keep us busy with his bachelor shenanigans.

Harry is 29, by the way. So while the ship of Princesshood has long sailed into the wild blue yonder for me, young ladies interested in a legit tiara must follow those dreams and skedaddle to London, stat.

Treat mom to tea

Personally, I think that right here in Naples, one automatically becomes royalty the moment one sweeps through the doors of either of the two Ritz-Carlton properties that grace our environs. For those who want to treat their moms (or just ourselves) like a queen, some last-minute tickets remained available at press time for a special tea set for 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at the hotel's palace-like beachfront location. I'm sure there shall be silver teapots, perfect scones and fancy hats all around.

In tribute to all things maternal, the afternoon is a benefit for Baby Basics of Collier County, the volunteer-run nonprofit that provides diapers and kindness to low-income, working families with infants and toddlers. What a wonderful idea for a mother-daughter afternoon on Mother's Day weekend.

Tickets are \$100. For more information, contact Baby Basics founder Jean Ann Lynch by calling (617) 510-4468 or emailing dandja@hotmail.com. Learn more about Baby Basics at www.baby-basicscollier.org.

— *Ciao for now, my lovelies! Stay tuned for another divalicious diary entry next week ...*



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WEEK OF MAY 8-14, 2014

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE INDUSTRIES



Bokamper's Sports Bar & Grill on Fontana Del Sol Way in Naples.

VANDY MAJOR / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Breaking 'curses'

Entrepreneurs pursue success where others have failed

BY ROGER WILLIAMS
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com

Nils Richter, a commercial Realtor for Market America Group and an investor and restaurateur in his own right, specializes in curse breaking.

Mr. Richter doesn't put it quite that way, however — he calls himself a "dis-

tressed real estate specialist," which means his Lee County-based business has had plenty of work in recent years.

And it is work, for either the broker chaperoning the move, or for investors and tenants moving into locations to start businesses where others have failed: Bokamper's Sports Bar & Grill on Fontana Del Sol Way in Naples, for example; or Two Brothers Home Style Cooking on Marion Avenue in Punta Gorda; or the Tilted Kilt with Belushi's comedy club on top, on Cleveland Avenue in South Fort Myers; or any one of 50 other prominent places that can't seem to keep a tenant, say the owners

themselves.

"Downtown Fort Myers itself is all about breaking curses," notes Mr. Richter, referring to the decades-long struggle that businesses began winning about the time Raimond Aulen, owner of the Indigo Room, and his crew of volunteers along with the city resurrected the old bricks Thomas Edison had walked on, restored them and replaced them over new infrastructure.

Restaurants still open and close and open again in new form at the same

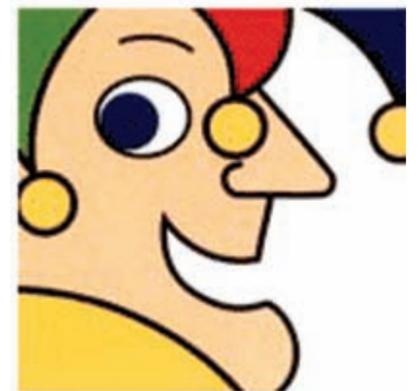
SEE CURSES, B6 ►

INSIDE



Fifth Third at the Garden

Fifth Third Bank entertains, and more Networking photos. B7-9 ►



Ask the Fool

What's the best way to use a windfall? B4 ►



House Hunting

What \$500,000 can buy in Southwest Florida. B11 ►

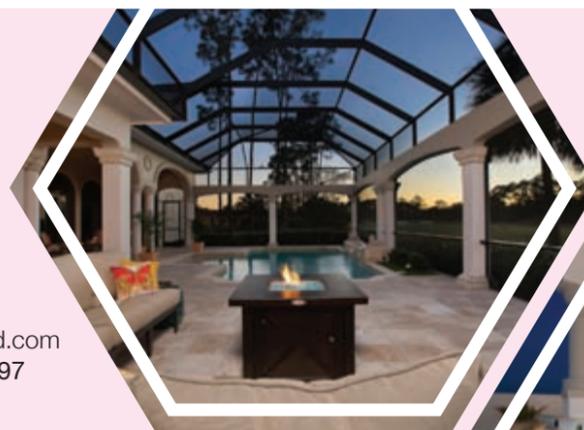
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MONEY & INVESTING

Financial planning problems elicit diverse solutions



Pose a medical problem to various health-care professionals, each having diverse areas of medical specialization, and you will probably get a series of diverse answers. For instance, pose the question about how to get rid of aches and pains to a general practitioner, an arthritis specialist, sports medicine practitioner, pain disorder specialist, a chiropractor, an acupuncturist, a massage therapist and a holistic specialist, and you will get answers that vary from prescriptions, to physical therapy, to recommendations for green diets and detoxing, to an MRI, to a request for weekly adjustments, and the list goes on. Logically, their answers will reflect their particular knowledge base, and of course, their particular revenue base.

Equally so, pose a broad financial question to a variety of diverse finance and legal professionals and you will get a litany of answers reflecting their expertise and their revenue base. The question, "How should I build a life estate and what are the most efficient ways to pass on the estate?" posed to a life insurance professional, a stockbroker, a real estate broker, a banker, an entrepreneur, a corporate executive, a private equity manager, hedge fund manager, etc., will elicit vary-

ing answers: whole life, universal life, annuities, corporate stock options, a trust filled with equities or hedge funds or private equity, creation of a family business, purchase of commercial real estate holdings, etc.

How can it be that one question has so many disparate answers? The reason is that most investment professionals can only sell specific products and they then tailor the use of those products to answer the many financial questions that hopefully creates a new client base.

For instance, the life insurance professional offers insurance and annuity products, and these products can be used to solve the question of building an estate and/or tax efficiently passing along an estate. The real estate broker answers with land, commercial, industrial and residential holding directly or in partnership form. The corporate executive answers with amassing corporate stock options and getting coverage under corporate health plans, etc. The stockbroker will point to equities. The entrepreneur will insist on a startup business.

The sample question is akin to asking how to reach NYC from D.C. Answer: By train, by plane, by car, by bike, by boat, etc. The tenured pilot can comment about his airlines' flights, but he probably can't comment on other airlines and certainly can't reliably comment on boat, train, car, etc., nor can the tenured train conductor comment about flight schedules.

But somehow in the area of finance,

the person posing the generic question thinks that all finance professionals across diverse financial disciplines will answer in unison. But the insurance broker is generally... but not always (as some are very sophisticated)... not in position to respond beyond the specifics of life insurance and, even beyond the types of insurance products offered by their firm. And it might be that it is a challenge for them to fully understand the intricacies of many products offered by their firm! Of course, there is greater commonality of answer from those who have a financial planning certification of some sort; but again, you will find differences if their business practice specializes in particular investment vehicle.

Far beyond a preference to stick to their financial products, many of these professionals are capable of understanding and selling a variety of products/solutions... but often it requires different certifications (time and money) and differing compliance reporting (time and money) and differing product/firm relationships (sometimes in conflict and not do-able).

So what is the average Joe to do?

First, see if you can find a financial generalist who has had experience across many financial disciplines. This is usually very hard to find. Few investment professionals have sold insurance, been an equity broker, invested in hedge funds themselves, run a large commercial real estate portfolio, started a business and had a sojourn as a corporate

executive. But some investment professionals have been trained and worked across disciplines. Why so little cross training/work experience? Because the world of big finance demands "experts" and "specialists," and that is where the big money lies. The average Joe has to settle for someone with less experience and a smaller knowledge base.

So, if there is not a generalist who can discuss these various investment realms, then you might want to take it upon yourself to interview a consortium of investment professionals: e.g., two life insurance salesmen, two investment advisers, two real estate developers or brokers, two equity money managers, two trust and estate attorneys. Then you will have become the generalist. Each professional will promote the good points of their products. Your interviews of others will bring further insight into the strengths and weaknesses of these products.

Third, find out how the investment professionals make their money and then you will understand the skew in their solutions. After all, even though professionals might heartily believe in their products, services, counsel, etc., their compensation is somehow tied to recruitment and retention of clients. ■

— Jeannette Showalter, CFA is a market specialist with Worldwide Futures Systems. Follow her on Twitter @rohnshowalter and on LinkedIn.



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Don't Regret Selling

It happens every time the stock market tanks: Some folks sell their holdings quickly and avoid further losses — and seem like investing geniuses.

Their selling might seem smart, but it often becomes less so, if they don't get back into the market to profit from its eventual recovery. After all, the stock market doesn't move in a straight line. It rises and falls, plunges and surges. And its overall trend is upward.

Thus, many people who sell near the beginning, middle or end of a bear market often end up watching from the sidelines as the stock market recovers. They end up having locked themselves out of a lot of stock appreciation, and possibly even locked in losses when they sold.

Failing to get back into the stock market in time is potentially a much larger mistake than never having sold your stocks in the first place. Sure, it feels good to have avoided seeing your portfolio drop as far as it would have if you had held on to all your stocks. But after the market recovers, you could eas-

ily see yourself with a smaller net worth than if you had stuck with your original portfolio. A recovering market will, after all, eventually hit new all-time highs.

Protecting your portfolio from losses is one of the most important keys to being a successful investor. But if you decide that you're going to sell shares of a stock in which you have long-term confidence, you need to remember that selling is only the first part of a two-part process. You also need to determine when you're going to buy back those shares.

As simple as that sounds, experience shows that it's anything but — especially since no one can know exactly when a stock or the market will move up or down. It's actually much easier to accept the rises and falls of the market by holding on to the stocks you think are good long-term holdings through thick and thin. That will save you from a potentially much larger mistake from which your portfolio might never recover. ■

My Dumbest Investment

Careful With 'Buy Low, Sell High'

I invested in a bank decades ago. It later bought a savings and loan association, and ended up in financial trouble due to the savings and loan crisis at the time. Well, I took the advice of a popular local talk radio host and bought several thousand dollars' worth of additional shares when it fell to \$4 per share. Buy low, sell high, right? I ended up with two nice-looking but worthless stock certificates.

— E.R., Bonita, Calif.

The Fool Responds: It's true that you generally profit in stocks by selling your shares for a higher price than you bought them for. But that doesn't mean it's smart to buy any stock just because the price seems low. Those \$4 shares might have seemed low, but if a company is in deep trouble, or even facing some short-term issues, they can quickly become \$2 shares, or worse.

A better way to think about it is to aim to buy undervalued stocks and sell them when they seem reasonably valued or overvalued. Hanging on even longer can pay off, too, if you're confident that it will keep growing over time. ■



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 was founded in a Palo Alto one-car garage in 1938 by two guys whose names I share. (In 1989, the garage was recognized as a California state landmark and the birthplace of Silicon Valley.) In 1956, I introduced my first oscilloscopes, which were an important part of my testing and measurement business. In 1968, I launched what I called a "personal computer," the first programmable scientific desktop calculator. My 1981 business calculator, still sold today, became the world's standard financial calculator. My success with printers began in the 1980s, with the ThinkJet, LaserJet and DeskJet. Who am I? (Answer: Hewlett-Packard) ■



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

Ask the Fool

Oops!

Q Can I correct a mistake on the tax return I filed last month? If so, how?

— C.R., Flint, Mich.

A Yup. Fortunately, the 1040 form you file isn't the only one you can file for each year. You can file an amended return with a 1040X form, and you can even amend an amended return later!

Errors that definitely require an amended return include ones involving your filing status, income, deductions or credits.

Not all errors require amended returns, though. The IRS will often find and correct small math errors. Learn more from the horse's mouth at irs.gov, or at fool.com/taxes, and note that using tax-prep software, such as TaxACT or TurboTax, can reduce errors.

Q Is it better to use a windfall to pay off my car loan or invest in the stock market?

— D.D., Honolulu

A It depends. First, if you have any credit card debt, use the money to pay that off. Credit card rates are often very steep and debilitating.

Next, compare your car debt with your alternatives. Say your interest rate is 5 percent. If you invest in the stock market, the average annual gain over many decades is about 10 percent, but that's just an average and far from certain.

So you need to decide whether you'd rather save a definite 5 percent or hope for a 10 percent gain. Consider your risk tolerance — and the effect of taxes, too.

It can be worth paying a little in interest in order to earn more through stock appreciation. Just make sure you're OK with the risk and are investing for the long haul. Short-term stock returns are unpredictable and can be volatile. ■

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

Name That Company

My founder, billionaire Sheldon Adelson, is known today for his generous support of the Republican Party. He made a name (and fortune) for himself earlier, though, by founding the COMDEX computer trade show in 1979. Later he bought a Las Vegas hotel and launched his empire. Today, I'm the world's largest casino operator, with a market value topping \$60 billion. My two key properties on the Las Vegas Strip are the Vene-



tian and the Palazzo. I was also among the first to build in Macau, China's gambling-friendly region — now a bigger gambling venue than Las Vegas. 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

FedEx Can Deliver

If you're in the market for a blue-chip stock that can deliver profits to your portfolio, consider FedEx (NYSE: FDX). It has gained roughly 48 percent over the past year, and averaged an annual return of 11 percent over the past 20 years.

The sluggish global economy has challenged FedEx, as did this past tough winter. In the company's last quarterly report, earnings fell short of expectations. But there was good news, too. Operating income profit margins rose, and on the company's conference call, management noted that FedEx's multi-year profitability improvement plan was "not only on track, but probably ahead of plan."

FedEx hiked many of its prices by 4.9 percent last year, and cost-cutting mea-

sures are underway, too. Along with a workforce reduction, FedEx is improving its efficiency by replacing fuel-guzzling aircraft with smaller and more fuel-efficient models. It's also responding to a growing customer focus on cost over delivery speed, which is fueling growth in its FedEx Ground operations.

FedEx's stock sports an appealing forward-looking price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio of about 15. Add to that significant growth potential for the company due to burgeoning e-commerce sales, effective profit-boosting initiatives, and management's expected near-term improvements in world trade, and FedEx is looking like an attractive long-term portfolio holding. (The Motley Fool has recommended FedEx in its newsletters.) ■

BUSINESS MEETINGS

■ **A Job Search Support Group** meets from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce. Contact Karen Klukiewicz at kluk77@comcast.net or visit www.napleschamber.org.

■ **Consultants from the Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University** are available at the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, 2390 Tamiami Trail N., every Thursday. To make an appointment for a free session, call Suzanne Specht at 745-3704.

■ **The East Naples Merchants Association** meets from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 8, at Physicians Regional-Collier Boulevard. For more information, call Shirley Calhoun at 435-9410 or Natalie Anguilano at 643-3600, or visit www.eastnaplesmerchantsassoc.com.

■ **The Collier Building Industry Association** holds its annual spring golf tournament on Friday morning, May 9, at Quail West Country Club. To register or for more information, visit www.cbia.net.

■ **The President's Club of the Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce** hosts a Roaring Twenties fundraiser from 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 9, at Quail West Country Club in Naples. Tickets are \$150, with proceeds going to the chamber's scholarship fund. Call 992-2943 or email Chelsea Birczak Chelsea@bonitaspringschamber.com.

■ **The Marco Island Chamber of Commerce** hosts Coffee & Commerce with guest speaker Jack Wert, executive director of the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention & Visitors

Bureau, from 7:30-9 a.m. Wednesday, May 14, at Bistro Soleil, 100 Palm Ave. on Marco Island. \$20 for members, \$25 for others. RSVP by May 9. Call 394-7549 or email donna@marcoislandchamber.org.

■ **Wake Up Naples** for members of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce meets from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 14, at the Hilton Naples. Sign up at www.napleschamber.org.

■ **The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce** annual golf tournament tees off Friday, May 16, on the Palm Course at Grey Oaks Country Club. Registration is \$150 per person or \$550 per foursome and includes lunch and dinner. Sign up at www.napleschamber.org.

■ **Business After Five** for members and guests of the Marco Island Area

Chamber of Commerce is set for 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at CJs on the Bay. The June 18 networking event will be at The Classics at Lely Resort, and on July 16 the group will gather aboard the Marco Island Princess. Call 394-7549 or visit www.marcoislandchamber.org.

■ **The Bonita Springs Area Young Professionals** host a meet-and-greet for members and guests from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa. Register by calling 992-2943 or visiting www.bonitaspringschamber.com. ■

— Email business meeting announcements to cpierce@floridaweekly.com.

Partnership formed to promote minority construction contracts

The Seminole Tribe of Florida and GATES Construction have formed a joint venture development and construction partnership. Seminole / GATES Development and Construction will focus on securing minority construction contracts as part of large-scale developments in Southwest Florida.

"It will be an honor for the Seminole Tribe to participate with GATES Construction in the building of important new development projects in Southwest Florida," said Tony Sanchez Jr., president of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"Through this new joint venture, we expect to significantly expand our construction business."

Todd Gates, chairman of GATES Construction, said the partnership will generate jobs and cause "a significant economic impact on the region, especially because both organizations are based in Florida and will reinvest their earnings here. Plus, we plan to involve many of the area's minority subcontractors in our projects."

Naples-based Peninsula Lifestyle Capital PLLC advised both parties in the transaction. ■

Executive center office space available

Flexibility, technology and location are the hallmarks of ARCEO, a new executive center opened this month on Enterprise Avenue, in close proximity to the Collier County Government Complex and Naples Municipal Airport.

Customized options include executive Class A offices from 140 square feet to 400 square feet, three virtual office packages, meeting room space and individual work stations.

Space is available furnished or unfurnished and can be rented from one hour to one day to one year depending on individual needs. Introductory packages for a one-year lease on executive or virtual offices include two free months.

"From the solo practitioner to a satellite for a major corporation, we are offering the prestige of a Naples address, personalized telephone answering service, receipt of mail and packages and much more," says owner Thierry Desormeaux. "For most business people today, a home office or meetings

at the coffee shop do not match the professional level they are trying to achieve. ARCEO is responding to that need."

Conference rooms in various sizes are equipped with advanced technology such as multiparty video conferencing, flat screen TVs and drop-down screens and projectors. Unlimited Internet and WIFI are provided with each plan.

The building has a fiber optic feed providing high-speed Internet connections, security cameras and a generator to ensure power during outages. There is a breakroom with coffee and tea, and open access to a state-of-the-art color copier and scanner.

Starting at \$490 per month, ARCEO offers 24-hour office access with a receptionist from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Most services are included; add-on options include office cleaning, covered parking, cable TV and private telephone lines. Meeting rooms can be rented on an hourly basis. For more information, call 260-4332 or visit www.ARCEO.us. ■

Collier Building Industry Association Presents:

Great Expectations!

2014 Real Estate Industry Panel

Wednesday, May 14th

St. John the Evangelist Life Center

625 111th Ave. (West of U.S. 41 opposite Immokalee Rd.)

5:30 pm – 6:15 pm: Networking & Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres

6:15 pm – 7:30 pm: Program

Moderator:

John Wiseman, Core Construction

Panelists:

Brian Goguen, Barron Collier Companies

John Hillman, Kitson & Partners

Phil R. Wood, NABOR

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<p>FOR SALE - 635.28± acs pasture/farmland in Hendry Co., 2 miles of paved road frontage. Leased thru 2017-\$55K per year with \$5K annual increases. \$10K/acre</p>	<p>FOR SALE - 150± ac. citrus grove on CR 858/Oil Well Rd. in Collier Co. Production records available upon request to qualified buyers. Bank owned. \$1.9M</p>
 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">(Ref #002224)</p>	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">(Ref #002303)</p>
<p>FOR SALE - 39.18± ac. on CR 731, mins. to Labelle. Designated on Future Land Use Map as CG, allowing many uses Quick access to St Rts 29, 78, 80 & I-75. \$1.70 PSF</p>	<p>FOR SALE - 3.7± acres with 725' frontage on SR 78 in Glades County. Located on lake, includes mobile home w/ addition, barn, shed, dock w/ electric, Tiki hut. \$380,000</p>

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CURSES

From page 1

locations, but there is a noticeable increase in vitality downtown.

All of these business owners are would-be curse breakers, and sometimes they succeed. When they do, it's in part because of attitude and tenacity, qualities that are easy to point to but harder to execute.

"We came into this place with a clean mindset," says Luis Rivera, who retired from a career as a pharmaceutical salesman to do what his father did for 45 years, and — with his brother Eddie Rivera — open Two Brothers Home Style Cooking, a popping, hopping, bebopping home-style family restaurant with blues and live music in the evenings, and a Spanish-Caribbean, Italian, American nod to spicy fun on the menu.

"Go strong or go home is our attitude about this," Mr. Rivera says (there were at least two failed efforts on the site previously). "We came in here with a new outlook. And, you know, we grind our own meat for the hamburgers and pork for the sausages, and we smoke our pork for 12 hours, and we can give you a filet mignon and the Spanish rice and beans for \$12.95 — this is on a street with some high-end restaurants — and they're calling me 'Crazy Lu.'"

Why? "Because whenever somebody is sitting around, I might come in with two-for-one or three-for-one beers, or something. We like to have fun."

Along with attitude for successful owners comes experienced calculation and confidence as well.

"We ran across this spot in Naples, and we knew it had been a couple other places, but we had no angst about it being cursed," recalls Kim Bokamper, describing his start in a location where a Sanibel Steakhouse and a place called The Keg had both struck out.

It wasn't Mr. Bokamper's first dance — he played linebacker and right defensive end for the Miami Dolphins from 1977 through 1985, starting in Super Bowls XVII and XIX, and making the Pro Bowl in 1979.

He also knew what we was doing in the restaurant business by the time he got to Naples.

He and his staff had opened a Bokamper's and polished the concept at earlier incarnations in Fort Lauderdale, Plantation and Miromar.

"Our thing is to provide a value-oriented menu in an upscale environment," he explains — that, and fill a clean, spacious location with efficient servers who often look like they belong on the cheerleading squads of the Miami Dolphins or the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. In addition, he puts so many high-defini-



OSVALDO PADILLA / FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Tilted Kilt recently opened in Fort Myers in a prominent location that has had a tough time keeping tenants.

tion television screens in his restaurants that he can show "every sport, every game, every event," all the time.

Recipes for longevity

When these would-be curse breakers fail, says Mr. Richter, it's not always because of location, or because the site is "cursed."

"You have to look at what the place could be, you have to put your business plan in place there, and you have to just stay on it. No matter what your idea is, or what property you want to turn around, you have to stay on it and not give up," he advises.

That requires two other factors that some of the downtown Fort Myers businesses couldn't bring into play when he watched them fail in recent years: deep pockets and business management experience.

"I'm involved in The Firestone and others, and we've been playing the turnaround game downtown for some time," Mr. Richter says.

"I built Spirit of Bacchus when it was on First Street, then we moved (to the Hendry Street location) and stayed on it until we got it right. Now it's on an upward trajectory, and Los Cabos Cantina is in that old spot," he says.

The cantina is doing well, which is not what happened to previous businesses there.

"There were two or three Italian restaurants in there that failed," explains Mr. Richter. "And not because of the cooking. They failed because of a mix: they lacked experience in business operations, they lacked funding — you have to have the proper funding to do it right — and so they lacked persistence."

That's why he thinks the very visible castle that started as Dwyer's in South Fort Myers and became another failed pub concept — built to the tune of more than \$4 million — is now likely to succeed as the Tilted Kilt.

The place includes a much-celebrated new comedy club called Belushi's, owned in part by the actor and comedian Jim Belushi.

"That location has proven to be extremely tough or unprofitable — it's a unique building, but it's in a corridor where it's tough to stop and make people smell the roses," Mr. Richter admits.

"But they have a strong brand, and good concept, and they're committed, so if somebody can make it work there, it would be them."

For a veteran comparison of "haunt-

ed" properties either commercial or residential, Charlotte-area Realtor Tom Weekes, who operates a Keller-Williams partnership with his wife, Gay Weekes, offers this perspective on the previous failure of businesses (or residents) in properties:

"You need to decide why something failed. There are just too many variables. Failure may be due to lack of marketing and brand awareness in a great location. They may not have known how to hire or train, or maybe they were bad financial managers. Who knows? Location is only one issue and location depends on the trade style. Some don't really need a great location.

Sometimes, planning and hard work converge with a little luck. Bokamper's in Naples got a little unexpected and very welcome help from the city as well, Mr. Bokamper says.

After doing some refurbishing — "we like an outside bar, so we did that," he notes — the city stepped in like a good angel.

"They added a left turn lane on Vanderbilt, so you don't have to go up to Airport Pulling to turn around, or something — it's one of the factors that coincided with our opening. It's things like that that can make a difference." ■

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Naples - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most homesellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar"

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NETWORKING

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CHARLIE McDONALD / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Fifth Third Bank hosts a party at Naples Botanical Garden



Chris Knoll, Sharon Rees, David Call, Corky Carlsen, Susie Krause and Joanne Ricciardiella



Rebecca Levitan, Hedy Spencer, Sandra Edwards and Linda Lubecky



Karin Holmes, Rita Johnson and Gunilla Broadben



Ellen Wilen, Sandra Edwards and Nita Doyle



Victoria Olienick and Moira Fennessey



Beverly Nemeth, Debbie Stuart and Victoria Olienick



Lois Sprague, Fran Harlow, Sallie Myers and Jill Tatel

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NETWORKING

The Players Club at Lely Resort hosts the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce



Dianne Goff, Dan Kwiatkowski and Lori Lou Waddell



John Weiss, Michael DeSmidt, Claudine Leger-Wetzel, Gail Bryan, Tim Clark, Nancy Harris and Susan Joyce



Lavigne Kirkpatrick and Karole Davis



Donna Salerno and Larry Ebbs



Dick Perry and Lori Perry



Amanda Romanelli and Kristina Placeres



Gail Graham, Kevin Knapp and Judy Knapp



Priscilla Kellerhouse, MJ Scarpelli and Lisa Gruenloh



Sheila Thompson, Charlene Hamlett and Gail Law



John Harper and Kerry Prince



Nicole Nemes and Dave Marcozzi



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NETWORKING

Groundbreaking celebration for Moorings Park at Grey Oaks



Katie Sproul



John Little, Jerry Kerr, Dan Lavender, Katie Sproul, Judy Sproul, Steve Brinkert, Brian Goguen and Frank White



Jim Butler, Sheri Brezina and Garrett Richter



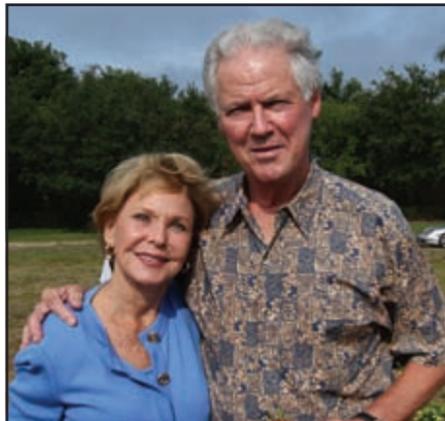
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Hugh Hansard and Diane Hansard



Mary Naquin and Terri Melville-Ellis



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Cecil Jones and Mary Lou Jones



John Cox and Steve Brinkert

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STEPHEN WRIGHT / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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Naples, Quail Woods Estates \$1,699,000 6/5
Robert Moorefield 239-263-3300 MLS#214015141 **73167**



Naples, Naples Bay Resort \$499,000 Spectacular Bay and Marina Views from 2 adjoining units at the Naples Bay Resort. 2BR/2BA. 1560 SF of luxury. Yochi Melnick 239-262-7131 MLS#214025058 **46685**



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Naples, Olde Cypress \$1,495,000 3/3.5
Lois Kluberanz 239-263-3300 MLS#213025138 **95463**



Naples, Colliers Reserve \$1,375,000 4/3.5
Chip Harris & Michele Peppe 239-262-7131 MLS#214003310 **55949**



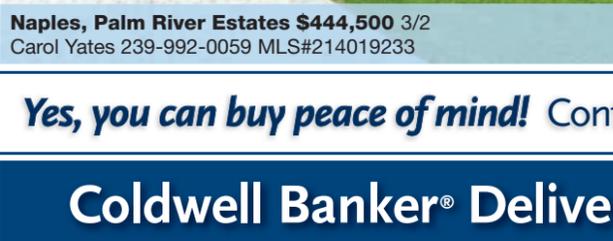
Naples, Palm River Estates \$444,500 3/2
Carol Yates 239-992-0059 MLS#214019233



Naples, The Strand \$849,900 3/3
Sherry Santucci 239-263-3300 MLS#214018922 **79917**



Naples, Crossings \$549,000 3/2.5
Mari-Bea Warnken 239-262-7131 MLS#214015226 **80139**



Naples, Vanderbilt Surf Colony \$429,000 2/2
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REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF MAY 8-14, 2014

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

B11

What \$500,000 will buy in SWFL

221 FREEPORT COURT, PUNTA GORDA

This custom-built home offers a great-room design. The kitchen has Corian countertops, breakfast bar and quaint breakfast nook with a view of the pool and canal. Extra amenities include tile floors throughout, water filter, water softener, central vacuum and intercom system. The master bedroom has a canal view and includes two walk-in closets and an attached master bath with dual sinks, garden tub and a walk-in Roman shower. The in-ground pool has a waterfall feature, summer kitchen and outdoor shower. The home also has a private dock and 20,000-pound boatlift with water and electric hookups available dockside, and affords easy boating access to Charlotte Harbor. Listed at \$499,000. Contact Timothy Boff of Five Star Realty of Charlotte County at (941) 637-6116. ■



390 17TH ST. NW, GOLDEN GATE ESTATES

This home on a 2½ acres features four bedrooms plus a den, two baths and a detached cabana with a private bathroom. It has a wide floor plan with vaulted ceilings, wood-burning fireplace, two formal living rooms and a dining room. New cherry wood cabinets, custom granite counters and stainless steel appliances surround the kitchen. The home includes an oversized lanai with a large pool. The cabana has with its own private bath and a storage room. The detached guest home features two full bedrooms plus a den and living room — a potential income-producing property. Listed at \$499,000. Contact Marlene Suarez of Premier Sotheby's International Realty at 290-0585. ■



12320 MCGREGOR PALMS DRIVE, FORT MYERS

This architect-designed estate home is among the most spacious in Coconut Creek. This home maximizes natural light with strategically placed windows and solar tube skylights throughout. It has three bedrooms, a large craft room with extensive built-ins, an extra large garage with workshop space, a second-floor office with storage room and a sunny loft. The kitchen has a center island and seating bar with wrap-around cabinetry. The curved walls in the living area add elegance to the extended living/entertainment area, topped off by a screened pool with lake and sunset views. Listed at \$499,900. Contact Arika Bjorkedal of VIP Realty Group at 410-1706. ■



9611 CEDAR CREEK DRIVE, BONITA SPRINGS

This Rutenberg Homes York 4 model is in the secluded gated community of Cedar Creek. This home has four bedrooms with three full baths, all split for total privacy. The three-car garage has a workshop. A large kitchen that opens to a family room with volume ceilings complements the formal living/dining area. The home overlooks a lake and features a huge lanai, pool and an outdoor gas kitchen with underground tanks. The master bedroom has walk-in closets and a spacious bath with double sinks. Cedar Creek has 260 single-family homes and is built out with tree-lined streets. It's a 10-minute drive to the beach, and shopping, restaurants and medical offices are just outside the gate. Listed at \$499,999. Contact Darlene Rice of Royal Shell Real Estate at 325-3537. ■



Connecticut family settles into 'Homes for Heroes'

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

When Scott Toth of John R. Wood Properties finalized the sale of a 2,000-plus-square-foot home in Naples to Ron and Lisa Mikolinski, he gave back \$2,325 of his sales commission to the new homeowners via Homes for Heroes.

Homes for Heroes is a nationwide program through which affiliated real estate professionals, lenders, insurance companies, home inspectors and associated businesses can provide financial savings to everyday heroes such as first responders, military personnel, teachers



and health-care workers who are purchasing homes.

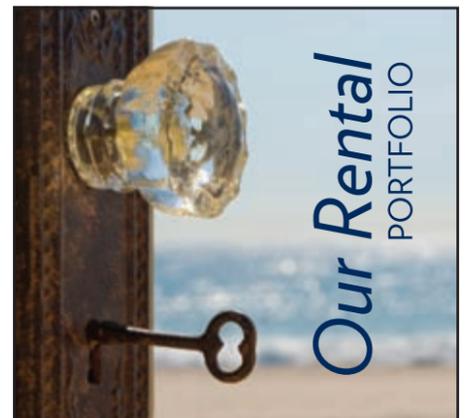
The Mikolinskis moved to Naples

from Hamden, Conn., where Mr. Mikolinski served for more than 20 years as a firefighter. He connected with Mr. Toth through a mutual friend from Connecticut.

When Mr. Toth found out that his new client was a firefighter, he jumped at the opportunity to get him enrolled with Homes for Heroes. He is working with four other hero families in Naples.

"My goal is to help every local hero with their real estate needs, whether they are buying, selling or refinancing a

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The Danby by CC Devco is one of the homes available in Maple Ridge at Ave Maria.

Buyers feeling at home in Maple Ridge

In less than one year, more than 126 new home sales contracts have been signed for homes in Maple Ridge at Ave Maria. The first closing occurred in late April, with the new homeowners moving in right away. There are 74 homes are under construction in phases one and two; sales continue in phases two and three.

Maple Ridge is a CC Devco development.

Since the community's on-site sales center opened in June 2013, "We've been overwhelmed with the positive response and interest," says Diana Ibarria, senior vice president of the developer's Naples division. "We knew the Naples market was ready for our product.

"Empty nesters have enjoyed our smaller single-story floor plans like the Almanor and Briones," she adds, "while families are gravitating toward the two-story Danby and Duvall floor plans."

A neighborhood of lakes and tree-lined sidewalks, Maple Ridge at Ave Maria consists of 4,000 acres just south of the Ave Maria Town Center. Homes are delivered "complete," from the handsome exteriors with clapboard shutters, distinctive hardware and brick paver driveways, to the spacious interiors with upgraded designer touches such as ceramic tile flooring and Euro-style cabinetry. Energy-efficient details are built into each comfortable floor plan.

The town of Ave Maria has a university and private K-12 school. The town center has dining, shopping and recreational activities including a water park, baseball and soccer fields, a golf course, basketball courts and horseback riding stables.

The Maple Ridge sales center is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 300-5153 or visit www.MapleRidgeFL.com and www.avemaria.com. ■



The Heron is one of the executive floor plans offered in the initial phase at Raffia Preserve.



Among the estate home designs available in the initial phase at Raffia Preserve is the two-story Portofino.

WCI begins sales in Raffia Preserve

WCI Communities has launched home sales at Raffia Preserve off Collier Boulevard in Naples. The 184-acre community, which has 72 acres of lakes and nature preserves, will offer one- and two-story homes with 2,053 square feet to 4,457 square feet of living space. Twelve floor plans — five estate homes and seven executive homes — are available in the initial phase.

Home designs have spacious owner's suites, bonus and flex rooms and an emphasis on outdoor living to appeal to seasonal and full-time residents, empty nesters and families with children. Select homes offer three-car garages for the growing family.

Priced from the low \$400,000s, estate homes at Raffia Preserve have three to five bedrooms and range from 2,312 square feet to 4,457 square feet. Several plans have second-floor featuring game rooms and bonus rooms.

With prices starting in the mid-\$300,000s, executive homes in Raffia Preserve have three and four bedrooms

and options that include media rooms, dens and additional guest suites. Executive homes range from 2,053 square feet to 3,604 square feet of interior living space. The largest plan can be configured with as many as six bedrooms.

Planned for 363 single-family homes, Raffia Preserve is between Immokalee and Vanderbilt Beach roads, just five miles from Interstate 75 and six miles from Golisano Children's Museum of Naples and Sun-N-Fun Lagoon. The community will have its own 5,000-square-foot clubhouse with a catering kitchen, clubroom with a fireplace and a 2,000-square-foot fitness center with spaces devoted to strength training and group exercise. The facility's outdoor amenities will include a resort-style swimming pool with beach entry and lap lanes, a playground and basketball court.

The Raffia Preserve sales center is opening this month at 4075 Wolfe Road. Call 598-2370 for an appointment to tour the site or visit www.raffiapreservewci.com for more information. ■



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PEACEFUL GOLF COURSE VIEWS from this fully furnished Concord condominium in the Vineyards. Great North Naples location with 2 bedrooms, open den, 2 baths, soaring ceilings and open floor plan. **\$215,000 Furnished**



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View tour with smartphone, scan...



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1501 Bluefin Court West
Tom/Tess McCarthy 239.243.5520
premierair.com/id/214021104 \$2,595,000



ROYAL HARBOR
2035 Snook Drive
Gary Blaine 239.595.2912
premierair.com/id/214020827 \$2,195,000



ROYAL HARBOR
1100 Sandpiper Street
Tom/Tess McCarthy 239.243.5520
premierair.com/id/214019906 \$1,995,000



ROYAL HARBOR
1570 Chesapeake Avenue
Tom/Tess McCarthy 239.243.5520
premierair.com/id/213509597 \$1,549,000



OLD NAPLES
Warrenton #D
Ruth Trettis 239.571.6760
premierair.com/id/214020718 \$895,000



OLD NAPLES
Bayfront #3207
Cynthia Corogin 239.393.6747
premierair.com/id/214018780 \$450,000



ROYAL HARBOR
Oyster Bay - Four Winds #D 38
Lura Jones 239.370.5340
premierair.com/id/212039641 \$444,000

Coquina Sands | The Moorings

These quiet, tree-shaded neighborhoods are a mix of single-family homes and condominiums; some enjoy waterfront access on Moorings Bay, Compass Cove, Venetian Bay and Hurricane Harbor. The Moorings has a private golf and country club.



THE MOORINGS
2571 Windward Way
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premierair.com/id/214023000 \$5,900,000



THE MOORINGS
1831 Crayton Road
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premierair.com/id/212035019 \$4,195,000



THE MOORINGS
Admiralty Point #701
Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894
premierair.com/id/213508707 \$3,950,000



THE MOORINGS
2805 Leeward Lane
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premierair.com/id/214005764 \$2,895,000



COQUINA SANDS
740 Coral Drive
Fahada Saad 239.659.5145
premierair.com/id/213500169 \$2,495,000



THE MOORINGS
368 Hawser Lane
Chris Yanson 239.450.7584
premierair.com/id/212034500 \$2,085,000



THE MOORINGS
723 Mooring Line Drive
Patrick O'Connor 239.293.9411
premierair.com/id/213508259 \$1,995,000



THE MOORINGS
686 Anchor Rode Drive
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premierair.com/id/214023215 \$1,645,000



THE MOORINGS
Westgate #N-6
Linda Perry/Judy Perry 239.404.7052
premierair.com/id/214001314 \$1,595,000



THE MOORINGS
530 Anchore Rode Drive
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premierair.com/id/BAKE05214HE \$1,595,000



THE MOORINGS
Martinique Club #901
Linda Perry/Judy Perry 239.404.7052
premierair.com/id/214016233 \$1,475,000



THE MOORINGS
Martinique Club #101
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.213.7227
premierair.com/id/212016107 \$1,050,000



THE MOORINGS
708 Springline Drive
Carolyn Weinand 239.269.5678
premierair.com/id/214003927 \$980,000



THE MOORINGS
Admiralty Point II #504
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premierair.com/id/214003715 \$895,000



THE MOORINGS
Jamaica Towers #502
Larry Roorda 239.860.2534
premierair.com/id/214003529 \$785,000



THE MOORINGS
Lions Gate #103
Carol Sheehy 239.340.9300
premierair.com/id/214003955 \$740,000



THE MOORINGS
Lausanne #312S
John D'Amelio 239.961.5996
premierair.com/id/212009304 \$665,000



THE MOORINGS
Executive Club #109
Richard/Susie Culp 239.290.2200
premierair.com/id/214010914 \$364,900

Pelican Bay

Pelican Bay is home to many distinctive neighborhoods, comprised of single-family estate homes, towering high-rises and a wide spectrum of coach homes and villa enclaves. It's set amidst hundreds of acres of natural habitat, with large lakes and preserves. Discover all of Naples' finest amenities here. Private golf and club memberships.



684 Annemore Lane
Jerry Wachowicz 239.777.0741
premiersir.com/id/213508604 \$2,695,000



705 Hollybriar Lane
Jane Darling 239.290.3112
premiersir.com/id/213511542 \$2,295,000



St. Lucia #PH5
Jerry Wachowicz 239.777.0741
premiersir.com/id/213509158 \$1,849,900



Montenero #308
Frank Pezzuti 239.216.2445
premiersir.com/id/214025140 \$1,575,000



813 Bentwood Drive
Ellen Eggland 239.571.7192
premiersir.com/id/213508676 \$1,499,000



Crescent #D-21
Vickie Larscheid 239.250.5041
premiersir.com/id/214025268 \$1,050,000



Crescent #15
Jane Bond 239.595.9515
premiersir.com/id/213506187 \$999,000



Crescent #122
Jane Bond 239.595.9515
premiersir.com/id/213506855 \$959,000



708 Heathery Lane
Jutta V. Lopez/Al Lopez 239.659.5113
premiersir.com/id/213505034 \$949,000



St. Vincents #15
Amy Atherholt 239.860.2167
premiersir.com/id/213508606 \$575,000



Lucano #104
Gilman/Hamilton/Briscoe 239.213.7463
premiersir.com/id/213508667 \$525,000



Barrington Club #101
Heidi Deen 239.370.5388
premiersir.com/id/213511674 \$375,000

Pelican Marsh

Pelican Marsh is located in North Naples, 1.5 miles from some of the finest beaches on Florida's West coast. Inside this exclusive, gated community, enjoy tennis, fitness, spa facilities and more. Sophisticated shopping and dining are just blocks away at Mercato. Or, take in a show at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts.



8663 Blue Flag Way
Dave/Ann Renner 239.784.5552
premiersir.com/id/214020895 \$2,995,000



9069 Terranova Drive
Cheryl Turner 239.250.3311
premiersir.com/id/213501918 \$1,599,000



1337 Little Blue Heron Court
Gilman/Hamilton/Briscoe 239.213.7463
premiersir.com/id/213018738 \$1,195,000



956 Spanish Moss Trail
Lisa Tashjian 239.259.7024
premiersir.com/id/214003757 \$1,100,000



Osprey Pointe #202
Dave/Ann Renner 239.784.5552
premiersir.com/id/213502139 \$599,900



Seville #921
Terri Moellers 239.404.7887
premiersir.com/id/213508357 \$450,000

North Naples

North Naples boasts beautiful beaches, fine dining, shopping and essential amenities. Single-family homes, villas and towering high-rises dot the landscape. Public and private golf courses, water sports, tennis and more.



PELICAN ISLE

Aqua #210
John D'Amelio 239.961.5996
premiersir.com/id/214006696 \$4,450,000



TIBURON

2569 Escada Drive
Michael G. Lawler/Terri Moellers 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/213506071 \$3,495,000



MEDITERRA

15243 Medici Way
Jutta V. Lopez/Al Lopez 239.659.5113
premiersir.com/id/214020579 \$2,795,000



PELICAN ISLE

Aqua #610
John D'Amelio 239.961.5996
premiersir.com/id/213508927 \$2,250,000



CROSSINGS

7371 Stonegate Drive
Terri Moellers 239.404.7887
premiersir.com/id/214023860 \$1,750,000



TIBURON

2924 Tiburon Blvd. East
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.213.7227
premiersir.com/id/213507225 \$1,645,000



THE DUNES

Grande Excelsior #1606
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731
premiersir.com/id/214024494 \$1,500,000



THE DUNES

Grande Geneva #902
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731
premiersir.com/id/213513352 \$1,275,000



MERCATO

The Strada #7502
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.213.7227
premiersir.com/id/211500266 \$1,250,000



OAKES ESTATES

1540 Oakes Boulevard
Gennifer Garcia 239.273.2188
premiersir.com/id/214010921 \$1,200,000



THE DUNES

Grande Dominica #T-2
Adrienne Young 239.825.5369
premiersir.com/id/214025123 \$1,139,000



THE DUNES

Grande Geneva #T-3
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731
premiersir.com/id/212038747 \$999,000



AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB

213 Charleston Court
Roxanne Jeske 239.450.5210
premiersir.com/id/213023494 \$925,000



INDIGO LAKES

14681 Beaufort Circle
Sherrie Pfeffer 239.734.0539
premiersir.com/id/213503212 \$699,900



OLDE CYPRESS

2893 Lone Pine Lane
Dave/Ann Renner 239.784.5552
premiersir.com/id/213508063 \$639,000



VILLAGES OF MONTEREY

8145 Las Palmas Way
Dave/Ann Renner 239.784.5552
premiersir.com/id/214025594 \$599,900



ISLAND WALK

5117 Inagua Way
Dina L. Moon 239.370.1252
premiersir.com/id/213508873 \$540,000



QUAIL CREEK VILLAGE

10378 Quail Crown Drive
Erik David Barber 323.513.6391
premiersir.com/id/213512056 \$539,000



VILLAGES OF MONTEREY

7571 San Miguel Way
Dave/Ann Renner 239.784.5552
premiersir.com/id/214026076 \$449,000



VILLAGES OF MONTEREY

1850 Mission Drive
Dave/Ann Renner 239.784.5552
premiersir.com/id/213024270 \$438,000



VILLAGES OF MONTEREY

7653 San Sebastian Way
Dave/Ann Renner 239.784.5552
premiersir.com/id/214007945 \$425,000



MERCATO

The Strada #7309
Mary Kavanagh 616.957.4428
premiersir.com/id/214026398 \$425,000



OLDE CYPRESS

3094 Santorini Court
Sandra McCarthy-Meeks 239.287.7921
premiersir.com/id/213511624 \$599,900



IMPERIAL GOLF ESTATES

13270 Wedgefield Drive
Amy Atherholt 239.860.2167
premiersir.com/id/214023488 \$339,000

Park Shore

Glistening beachfront towers, bayside mansions and finely crafted inland homes make Park Shore the perfect blend for desirable living. Enjoy superlative shops and bistros at The Village on Venetian Bay plus beach and boating amenities.



334 Pirates Bight
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/GEGG07142IHE \$5,950,000



4215 Crayton Road
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/GEGG111813IHE \$4,995,000



316 Neapolitan Way
Karen Van Arsdale 239.860.0894
premiersir.com/id/214002169I4 \$4,795,000



320 Neapolitan Way
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/214015185I4 \$4,650,000



311 Neapolitan Way
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/212035092I3 \$3,795,000



319 Pirates Bight
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/214000312I2 \$2,995,000



Aria #603
Marion Bethea/Anne Killilea 239.571.5614
premiersir.com/id/214010920I2 \$2,995,000



4010 Old Trail Way
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/NERIO41913IHE \$2,695,000



Park Plaza #1704
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/212037005I2 \$2,199,000



Park Plaza #600
Cheryl Turner 239.250.3311
premiersir.com/id/214006589I1 \$1,775,000



Brittany #305
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.213.7227
premiersir.com/id/212019590I1 \$1,675,000



Horizon House #PH-2A
Ruth Trettis 239.571.6760
premiersir.com/id/212001923I1 \$1,650,000



720 Fountainhead Lane
Michael G. Lawler 239.261.3939
premiersir.com/id/214026454I1 \$1,295,000



737 Park Shore Drive
Gordie Lazich 239.777.2033
premiersir.com/id/214019368I1 \$899,000



Terraces #706
Fahada Saad 239.659.5145
premiersir.com/id/214010926I1 \$835,000



Terraces #606
Polly Himmel 239.290.3910
premiersir.com/id/214000687I1 \$789,000



Terraces #505
Polly Himmel 239.290.3910
premiersir.com/id/213012814I1 \$775,000



Colonade #2101
Linda Ohler 239.404.6460
premiersir.com/id/214009354I1 \$750,000



4052 Crayton Road
Richard/Susie Culp 239.290.2200
premiersir.com/id/214014910I1 \$629,000



Horizon House #105
Debbie Broulik 239.297.5152
premiersir.com/id/214018989I1 \$499,500



Jacaranda #3
Pat Duggan/Rhonda Dowdy 239.216.1980
premiersir.com/id/214008920I1 \$290,000



Willows #109
Ann Marie Shimer 239.825.9020
premiersir.com/id/214004625I1 \$229,000



Park Shore Resort #212
Susan Barton 239.860.1412
premiersir.com/id/214003307I1 \$190,000



Park Shore Resort #156
Fahada Saad 239.659.5145
premiersir.com/id/214020618I1 \$165,000

Grey Oaks

Grey Oaks' 54 holes of award-winning golf serve as the centerpiece in this heart-of-Naples community interspersed with luxurious single-family estate homes of a grand scale and elegant villas.



ESTUARY
1261 Gordon River Trail
Sam Heitman 239.537.2018
premiersir.com/id/214003197I1 \$7,995,000



ESTUARY
1234 Gordon River Trail
Melissa Williams 239.248.7238
premiersir.com/id/214000494I1 \$6,995,000



ESTUARY
1213 Gordon River Trail
Dan Guenther 239.357.8121
premiersir.com/id/214007227I6 \$6,995,000



ISLE ROYALE
2133 Canna Court
Jutta V. Lopez/Al Lopez 239.659.5113
premiersir.com/id/213504150I5 \$5,200,000



ISLE TOSCANO
1834 Plumbago Lane
Melissa Williams 239.248.7238
premiersir.com/id/213513559I1 \$5,100,000



GREY OAKS
1610 Chinaberry Way
Carolyn Weinand 239.269.5678
premiersir.com/id/213508985I4 \$4,595,000



GREY OAKS
1911 Cocoplum Way
Fahada Saad 239.659.5145
premiersir.com/id/213507139I4 \$4,400,000



VENEZIA
1708 Venezia Way
Lynn Anderson 239.290.6674
premiersir.com/id/214008666I2 \$2,495,000



PALM ISLAND
2351 Alexander Palm Drive
Fahada Saad 239.659.5145
premiersir.com/id/214016729I2 \$2,295,000



VENEZIA
1713 Venezia Way
Fahada Saad 239.659.5145
premiersir.com/id/214007564I1 \$1,875,000



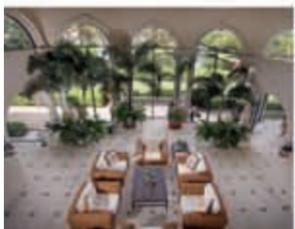
ESTUARY
1264 Osprey Trail
Dan Guenther 239.357.8121
premiersir.com/id/214015983I1 \$1,700,000



TERRA VERDE
Terra Verde #2376
Carolyn Weinand 239.269.5678
premiersir.com/id/213511837I1 \$599,000

Bay Colony

Bay Colony is the very definition of privileged living. From the beachfront high-rises to the golf course estate homes to the villas in quiet alcoves, this is luxury living at its best. Golf and beach club memberships.



377 Cromwell Court
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.213.7227
premiersir.com/id/212003773I5 \$5,950,000



Trieste #1106
Gilman/Hamilton/Briscoe 239.213.7463
premiersir.com/id/214024952I2 \$2,595,000



Trieste #1006
Gilman/Hamilton/Briscoe 239.213.7463
premiersir.com/id/214011129I2 \$2,495,000



8062 Vizcaya Way
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.213.7227
premiersir.com/id/214026254I2 \$2,350,000



Salerno #301
Gilman/Hamilton/Briscoe 239.213.7463
premiersir.com/id/213510254I1 \$1,695,000



Mansion La Palma #504
Jerry Wachowicz 239.777.0741
premiersir.com/id/214007732I1 \$1,550,000

Naples & Surrounds

With sun-drenched sugary-sand beaches, stretching over 10 miles, temperate year-round weather and abundant fishing and boating activities, Naples has been a natural attraction for affluent travelers and sun seekers from around the world for decades.



ISLES OF CAPRI

160 Tahiti Circle
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133
premiersir.com/id/21301038853 \$900,000



NAPLES CAY

76 Seagate Drive
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.213.7227
premiersir.com/id/213507962 \$2,650,000



LIVINGSTON WOODS

6720 Hunters Road
Barbi Lowe/Trish Lowe Soars 239.213.7227
premiersir.com/id/212018827 \$2,350,000



PINE RIDGE

585 Ridge Drive
Linda Perry/Judy Perry 239.404.7052
premiersir.com/id/213505298 \$1,870,000



NAPLES CAY

Baypointe #1404
Julie Rembos 239.595.1809
premiersir.com/id/214009135 \$1,799,000



WYNDEMERE

324 Edgemere Way East
Kathryn Hurvitz 239.290.0228
premiersir.com/id/213012825 \$1,100,000



HAMMOCK BAY

Lesina #2101
Roe Tamagni 239.398.1222
premiersir.com/id/214016141 \$999,000



VINEYARDS

420 Terracina Way
Pat Callis 239.250.0562
premiersir.com/id/213505586 \$969,000



WYNDEMERE

809 Wyndemere Way
Kathryn Hurvitz 239.290.0228
premiersir.com/id/214026646 \$900,000



KENSINGTON

5286 Kensington High Street
Fahada Saad 239.659.5145
premiersir.com/id/214011598 \$820,000



LIVINGSTON WOODS

7071 Hunters Road
Tammie Schmidt 239.777.3766
premiersir.com/id/214023092 \$795,000



HAWKSRIDGE

2043 Swainsons Run
Patrick O'Connor 239.293.9411
premiersir.com/id/214009809 \$675,000



BANYAN WOODS

Reserve II #201
Pat Duggan/Rhonda Dowdy 239.216.1980
premiersir.com/id/214026112 \$599,000



VINEYARDS

Vista Pointe #3606
Amy Atherholt 239.860.2167
premiersir.com/id/213020686 \$595,000



BAD AXE

1024 Michigan Avenue
Debbi/Marty McDermott 239.564.4231
premiersir.com/id/214011718 \$549,000



LELY RESORT

Legacy #404
Lura Jones 239.370.5340
premiersir.com/id/212037977 \$515,000



GOLDEN GATE ESTATES

390 17th Street NW
Marlene Suarez 239.290.0585
premiersir.com/id/213505716 \$499,000



HAMMOCK BAY

Aversana #704
Larry Caruso 239.394.9191
premiersir.com/id/214006649 \$475,000



LELY RESORT

Champions #602
Lura Jones 239.370.5340
premiersir.com/id/214007856 \$380,000



NAPLES IMP CO LITTLE FARMS

2640 10th Street North
Leah Ritchey/Amy Becker 239.289.0433
premiersir.com/id/214015671 \$349,000



FOREST GLEN

Bishopwood West I #202
Jesse Moreno 239.405.0065
premiersir.com/id/214011975 \$339,900



WINDSTAR

Windward Cay #823
ML Meade 239.293.4851
premiersir.com/id/SWIF0325141HE \$325,000



WOODSTONE

6176 Woodstone Drive
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133
premiersir.com/id/214018538 \$250,000



MANDALAY

6152 Mandalay Circle
Jesse Moreno 239.405.0065
premiersir.com/id/214011579 \$247,000



POSITANO PLACE

Positano Place #106
Jon Vollmer 239.250.9414
premiersir.com/id/214026267 \$183,000



BRIARWOOD

Dover Parc #1303
Kathryn Hurvitz 239.290.0228
premiersir.com/id/214017989 \$169,900



COUNTRYSIDE

Country Manor #613
Bobby Long 239.776.4650
premiersir.com/id/214019575 \$135,000



QUAIL RUN

Verandas #212
Gayle Fawkes 239.250.6051
premiersir.com/id/214026020 \$129,900



WYNDEMERE

Courtside Commons #202
Kathryn Hurvitz 239.290.0228
premiersir.com/id/213015911 \$119,900



COUNTRYSIDE

Country Haven #1210
Bobby Long 239.776.4650
premiersir.com/id/214019292 \$119,500

Vanderbilt Beach

Vanderbilt Beach is home to The Ritz-Carlton, trendy shops, cafes and a host of retail establishments. Single-family homes, luxurious beachfront and waterfront condominiums and mid-rise living are found here.



291 Oak Avenue
Jane Bond 239.595.9515
premiersir.com/id/214007229 \$2,199,000



414 Palm Court
Pat Callis 239.250.0562
premiersir.com/id/214007997 \$1,779,000



Vanderbilt Lagoon Villas #5
Erik David Barber 323.513.6391
premiersir.com/id/214019554 \$1,649,000



128 Heron Avenue
Gilman/Hamilton/Briscoe 239.213.7463
premiersir.com/id/214009215 \$895,000



Regatta #601
Jennifer/Dave Urness 239.273.7731
premiersir.com/id/214025129 \$789,000



Barefoot Pelican #249
Jane Bond 239.595.9515
premiersir.com/id/214003947 \$565,000

Bonita Springs, Estero & Surrounds

Just minutes north of Naples, these established communities are well-positioned to enjoy Naples amenities. Neighborhoods enjoy access to beaches, water sports and a host of businesses and restaurants.



SHADOW WOOD PRESERVE

18961 Knoll Landing Drive
Harriet Harnar 239.273.5443
premiersir.com/id/214003275 \$1,175,000



THE BROOKS

23227 Foxberry Lane
Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff 239.777.2441
premiersir.com/id/213015400 \$549,000



PELICAN LANDING

Reserve #103
Vanya Demireva 239.565.0550
premiersir.com/id/214024791 \$299,000



VASARI COUNTRY CLUB

Toscana #101
Roxanne Jeske 239.450.5210
premiersir.com/id/211016317 \$227,500



PELICAN SOUND

Hammock Greens #104
Roxanne Jeske 239.450.5210
premiersir.com/id/213505803 \$164,000



WORTHINGTON

Waterford III #912
Ryan Batey 239.287.9159
premiersir.com/id/215513208 \$149,900

Marco Island

Graced with miles of powder-white sand beaches, Marco boasts luxurious real estate, shopping, dining, entertainment and a bounty of recreational activities from boating and fishing to golf and tennis and more.



341 Seabreeze Drive
Cathy Rogers 239.821.7926
premierstir.com/id/21400955852.999.000



1458 Butterfield Court
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133
premierstir.com/id/21300389252.495.000



919 Barfield Drive
Larry Caruso 239.394.9191
premierstir.com/id/214025009 \$2.295.000



1075 Caxambas Drive
Cathy Rogers 239.821.7926
premierstir.com/id/214017871 \$2.250.000



1026 Bald Eagle Drive
Paul Strong 239.404.3280
premierstir.com/id/213501901 \$2.195.000



Belize #507
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133
premierstir.com/id/21350708352.085.000



1781 Barbados Avenue
Gwen Tolson 847.208.2754
premierstir.com/id/213022036 \$1.425.000



795 Amber Drive
Vince Colace 239.260.3333
premierstir.com/id/214011489 \$1.200.000



1570 Doxsee Terrace
Brock/Julie Wilson 239.821.9545
premierstir.com/id/213015924 \$1.125.000



859 Wintergreen Court
Darlene Roddy 239.404.0685
premierstir.com/id/213500268 \$975.000



Royal Marco Point I #210
Cathy Rogers 239.821.7926
premierstir.com/id/214025816 \$925.000



818 Elm Court
Laura/Chris Adams 239.404.4768
premierstir.com/id/213024746 \$899.000



Royal Seafarer #2306
Angelica Andrews 239.595.7653
premierstir.com/id/214025598 \$875.000



Hideaway Beach #310
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133
premierstir.com/id/213505289 \$749.500



Sandpiper #1403
Cynthia Corogin 239.393.6747
premierstir.com/id/212022090 \$720.000



South Seas #1712
Helga Wetzold 239.821.6905
premierstir.com/id/214011420 \$599.000



South Seas #704
Cynthia Corogin 239.393.6747
premierstir.com/id/212022129 \$545.000



Sandcastle II #107
Dave Flowers 239.404.0493
premierstir.com/id/210022945 \$499.000



855 Hideaway Circle West
Paul Strong 239.404.3280
premierstir.com/id/213023635 \$499.000



865 Sea Dune Lane
Jim/Nikki Prange-Carroll 239.642.1133
premierstir.com/id/209043928 \$495.000



1066 Ruppert Road
Larry Caruso 239.394.9191
premierstir.com/id/214010187 \$475.000



449 Century Drive
Angelica Andrews 239.595.7653
premierstir.com/id/214024721 \$459.000



Gulfview Apartments #1910
Helga Wetzold 239.821.6905
premierstir.com/id/213500406 \$455.000



Island Manor #B-1
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Menaggio #202
Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176
premierstir.com/id/214025564 \$590.000



Cascada #202
Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176
premierstir.com/id/213512577 \$549.000



Montreux #104
ML Meade 239.293.4851
premierstir.com/id/213502527 \$588.000



Varenna #101
Lura Jones 239.370.5340
premierstir.com/id/213511863 \$379.000



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premierstir.com/id/213504817 \$369.000



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Lura Jones 239.370.5340
premierstir.com/id/213510225 \$355.000



Montreux #103
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premierstir.com/id/213504465 \$349.500



Cascada #101
Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176
premierstir.com/id/213505028 \$324.000



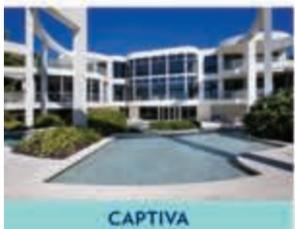
Varenna #103
Michelle Thomas 239.860.7176
premierstir.com/id/213502973 \$299.900



Whisper Trace #G203
Deb Welch 239.293.5294
premierstir.com/id/214024981 \$162.000

Sanibel, Captiva & Surrounds

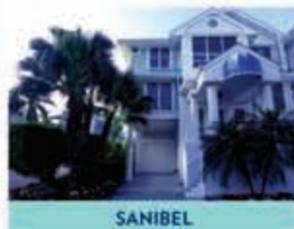
Long beloved for their white-sand beaches, prolific seashells, and flora and fauna, the Islands provide a haven for families, vacationers and those who simply enjoy a slower pace of life. From condominiums to resorts to villas to cottages, the Islands are the perfect refuge for living year-round or as a getaway in the sun.



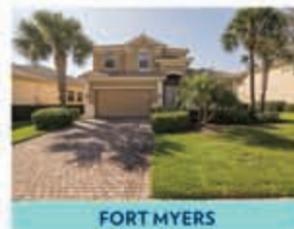
16428 Captiva Drive
Jane Reader Weaver 239.850.9555
premierstir.com/id/214010471 \$10.750.000



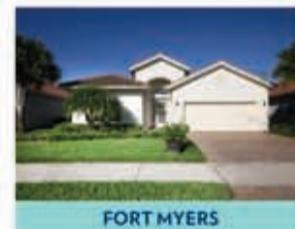
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COURTESY PHOTOS

Vyne House, the main clubhouse at Talis Park, is home to dining, fitness and spa venues.

Introducing the newest 'In the Park' enclave at Talis Park

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Home to one of just two Greg Norman-Pete Dye designed golf courses in the world, Talis Park offers residents the choice of living in a park-like setting or within walking distance of the community's grand piazza village. Developer Kitson & Partners created the "In the Park" and "In the Village" concepts for the North Naples community to reflect a lifestyle focused on personal health and well being, family and friends, long-term value and legacy.

With 43 "In the Park" residences, Seneca is the newest enclave within Talis Park. Seneca's north and south facing lakefront home sites offer stunning water and double or triple fairway views. Priced from the high \$400,000s to \$700,000, each of these choice sites is 190-200 feet deep, 77-100 feet wide, and will accommodate residences ranging from 3,200 square feet to 5,000 square feet. Custom home and lot packages in Seneca are priced from \$1.6 to \$2.2 million.

As is the case in the community's other seven neighborhoods, Seneca will offer all-new designs in a refreshing palette of Spanish Eclectic, Italian Renaissance and Colonial Caribbean architectural styles. Four luxury homebuilders



The grand piazza at Talis Park encompasses Vyne House and the great lawn.

are participating in Seneca: McGarvey Custom Homes, Fox Custom Builders, Harbourside Custom Homes and Gulfshore Homes. Each of the four builders is set to begin construction of a model residence in Seneca; Harbourside Custom Homes will also begin construction of an unfurnished resident-ready residence.

Seneca is within a short walk or bike ride of Talis Park's grand piazza village, home of the Vyne House clubhouse and the great lawn. Fiona's Market Café, a fitness center and Esprit Spa were part of phase one of Vyne House; phase two, set to begin later this year, will introduce Palm Court, an open-air courtyard that is the centerpiece

of Vyne House. Formal indoor dining, casual indoor and outdoor dining, a multi-purpose room, aerobics and cardio workout rooms, and a wine room/board room are in the clubhouse expansion plan as well. Phase two will also include the completion of a golf pro shop, men's and women's locker rooms, a resort-style pool and deck, and a rotunda with a two-sided fireplace overlooking the 18th green.

With the completion of phase two, Vyne House will encompass 31,500 square feet under air and will have 20,000 square feet of outdoor space.

Seneca joins Talis Park's other seven neighborhoods to provide a diverse array of residential choices that includes estate residences and luxury villas and condominiums. Builders in Talis Park addition to the four that are building homes in Seneca are: Borelli Construction Corp., Van Emmerik Custom Homes, Scholten Construction, BCBE Construction, Divco Construction Corp., Distinctive Communities, Iron Star Luxury Homes and Sunwest Custom Homes.

The entrance to Talis Park is on Livingston Road just north of Immokalee Road. For more information, stop at the sales center or go to www.talisark.com. ■

HEROES

From page 11

home," Mr. Toth says. "It's a simple way to give back and say thank you to these people for the sacrifices they make day in and day out."

The Mikolinskis worked with Mr. Toth for six months to find the right home for their family of three. Once they found the home of their dreams, Mr. Toth guided them through financing, inspections and

other requirements, all with Homes for Heroes affiliated companies. The couple closed on their home in early March and moved in last month.

"The Homes for Heroes program was extremely easy," Mr. Mikolinski says. "All we had to do was fill out an online sign-up sheet, and Scott did the rest. Financially, it really helped us purchase this beautiful home."

Since 2009, Homes for Heroes affiliates have given back more than \$5 million to our nation's heroes. For more information, visit www.naplesheroes.com or www.homesforheroes.com. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

Scott Toth, right, of John R. Wood Properties with the Mikolinski family at their new home.



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The Captiva I. Artist's Conception

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Mangrove Bay Residents will be the recipients of luxury on-site Concierge services and comprehensive property management services (including, but not limited to lawn care, pool care and dock maintenance). The Concierge Building will offer private on-site storage for Resident kayaks, paddle boards and/or jet skis within convenient reach of the private Mangrove Bay boat ramp and will offer three luxurious private guest suites available by advance reservation for guests of Residents.

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With only 52 homes available on Old Naples last remaining significant waterfront residential property and all the luxuries only an Old Naples address can afford, the opportunity to purchase a home at Mangrove Bay won't last long.

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REAL ESTATE NETWORKING

A sunset celebration at the site of the future Mangrove Bay



Matthew Kragh, John Passidomo, Jon Rubinton and Josh Rubinton



Matthew Grabinski, Melanie Visser, Natasha Preira and John Burton



Nancy Hahn, Scott Leiti, Wendy Leiti and Tiffany McQuaid



David Homuth, Stacy Nourse and Don Schnell



Steve Larson and Patrick Fulton

COURTESY PHOTOS



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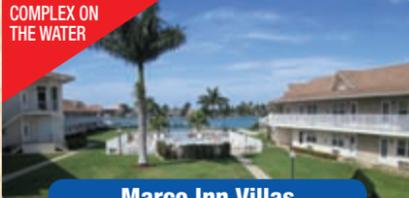
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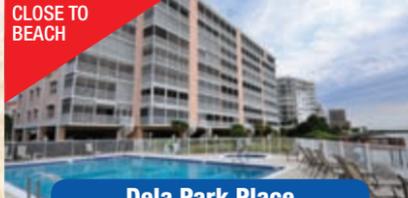
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Open Houses are Sunday 1-4, unless otherwise marked

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2 • PELICAN LANDING - RESERVE • 24430 Reserve Court #103 • \$299,000 • PSIR • Dimo Demirev • 239.565.0707

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3 • BERKSHIRE LAKES • 34 Hastings Place • \$339,000 • PSIR • Susan Payne • 239.777.7209

4 • FIDDLER'S CREEK - MONTREUX • 3730 Montreux Lane #202 • \$359,000 • PSIR • Michelle Thomas • 239.860.7176

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5 • BONITA BAY - MONTARA • 3244 Montara Drive • \$529,000 • PSIR • Roxanne Jeske • 239.450.5210

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7 • PELICAN LANDING - LAKEMONT • 24721 Lyonia Lane • \$549,900 • PSIR • Cathy Lieberman/Cindy Reiff • 239.777.2441

8 • WINDSTAR - SOMERSET • 2217 Paget Circle • \$549,900 • PSIR • V.K. Melhado • 239.216.6400

9 • FIDDLER'S CREEK - CRANBERRY CROSSING • 9048 Cherry Oaks Trail • \$597,500 • PSIR • Michelle Thomas • 239.860.7176

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13 • MERCATO - THE STRADA • 9123 Strada Place • From \$1,000,000 • PSIR • Call 239.594.9400 • Open Monday-Saturday 10am-8pm & Sunday 12-8pm

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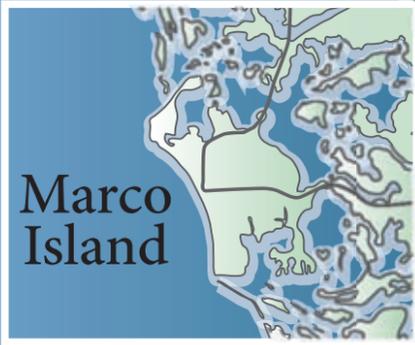
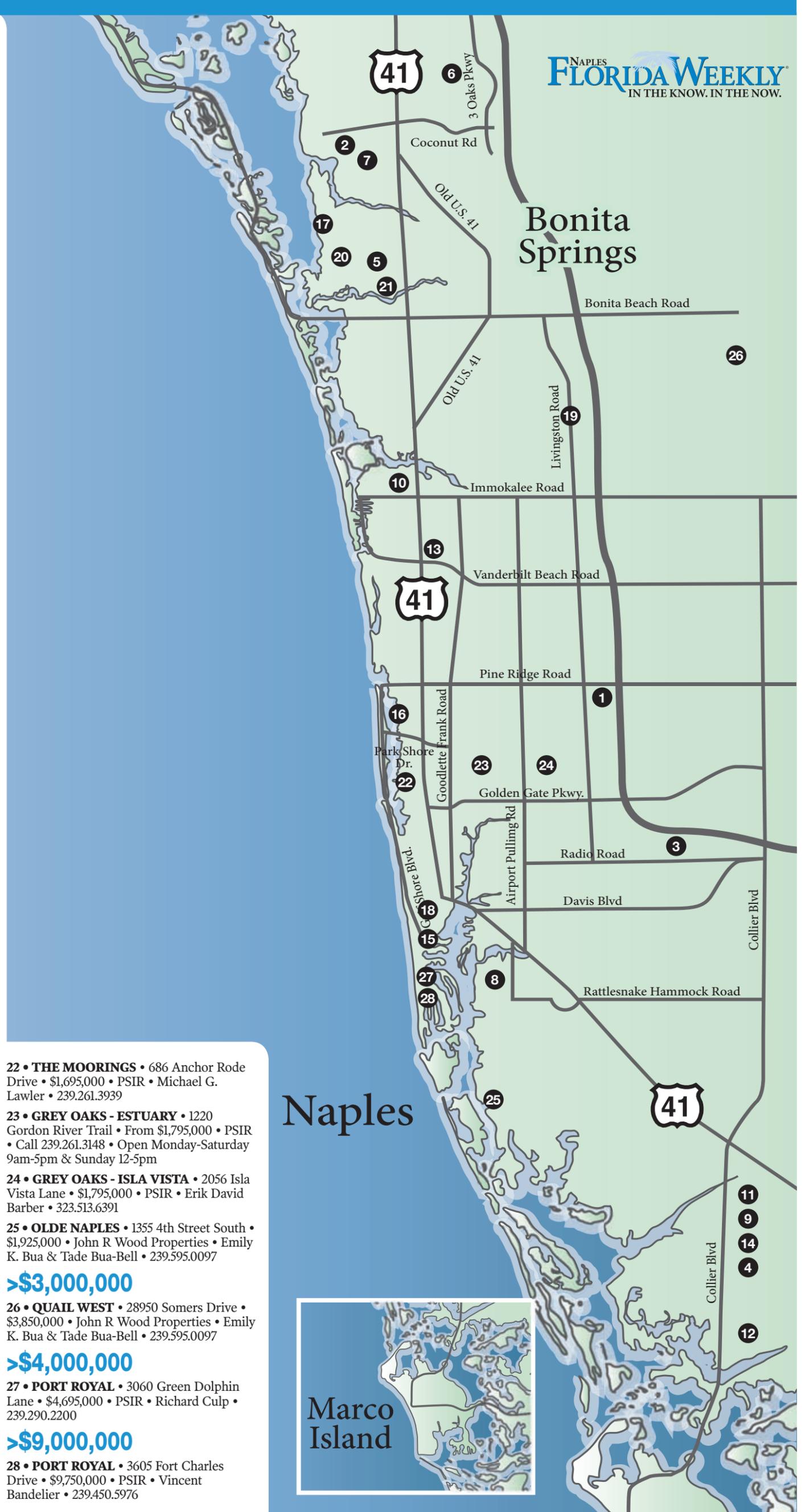
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WEEK OF MAY 8-14, 2014

A GUIDE TO THE LOCAL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



THE MOVIES ARE FULL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL MOTHERS WE LOVE TO HATE...

MOMS from hell

BY NANCY STETSON

nstetson@floridaweekly.com

MOTHERS ARE WARM, LOVING, nurturing and self-sacrificial. Unless, of course, they're Moms from Hell.

Then all bets are off.

If the stereotypical portrayals of motherhood on the big and small screen are to be believed, moms are women who live to cook and clean while wearing pearls and heels along with their aprons. They're ecstatic about vacuuming.

We know reality isn't like that.

That's why it's so much fun to see the opposite extreme: mothers who are devious, manipulative, totally unlikeable and unlovable.

If our own mother is a little difficult to get along with, well, we can feel relief at seeing some of her quirks reflected on the screen.

Or, we can count our blessings that as bad as she is, she isn't as

SEE MOMS, C4 ►



'Motherhood Out Loud' looks at moms from all angles

BY DON MANLEY

Florida Weekly Correspondent

"A mother is a mother from the moment her baby is first placed in her arms until eternity. It didn't matter if her child were three, thirteen, or thirty."
— Sarah Strohmeier, "Kindred Spirits"

"If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?"
— Milton Berle

Motherhood is a rather austere word for describing the multifaceted state of being experienced by the women who give us life.

The broad expanse of the maternal journey is explored in all its humor and joyousness, heartache and unselfishness in a play opening for Mother's Day weekend by Let's Put On A Show Productions in Golden Gate.

"Motherhood Out Loud" offers up the perspectives of the 14 writers who penned the production's 20 brief mono-

logues devoted to such topics as step-mothering, autism, mothers-in-law, transgender children, dementia and gay parenting.

Spread out over 90 minutes, the vignettes are divided into five chapters: "Fast Births," "First Day," "Sex Talk," "Stepping Out" and "Coming Home."

"New mothers or young mothers can relate to the child going off for school for the first time, basically leaving the

SEE MOTHERHOOD, C5 ►

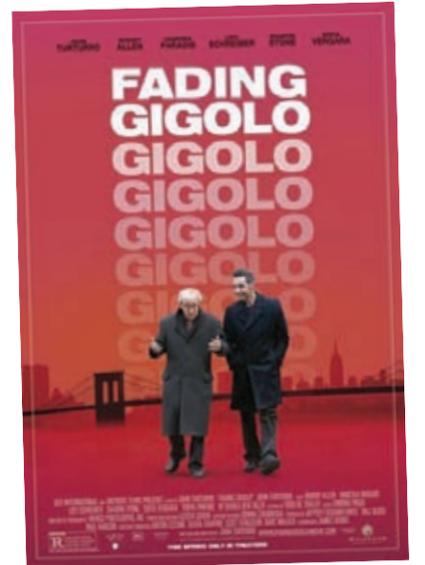
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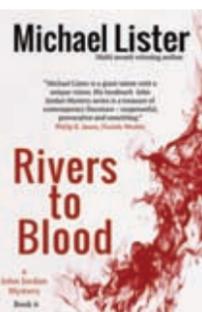


Going, going ...

Film critic Dan Hudak predicts a fast box-office burnout. **C11** ►

A theater near you

Paragon Pavilion brings six screens back to life in North Naples. **C3** ►



Complex, classic

Crime-fighting prison chaplain's latest adventures duly impress book critic Phil Jason. **C14** ►



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Vanderbilt	594-9494
The Promenade	948-4000
Fifth Avenue	434-8770
Marco Island	642-2222
Rentals	262-4242

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

A primer on aging (and dating) gracefully



I recently sat in the park for a spell, enjoying the sunshine and fine weather. A woman of a certain age came to sit beside me and we shared a few moments in the sun. White-haired and impeccably dressed, she wore flaming red lipstick and had a beauty mark penciled on her right cheek. She was, in a word, fabulous.

We chatted about the spring day, the pizza place on the corner, the teenager with pink hair across the street. The woman shifted on the bench, searching for a more comfortable spot, and said to me in a low growl, "Never get old. It's a bitch."

I had to laugh. Lately, I'd been thinking the same thing.

It's funny the way age slips up on us. My mother recently cleaned out her spare room and found a stack of photos from the summer of 2010. Not that long ago, in the larger scheme of things, but still I was struck by how much younger I looked. It scares me to think what another four years will do.

For the most part, I try not to be vain about aging. When my friends talk about Botox or the latest youth serum, I just roll my eyes. Age is inevitable, I tell them. We can't outrun it, and we

certainly can't defeat it. The best we can do is manage its ups and downs with grace and class.

That's what I say in my optimistic moments, anyway.

In other, darker times, I curse every person under 30 who calls me "ma'am."

I haven't been labeled "miss" in more than two years.

I want to weep each time a stranger's eyes slide off me, disinterested, and I remember the line from an aging poet — once a great beauty — who said she didn't need the bag boys at the grocery store to flirt with her, she just wanted them to notice her.

Last week I traveled back to my alma mater for a panel where I sat on stage with five other alumni ranging from recent graduates up to, well, me. I was the oldest, sure, but I had on a sexy dress and high heels and I felt certain I could hold my own, even if the students in the audience were the class of 2018.

As if in confirmation, one of the other panelists approached me at the reception afterward. He was cute and quirky, artsy and funny. He had on funky socks and trendy glasses, and as we swapped stories about traveling in Europe, I surreptitiously checked out his nametag: Class

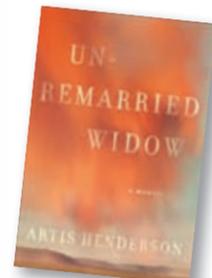
of 2010, a good eight years younger than I am.

I actually (and embarrassingly) thought, I've still got it. For a brief wondrous

moment, I believed that getting older isn't so bad. Then my young friend turned to me in the middle of a conversation about technology and said brightly, "I guess when you were here they still had carrier pigeons."

He would have done less harm if he'd socked me in the gut. But I just laughed, all grace and class. Anyway, I'm sure I could teach him a thing or two. ■

— Artis Henderson is the author of "Unremarried Widow" published by Simon and Schuster.



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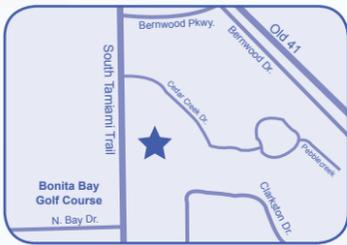


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Moviegoers have new luxury option

Paragon Theaters has opened the luxury Paragon Pavilion on Vanderbilt Beach Road after completing extensive renovations to the center's original cinema complex. The Florida-based company has a successful track record of turning older theaters into upscale venues and followed the blueprint used to renovate other theaters in Florida and Minnesota.

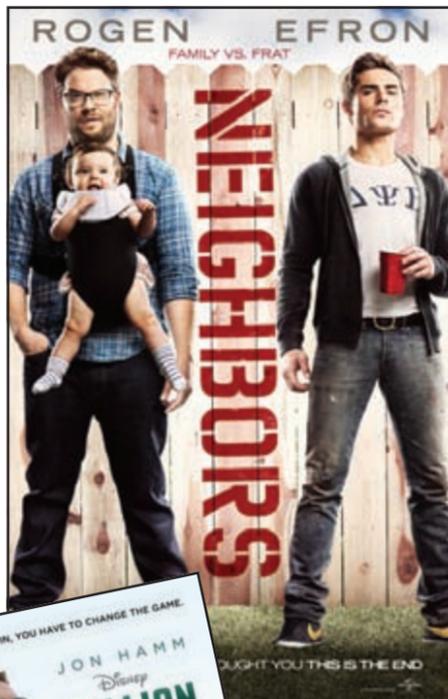
Showing this weekend on the six screens are "Spider-Man 2" and "Neighbors." Disney's "Million Dollar Arm" starring Jon Hamm opens Friday, May 15, with the first screening at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$9.50 for \$16, depending on age, show time and whether the screening is in 3D.

From June 17-Aug. 14, the cinema will show free children's movies at 10 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, starting with "The Croods" June 17-19. Seating will be first come, first served.

Features of the new Paragon Pavilion include: Christie Digital Projection with 3D, leather reclining seats with footrests, online reserved seating, a wine bar and lounge with craft beers and cocktails and a menu of small plates, flatbreads and burgers.

In addition to Naples' newest cinema, Paragon owns, operates and/or manages theaters in Daytona Beach, Jupiter, Deerfield Beach and Coconut Grove, Fla.; Burnsville and Rochester Minn.; and Fredericksburg, Va.

For more information, visit www.paragonthaters.com.



COURTESY PHOTO
"Spider-man 2" continues this week, along with "Neighbors," which opens at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 8. Coming May 15: "Million Dollar Arm."



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MOMS

From page 1

bad as all that.

For this Mother's Day, here are some classic Moms from Hell: dysfunctional movie mothers we love to hate.

■ **"Mommie Dearest" (1981)**

Joan Crawford, played by Faye Dunaway

Type of mother: abusive, control freak
When it comes to cinematic mothers from Hell, "Mommie Dearest" is most likely the first film that pops into people's minds: The spectacular temper tantrums. The compulsion about cleaning. The endless obsession with appearances.

The desire to control everyone's life.

Based on Christina Crawford's 1978 memoir about growing up as the daughter of Joan Crawford, "Mommie Dearest" is about the penultimate bad mother. Even those who have never seen the movie know her dictum: "No wire hangers!"

■ **"Throw Momma From the Train" (1987)**

Mrs. Lift, played by Anne Ramsey

Type of mother: overbearing, demanding, verbally abusive

The Pennsylvania Dutch, with their unique syntax, would say, "Throw Momma from the train a kiss." But Owen, played by Danny DeVito, just wants to throw Momma from a train, period. Or rather, he'd prefer to have someone else do the dirty deed for him.

And when we meet his mother, wonderfully played by Anne Ramsey, we understand: She's a nag, always yelling, always demanding. She calls Owen names and belittles him, in a voice that sounds like two trains grinding against each other.

When Owen's creative writing teacher, Larry (Billy Crystal), suggests he watch Alfred Hitchcock's "Strangers on a Train" for its plot development, Owen has a brainstorm: He'll murder Larry's hated ex-wife for him, and Larry can kill Momma for Owen.

When Larry initially declares he's no murderer, Owen optimistically tells him, "Just meet her. Maybe she'd be somebody you'd like to kill."

■ **"The Manchurian Candidate" (1962)**

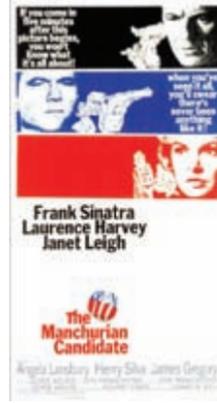
Eleanor Iselin, played by Angela Lansbury

Type of mother: manipulative, deceitful, incestuous

It's tough to write about this classic thriller without giving away the clever and devastating plot twists. Suffice it to say that Angela Lansbury plays a calculating, manipulative mother who wants to see her husband become vice president. As for her son, war hero Major Bennett Marco (Frank Sinatra), well,



MGM STUDIOS
Ann Ramsey play Mrs. Lift, an overbearing demanding and verbally abusive mother.



she wants him to get rid of the competition. And this mother will stop at nothing to get what she wants. Her methods are devious to the extreme. In Richard Condon's novel, which the movie is based upon, the mother actually sleeps with the son at one point, but in the movie that was watered down to a kiss, as the director knew it wouldn't get past the censors of the early 1960s.

(A remake was made; we recommend the original.)

■ **"Ordinary People" (1980)**

Beth Jarrett, played by Mary Tyler Moore

Type of mother: cold, withholding, perfectionist

Mary Tyler Moore is so frosty in "Ordinary People" she makes you shiver. Her role as Beth Jarrett is 180 degrees away from her cheerful Laura Petrie or Mary Richards personas.

In this movie based on Judith Guest's novel, Beth has lost one teenage son in a boating accident. Her other son, struggling with survivor's guilt, tries to commit suicide. Beth seems much more concerned with image and having things go "back to normal" than with helping her son heal. She withdraws her affection at the time that he needs it most. This is a mother who is deep in denial and withholds what any child needs most: love and nurturing. Absolutely chilling.

■ **"Gypsy" (1962)**

Rose Hovick, played by Rosalind Russell

Type of mother: stage mother, manipulative, jealous

Is there anything worse than a stage mom? They dictate their children's lives, living out their own fantasies for fame through their offspring.

Based on a true story, "Gypsy" stars Rosalind Russell as the Mama Rose, the uber-stage mom who pushes her two daughters into show business, whether they want to act or not. They start out in vaudeville, but when one daughter eventually runs off, Mama Rose concentrates all her efforts on the remaining,

younger daughter, who grows up to be Gypsy Rose Lee.

I ask you: What type of mother forces her daughter into stripping?

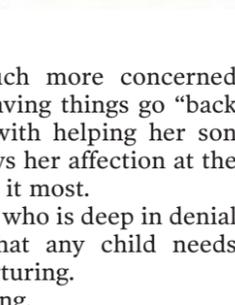
This is the sad story of a woman who feels fame has passed her by and tries to live her life vicariously through her daughter.

■ **"Postcards From the Edge" (1990)**

Doris Mann, played by Shirley MacLaine

Type of mother: narcissistic, competitive, manipulative

In "Postcards From the Edge," based on Carrie Fisher's comic novel of the same name, Suzanne (Meryl Streep) is a young actress with a drug problem. She also has a mother problem: Doris Mann (Shirley MacLaine), an aging star who is much more famous. Doris lectures Suzanne on her drug use, while herself drinking to excess. Wherever Doris is, all the attention has to be focused on her. Even when her daughter sings at a party, she has to follow up by performing a song herself, upstaging her once again. Life with mother is just one big competition for the spotlight.



■ **"August: Osage County" (2013)**

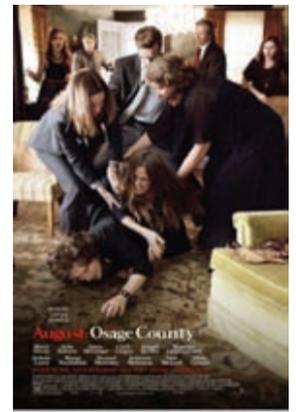
Violet Weston, played by Meryl Streep

Type of mother: cruel, verbally abusive

Mattie Fae Aiken, played by Margo Martindale

Type of mother: verbally abusive, belittling

"August: Osage County," based on Tracy Letts's Pulitzer Prize-winning play of the same name, gives us not one,



but two abusive mothers. Actually, the whole damn family in this ensemble piece is pretty dysfunctional. But then again, just look at the mother, and you can understand why.

Violet Weston (Meryl Streep), who herself had a rough, abusive childhood, is a pill-addicted alcoholic whose acidic tongue cuts her children to ribbons. "I'm just truth-telling," she insists, as if that makes her cruelty all right.

Her sister, Mattie Fae (Margo Martindale) is relentless in belittling her son, whom she still calls Little Charles even though he's a grown man. Cringing in her presence, he's a bundle of nerves, apologetic for even existing.

■ **"Million Dollar Baby" (2004)**

Earline Fitzgerald, played by Margo Martindale

Type of mother: greedy, uncaring

In "Million Dollar Baby," based on a collection of boxing stories by F.X. Toole, Maggie Fitzgerald (Hilary Swank) wants to become a boxer. It takes her a while to convince Frankie (Clint Eastwood) to be her trainer, but she finally does. Although her mother, Earline, played by Margo Martindale, does not appear in the movie much, when she does, she proves herself to be a totally despicable human being. Earline belittles Maggie's dreams and accomplishments. When Maggie earns enough money to buy her family a new home, instead of thanking her, Earline berates her, claiming the house will cause her to lose her welfare payments and Medicaid benefits. When (SPOILER ALERT) Maggie ends up in the hospital, her family actually goes to Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood before going to the hospital to see her. It's obvious this mother doesn't care about her daughter's well being and only sees her as a meal ticket.

■ **"The Sopranos" (1999 to 2007)**

Livia Soprano, played by Nancy Marchand

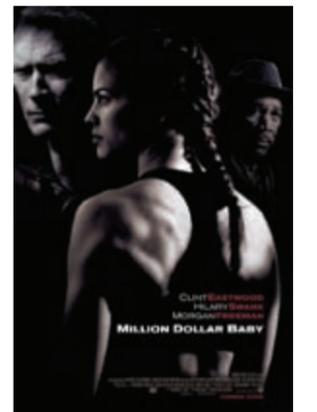
Type of mother: manipulative, passive aggressive

OK, technically this isn't a movie; it's an HBO series. But it is available on DVD. Livia Soprano, mother of New Jersey mobster Tony Soprano, is so bad, so reprehensible, that we couldn't leave her off this list.

She is the mother of all mothers from hell: passive aggressive, wheedling, demanding, manipulative, never happy with anything. When Livia indignantly claims, "I don't know what you're talking about," is she simply in denial, growing forgetful, or being incredibly devious?

And what mother sanctions a hit on her son?

The late Nancy Marchand played Livia Soprano to the hilt. In her final role as an actress, she gave us an unforgettable Mom from Hell we all loved to hate. ■



HBO
Nancy Marchand plays Livia Soprano, a manipulative, passive aggressive mom.

MOTHERHOOD

From page 1

nest,” says Kevin Moriarty, who shares co-directing duties with Let’s Put On A Show co-founder Scott Lilly. “Some might relate to their child going off to war and the anguish of wondering of whether the child will come back alive.” And others, he adds, will relate to the experience of their parents growing older and the child then becoming the parents’ caregiver.



COLEMAN



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Mr. Moriarty and Mr. Lilly have taken a slightly different approach to presenting the related vignettes by having the cast act them out rather than read from the script.

Conceived by theatrical producers Susan R. Rose and Joan Stein and first staged in 2009, “Motherhood Out Loud” had an off-Broadway run and has been produced around the country.

Cast members Rachel Coleman, Asia Johnson, Cheryl Ann Fisher Johnson,

Jodi Tagen and Michael Millspaugh have the challenging task of presenting characters of varying ages and stages of life confronting the disparate scenarios. All of them, except stage newcomer Tagen, have appeared previously with Let’s Put On A Show Productions and the Marco Island Players, The Naples Players and the Marco-based Island Theater Company. ■



MILLSPAUGH



TAGEN

“Some might relate to their child going off to war and the anguish of wondering of whether the child will come back alive.”

— Let’s Put On A Show co-founder Scott Lilly

in the know

‘Motherhood Out Loud’

- >> **Who:** Let’s Put On A Show Productions
- >> **When:** Select dates May 9-18, including a Mother’s Day matinee
- >> **Where:** The Golden Gate Community Center
- >> **Tickets:** \$20
- >> **Info:** 398-9192 or www.letsputonashow-productions.com

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

Theater

■ **Moon Over Buffalo** – By The Naples Players through May 17 in Blackburn Hall at the Sugden Community Theatre. 701 Fifth Ave. S. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

■ **Always a Bridesmaid** – Select dates through May 10 by The Island Players at the Marco Island Historical Museum. 394-0080 or email info@theateronmarco.com.

■ **Forever Plaid** – Through May 11 by TheatreZone in the G&L Theatre at Community School of Naples. (888) 966-3352 or www.theatrezone-florida.com.

■ **Motherhood Out Loud** – May 9-18 by Let's Put On A Show Productions at the Golden Gate Community Center. 398-9192 or www.letsputonashowproductions.com. See story on page C1.

■ **Julius Caesar** – By The Marco Players in partnership with The Marco Island Academy May 9-10 and 16-17 at The Marco Players Theater in Marco Town Center. 642-7270 or www.marco-players.com.

■ **The Wizard of Oz** – By the Youth Players of the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs at 7 p.m. May 9 and 2 and 7 p.m. May 10. 10150 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

■ **Heart Song** – Through May 11 at Florida Repertory Theatre, Fort Myers. 332-4488 or www.floridarep.org.

■ **Dixie Swim Club** – Through May 11 at the Off Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 2789-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com.

■ **The Music Man** – Through May 24 at the Broadway Palm Theatre, Fort Myers. 278-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com.

Thursday, May 8

■ **Book Talk** – Headquarters Library hosts a discussion of Elizabeth Gilbert's "The Signature of All Things" at 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. 2385 Orange Blossom Drive. 593-0334 or www.collierlibrary.org.

■ **Dogs in the Garden** – Naples Botanical Gardens opens its gates to dogs and their owners from 3-5 p.m. Free for Garden members and their canine companions, \$12.95 and \$7.95 for non-members and their four-legged friends. 643-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.

■ **Let Mama Wine** – Decanted Wines hosts a wine tasting in celebration of mothers from 5-7 p.m. \$15 with RSVP, \$10 at the door. 434-1814 or info@decantedwines.com.

■ **Cook's Corner** – The Good Life of Naples hosts a pizza cooking class with Chef Kristina San Filippo from 6-8 p.m. \$50. 514-4663 or www.goodlifefl.com.

■ **Live Tunes** – Rebecca Richardson and The Dan Heck Trio perform from 7-10 p.m. at Campiello. 1177 Third St. S. 435-1166.

■ **Sweat the Small Stuff** – It's trivia night at the Naples English Pub starting at 7 p.m. 5047 Tamiami Trail E. 775-3727 or www.thenaplesenglishpub.com.



George (Paul Graffy) is desperate to talk to the very important movie director Frank Capra, but his wife Charlotte (Erin Laughlin), their daughter Roz (Rebecca Bronzini) and company manager Paul (Anthony Renda) try to stop him at all costs in a scene from The Naples Players' production of "Moon Over Buffalo." The crazy comedy by Ken Ludwig is on stage through May 17 at the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

■ **Evening on Fifth** – Enjoy live music, dancing and more along Fifth Avenue South from 7-9 p.m. www.fifthvenuesouth.com.

■ **Just for Laughs** – Sam Tripoli takes the stage at Off The Hook Comedy Club on Marco Island tonight through May 11. 389-6901 or www.offthehook-comedyclub.com.

Friday, May 9

■ **CityFest Fun** – Deb and The Dynamics take to the waterfront stage at Tin City from 6-9 p.m. at part of the Naples CityFest celebration. Free. Food and drink available for purchase.

■ **Piano Tunes** – Larry Moss performs from 6-9 p.m. tonight and May 10 in the piano lounge at Capers. 2640 Vanderbilt Beach Road. 431-7438.

■ **Laugh It Off** – John Charles, Sheena Reagan and Brian Corrion take the stage at Old Naples Comedy Club tonight and May 10. 1100 Sixth Ave. S. \$15. 455-2844 or www.oldnaplescomedyclub.com.

■ **Live Tunes** – Orange Juice takes the stage starting at 9:30 p.m. at South Street City Oven & Grill. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 435-9333 or www.southstreetnaples.com.

Saturday, May 10

■ **Field Day Fun** – Community School of Naples provides the setting for an "Unplugged!" day of three-legged and sack races, obstacle courses, water balloons and dribbling drills with the men's soccer team from FGCU. Set for 9 a.m. to noon, the fun is organized by the Next Generation board of the Shelter for Abused Women & Children. \$5 admission (free for ages 5 and younger) benefits the Shelter. 775-3862 or thek@naplesshelter.org.

■ **It's Your Move** – Players of all ages and levels are invited to join Chess at Moorings from 9 a.m. to noon in the clubhouse at Moorings Park off Goodlette-Frank Road. 389-2525 or wk@kellerpublishing.com.

■ **It's Your Move** – Players of all levels are invited to play chess with the Naples Chess Club from 9 a.m. to noon in the clubhouse at Moorings Park off Goodlette-Frank Road. 389-2525 or wk@kellerpublishing.com.

■ **Student Art** – The Baker Museum at Artis—Naples presents the sixth annual student exhibition of artwork by approximately 300 students in Collier County public and private school students, grades K-12. The show runs through July 6. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. 597-1900 or www.artis-naples.org/museum.

■ **CityFest Continues** – Live music fills the air around Tin City, starting with the Rachel Hughes Band from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by the Cracker Blues Band from 2-5 p.m. and The Long Run, an Eagles tribute band, from 6-9 p.m. Free. Food and drink available for purchase at Blues, Brews and BBQ.

■ **Canoe Races** – The Great Dock Canoe Race: "Zombies in Paradise" begins at 11 a.m. at Naples City Dock in Crayton Cove. www.greatdockcanoe-race.com.

■ **Opening Reception** – Galerie du Soleil hosts an opening reception for "Celebrating the Vibrant Flavor of Old Naples" from 4-7 p.m. 393 Broad Ave. 417-3450 or www.galeriedusoleil.com.

■ **Smooth Jazz** – The Jerry Stawski Trio performs from 8-11 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. 2600 Tiburon Drive. 593-2000.

Sunday, May 11

■ **Moms in the Garden** – Mothers and grandmothers enjoy free admission to Naples Botanical Garden. Regular admission applies to others members of the party. Today is the final day of the "LEGO Bricks" exhibit of life-size sculptures made from LEGOs that are installed throughout the grounds. The Garden closes for construction June 2-Oct. 22, with the exception of tours and workshops on certain dates. 643-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.

Monday, May 12

■ **Chess on Marco** – Chess players of all ages and levels of ability are welcome to join Chess at Lutheran from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday at Marco Island Lutheran Church. Participation is free. Bring your own chess set or use one provided by the Moorings. 525 N. Collier Blvd. |389-2525 or www.chess7.net.

■ **For the Birds** – Rookery Bay celebrates International Migratory Bird Day with BOGO admission from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.rookerybay.org.

■ **Jazz Jam** – Join Jebry and friends when they get together for a jazz jam from 6-9 p.m. at Fred's Food, Fun & Spirits. 2700 Immokalee Road. 431-7928.

■ **Movie Time** – The Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts a screening and discussion of "Madeinusa" starting at 7 p.m. \$9. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

■ **Play Your Cards Right** – The Naples English Pub hosts bingo starting at 7 p.m. 5047 Tamiami Trail E. 775-3727 or www.thenaplesenglishpub.com.

Tuesday, May 13

■ **More Bingo** – The Greater Marco Family YMCA hosts bingo for grown-ups beginning at 12:15 p.m. Complimentary coffee, tea and snacks. \$14 for a small packet, \$22 for large. 394-9622.

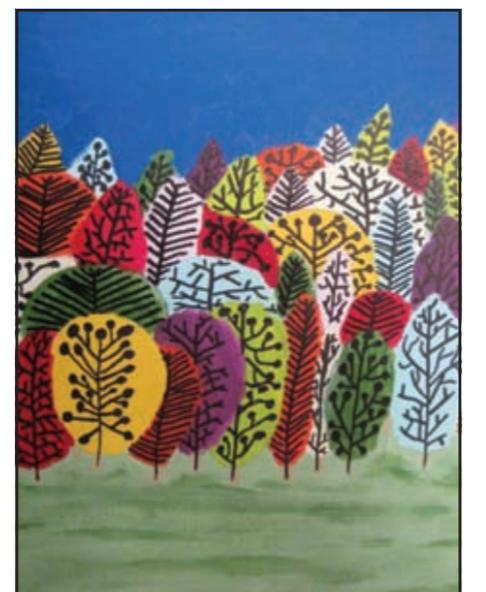
■ **Book Talk** – Naples Regional hosts a discussion of "A Short History of Nearly Everything" by Bill Bryson at 2 p.m. Free. Registration required. 650 Central Ave. 262-4130 or www.collierlibrary.org.

■ **Jazz it Up!** – The Stu Shelton Trio performs from 7-10 p.m. at Alto Live Jazz Kitchen in Bayfront Place. 261-2578.

Wednesday, May 14

■ **Art & Nature** – Shangri La Springs opens to the public for "Art & Nature" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plein air painters will set up their easels throughout the property. \$10. 27750 Old 41, Bonita Springs. 949-0749 or www.shangrilasprings.com.

■ **Benefit Event** – It's celebrity bartender night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Noodles, hosted by Just Like Family Home Care in recognition of Senior Citizens Month. Suggested donation of \$20 will benefit St. Matthew's House and Goodlette Arms. 431-6661 or www.justlikefamilyhomecare.com.



The Baker Museum at Artis — Naples presents the sixth annual student exhibition of artwork by approximately 300 students in Collier County public and private school students, grades K-12. "Fall Trees," above, is by Riley de Tschaschell, a six-grade student at Naples Christian Academy. The show runs May 10-July 6, with an opening reception for the public from 10-11:30 a.m. May 10. 597-1900 or www.artisnaples.org/museum.

WHAT TO DO



Arsenault Gallery presents its first-ever "Favorites from Favorites" exhibition of works by Muffy Clark Gill, Marti Koehler, Kerri Meehan (whose "Morning Formal" is shown here), Reisha Perlmutter and Donna Spadafora. The show opens with a reception from 6-8 p.m. May 14. 764 12th Ave. S. All are welcome. RSVP by calling 263-1214. The exhibit hangs through May.

Matinee Movie - Headquarters Library presents a free screening of "Forbidden Planet" (USA, 1956) at 2 p.m. Registration required. 2385 Orange Blossom Drive. 593-0334 or www.collierlibrary.org.

Bye Bye Birdies - Decanted Wines hosts a wine tasting dedicated to the "snowbirds" from 5-7 p.m. \$15 with advance RSVP, \$20 at the door. 434-1814 or info@decantedwines.com.

Wine Tasting - Naples Wine Collection hosts a tasting with a choice of two flights, each containing four samplings, from 5-7 p.m. \$15 and \$25. 513-0095.

Winemaker Dinner - Mereday's Fine Dining and Delectus Winery host a six-course wine dinner starting at 6:30 p.m. \$200. Reservations required. 1500 Fifth Ave. S. 732-0784.

It Takes Two - Pablo Repun Tango hosts a beginner's class from 8-9 p.m. \$15 per person. 1673 Pine Ridge Road. 738-4184 or www.pablöreputango.com.

Coming up

Here's What's Cookin' - The Good Life of Naples hosts a bison cooking class with Chef Kristina San Filippo from 6-8 p.m. May 15. \$65. 514-4663 or www.goodlifenas.com.

Art Exhibition - Gallery on Fifth at Mercato hosts a reception for artist Alexander Solotzew and the exhibit "Sky is for Mozart" from 6-8 p.m. May 17. Free. 220-7503 or galleryonfifth@artorg.net.

New World Symphony - Gulf Coast Symphony presents "New World Symphony, New Symphony Stars" at 7 p.m. May 17 at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Fort Myers. 481-4849 or www.bbmannpah.com.

Library Lecture - Headquarters Library presents David Southall with a lecture about Florida water birds starting at 2 p.m. May 20. Free. Registration required. 2385 Orange Blossom Drive. 593-0334 or www.collierlibrary.org.

Cooking with Wine - Decanted Wines presents a class about cooking with wine from 5-7 p.m. May 20. \$30. Reservations required. 434-1814 or info@decantedwines.com.

All That Jazz - The Naples Philharmonic Jazz Orchestra performs a tribute to Charles Mingus with guest artist Kevin Mauldin on May 21 in the Daniels Pavilion at Artis—Naples. 597-1900 or www.artisnaples.org.

Military Appreciation - Naples Botanical Gardens salutes the troops with free admission for active and retired military personnel on Military Weekend May 24-26. Valid military I.D. required. 643-7275 or www.naplesgarden.org.

Movie Time - The Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs hosts a screening and discussion of "The Wedding Banquet" starting at 7 p.m. May 26. \$9. 10150 Bonita Beach Road. 495-8989 or www.artcenterbonita.org.

Grape Celebration - Friends of the Foundation hosts a wine tasting with music by the folk duo Collier Bridge from 6-9 p.m. May 31 at the Hilton Naples. \$85 to benefit the Naples Children and Education Foundation. 325-2978 or www.friendsofthefoundation.com.

History Lesson - The Marco Island Historical Society presents Brian Slagger and Craig Woodward with "Tales from the Cape, Starting in the Years of Spanish Discovery (1500)" at 7 p.m. June 3. Free for members, \$5 for others. 389-6447 or www.themih.org.

Preview Reception - The Naples Art Association presents an opening reception for the 50th annual Founders Juried Awards Exhibition featuring works by 24 Florida artists from 5:30-7:30 p.m. June 6 at The von Liebig Art Center. \$10 for NAA members, \$15 for others. 262-6517 or www.naplesart.org.

Rock On - Rockin' on the Bay presents a Bruce Springsteen tribute band from 5:30-9 p.m. June 7 at Bayfront. Free. 331-7371 or www.rockinonthebay.com.

— Submit calendar listings and high-resolution photos to events@floridaweekly.com. Email text, jpegs or Word documents are accepted. No pdfs or photos of fliers. The deadline for calendar submissions is noon Sunday.

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ARTS COMMENTARY

Diary of a play festival: Doing PlayLab

nancySTETSON

nstetson@floridaweekly.com



Harli Cooper (on chair) plays *The Wizard* interrogating characters played by children chosen from the audience in "Journey to Oz" by Christopher T. Parks.

What a weekend!

Florida Repertory Theatre's inaugural new play festival, PlayLab, presented readings of five new plays May 1-4.

Readings are plays at their most stripped-down: no sets, no special lighting, no costumes. The actors expressively read their lines, holding the script or propping it up on a music stand. It's theater at its most skeletal.

PlayLab introduced audiences to brand-new plays and gave them the chance to ask questions and offer comments to the playwrights, actors and directors afterward. As the plays were in various stages of development, the feedback will be invaluable to the playwrights.

It was exciting.

Here's how my weekend went.

■ Day 1: A day of firsts

Day one of the new PlayLab festival, the first play reading and also May 1.

I was surprised and a little disappointed at the turnout for the reading of Christopher Parks' "Journey to Oz." I suspect some people might have thought, "Oh, a kid's play; I won't be interested in that."

Wow, did they miss out.

It was wildly entertaining and surprisingly innovative.

Mr. Parks writes an experiential type of theater, where audience members become participants in the action.

I tell you, it felt better than primal screaming to boo and hiss at the wicked witch, scream in mock fear and make monkey noises (when the flying monkeys appeared). And when Dorothy met the Scarecrow, the actors pulled Florida Rep producing artistic director Robert Cacioppo, resident costume designer Roberta Malcolm and technical director Christopher T. Simpson out of the audience to become crows, making them tuck their thumbs into their armpits, flap their arms like wings and make loud "cawing" sounds.

The play is part improv, because the actors never know how the "volunteered" audience members will react or what they will say. And that's part of its charm.

There were only a handful of children in the audience; two little girls, both adorable, wound up playing Dorothy.

But for me, some of the most fun was seeing the adults spontaneously portray some of the roles.

Alan Cadkin, who along with his wife, Jacquelin, sponsored the play, threw himself

into the unexpected role of Toto, actually getting down on all fours at one point, barking and whimpering on cue.

The actors were all great, playing multiple roles. Jacob D. Guinn, an intern at the theater, especially endeared himself to the audience with his impersonation of a flying monkey, speaking in a hiccupping voice.

I saw the Andrew Lloyd Webber production of "The Wizard of Oz" earlier this season at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. It had costumes, sets, a TV reality show singing star, music and a real dog. But this was a million times more entertaining and creative. It was almost like the Oz version of "Pee-wee's Playhouse" — something for kids but also hip enough to appeal to adults.

Commissioned by Florida Repertory Theatre for its Children's Theatre Series, this play will be performed for school children next season.

I'm hoping Florida Rep decides to hold a few late-night performances in its studio theater just for adults. It'd be a smart move. I'd definitely go see it again.

■ Day 2: "The Exceptionals"

by Bob Clyman

Set in the near future, this play examines the ethics of eugenics. It presents us with two mothers, Gwen (Carolann Sanita) and Allie (Alexandra Hale), who have exceptionally intelligent 5-year-old sons, both conceived via a prestigious donor insemination program specializing in creating incredibly smart children.

Gwen, beautiful and sophisticated, is uptight and overly concerned with appearances. Allie is the opposite, trying to appear average and downplay her own intelligence.

The two tangle with each other when they meet in a doctor's waiting room; Allie can't help goading Gwen.

Ms. Hale, who was last seen singing and twirling to the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein in "A Grand Night for Sing-

ing," finally had an opportunity to display her formidable acting skills. She was fun to watch on stage.

Sandy Porter, who last portrayed Mrs. Robinson in the Laboratory Theatre's production of "The Graduate," played Claire, a manipulative doctor who attempts to convince the two mothers to enroll their sons into a special school. She portrayed the role with just the right undercurrent of sinister intent.

Mr. Clyman's cerebral play questions how far parents should go to try to give their children the best possible futures.

■ Day 3: A double-header

Daryl Lisa Fazio's "Split in Three"

was presented on Florida Rep's Arcade Theatre main stage in the late afternoon. Set in Mississippi in 1969, it examines the lives of two sisters, Nola (Tyler Layton) and Nell (Claire K. Simpson), living in the last segregated county in the state.

The sisters are about as opposite as siblings can be: Nell is uptight, religious and bigoted, while Nola is a free spirit who sleeps around and isn't afraid to speak her mind.

Ms. Simpson was perfect as the timid mouse sister, and Ms. Layton, who played the scarred photojournalist in Florida Rep's production of "Time Stands Still" last season, was thoroughly enjoyable to watch onstage. They were fully realized characters, not mere mouthpieces for their pro- and anti-segregation viewpoints of the South at the time.

The two have their lives turned upside down when another character, played by Makeba Pace (recently seen in "Clybourne Park"), comes to town with some disturbing questions.

This was the perfect combination of a fully realized, complexly layered play and talented actors who knew how to handle the material. The audience was energized by the play, and most stayed afterward to

talk with the playwright, actors and director.

The second play of the day, the absurd comedy "Mr. Perfect" by William Missouri Downs had everyone laughing from the very start, when Katherine Pankow sashayed across the room, reading the stage directions in a sexy voice while flashing sultry looks at the audience.

This captivating play opens with a flight attendant, Zooey (Brittany Albury), who's passionate about audio books. When she meets Jeffery (Taylor Murphy Hale) on a flight and realizes he's the man who's the voice behind the romance novels she listens to, the two attempt to join the Mile High Club in the lavatory.

Once on land, we're introduced to two other characters: best-selling self-help author Donna (Lauren Drexler) and a priest (Ken Johnson) whose church has a series of increasingly odd rules. As things grew more and more absurd, the audience grew giddy with laughter.

"Mr. Perfect" examines our search for love and desire to make meaning in our lives.

Florida Rep is contemplating choosing one of PlayLab's new plays for full production to close out next season; I hope it's one of these two plays I saw today.

■ Day 4: "Rainbow's Return"

by Stephen Mo Hanan

The PlayLab festival ended with a comedy that offered some laughs but that seems to need some more development.

The action revolves around Rainbow, a San Francisco hippie who goes into a suspended animation meditative trance in a window seat in 1974, promising to return 10 years later. Enid (Carrie Lund) and her obnoxious 15-year-old daughter (Nayda Baez) now live in the house, but Rainbow's friends, Donald (Michael Masson) and Leota (Liz Abbott), return to see if he'll keep his promise.

He does, managing to upend everyone's life. Gerritt Vandermeer plays Rainbow with wide-eyed naivete. Ms. Lund gets laughs with just one word or the lift of an eyebrow, but her character and that of her relentlessly sarcastic and snarky daughter need more development.

Ms. Abbott, however, playing a loving Earth Mother from Alabama, brightened up the action considerably every time she was in a scene. Her character was so lively and warm, she was someone you'd love to hang out with.

The play includes some unfortunate stereotypes and slurs, which detracted. For a comedy, I didn't laugh as much as I would've expected.

But that's part of the purpose of the festival — for playwrights to learn from audience reactions and hone their works. ■

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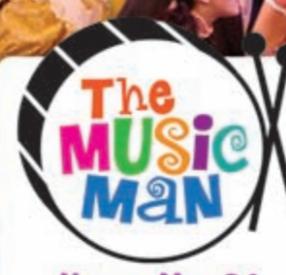
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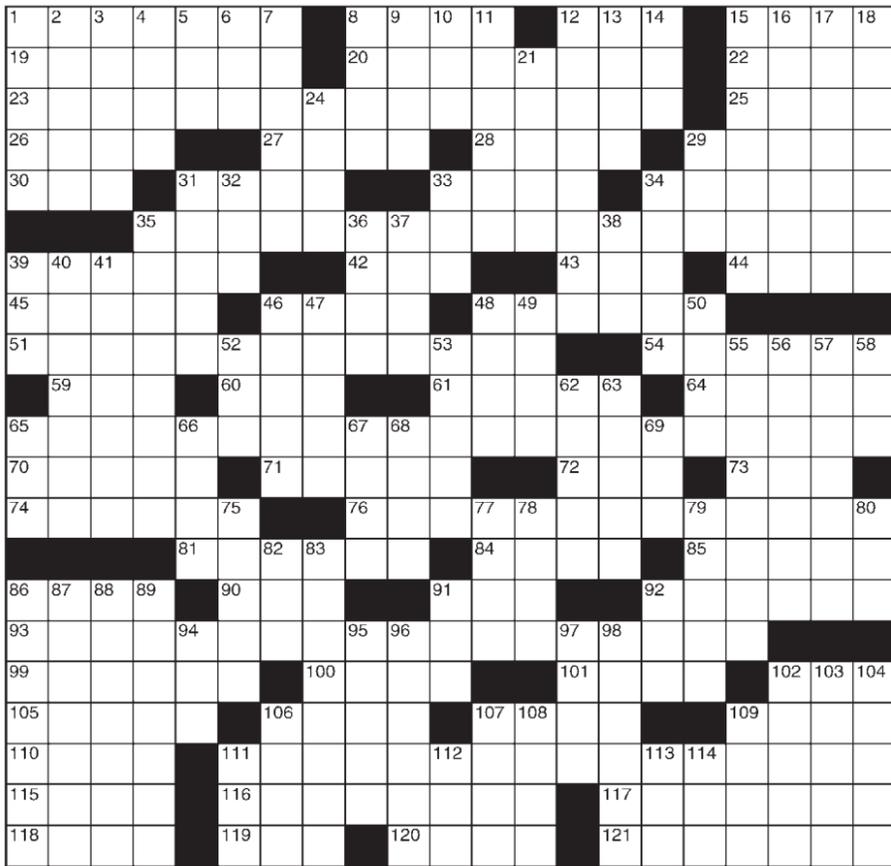
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PUZZLES

WHAT THEY SHOULD HAVE STARRED IN



- ACROSS**
- 1 Kingston's country
 - 8 "Terrible" time for tots
 - 12 Pep rally cry
 - 15 La — Tar Pits
 - 19 Fragrant
 - 20 Headset half
 - 22 "Act — age"
 - 23 Not "Five Easy Pieces," but the 1994 family film ...
 - 25 Shape
 - 26 Problems for vain people
 - 27 Netman Arthur
 - 28 Pipe fittings
 - 29 Really wreck
 - 30 Scout group
 - 31 "This — be!"
 - 33 "Zip — -Doo-Dah"
 - 34 Gloom-filled
 - 35 Not "Three Amigos," but the 1986 comedy ...
 - 39 Small vise in a wood shop
 - 42 — standstill
 - 43 Israel's — Aviv
 - 44 Greek letters
 - 45 She lived with TV's Bradys
 - 46 Train travel
 - 48 "The Pickle" star Danny
 - 51 Not "Road to Rio," but the 1998 romantic drama ...
 - 54 Compound of element #53
 - 59 Eyeball
 - 60 "Either you do it — will!"
 - 61 Prudish sort
 - 64 — dish (lab container)
 - 65 Not "Rocky," but the 1974 parody ...
 - 70 Celestial ram
 - 71 Prefix with surgery
 - 72 Footed vase
 - 73 Urban trains
 - 74 Film preview
 - 76 Not "Blue Steel," but the 2004 satirical drama ...
 - 81 Commotion
 - 84 Minorca, e.g.
 - 85 Bring — to one's eye
 - 86 African cobras
 - 90 See 52-Down
 - 91 Shih —
 - 92 Boats' rears
 - 93 Not "This Gun for Hire," but the 1999 monster movie ...
 - 99 Track legend Ashford
 - 100 Pianist Peter
 - 101 Despot Idi
 - 102 Bit of a bite
 - 105 Multi-act show
 - 106 TDs or RBIs
 - 107 Sonar image
 - 109 She left Ike
 - 110 Swift steed
 - 111 Not "Shine," but the 1998 action comedy ...
 - 115 Sheehy or O'Grady
 - 116 Troop group
 - 117 Old Buick
 - 118 Cover girl Macpherson
 - 119 Engine fuel
 - 120 Overdue
 - 121 Main dishes
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Joshed
 - 2 Old truism
 - 3 Numskull
 - 4 Greek war god
 - 5 It has a small charge
 - 6 Baby lion
 - 7 At an angle
 - 8 The "T" of MIT: Abbr.
 - 9 Stop dozing
 - 10 Space ball
 - 11 Stretchy swimsuit
 - 12 Vegas game
 - 13 Hill dwellers
 - 14 "Yoo-hoo!"
 - 15 Coercively
 - 16 Extripate
 - 17 Russia's landmass
 - 18 Sleeve bands
 - 21 More vigorous
 - 24 Wine region of Italy
 - 29 Ontario's capital, on a scoreboard
 - 31 Bit part
 - 32 Abstract art pioneer Jean
 - 33 "Caught you!"
 - 34 Thousand: Prefix
 - 35 Jungle knives
 - 36 Finger's tip
 - 37 WWII battle town in France
 - 38 Toon pic
 - 39 Taxi
 - 40 Cessation of operations
 - 41 West African country
 - 46 Air, as an old episode
 - 47 Walk — line
 - 48 Gillette brand
 - 49 "The devil — the details"
 - 50 "Klutzy me!"
 - 52 With 90-Across, high muckety-muck
 - 53 Cook's wear
 - 55 Discerned
 - 56 Artist's studio
 - 57 Wagner's "— und Isolde"
 - 58 Berlin article
 - 62 Cranium
 - 63 Start a volley
 - 65 Vampire —
 - 66 River in Belgium
 - 67 Indian sage
 - 68 Big hairdos, briefly
 - 69 Opposite SSW
 - 75 Emphasize gloatingly
 - 77 Magnitude
 - 78 "The rest — to you"
 - 79 Like a — a cage
 - 80 52-wk. spans
 - 82 Apple on a desk
 - 83 Ghosts
 - 86 C-worthy
 - 87 A handful of
 - 88 Be the victor
 - 89 Unlike oil in water
 - 91 A boxing ref may call one
 - 92 Poli —
 - 94 Humorist Bill and endive
 - 95 Like kale
 - 96 Crafty
 - 97 Forest home
 - 98 Medical vial
 - 102 Weeper of mythology
 - 103 Habituate
 - 104 Peels, as an apple
 - 106 Hypo liquids
 - 107 "— ever so humble ..."
 - 108 Suffix with electro-
 - 109 "There's gold in them — hills!"
 - 111 Practical joke
 - 112 Cell stuff
 - 113 VIP in D.C.
 - 114 FDR follower

◀ SEE ANSWERS, C9

HOROSCOPES

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You still need to work out last-minute snags in your dealings with a rival. Hold your ground despite a perceived lack of support. Things should turn around before you know it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Best not to delay preparing for that upcoming family event. The sooner you get things started, the better chance you have of finding potential problems and making needed changes.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The romantic Moon Child might be reluctant to see the reality behind that "ideal" situation. But by midweek, the practical Crab emerges to help clear away the moonbeams.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Although the Big Cat might be receptive to more "purr-suasion" to get you to agree to a workplace change, make sure you can distinguish the fine line between facts and flattery.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your positive attitude in the workplace helps to get you noticed by the right people. Now go ahead and use some of that new self-confidence to help shore up a personal relationship.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although you might still have to work out some problems with a business partner, things go more smoothly on the home front. An investment opportunity might need more study.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Don't be reluctant to act on your suspi-

cion. Even if others see nothing wrong, the astute Scorpio could sense an underlying problem that isn't always obvious on the surface.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A new opportunity presents some obstacles that need to be dealt with as soon as possible. Delaying action in hopes that the problems will go away could be counterproductive.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A friend or family member's request might carry some hidden factors that could later create problems. Be sure you know all the facts before you make your decision.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A setback in implementing a plan could turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Use the downtime to rework your original concepts and see where changes could be made.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might not be consciously fishing for compliments, but admit it -- won't you feel great when your efforts are noticed? So accept the praise gracefully. You earned it.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Untangling personal problems might take more time than the impatient Lamb expected. But it's important to hang in there until all those knotty situations are straightened out.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your love of beauty in your personal life extends to your efforts to protect and preserve the natural world around you. ■

By Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ Expert

◀ SEE ANSWERS, C9



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★★
Is it worth \$10? No

In "Fading Gigolo," writer/director/star John Turturro's script calls for his character to have a threesome with adventurous middle-agers played by Sofia Vergara and Sharon Stone. That's right: The funny-looking Turturro writes himself into bed with bona fide hotties Ms. Vergara and Ms. Stone. Genius.

Unfortunately "Fading Gigolo" doesn't offer much besides admiration for its conceit.

Floravante (Mr. Turturro) is a kind, unassuming florist in New York City. His friend Murray (Woody Allen) shocks him with a proposal: Murray's unhappily married dermatologist, Dr. Parker (Ms. Stone), and her best friend Selima (Ms. Vergara) want to have a threesome, and they're willing to pay for this service.

Ever the businessman, Murray pimps Floravante out to Dr. Parker (who wants to try him alone first) and other ladies who crave a nice guy to satisfy their needs. Floravante feels bad about taking advantage of vulnerable women, but it's not like they didn't ask for his help.

Mr. Turturro's dialog rarely feels natural. Instead of flowing with rhythm, they stick and stay with a thud, causing the narrative to plod along rather than thrust forward. This is especially evident as Floravante comforts Avigal (Vanessa Paradis), an orthodox Jew who's been sitting Shiva for two years for her deceased husband. Their bond is intended to be platonic, that of two lonely souls needing a genuine connection, but it feels trite and forced. They're not having conversations; they're speaking in metaphors, platitudes and phony moral righteousness: "You bring magic

to the lonely," Avigal tells Floravante with faux poetic words that don't fit her personality.

Making it worse is the Brooklyn cop (Liev Schreiber) who yearns for Avigal but is too pathetic to deserve her. This guy is a creepy, unnecessary accessory whose only function is to ruin the ending.

Ms. Stone, Ms. Vergara and Mr. Allen are here for comic relief, and their jokes hit and miss. Here's the thing: Mr. Turturro, who has a total of six writing credits to his name, should not be writing jokes for Woody Allen. Only Woody Allen should write jokes for Woody Allen. Mr. Turturro's jokes play like sad attempts to write Woody Allen jokes: "I'm your whore," Floravante says. "Hey, it's the oldest profession," Murray quips. This is followed by the "wah-wah" failure sound effect in your head.

Mr. Turturro's message seems to be that carnal pleasures don't buy happiness, and that religious doctrine is too restrictive. Fair enough. It's just really hard to have that in the same movie as a threesome with Ms. Stone, Ms. Vergara and bad Woody Allen jokes.

In an apparent attempt to essentially thank Mr. Allen for playing Murray, Mr. Turturro includes a few subtle "Annie Hall" nods, including a conversation between Floravante and Murray that begins with a long shot as they walk down a sidewalk. And for good measure, there's an homage to "Casablanca" toward the end as well. Unfortunately, none of these moments make "Fading Gigolo" any better; in fact, they only serve to remind us how much this movie pales in comparison to the classics. ■



in the know

>> This is only the second time since "Antz" (1998) that Woody Allen has had a credited appearance in a film he did not direct. The other is the little-seen "Picking Up The Pieces" (2000).

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\$19

Whole Orata Fish in Parchment
Fresh sea bream with oil cured tomatoes, summer squash, thyme, white wine and EVOO
\$29

Dessert
Limoncello Flute
Refreshing lemon gelato swirled with Limoncello liquor in flute glass
\$10

FILM CAPSULES

The Railway Man ★★

(Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman, Hiroyuki Sanada) In 1980 a British man (Mr. Firth) is given the chance to confront the Japanese soldier (Mr. Sanada) who tortured him at a POW camp during World War II. The jumping timeline between past and present doesn't serve the movie well, and the performances are only so-so. Based on a true story. Rated R.



forgettable songs, jokes that often miss and animation that's merely adequate. Rated G.

Captain America: The Winter Soldier ★★★

(Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Sebastian Stan) Conflict within S.H.I.E.L.D. and an assassin named "The Winter Soldier" (Mr. Stan) force Captain America (Mr. Evans) and Black Widow (Ms. Johansson) to work under the radar while saving the world. The action is exciting and the story has enough twists to maintain interest throughout. This is everything a solid action movie should be. Rated PG-13.

Noah ★★

(Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Emma Watson) Noah (Mr. Crowe) faces grave moral dilemmas after God chooses him to build an ark to save animals when a forthcoming flood wipes out mankind. The visual effects are impressive, and Mr. Crowe gives the movie all he can. Too bad there's so much going on and so many gaps in logic that it doesn't hold together very well. Rated PG-13.

Sabotage ★★★

(Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sam Worthington, Josh Holloway) A DEA task force led by Breacher (Mr. Schwarzenegger) is killed off one by one after the \$10 million they stole goes missing. The ending leaves a bit to be desired, but overall it's a good story with thrills that keep you invested. Rated R.

Transcendence ★★1/2

(Johnny Depp, Rebecca Hall, Morgan Freeman) A terminally ill scientist uploads his brain into a computer and evolves at a dangerously alarming rate. The ending is given away in the beginning, and the second half is a bit too much sci-fi fantasy for its own good. Still, it gives you plenty to think about. Rated PG-13.

Rio 2 ★★

(Voices of Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway, Andy Garcia) Blue (Mr. Eisenberg), Jewel (Ms. Hathaway) their kids and friends venture into the Amazon to find other blue macaws. But instead, they find grave danger and Jewel's father. It's only mildly amusing overall, with

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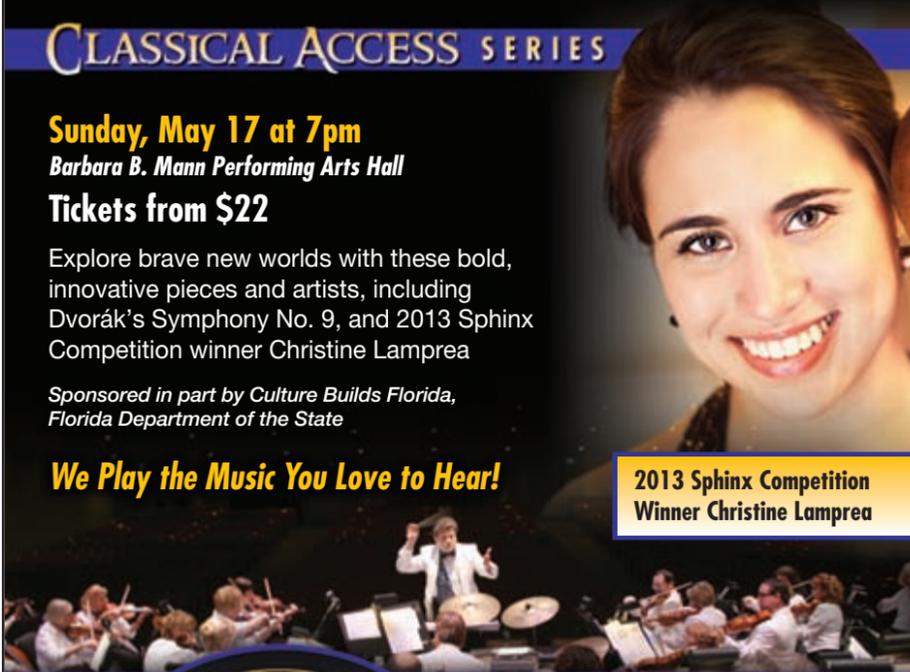
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Nick Healey, a Barron Collier High School student was involved in an automobile accident during Spring Break and subsequently had his leg amputated. The Healey family is moving this week from their second-story apartment to a one-level home in order to accommodate Nick's recovery. On May 9, 2014, Uncle Louie G will donate 100% of proceeds from ice cream and Italian ice sales that day to help the Healey family cover expenses during Nick's recovery and rehabilitation.

*Gift cards donated by local merchants. Raffle will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014.

FILM CAPSULES

The Lunchbox ★★★1/2

(Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui) In Mumbai, a mistake in the lunchbox delivery service leads to an exchange of letters between a lonely widower (Mr. Khan) and a forlorn housewife (Mr. Kaur). It's from Bollywood, but it's not a musical as one might expect. Rather, it's the type of calm, thoughtful drama that's appropriately heartwarming and sweet, emboldened by a kind of simplicity not often found in modern movies. Rated PG.

The Grand Budapest Hotel ★★★

(Ralph Fiennes, Tony Revolori, Owen Wilson) In a fictional European country circa 1932, hotel concierge M. Gustave (Mr. Fiennes) takes the new lobby boy (Mr. Revolori) on a series of adventures. It has the cotton candy visuals and innocence we've come to expect from writer/director Wes Anderson ("Moonrise Kingdom"), even when the main characters are being naughty. Rated R.



Divergent ★★

(Shailene Woodley, Kate Winslet, Theo James) In this dystopian future, people live in one of five factions, each based on the person's skill set. When young Tris (Ms.

Woodley) doesn't fit into a faction and believes she's under attack, she looks to her love interest Four (Mr. James) for help. The story takes too long to get going and the action is disappointing. Based on the novel by Veronica Roth. Rated PG-13.

Muppets Most Wanted ★★★

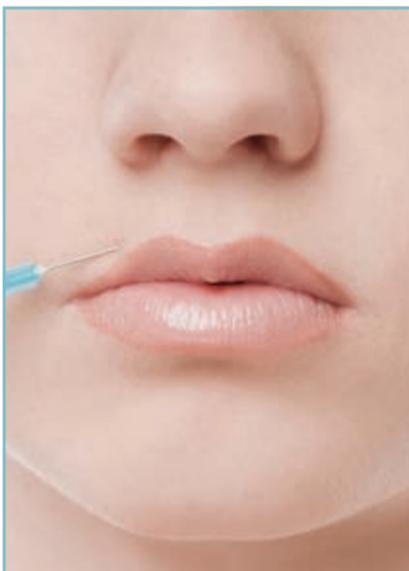
(Tina Fey, Ricky Gervais, Ty Burrell) The Muppets are unwittingly embroiled in a jewel heist while on tour throughout Europe. This is what happens when your tour manager's last name is "Badguy" (Mr. Gervais). The self-deprecating, silly humor, fun songs and cheeky story make this a fun sequel. Rated PG.

Better Living Through Chemistry ★★

(Sam Rockwell, Olivia Wilde, Michelle Monaghan) Sad-sack pharmacist Doug (Mr. Rockwell) ditches his awful wife (Ms. Monaghan) for a neglected trophy wife (Ms. Wilde) who teaches him how to have fun. Doug goes from pitiable to despicable in a short period of time, and none of it is very entertaining. Not Rated (would be rated R).

Pompeii ★★

(Kit Harington, Kiefer Sutherland, Emily Browning) With Mt. Vesuvius about to erupt in the ancient city of Pompeii, a slave-turned-gadiator (Mr. Harington) fights for the hand of a noble lady (Ms. Browning) whose family is caught in political turmoil. The effects are hit-and-miss, the acting mediocre and the story predictable. Rated PG-13. ■



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FLORIDA WRITERS

Meet a complex and classic crime-fighting prison chaplain



■ **“Rivers to Blood” by Michael Lister. Pulpwood Press. 280 pages. Hardcover. \$26.99.**

This, the sixth “John Jordan Mystery” by Michael Lister, finds the chaplain/detective sleuthing through a pile of criminality, much of it quite hideous.



We immediately learn that an inmate at the Potter Correctional Institute, a state prison on the Florida Panhandle, has escaped with just a few weeks left on his sentence. About to become a free man, why would he put that freedom at risk? John joins others in the manhunt, including members of the sheriff’s office headed by his father, Jack.

During the hunt in the soggy woodlands, John thinks he hears an airplane engine and catches a glimpse of a plane perhaps headed for a crash landing. Before long, John himself has a crash landing when someone smashes him on the back of his head. Getting back to his feet, he joins others at the prison trans-

port van, where an officer is found bloody and unconscious and his partner is found wearing an inmate uniform. So, where is the inmate?

The volunteer Potter County Search and Rescue Team soon becomes involved in assisting the search. With the exception of one individual, the members of this group share “the Southern good ol’ bad boy traits of tough-guy posturing, folksy anti-intellectualism, covert racism and general xenophobia.” This is the author’s country.

The next morning, Potter Correctional Institute psychologist DeLisa Lopez tells John there’s a serial rapist attacking male victims both inside and outside the penitentiary and forcing them to sodomize themselves.

So what do a falling airplane and a runaway inmate have to do with this latest and most heinous heap of trouble? I don’t think I’m going to tell you.

What I *am* going to tell you is that in “Rivers to Blood,” Mr. Lister probes the nature of depravity like no one else. And while he is doing this nastily gorgeous work, he weaves a few other story lines into the tapestry in gorily addictive prose.

One under plot has to do with John’s father’s campaign for re-election, a campaign that for the first time finds the proud man rattled by the possibility of losing. Sheriff Jack’s vulnerability complicates his portrait as well as that of the Jordan family relationships. Brother Jeff, who shows clear hostility toward John, is

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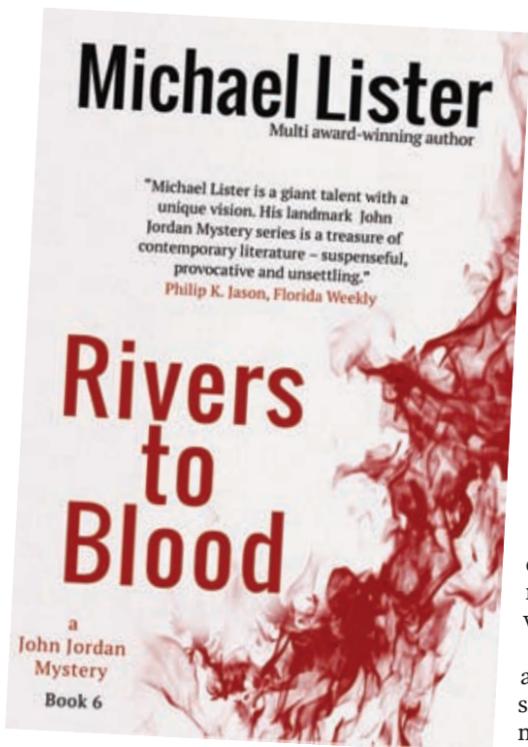


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These personal and familial circumstances color John's view and pressure his handling of the investigations, giving them additional resonance. They are psychological and spiritual contexts.

As much as any other element of storytelling, Mr. Lister's creation of a sensory and cultural environment deepens and shades "Rivers to Blood." At his best, the author's handling of place reminds me of the great masters and their imagined worlds: William Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha County and Thomas Hardy's Wessex. The colors of river water, the vegetation, the play of light (and darkness), the very heaviness of the air and the smells of earth are all ingredients mixed and remixed over his many novels set in northern Florida's western limb.

From here it is not far to the smells and sounds of moral corruption, the stew of perverse lusts that thrive on nothing so much as the pain and torment of others.

As far as I can tell, Mr. Lister's readership has not begun to approach the size of his enormous talent. With journals such as Publisher's Weekly and Kirkus Reviews praising his work, and with peers like Michael Connelly and Lisa Unger singing his praises, he should be with a major publisher and raking in a fortune. I don't know why that isn't happening. Reader dearest, start reading Michael Lister right now. There is a good-sized shelf of books from which to choose. ■

— Phil Jason, Ph.D., United States Naval Academy professor emeritus of English, is a poet, critic and freelance writer with 20 books to his credit, including several studies of war literature and a creative writing text.

part of that mischievous search and rescue team. Their mother, strangely on the periphery of John's world, needs an organ transplant.

Another complication neatly grafted onto the main story line is John's despairing loneliness. This inner situation, which comes and goes in intensity, derives in large part from his stunted relationship with the woman he loves. The intelligent and beautiful Anna is, like John, emotionally wounded. Both have a desperate need for intimacy and a fear of it. And Anna is married.

Not the least of John's concerns is the new warden's immediate hostility toward him. Bat Matson insists that John give up his law enforcement activities and stick to the chaplain business —or else!

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KOVEL: ANTIQUES

Faux finishes meant to fool can fetch a price in their own right

BY TERRY KOVEL AND KIM KOVEL
Special to Florida Weekly

Expensive woods like teak or mahogany, marble, stone and other materials used to make expensive furniture are often imitated by a painted surface. Faux finishes have been used since the days of ancient Egypt. The Greeks and Romans admired murals that were examples trompe l'oeil (fool-the-eye) paintings. Life-size objects on tables, half-open doors, stairways and furnishings included in these paintings looked real. The tradition of faux finishes experienced a resurgence in the 19th century. A major Civil War monument with an interior of pink marble walls was restored a few years ago. It was discovered during the restoration that the monument's walls were actually made of white marble painted with a faux finish that made the wall look like expensive pink marble. No doubt it was done to save money — and it was so well done it fooled the public. Inexpensive wood used to make furniture has been painted to resemble mahogany, bamboo, teak, birds-eye maple or just decorative graining. Tabletops were “improved” with a faux marble finish. Talented artists also painted tops with what looked like multicolored mosaic designs.

Bamboo furniture was the latest

rage in the early 1800s. Bamboo was hard to get in Europe and the United States, so Chinese-style furniture was made with wooden parts shaped like bamboo, then painted with trompe l'oeil graining. The wooden parts were stronger than real bamboo, so the faked parts often were an improvement. The tradition of painted furniture has continued, and collectors pay a premium for American “grained wood” country pieces made from 1850 until about 1880. But the finish must be original and in good condition.

Q: Can you tell me if the old Franciscan earthenware pattern named Sierra Sand contains lead?

A: Franciscan china was fired at high temperatures and is safe, but you can buy a lead-testing kit at a hardware store or online and test it yourself to see if the glaze contains lead. Lead-free glazes have been required on dinnerware sold in the United States since the 1980s. But glazes may contain some lead and still be considered “lead free,” according to U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidelines. If the pottery was fired at the correct temperature for the right amount of time, the lead fuses to the pottery and does not leach off. While your Franciscan dishes are safe, watch out for any pottery made in Mexico




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or China, handcrafted pottery, pieces that are highly decorated or have decorations painted over the glaze, and pottery with orange, red or yellow glaze.

Q: An uncle in Ireland gave us an old clock. The inscription on the face of the clock is "Lepaute, Hger Du Roi." It has Roman numerals for the hours and Arabic numerals for the minutes. Do you have any idea how old the clock is and what it might be worth?

A: The Lepautes were master clockmakers in the 18th century. Jean-Andre Lepaute (1720-1789) began

making clocks in Paris in about 1740. He specialized in large clocks for public installations and invented several improvements to clocks. He was a "Horloger du Roi," a clockmaker to the king, by 1751. His brother, Jean-Baptiste (1727-1802), joined him in business in 1759 and became head after Jean-Andre retired in 1774. After Jean-Baptiste died, his nephews ran the business for several years. Some clocks by Lepaute sell for several thousand dollars. Your clock would need to be seen by an expert to determine its value. A very famous 1765 mantel clock has auctioned for \$111,462.

Q: My father found a metal Coca-Cola serving tray in the attic of a railroad depot being torn down in Fayette, Mo., in the early 1980s. It has been hanging in my parents' home ever since. I have tried researching it but haven't had any luck. The tray is rectangular and 24 by 34 inches. It has a green border surrounding a red inner border. In the center is a picture of a woman in a white gown wearing a tiara and holding an open black fan. Her right elbow is resting on an elaborate pedestal with flowers on it. The words on the tray are: "Delicious, Refreshing, Drink Coca-Cola, At Fountains 5 cents, In Bottles 5 cents." Can you help?

A: Your tray is a repro-

duction that dates from the late 1960s or '70s. The woman pictured is Lillian Nordica (1857-1914), a famous American opera singer. Coca-Cola used her image on oval serving trays in 1905. A 1975 tray similar to yours, but with a bottle of Coke on the pedestal was made to celebrate the 75th anniversary of an Atlanta bottler. That tray, with a history printed on the back, sells for about \$20 today. Other trays like yours have a glass of Coke on the pedestal. Many authorized and unauthorized reproduction and "fantasy" Coca-Cola trays (a fantasy tray uses an old image but doesn't copy a vintage tray) have been made since the 1970s. They sell for \$5 to \$75, depending on quality, condition, rarity and whether or not the tray was authorized by the company or a bottler.

Tip: Re-glue a doll's wig with rubber cement. It's removable if you later want to change the wig. ■

— Terry Kovel and Kim Kovel answer questions sent to 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 photographs, but if a stamped envelope is included, we will try. The amount of mail makes personal answers or appraisals impossible. Write to Kovels, (Florida Weekly), King Features Syndicate, 300 W. 57th St., New York, NY 10019.



A faux (fake) bamboo finish was created for this late 19th-century American folding chair. Useful and decorative folding chairs in this style were made using both real or fake bamboo. This chair sold for \$180 at a 2013 Neal Auction Co. sale in New Orleans.

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Sign up for ARTScool to make creative use of summer vacation

The Naples Art Association is taking registration for its ARTScool 2014 summer program for children ages 5-14. The camp is at The von Liebig Art Center off Park Street in Naples from June 9-Aug. 8.

ARTScool differs from a summer camp because students choose classes that are educational and relevant to their particular interests. The NAA ensures that each student will receive a STEM-integrated educational experience in each class, ranging from math and science to world culture and history.

The lessons associated with these core subjects are woven into art classes in sculpture, tie-dye, LEGO bricks, drawing and more.

Most ARTScool instructors are state-certified teachers in Collier County public schools.

According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, the arts foster young imaginations and facilitate success in school. Art education provides essential critical thinking, communication and innovation skills that are vital components for a healthy and well-adjusted childhood.

ARTScool classes are offered from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Students can be register for one class (a half-day) or two classes (a full day) per week. ARTScool offers more than 50 classes. Early drop-off



COURTESY PHOTO

Tie-dye projects were favorites among youngsters enrolled in ARTScool 2013. Registration is now open for the summer program offered by the Naples Art Association at The von Liebig Art Center.

and late pick-up is available. The complete class directory is listed at naplesart.org/abkids/artschool-kids/.

Registration for ARTScool classes can be done at The von Liebig Art Center, 585 Park St., Naples, or online at naplesart.org/abkids/artschool-kids/.

Need and/or skill-based scholarships are offered through the Naples Art Association; for information on scholarships, contact Chelsea Ziton by calling 262-6517, ext. 100, or emailing chelsea.ziton@naplesart.org.

The Naples Art Association was founded in 1954 by local artists. Its mission is to promote and advance education, interest and participation in the visual arts. Through its programs, the association is dedicated to serving individual artists of all ages and skill levels. ■

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KidzAct presents 'Disney's Camp Rock'

KidzAct, the youth theater program of The Naples Players, presents "Disney's Camp Rock: The Musical" at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 23-24, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 25, on the main stage at the Sugden Community Theatre.

"Camp Rock" is a classic tale of rivalry and power. The story opens with Mitchie and her friends arriving at camp, ready to spend another summer having the time of their lives. But the new, flashy Camp Star across the lake now threatens Camp Rock's very existence. To keep the doors open, Mitchie steps up, rallies her fellow Camp Rockers, and gets them into top shape for the ultimate showdown.

The KidzAct production is directed and choreographed by Dawn Lebrecht Fornara with musical direction by Charles Fornara. The cast includes Maggie Boswell as Rosie Day, Ben Cabral as Nate Gray, Frankie Federico as Andy Hosten, Jessica Daniels as Dana Turner, Dolores Fetters As Georgina Farlow, Zach Gibson as Luke Williams, Jacob Hartman as Shane Gray, Jakob Hedin as Axel Turner, Georgia Heers as Peggy Dupree, Anthony Henderson as Barron James, Griffin Kaye as Sander Loya, Paige Kinstler as Ella Pador, Armand Procacci as Jason Gray, Toni-Ann Singh as Tess Tyler, Molly Spiroff as Mitchie Torres, Brigid Wallace as Caitlyn Geller and Mitchell Winfield as Brown Cesario.

The ensemble consists of Emma Arnold, Jennifer Chavez, Zach Cornwall, Holly DiCastro, Morgan French, Alexandra Igoe,



COURTESY PHOTO

Rehearsing "Camp Rock" at the Sugden Community Theatre.

Zofia Majewski, Tiffany Morina, Sami Newbrough, Alyssa Pilavis, Ashleigh Polisky, Jaedyn Procacci, Logan Rasmussen, Brooke Rosenbluth, Shannon Salvatori, Sophie Sawyer, Larissa Shakour and Jack Stewart.

Tickets for \$20 for adults and \$10 for children are available at the box office or by calling 263-7990.

KidzAct also offers summer theater programs for ages 4-18. For more information, call 434-7340, ext. 39, or visit www.naplesplayers.org.

in the know

'Disney's Camp Rock: The Musical'

- >> **Who:** KidzAct of The Naples Players
- >> **Where:** The Sugden Community Theatre
- >> **When:** 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 23-24; 2 p.m. Sunday, May 25
- >> **Tickets:** \$20 for adults, \$10 for children
- >> **Info:** 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

Opera Naples calls on kids for summer program

Young performers ages 13-21 are invited to audition for the summer youth program of Opera Naples on Saturday, May 17. Appointments are required for time slots between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Participants will work together June 30-July 11 and will perform Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" on July 12-13. The program was created by Pamela Leighton-Bilik, the former education director of the Inter-

national Gilbert & Sullivan Festival and the founder of PBTheatricals, which creates youth productions of Gilbert & Sullivan works in the United States and the UK.

Registration for the Opera Naples program is \$200. Scholarships are available.

Download an application at www.OperaNaples.org, or for more information contact Robin Frank by calling 963-9050 or emailing rfrank@operanaples.org.

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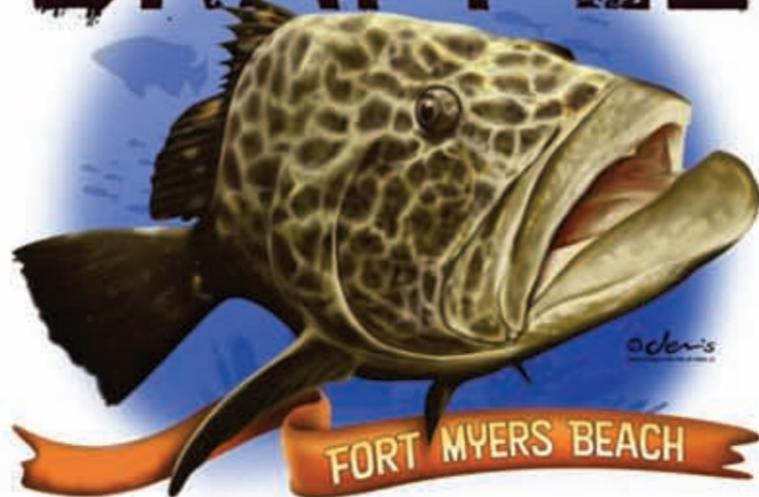
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THIS WEEK ON WGCU-TV

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 9 P.M.
Doc Martin

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?
Martin and Louisa host a disastrous dinner party, the new nanny walks out and Morwenna advertises for a lodger.

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 9 P.M.
Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma
Live from Tanglewood

Formed under the artistic direction of cellist Yo-Yo Ma in 2000, the Silk Road Ensemble gathers distinguished performers and composers from more than 20 countries to explore contemporary multicultural musical crossroads.



Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, May 9

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 10:30 P.M.
Are You Being Served?

A large, old-fashioned department store in London, Grace Bros. is run on hierarchical lines. Members of the staff know their places — in theory.

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 8 P.M.
Call the Midwife

Sister Julienne calms an anxious



Call the Midwife, May 11

new mother who has put her baby in grave danger. Jenny is seconded to The London, where she soon begins to see cracks in the establishment.

9 P.M.
Masterpiece Classic
Mr. Selfridge

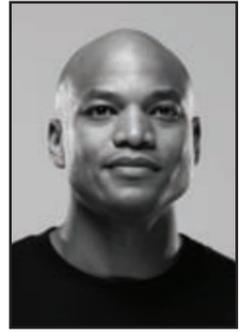
Harry's secret service contact does him a favor. Mae and Loxley cross swords. LeClair gets good news — and bad.

MONDAY, MAY 12, 8 P.M.
Antiques Roadshow

Highlights include a late 19th-century Albert Neuhuys watercolor bought by a young collector for \$2 and an early 20th-century Alice R.H. Smith watercolor.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 8 P.M.
Coming Back with Wes Moore

U.S. Army veteran Wes Moore tells the stories of returning veterans and their difficulties beginning with Bonnie Collins, the mother of Brian Collins, one of Mr. Moore's oldest friends and a fellow officer. Last year, after getting married and beginning a new career, Brian abruptly took his own life.



Coming Back with Wes Moore, May 13

9 P.M.
The Ghost Army

Examine the maneuvers and tactics of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, which used art and deception including inflatable tanks and fake radio signals and soundtracks to deceive the Germans in World War II.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 8 P.M.
Nature: Leave it to Beavers

A growing number of scientists, conservationists and grassroots environmentalists have come to regard beavers as overlooked tools in the effort to reverse the effects of global warming and worldwide water shortages. View these industrious rodents in a new light through the eyes of beaver enthusiasts and "employers" who reveal the ways in which the presence of beavers can transform and revive landscapes. ■



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CELEBRITY EXTRA

'Flowers in the Attic' sequel set to air

BY CINDY ELAVSKY

behind.

Q: My girlfriends and I had a lot of fun watching Lifetime's adaptation of V.C. Andrews' book "Flowers in the Attic." Are there plans to turn any more of the books in the series into movies?

— Steff S.,
Orange Park, Fla.

A: You're in luck, Steff. Lifetime has indeed filmed the sequel to "Flowers," which is called "Petals on the Wind." It is scheduled to premiere at 9 p.m. Monday, May 26. If you aren't familiar with the books, the film begins 10 years after the Dollanganger siblings have escaped the attic where their mother, Corrine



Rose McIver

(Heather Graham), and grandmother Olivia (Ellen Burstyn) kept them locked away for more than two years.

"Petals on the Wind" continues to follow the twisted plight of the family, a decade after Cathy (Rose McIver), Christopher (Wyatt Nash) and Carrie (Bailey Buntain) escaped from their grandparents' attic at Foxworth Hall. But as they attempt to move beyond their sordid past, they soon discover that certain secrets can't be left

Q: I had heard awhile back that Robert De Niro was going to star in an HBO drama series, but I haven't seen anything about it since. Do you know if that's still going to happen?

— Donnie F.,
via email

A: Well, it is ... and it isn't. The series is still happening, but Robert De Niro won't be involved. "Criminal Justice," a seven-hour miniseries based on the BBC's 2008 Peter Moffat drama of the same name, was supposed to star James Gandolfini. When James passed away last June (after already having filmed the pilot), Mr. De Niro was tapped to star in his place. However, he had to pull out due to a scheduling conflict, so John Turturro has stepped in to play the lead, Jack Stone, an unscrupulous New York City lawyer who defends a Pakistani man (Riz Ahmed) accused of murder. ■

— Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or email her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

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SOCIETY

A benefit at Fiddler's Creek for the Latchkey League of the American Red Cross



Cindy Stegemann and Ed Stegemann



Ryan Warner, Robert Nardi and Jeff Larkin



Karen Slater and Larz Spangberg



Moirra Fennessey and Jim Fennessey



Sandra Hesse, Norma Webb and Isabelle Staffeldt

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SOCIETY

The 'Old Bags' luncheon to benefit The Shelter for Abused Women & Children



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SOCIETY

A Naples Princess cruise to benefit the Freedom Waters Foundation



Suzanne Todd and Curt Todd with Karen Conley



Kate Peterson, Debra Frenkel, Wilfredo Vasquez, Rob DeGranie, Ashley Harushtiak, Anita DeGranie, Hallie Hau, Steven Bowles and Cindy Campione



Charlie McDonald and Kena Yoke



Charlie McDonald and Kena Yoke



Allison Callas with Bill Michalek and Jean Michalek



Carole Beauregard and Bob Beauregard



Robert Steckenrider and Susan Steckenrider



Kim Rodriguez and Frank Rodriguez

TIM GIBBONS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Sandalo of Italy hosts a benefit for The Shelter for Abused Women & Children



Debbie Caldwell and Fabio Tesorone



Gary Bergmoser and John Browning



Laila Dahdal, Debbie Caldwell, Nancy Temple and Amy Saad



Natalia Brock and Chelsea Mooney

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SOCIETY

'Une Nuit a Paris' for Collier Child Care Resources



Dan Landrum and Amy Landrum



Carolyn Tieger, Jim Swanson and Miranda Sharkey



Blake Lange, Carolyn Greiner, Paisley Bailey and Suzanne Portner



Steve Cere, Adoni Kokkinos and Joe Davidow



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PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previous restaurant reviews:

■ **Cafe Alfredo, Galleria Shoppes at Vanderbilt**, 2359 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Naples; 431-8605

Boisterous yet stylish, Cafe Alfredo offers white linens, well-executed dishes crafted in an open kitchen and reasonable prices. A Margherita pizza billed as personal size was ample enough for two and consisted of a crisp, thin crust that held a tasty blend of fresh tomatoes, basil and mozzarella. Clams casino and mussels in white wine sauce are also good starts to a meal here. Shrimp fra diavolo was satisfyingly zesty, and the veal chop asparagus Parmesan was large with a liberal application of asparagus, marinara and mozzarella. The standout was the lamb shank over pappardelle, featuring fall-off-the-bone tender meat in a savory brown sauce. The tiramisu was delicious and ample for sharing as well. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★
Reviewed March 2013

■ **Eurasia**, 8793 Tamiami Trail E., Naples; 352-0888

Chef Ettore Mancini hails from Italy. His wife, who serves as the gracious hostess, has Vietnamese roots. And so they have married their heritages to create the menu at their East Naples restaurant. That means one member of the party can indulge in Vietnamese roasted quail, summer rolls and crepes, while another can tuck into Italian clas-

sics. From the Italian options, the hot antipasto provided tastes of clams oreganato, clam casino, baked shrimp and eggplant rollatini. The eggplant was the best of the bunch. Shrimp stuffed with crabmeat was nicely executed as well. Grilled beef with lemongrass had lots of fresh ingredients — crunchy bean sprouts, grilled beef, vermicelli noodles — but the lemongrass was undetectable. Pho — the Vietnamese soup that eats like a meal — was popular at other tables and I'd order that on a return trip. Tiramisu was large and fluffy and just right for dessert. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★
Service: ★ ★ ★
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★
Reviewed May 2013

■ **Inca's Kitchen**, 11985 Collier Blvd., Naples; 352-3200

I loved this place when it was just a little hole in the wall. Now that it's blossomed into a big, sleek establishment with a full bar and expanded menu, it's better than ever. Chef/owner Raphael Rottiers continues to bring Peruvian flavors to American palates in a way that has brought a loyal following to his Golden Gate restaurant. On this visit, I loved the Paracas mussel shooters (shot glasses containing lime juice, rocoto peppers, cilantro, onions and mussels); a spectacular mixed ceviche rocoto apiscado (octopus, calamari, shrimp and fish in a vibrant sauce tinged with Peruvian rocoto pepper and Peruvian brandy); tiradito (escolar in a soy-citrus sauce); fluffy green tamales with cilantro beef sauce; aji tarwi fish (corvina grilled atop

eggplant aji amarillo soffrito and purple mashed potatoes); and corvina con tacu (topped with red onions, tomatoes and aji amarillo on a fat cake of rice and lima beans). Lucama cheesecake was a heavenly ending. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★ ½
Reviewed May 2013

■ **Salado Pedro's**, Gulf Coast Town Center, 9903 Gulf Coast Main St., 314-TACO

Salado Pedro's is not connected to a chain, but still it takes a middle-of-the-road corporate approach. Some dishes hit the mark, others fell flat. The tableside guacamole presentation, for example, failed to exploit an opportunity to tailor a truly fresh, vibrant dip to customers' tastes. A fried appetizer came out soft and soggy instead of crisp and crusty. You might be better off skipping apps and going straight for a taco sampler of fillings ranging from classic chorizo and al pastor to nuevo Mexicano ahi tuna with bacon and mango pico de gallo. Or try the molcajete carne, a meat-lover's combination of chorizo sausage, strips of steak and chicken accompanied by strips of bell and chili peppers and sweet potatoes enveloped in a lush red tomato-based sauce with hints of chipotle and other chilies all bubbling in a lava-rock bowl. Full bar.

Food: ★ ★ ★
Service: ★ ★ ★
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ 1/2
Reviewed August 2013

■ **The Local**, 5323 Airport-Pulling Road, Naples; 596-3276

This is a restaurant whose name aptly describes its mission: serving as much farm- and sea-to-table food as can be procured from area farms and local waters. It's run by two Culinary Institute of America alums, one of whom also did a stint at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples. The menu is creative, the setting unfussy and the staff friendly and accommodating. Local items are boldfaced on the menu, which changes as availability does. Clam flatbread, featuring Pine Island clams, local tomatoes and herbs on a thin, yeasty crust, was a great starter. So was the snapper ceviche, with locally grown serrano peppers, avocado, red onion, cilantro, golden grape tomatoes and citrus. Grilled gulf-caught cobia with tomato confit and grass-fed short ribs were both simply but expertly prepared. Sides of calabaza squash, crunchy chard and smashed potatoes were all cooked perfectly. For dessert: two mini-sized treats, Key lime panna cotta and bread pudding, both just right. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★ ★ ★ ★
Service: ★ ★ ★ ★
Atmosphere: ★ ★ ★ ★
Reviewed June 2013

Key to ratings

★★★★★ Superb	★★ Fair
★★★★ Noteworthy	★ Poor
★★★ Good	

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CUISINE

Lamoraga brings sophisticated Spanish tapas to first U.S. location

karenFELDMAN
cuisine@floridaweekly.com



There's been a veritable explosion of stunning, well-heeled restaurants opening in Naples in recent months — Hob-Nob Kitchen, Cider Press Café and Avenue5, to name a few.

And now, smack on U.S. 41 in what used to be an office building, comes yet another beauty on which no expense has been spared: Lamoraga, a contemporary Spanish tapas restaurant that opened in mid-April.

With its soaring ceiling draped in undulating canopies of wooden strips, huge windows, glossy white tables with gleaming silver stands, it makes a statement as soon as you walk in. So does the expansive open kitchen surrounded on three sides by a tapas bar at which you can sit in wide, deeply upholstered chairs and watch the able culinary team do its stuff.

The food is as showy as the space and tastes at least as good as it looks.

Lamoraga comes to us via Spain, with branches in Dubai and Barcelona and more planned for Madrid, Frankfurt and Budapest. That places the rather diminutive city of Naples among some rather heavy hitters, but I believe it's a location that's going to prove highly successful.

The concept is one that starts with the time-honored style of tapas — small plates that typically feature one appetizer-sized dish each or an assortment of items meant to share — and then melds it with contemporary practices and sprinkles in some flavors borrowed from other countries to add a bit of interest. This is not an attempt at all-out fusion, but rather a subtle infusion of interesting flavors when appropriate.

And, for traditionalists, there are some large plates, such as baked black cod, grilled salmon, pork shoulder with shiitake mushroom ragout, beef short ribs, an 8-ounce filet and a dry-aged New York strip.



An open kitchen is surrounded on three sides by a sprawling tapas bar. KAREN FELDMAN / FLORIDA WEEKLY



Above: Eggplant has a crisp skin and tender interior with fish flakes on top. Left: Pistachio ice cream and a warm fig tart pair well for dessert.



But I highly recommend exploring the left side of the menu, wherein lie an assortment of small-plated delights.

We worked our way through a number of dishes, starting with the *ensalada Rusa* (Russian salad, \$9), a potato salad studded with olives and bits of tuna. An extremely mild dish, it proved a suitable counterpoint to the more lively *berenjenas* (eggplant Lamoraga, \$12), three small fried eggplants with smoky, crisp skins filled with soft flesh, topped with crisp wobiko flakes and finished with a touch of mirin and honey in which the eggplant had marinated.

Lamoraga offers a variety of plates to be shared featuring artisanal cheese and

cured meats. Since my companion shuns meat, we opted for the cheeses with sweet quince paste, a fig-port reduction, walnuts and pieces of soft ivory-hued *garrotxa*, a mild goat's milk cheese; crumbles of *cabrales*, a Spanish blue; and slices of *manchego*, made with sheep's milk. It was a diverse group of cheeses, which went well with the soft, chewy quince paste, walnuts and the sweet fig reduction.

We enjoyed it with a bottle of 2012 Don Olegario albarino, an unusually complex wine with lovely apple, rose and citrus on the nose and palate. (And it was served properly chilled, a delightful departure from many restaurants that deliver it barely below room temperature and expect the ice bucket to do the heavy lifting.)

Gamas al ajillo (Andalusian garlic shrimp, \$12) came in a little black pan in which the shrimp had been sautéed in extra virgin olive oil, garlic, Spanish chilies and parsley. They were perfectly cooked and slightly spicy, with a spritz of fresh lemon juice from the wedge supplied adding just the right brightness to the seasoning.

I also enjoyed the *brocheta morund* (Moorish lamb skewers, \$12), two skewers stacked with chunks of tender, marinated lamb accompanied by crunchy quinoa tabbouleh.

Lamoraga offers three types of gazpacho: a traditional tomato style it called Andalusian; a cherry version with feta cheese, basil oil and a lovely rosy hue; and a tropical version, an almond, garlic and coconut soup with iced pineapple coulis.

Order each one individually and they are \$5; order a sampling of three for \$6. We liked them all, although I was partial to the tropical version, which was the lightest of the three.

We finished with the *tartita de higo* (fig tart, \$9), a warm roasted fig shortbread with pistachio ice cream. The tart was slightly sweet, the crust tender and light; the ice cream's intense pistachio flavor perfectly complemented the tart.

Service, from start to finish, was excellent. Our server was intimately familiar with the menu and able to offer recommendations. He was also right on top of things in terms of keeping our wine and water glasses filled and ensuring that we were happy with what we ordered. Other members of the staff deftly cleared dishes as they passed by or brought us something if our server was otherwise engaged. It was an impressive display of teamwork from a team that hasn't worked together very long.

We never even made it into the lovely cocktail lounge at the far end of the room but could see that it, too, was bustling.

I especially enjoyed seeing such a diverse assortment of customers, ranging from 20-somethings out on the town with friends (clad in some truly eye-popping outfits) to young families with children to chic retirees. Clearly, Lamoraga has something for everyone. ■

in the know

Lamoraga
3936 Tamiami Trail N., Naples; 331-3669

Ratings:
Food: ★★★★★ 1/2
Service: ★★★★★ 1/2
Atmosphere: ★★★★★

- >> **Hours:** 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
- >> **Reservations:** Accepted (and recommended)
- >> **Credit cards:** Accepted
- >> **Price range:** Tapas, \$5-\$25; entrees, \$27-\$38
- >> **Beverages:** Full bar
- >> **Seating:** Conventional tables, banquettes, booths and at the tapas bar
- >> **Specialties of the house:** Tapas
- >> **Volume:** Moderate to high
- >> **Parking:** Free lot with complimentary valet service
- >> **Website:** www.lamoragarestaurant.com

★★★★★ Superb
★★★★ Noteworthy
★★★ Good
★★ Fair
★ Poor

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Welcome
to the Best

The Best is *Florida Weekly's* take on some of the best, of course, but also some of the wackiest, most wondrous, obscure, ridiculous and even scandalous people and things that make Southwest Florida such a great place to live.

Many "best of" publications are filled solely with content that's bought and paid for; that's not our style at Florida Weekly. Yes, our advertisers — the folks who make this piece of Floridian pulp and history you hold in your hands possible — receive shout-outs from us in these pages. It's only fair. But the bulk of our Best section has nothing to do with invoices or ballot-box stuffing.

The non-scientific, non-crowd-sourced process by which we choose our Best winners begins with a brainstorming meeting of our writers and editors. A couple of months later, after scouring the nooks and crannies of the region and our Florida Weekly archives, this section emerges: page after page of things we praise and applaud, pontificate on and poke fun at.

Herewith, our Best. We had fun doing it, and we hope you have fun reading it.

Here's to the Best of Southwest Florida, 2014.



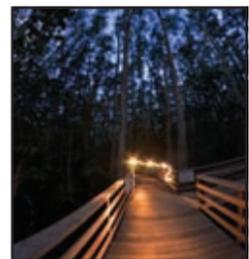
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22

Best
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flames:

6



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in the
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Etiquette & Networking Reception with Kenia Jean-Pierre, Sharon Arnold and Lydia Lebrun benefitting The Immokalee Foundation.



Celebrity Bartender Event with Mercury Morris, Charlie Babbs, Larry Little, Eric Boyce, Virginia D'Amore, Krista McCellan, Cheyanne Hogan, Tracy Duhaney, Jeff Jerome and Tom Donahue benefitting the United Way of Collier County.



Andrea Sturzenegger, Tom Donahue, Jeff Jerome, Fred Coyle, Donna Fiala, Georgia Hiller, Tim Nance and Tom Henning accepting Shula's Steak House Naples as Business of the Month.

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BEST NEW OLD FLAMES

The Grand Car Menorah Parade

Fort Myers has its parade honoring Tommy Edison and his electric light bulbs, but Naples has ... well, this: the Grand Car Menorah Parade, brought to us for the first time this past holiday season by Chabad Naples and Naples Luxury Imports. We can only hope it was the beginning of a new tradition. As legend will have it, the cars — including a 2014 Aston Martin Vanquish, Maserati Ghibli, Maserati Quattroporte, Rolls-Royce Wraith and Bentley Flying Spur — had only enough oil for one night, but the parade lasted for eight blocks. A miracle. The noted anti-Semite Henry Ford might not be amused, but Judas Maccabeus (MaccaBMWus?) would be proud.



BEST MUTT AND JEFF

Shaq and Amy

Alongside ESPN's Dick Vitale, 7-foot-tall retired NBA player Shaquille O'Neal joined ABC-7 morning news anchor (and extremely petite) Amy Sedlacek to support the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County at the Youth of the Year Celebration. Shaq and Amy were a sight to see, especially when the towering athlete scooped up the tiny newswoman in his arms. The crowd of more than 700 went wild.



BEST NAME CHANGE

Edison State College to Florida SouthWestern State College

It's lights-out on the marquee for Fort Myers' greatest snowbird ever, who no longer has his name branded on our regional institution of higher learning after it reinvented itself with the sexier-sounding Florida SouthWestern State — pending the governor's expected approval July 1. With the new name comes the 2015 return, after an 18-year hiatus, of the Buccaneers athletics program — complete with a new pirate mascot that looks like a shanghaied detective Dick Tracy of comic-book lore. At least there are still 125 Florida businesses that contain "Edison" in the name, according to the online White Pages.

BEST CELEBRITY CRUSH

Kathleen Passidomo and Giver

State Rep. Kathleen Passidomo has a soft spot for children's education — and for Giver, the costumed orangutan mascot of the Naples-based Charity for Change character education program. Known to flirt, hold hands with and hug the great ape, who she affectionately refers to as her "boyfriend," Mrs. Passidomo has championed Charity for Change by serving as honorary co-chair, with her good-humored husband John (who doesn't seem threatened by Giver), of the nonprofit's annual fundraiser and inviting Charity for Change organizers — including her heartthrob Giver — to Tallahassee to meet with legislators and others involved in education.





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BEST GRAND REOPENING

The Promenade at Bonita Bay

Once billed as Southwest Florida's hottest spot for shopping, dining and entertainment, the economic downturn almost suffocated this open-air destination marked by tropical landscaping, cascading water and a charming mix of stores and restaurants. But the Promenade is promenading once again, thanks to a renovation of the 106,454-square-foot plaza by R.L.R. Investments, which bought it for \$5 million in 2012. So after getting the squeeze from Coconut Point in Estero to the north and Mercato in North Naples to the south, Bonita's merchant Mecca is back and beautiful.

BEST SHOT IN THE ARM

The Hertz Corp.

Boomers and beyond in Southwest Florida will remember the classic 1960s television commercial in which "Hertz put you in the driver's seat," lowering a happy-go-lucky couple into an open convertible sedan cruising along a highway, delivering them smoothly from the sky above (check it out on YouTube if you haven't seen it). That was cutting-edge visual stuff at the time, and that innovative spirit continues to drive the company, which is moving its international headquarters from Park Ridge, N.J., to a new megacomplex in Estero (with temporary digs set up in Collier County). Expected completion of the move in 2015 brings with it truck-



loads of local jobs, anticipation throughout the regional business community and plenty of time for Hertz to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2018 — by which time they might be lowering us back into a topless, computer-driven "electrocar" after a weekend jaunt to the moon.

BEST DRILLING BITS #1

Opponents of oil drilling in Golden Gate

We certainly see the argument against oil drilling in the side yard of the Everglades on purely environmental grounds. But we'd like to make a point against it on cultural grounds. Remember, when the Clampetts came upon their oil fortune, they moved to Bever-lee (Hills, that is), bringing with them fancy eatin' tables and cee-ment ponds, vittles and ciperin'. We fear the equivalent of Granny's spring tonic might not be well received at the Naples Winter Wine Fest.

BEST DRILLING BITS #2

Garage dentistry in Golden Gate

The social contract requires a certain amount of exchange between neighbors: going next door to get a cup of sugar, borrow a yard tool or ask for a jump for a dead car battery. This contract, however, does not extend to visiting your neighbor for dental work. In his garage. We refer, of course, to the Golden Gate man who was arrested for illegally operating a dental practice out of a one-car garage after undercover detectives got a quote from him for an \$80 X-ray and cleaning and a \$350 root canal. We shall address backyard hair replacement and cosmetic surgery on the lanai at a later date.



BEST SEPARATED AT BIRTH

Steve Wheeler and Jack O'Brien

Patty Duke found her twin in an identical cousin. Hayley Mills found hers in a summer camp cabin (long before the unfortunate Ms. Lohan did the same). And Messrs. Steve Wheeler, left, and Jack O'Brien, right, are doppelganging in our seaside city. "They laugh alike, they walk alike, at times they even talk alike ... You could lose your mind." Fortunately for both, neither could have found a nicer person to be mistaken for.

BEST TOYS R NOT US

Jimmy Flynt's Sexy Gifts

When you're as popular a destination as Naples, you tend to attract all the right people. Unfortunately, you also attract some of the others. And while we like sex and toys, we prefer that they be in separate sentences. And separate stores. So when the brother of Hustler magazine founder Larry Flynt closed his Naples "gift" store last fall after a court defeat, we were ... well ... pleased. And now the acquisition of those special items goes back on the Internet. Where it belongs.

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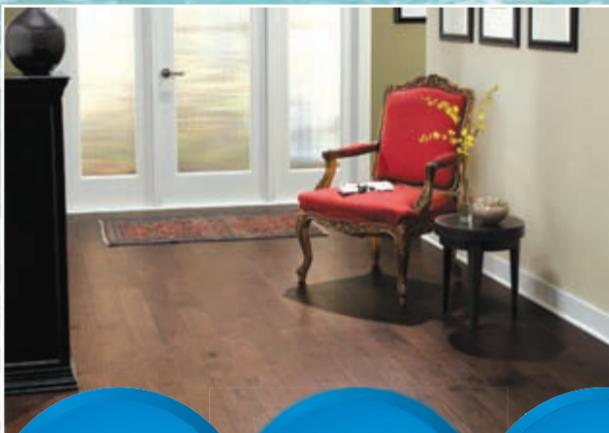
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BEST BUSINESS PROMOTER

Chelsea Birczak, Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Anyone on the email list of Ms. Birczak, the chamber's director of marketing and communications, is greeted daily by an inbox emboldened repeatedly with her name and any number of media releases, photo meet-and-greets, ribbon-cutting notices and generally positive propaganda promoting the buzzing business climate in the Bonita Springs region. So what's up with Chelsea lately? Here at Florida Weekly, such professional pride in one's work and competence in execution does not go unnoticed — nor does it go unrecognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which recently rewarded Ms. Birczak and Cindy Burgess, the Bonita chamber's director of special events, with its National Institute Scholarship that focuses on leadership training. It's a nice honor for a young executive who campaigns for her chamber's members like it's nobody's business.



BEST SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND

Geocaching

Neapolitans are wallowing in hidden treasure. The Holy Grail site for cache hunters, www.Geocaching.com lists thousands of seek-and-find mini-loots in Collier County, their names a smorgasbord of whimsy, promise and caution: "Dancefloor Palms," "Seekin' the Beakin'," "Skeeter Feeder Meter," "Between a Lake and a Hard Place," "Ghost Orchid" and "Swamp Ass" among them. No matter your Collier location, know it or not, you are near secreted geocaches. Get out there and find you some!

BEST BLOCK PARTIES

Fifth Avenue South

Whether you're in the mood to dress up and party like it's 1999 or simply to enjoy some live music while window-shopping, historic and hip Fifth Avenue South is the place to be. Stretching from Ninth Street South to the Gulf of Mexico, the avenue boasts a calendar of events that cover the whole year, from blockbuster happenings at Halloween and Christmas to frequent art shows and special events such as Chalk Art and Ferraries on Fifth. And on the second Thursday of every month, it's Evening on Fifth, with some of the BEST live entertainment Southwest Florida has to offer all along the avenue.

BEST PARTY ON MARCO

IBERIABANK's shred parties

Who knew that disposing of unwanted banking and legal documents, bills and other personal papers could be such a good time? IBERIABANK injects enjoyment into the process with the shred parties it hosts every so often in the parking lot at its Marco Island branch. For \$3 a bag or box of documents, with proceeds doing to a community cause, participants can partake of the food, music and other fun — all while taking care of what would otherwise be a mundane chore.



BEST MUD BATH

The dunking of the Swamp Buggy Queen

The World Famous Swamp Buggy Races, held several times a year in World Famous Naples, concludes each race-weekend's festivities with the World Famous Dunking of the World Famous Swamp Buggy Queen. In a ritual known among insiders as the Queen's Mud Bath, the race winner jumps with the reigning queen into a 5-foot-deep slurry pit of mud water nicknamed "The Sippy Hole." Viva la Queen's Mud Bath tradition.



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- June 17** Movies on the Lawn featuring **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2**
- July 3** INDIePendeNce Day Concert & Fest featuring **ToucanDo**, 6-9p
- July 15** Movies on the Lawn featuring **Gravity**

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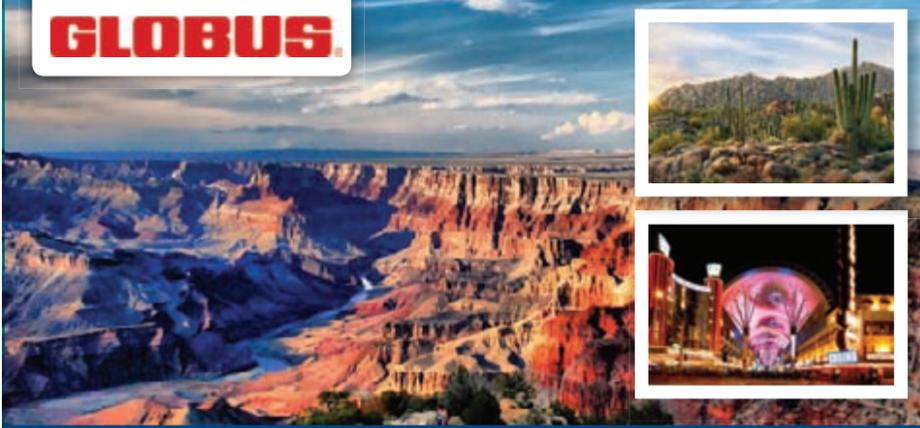
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Panther and Dismal Keys

The fringe islands south of Marco Island and north of Everglades City have been home to some of the region's most famed hermits. Juan Gomez of Panther Key reportedly lived to be 123 years of age and died working, tangled in his fishing net. Could the Fountain of Youth be in southwestern Collier County, after all? Hmmm.

BEST HANGOUT FOR SENIORS

The new Jewish Family & Community Services senior center

Can you believe Collier County didn't have a senior center before this one opened earlier in the year? The 4,000-square-foot space hosts weekly "Lunch & More" programs featuring performances such as a jazz band from the Naples Philharmonic and also presents art and computer classes, health lectures and a host of other activities aimed at the 27 percent of Collier residents age 65 and better.

BEST MEETING OF THE MINDS

The BROMEOS (Black Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Chatting, chuckling, bonding and networking are the order of the day when the BROMEOS get together. These fun-loving guys don't have any formal organization or membership requirements, but it's common for 15-40 of them to show up at 10 a.m. on the first Monday of each month for breakfast at the traditional meeting spot, the Perkins Restaurant on Pine Ridge Road.



BEST DANCE PARTNERS

The Immokalee Foundation kids and board members

The Immokalee Foundation's Charity Classic Celebration at The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort traditionally ends with board members and donors dancing with the kids from Immokalee whose futures are so much brighter because of TIF. This year was no different. The energetic teens and their proud mentors/champions/benefactors busted some moves side by side, above, until the band started packing up.



NEXT BEST DANCE PARTNER

Azul the FGCU Eagle

The word on The Bird who soars above his mascot peers is that if the boisterous students at Florida Gulf Coast University athletics contests are the "Dirty Birds," then the wingman for FGCU's cheer squads is downright filthy as he fans furor in the stands. As defending Atlantic Sun Conference Most Valuable Mascot, Azul has quite the feather in his cap, and visiting Bears, Hatters, Vikings and the like who try to cause unrest at The Nest and wing it against our most regal Eagle during dance-offs at Alico Arena end up taking flight, costume tails between their legs. And yes, @azultheeagle tweets.

BEST SPRING BREAKERS

FSU med students in Immokalee

Working in the field took on new meaning for a group of Florida State University medical students who spent their spring break on the road with the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in Immokalee, conducting health screenings at migrant housing camps and in farm fields and church parking lots. Party on, future physicians. Your work has just begun.

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BEST LOVEBIRDS

Calusa and Paleo, the Marco Island bald eagles

This snow-capped duo have carved out quite a niche for themselves. Since 2003, home for the nesting pair has been a towering Australian pine on an undeveloped Tigertail Court parcel known as the Marco Eagle Sanctuary. Aside from delighting locals, Calusa and Paleo have also become a favorite attraction for visitors to Marco.

BEST REASON TO KEEP IT QUIET

See above

If Calusa and Paleo could speak, they'd shout, "No more fireworks! Please!" The state and federally protected birds temporarily abandoned their nest on New Year's Eve after fireworks were set off nearby, in the residential area that surrounds the sanctuary. It was the second time since Christmas 2012 that fireworks caused the pair to flee. The most recent occurrence resulted in the egg and fledgling they left behind falling prey to a predatory bird before their return.

BEST NEW CULTURAL COALITION

Centers for the Arts of Bonita Springs

If there was a fine-and-performing-arts black hole between Fort Myers and Naples, there isn't anymore, thanks to the growth of the Centers for the Arts of Bonita Springs. With the Center for the Performing Arts on Bonita Beach Road joining the Center for the Visual Arts on Old 41, beauty, music and drama abound from the walls and stages of the venues that stayed busy all season thanks to hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers, not to mention unbridled support from the community. You might still have to visit the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall to the north or Artis—Naples to the south to see the really big shows, but most of the time — especially when you factor in the two prestigious Bonita Springs National Arts Festivals each winter — connoisseurs of all things creative will now find Bonita an artistic bonanza.



BEST DAMN STRING BAND IN THE LAND

Bonita Village String Band

OK, truth be told, it's not just the best, but it's the only local string dance band we know, fashioned after the famous Mummers who perform in the festive New Year's Day parade in Philadelphia. "Philly" stands for "philanthropy" when it comes to this delightfully quirky band directed by Al Dalton, thanks to the 40 scholarships it has awarded since 1990 to aspiring elementary- and middle-school musicians in Bonita Springs, Naples and Fort Myers for instrument purchases, lessons or music-camp tuition. And when you consider that the talented-and-traditional Bonita Concert Band also calls the Riverside Park stage home, the folding-chair and blanket-spreading music lovers of Bonita enjoy really cool shows for free — strings attached.

BEST TWEET

John Henry, owner of the Boston Red Sox

Lee County's spring flingers enraged embattled Miami Marlins' management when they sent a busload of minor leaguers to Jupiter for a Grapefruit League game in March for which the Marlins had sold surcharged tickets to see the defending Major League Baseball champs. Expressing outrage at Boston's inconsideration after the Marlins had charged their fans top dollar, Miami wanted an apology from the JetBlue jilters. Henry would have none of it, and we twote: "They should apologize for their regular-season lineup," the Sox owner unabashedly tweeted to anyone who follows. Namesake John Henry, the Steel-Driving Man of American folklore, would appreciate such railing.

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BEST FLIGHT OUT OF TOWN

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Honor Flight salutes the service of America's ever-shrinking ranks of World War II veterans by transporting them, at no charge, to Washington, D.C., (up and back in a day on a chartered flight) to see the National WWII Memorial. Each WWII veteran is accompanied by a younger veteran for assistance and companionship. The Southwest Florida branch of Honor Flight funds and organizes two of the emotion-filled trips each year for veterans in Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto and Hendry counties.



BEST FLIGHT INTO TOWN

Roseate spoonbills

When the sky turns pink over the Ten Thousand Islands, it might not be the sunset. Nothing is quite as picturesque as when flocks of bright pink roseate spoonbills come to roost among the mangroves. Nature photographer Dennis Goodman is known for capturing the many wading avian species that help make our area so magical. In the photo above, Mr. Goodman captured one of the spectacularly colored creatures seconds before touchdown.

BEST TAKEOFFS AND LANDINGS

Naples Winter Wine Fest Weekend

Ever wonder why, during one weekend every February, the grass along a particular stretch of Airport-Pulling Road is littered with cars? It's not an impromptu auto mall. People pull over in their sedans and minivans to see how the other half flies, as Gulfstream jet after Gulfstream jet taxis in and out for the Naples Winter Wine Festival in a showcase of the latest in private luxury aviation.

BEST REASON TO GET TO THE AIRPORT EARLY

The Naples Museum of Military Memorabilia

Aside from allowing enough time for the normal pre-flight routine, arriving early at Naples Municipal Airport will allow time to visit the Museum of Military Memorabilia. Housed in the commercial service terminal, the museum has hundreds of photos, medals, flight jackets, uniforms, newspaper clippings and more on display from its collection of 10,000 military artifacts dating from the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan. The collection also includes relics from wars not involving American forces.



BEST ENGINE OVERHAUL

The Revs Institute for Automotive Research (formerly the Collier Automotive Museum)

Car lovers with an appreciation for automotive history can indulge their passion at the institute, which opened in March. Guided tours of the facility's 100 rare and important cars are available to the public. With its collection of 1.2 million automotive-related periodicals, photos and books, some dating from the 1890s, the Revs Institute also functions as a research facility for automotive historians, writers and academics.

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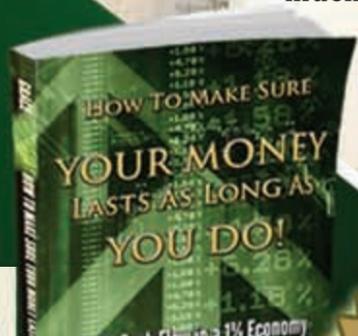
Q: Is there any way to know how current events will impact my portfolio (i.e. Russia invading Crimea, China's Real Estate Bubble, or U.S. future inflation)?

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The Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida

An education in one of the world's greatest tragedies can be found at the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida. In an unassuming storefront on U.S. 41 in North Naples, the museum contains more than 1,000 World War II and Holocaust artifacts and original photographs spanning the rise of Nazism to the Allied Liberation and the Nuremberg Trials. Lectures, film screenings, special exhibits and other programming advance the museum's mission to promote respect and understanding by teaching the lessons and history of the Holocaust and other genocides.

BEST SMOOTH FINISH

The Southwest Florida Wine & Food Festival

After five years under one director, the Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest's new co-chairs, Elaine Hawkins and Dorothy Fitzgerald, choreographed the event to a new level, raising \$2.6 million for Golisano Children's Hospital, Edison State College and Florida Gulf Coast University.

BEST LITTLE MUSEUM THAT COULD

The Marco Island Historical Museum

Aside from celebrating the Calusa Indians and other aspects of the island and region's rich history, the Marco Island Historical Museum also welcomes community gatherings and hosts public forums, art exhibits, musical performances and even productions of the Island Theater Company. That's what we call multitasking.



BEST 'I LOVE MY JOB'

Victor Brown, Marco Island's car wash man

Victor Brown is a one-man advertisement for the joie de vivre as he hand-washes and details cars at the Chevron station along Collier Boulevard, Marco's main drag. Mr. Brown has chatted and joked with clients and dispensed smiles and waves to passing motorists from his roadside perch since starting his Car Lab business in 2012.

BEST TIME YOU'LL HAVE RACKING YOUR BRAIN

The Giver Challenge

In Charity for Change's "Giver" program, Collier County students in grades K-5 spend 28 weeks answering math questions, solving character education puzzles and filling digital banks with coins they are donating to charities they have selected as a class. In Charity for Change's first-ever "Giver" Challenge for grown-ups, adults attempted these tasks and other brainteasers to see firsthand how students learn about the importance of volunteerism, charities and giving back. Hosted by Vi at Bentley Village, the fast-paced, laugh-filled evening brought out the kid in everyone. We'll be happy to step up to the Challenge again next year.



BEST DOUBLE TAKE

CCSO's half-patrol car half-taxi cab

The Collier County Sheriff's Office hasn't gone mad; they've gone creative in driving home the message that it's less expensive to call a taxi after drinking alcohol than it is to attempt driving. The front half of the new vehicle (actually a repurposed patrol car that had done its time on the road) looks like an ordinary patrol car and displays the message: "This ride is about \$10,000." The back half of the car looks like a yellow cab and bears the message: "This ride is about \$20." Do the math.

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BEST WAY TO GET DOWN WHILE GETTING AROUND

Mack's Karaoke Kab

When cabbie Mack Rose noticed his customers enjoyed singing along to whatever was playing on the radio, he took it to the next level. Now Mr. Rose picks up passengers in his "rock 'n' roll ride" van that's fully equipped with laser lights and a karaoke system with Bose speakers to keep passengers grooving on the way home from the bar, to or from the airport and wherever, all over Southwest Florida and even across Alligator Alley to Miami. Passengers pick a song on a tablet computer, Mr. Rose calls up the YouTube music and lyrics and the fun begins. Mr. Rose says local college students are some of his BEST customers, jamming to the likes of Miley Cyrus and pop stars, while older passengers lean toward Frank Sinatra songs. Besides the normal taxi cost (\$2.50 per mile and 50 cents a minute and tips), there's no extra charge. Mr. Rose, who is 65, says he's retired, and although the cab is profitable, he doesn't consider it work. Check out his rock 'n' roll ride at www.mackskaraokekab.com.



BEST SIGHT UNSEEN

The CCSO stealth cars

What we say: "I didn't know I was speeding," "I didn't know I had to make a complete stop" and "I thought a U-turn was ok." What we mean: "I didn't see your patrol car." Collier County drivers will likely be meaning a lot more of that, what with three new subtly marked "stealth" patrol cars on the road with Collier County Sheriff's Office deputies behind the wheel. Some of us might actually have to stop scoffing at laws lest we end up on a roadside cleanup crew.



BEST PLACE TO TOOT YOUR HORN

Tuba Christmas

From Alabama to Wyoming, Alberta to New Zealand, groups of tuba players convene in public places around the world for Tuba Christmas concerts every year. Since starting with a single performance in Rockefeller Plaza in 1974, the concerts seemingly organize themselves in true testament to what the Tuba Christmas website says is "a camaraderie envied by all other instrumentalists." Who knew? The Naples event, one of eight that take place in Florida, draws student players, amateur aficionados and professional orchestral musicians together to toot their tubas and euphoniums to the delight of what's always an SRO crowd under the twinkling holiday lights in Sugden Plaza.

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BEST WAY TO LAY DOWN THE LAW
Handwriting the Torah

To help celebrate its 50th anniversary, Temple Shalom invited members of its congregation and the general public to “put it in writing.” With assistance from an on-site sofer, individuals each wrote one letter in the hand-scribed Torah that will be used on Shabbat mornings, High Holy Days and by Bar and Bat Mitzvah students.



BEST THANKSGIVING TRADITION
The Farm City BBQ

For almost six decades, city and country folk throughout Collier County have gathered for the annual Farm City BBQ the day before Thanksgiving. The delicious event raises money for local causes, including 4-H, Youth Leadership Collier, the Junior Deputy League and Key Club. Dozens of civic and business leaders typically dish out the grub to a hungry — and grateful — crowd.

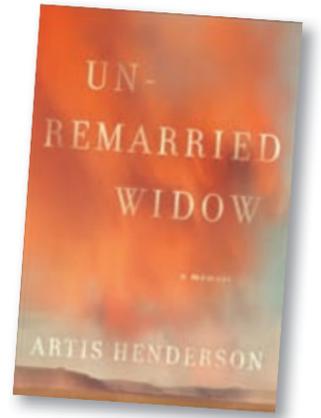


BEST NEW FILM FESTIVAL
The Naples Jewish Film Festival

Beth Tikvah of Naples brought the inaugural Naples Jewish Film Festival to town with four screenings at The Norris Center in March. The lineup — “The Zig Zag Kid,” a Dutch film that had played at the Toronto and Boston film festivals; “Kaddish for a Friend” from Germany; “Orchestra of Exiles,” a documentary about the extraordinary back-story of the formation of what was to become the Israeli Philharmonic; and the German film “Remembrance,” an epic romance based on actual events in 1944 Poland and 1976 Brooklyn — gave eager audiences cause for laughter and tears and, no doubt, led to deep reflection and thoughtful conversations long after the lights went up after each screening. We’re already looking forward to the second annual NJFF.

BEST MEMOIR
“Unremarried Widow”

We here at *Florida Weekly* were proud as anything to have our “Sandy Days, Salty Nights” columnist Artis Henderson write a book. “Unremarried Widow,” published by Simon & Schuster in January, recalls her love affair and marriage to Miles Henderson, a soldier who dies in Iraq, leaving Artis a widow in her 20s. The memoir was praised by publications such as *People*, *Elle*, *Publisher’s Weekly* and *Kirkus Review*. And not only was it positively reviewed in the *Sunday New York Times Book Review*, it was also listed in the *Times’* Editor’s Choice section.



BEST BOOK YET TO COME
“The Book of Mormon”

The Tony Award-winning musical “The Book of Mormon” is coming to Southwest Florida next season. We couldn’t believe it either, when we first heard the news. The show that satirizes religion, and Mormonism in particular, is profane, crude, irreverent — and terrifically funny. We’re not sure how it’ll be received in Southwest Florida. In a first, “The Book of Mormon” will play at both the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers (Jan. 6-11) and at Artis—Naples in Naples (Jan. 13-18).



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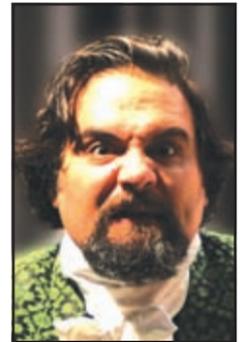
BEST ACTRESS

Karen Goldberg

Karen Goldberg sent chills down our spine as the psychotic, mother-abusing Irish woman in Theatre Conspiracy's production of "The Beauty Queen of Leenane." As she teetered between reality and fantasy, she creeped us out so well that we left the theater thinking that when we got home that night, maybe we should sleep with the lights on.

BEST ACTOR

Cody Nickell



Gulfshore Playhouse artistic associate Cody Nickell has been a sardonic doctor and a megalomaniac actor playing Sherlock Holmes this season, but his role in "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" surpassed anything else he's done. In this one-man show, he narrates the tale and portrays Jacob Marley and 17 other characters, including The Record Keeper (a St. Peter/gatekeeper-type figure), a demon, Scrooge and the Grim Reaper himself. The show was an acting tour de force, magical and enchanting.



BEST NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

"Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol"

Gulfshore Playhouse is bringing back "Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol" (see above) this December. It's well worth seeing — and seeing again if you saw it last year. We hope this one becomes an annual tradition in the same way "Santaland Diaries" has become at Florida Repertory Theatre.

BEST NEW THEATER COMPANY

Let's Put On A Show Productions

This troupe takes a "no-limits" approach to selecting the plays it stages at the Golden Gate Community Center. Kevin Moriarty and Scott Lilly founded the company with the intent of presenting original and lesser-known works, as well as the tried and true. Coming up next: "Motherhood Out Loud," which runs May 9-18.

BEST TEMPORARY BAR

The set for "Once"

Sure, there's no shortage of bars in the region, but our favorite bar this year was the Irish pub that existed for a mere six days — as part of the set onstage at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall when the Tony Award-winning musical "Once" came to town. Prior to the show and during intermission, theatergoers could hang out on stage and order a drink (the bar band kicked ass, too).

BEST SURPRISE PERFORMANCE

Robert Cacioppo

We're used to seeing Florida Repertory Theatre producing artistic director Robert Cacioppo making announcements from the stage prior to a show (his opening-night curtain speech is legendary). But a murmur ran through the audience in Act III of the company's production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" when Mr. Cacioppo walked out on stage as Lt. Rooney, a role he first played when he was 17 and in high school in Brooklyn. Although he had done other roles since then, he had not acted onstage for 29 years, making this a rare event indeed.

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BEST NEIGH-SAYER

Joey of "War Horse"

Joey, the puppet-horse of "War Horse," right, which played at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall this season, was the unmistakable star of the show. Though manipulated by three performers — two inside the horse structure and one outside — the humans soon grew invisible. Joey twitched his ears, flicked his tail and mane, shook his head, snorted, neighed and did everything else a real horse does. And made audiences fall in love with him.



BEST SECOND ACT

Myra Janco Daniels

Not only is she spearheading the Latchkey League and chairing the capital campaign for the Fran Cohen Youth Center at The Salvation Army of Naples, Myra Janco Daniels is leading the charge to build a world-class performing arts hall at Ave Maria University. Based on her track record at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts (now known as Artis—Naples), both proposed centers might as well be considered done deals.



BEST PLAN B (FLAT)

Chad Hoops, violinist

A physician can sometimes stand in for another doctor, even in surgery. An attorney can file a brief or make a court appearance for another lawyer. But to find an instrumental soloist to fill in for a symphonic performance, three things are required: They must know the work, they should have performed

it recently (ideally VERY recent), and they must be available. When a world-famous violinist took ill over the winter holidays, leaving a void on the Artis—Naples stage, Naples native Chad Hoops scored perfect on the requirements (although "being available" meant skirting a blizzard and catching the only flight out of Cleveland). He arrived in time for a morning rehearsal with the orchestra and that night played to a three-peat standing ovation and encore. Bravo, Mr. Hoops. Bravo.

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BEST POLITICAL MOVE

John Boehner buys Marco condo

Marco Island's cachet no doubt skyrocketed in some quarters with February's announcement that Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, had purchased a unit at the Tampico condominiums for \$835,000. Mr. Boehner and his wife Deborah have been frequent visitors to Marco and Southwest Florida for years. The luxurious, 14-story Tampico sits along the Gulf of Mexico in the gated Cape Marco community.

BEST WORST POLITICAL MOVE

Former U.S. Rep. Trey Radel

He gave up the kingdom for an eightball of cocaine. Having resigned amid scandal, U.S. Rep. Radel left Southwest Florida voters voiceless and impotent for the large part of the U.S. Congress' 113th session. By now, all the good jokes have been exhausted and we're all still left with a bad taste in our mouths (not to make mention that tingly feeling in our sinuses). We guess he didn't spend enough of his youth listening to rocker Eric Clapton. Too bad.



Mr. Clapton's iconic "Cocaine," ends like this: "Don't forget this fact, you can't get it back. Cocaine." Ain't it the truth.



BEST TV INTERVIEW

Kellie Burns and Trey Radel

After being busted for buying 3.5 grams of foo-foo dust, U.S. Rep. Radel got off easy when he appeared at a nighttime press conference and announced that he was going into rehab for alcohol addiction. So when Kellie Burns got another shot at pinning the Congressman down during a satellite interview, she took it. For a full 14 minutes, Ms. Burns grilled Mr. Radel — let their shared commiseration as local TV news anchors be damned — and she asked the Con-

gressman questions we all wanted answers to. Sure, the awkward tension was palpable and uncomfortable to watch, but we couldn't pry ourselves away. Did he apologize to the people at a thousand-dollar fundraiser that he had attended after his drug bust? Did he have a dealer in Southwest Florida? At nine minutes in, Mr. Radel tried to pry himself away: "I want to give you as much time as possible, but you do need to know that votes have just been called." Votes be damned, too. Ms. Burns kept at him for another five minutes. Her fire and frustration captured the zeitgeist of the electorate. The video's still on YouTube if you're curious.



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BEST CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE WHO GREW UP IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA:

None

Let's see. Is it Ben Nelson, the mayor of Bonita Springs? Wilbur Smith or Randy Henderson, the former and current mayors of Fort Myers? Could it be historian Vernon Peeples from Punta Gorda, who already served five terms in the state legislature? The problem is, none of them is running for Congress, nor do they seem to want to, ever. Envelope, please. And the winner is ... none. The District 19 race, to be decided June 24, is a competition (not much of one) between outsiders Curt Clawson (Republican, grew up in Indiana), April Freeman (Democrat, Michigan) and Ray Netherwood (Libertarian, Tallahassee, which is a country unto itself).

BEST GOVERNOR

Reubin Askew

His nickname was "Reubin the Good." That says volumes right there. Especially for a politician. He was a Democrat, the party of President Bill Clinton ("Slick Willie") and California Gov. Jerry Brown ("Governor Moonbeam"). On the Republican side, President Richard Nixon was known as "Tricky Dicky," and President Rutherford B. Hayes was dubbed "Rutherfraud." But Reubin Askew, who died in March at the age of 85, was something else. As



governor of Florida from 1971-79, he served with honesty, integrity and the people's interests at heart. Mr. Askew was a Presbyterian elder who did not drink, swear or smoke. He didn't serve alcohol in the Governor's Mansion. "You'd be surprised how early people go home when you don't give them alcohol," said Mr. Askew, according to his *New York Times* obituary. He was, indeed, Reubin the Good, something of a real-life Atticus Finch, maybe our BEST governor ever.



BEST WEIRD LANDSIDE ATTRACTION

The Bay City Walking Dredge

It sits like a giant metal transformer in Collier-Seminole State Park. Built in 1924 and declared a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, the old behemoth, above, did its part to dig and pile muck for Barron Gift Collier's section of the Tamiami Trail, which officially opened in 1928. Read more about it at www.floridastateparks.org/collierseminole.



BEST WEIRD WATERSIDE ATTRACTION

The Domes of Cape Romano

Originally a private home constructed by the Tennessee family of Bob and Margaret Lee, the watery domes, above, were once high and dry and connected by wooden decks. They were built with futuristic style and loaded with modern conveniences. Time and definitely tide have taken their toll, turning the dome home into one of the region's most iconic sites for those fortunate enough to explore the area by water.

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Mrs. Boyd founded Preferred Travel in 1984 as Travel Professionals International with her longtime friend the late Earl Hodges. A former recruiter for TWA, she brought extensive industry experience to the endeavor. She carefully selected and built a team of talented and seasoned travel specialists to accommodate the company's steadily growing group of loyal clients.

In addition to providing superior service to clients, a dedication to helping others and supporting local charities is an integral part of Preferred Travel's corporate mission and team culture. In 2007, Preferred Travel introduced a travel showcase event that is held annually. Each year, a local charity that benefits children in need is selected to receive all proceeds from the event. To date, more than \$114,000 has been raised for these charities.

Life itself is a journey, and we all can make a difference along the way.

Preferred Travel of Naples looks forward to many more years of supporting our community and representing the world of travel.



PREFERRED TRAVEL OF NAPLES MILESTONES:

1984 Wilma Boyd and Earl Hodges founded Travel Professionals International.

1990 Expanded and moved offices to 1210 Tamiami Trail.

1995 Purchased Naples Travel and hired an additional seven agents, including Marianne White and Ken Tarvin. Moved back to 1250 Tamiami Trail.

1997 Name changed to Preferred Travel of Naples.

1988 Moved offices to 1250 Tamiami Trail, purchased Uniglobe Travel and hired four employees, including Olga Placeres, now agency manager and CFO.

1994 Expanded and built an additional 1,000+ square feet of space.

1995-1999 Purchased four small agencies in town and consolidated offices to two locations.

1999 Purchased Van Arsdale Travel, added a third location, and four more employees, including Bo Gover.

2005 Consolidated offices and moved to current location in Pelican Bay.

2010 Added eight new staff members including a newly created position of full-time director of marketing.

2001 Wilma Boyd purchased McDaniel Travel and added John Burgess, Suzanne Dennis and Connie Moody to the staff.

2008 Joined the Signature Travel Network

2014 Preferred Travel of Naples celebrating 30 years in business.

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- Wilma Boyd awarded Key to City of Naples
- Wilma Boyd named Best Boss in Southwest Florida by *Gulfshore Business*
- Elected to Signature Travel Network Board of Directors
- Appointed to Luxury Travel Exchange International Advisory Board
- Recipient of the Distinguished Volunteer Award from the Shelter for Abused Women & Children

- Appointed to Cox & Kings Travel Agency Advisory Board
- Recipient of the Outstanding Corporate Philanthropy Award from the Community Foundation of Collier County
- Recipient of Mamie Tooke Trailblazer Award by The Partnership for Collier's Future Economy
- Named among Gulf Coast's Top 500 Companies by the *Business Observer*
- Olga Placeres named Best Boss in Southwest Florida by *Gulfshore Business*

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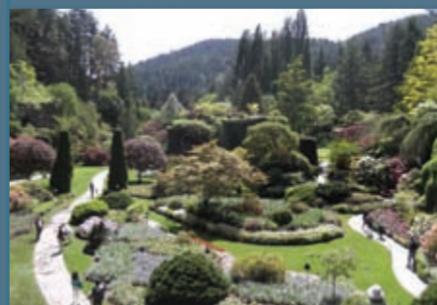
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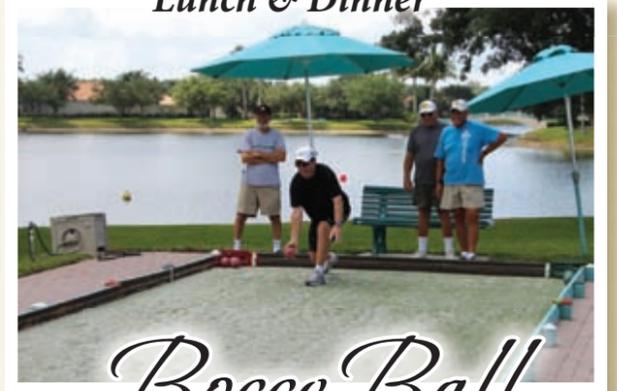
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The Eagles women

While the FGCU men's "Dunk City" ruled the court in 2013, this year it was the women's team that made waves, qualifying for the NCAA tournament for the second time in three years. The Eagles gals compiled a 26-8 overall record and dominated the first two rounds of the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament. That earned them a trip to the conference title game, where they edged Mercer 72-70. Next stop: the NCAA tournament. Seeded 12th in their region, they faced No. 5 seed Oklahoma State in the first round. FGCU led 52-42 with just under 10 minutes to go. Alas, they lost 61-60 in overtime. It was a tough way for the season to end, but it was a great season. The only thing the women's team needs now is a catchy nickname.



BEST FACEBOOK (MIS)QUOTE

Lizbeth Benequisto

Americans have always been creative geniuses. That's indisputable. We create the BEST democratic republics (the USA), the BEST explorers (Daniel Boone and Neil Armstrong), the BEST Yankee Traders (Cargill and Koch Brothers are one and two on the Forbes list of Biggest Private Companies, with Publix coming in at eight), the BEST storytellers (Mark Twain), the BEST movie makers (The Coen Brothers), the BEST shrimp (Gulf pink) the BEST champions of union, freedom and equal rights (Abe Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr.) and so on. So there's no reason to think we can't create the BEST quotes that were never uttered by the BEST presidents who never uttered them — on Facebook, no less — the BEST

social media outlet ever invented (Mark Zuckerberg). In that spirit, we congratulate State Senate Majority Leader (and former candidate for the District 19 seat in the U.S. House of Representatives) Lizbeth Benacquisto. On Presidents' Day, Sen. Benacquisto created the BEST quote by George Washington he never said — not even remotely, according to the Mount Vernon Library in Virginia. "Happy President's Day," Sen. Benacquisto wrote on Facebook. "Good to honor our

Founders' commitment to individual liberty. Great example: 2nd amendment. As George Washington once said, 'Firearms stand next in importance to the constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty, teeth and keystone under independence.'" Here's something else George Washington never said: "Americans are the BEST at poppycock. If it isn't real, they just make it up." But he didn't have to.

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BEST RETURN TO HIS ROOTS

Warren Wright

He has good TV hair. A slicked coif of jet black, it's a helmet made of low-reflection protein that caps a human bottle of showmanship, confidence and intelligence. Mr. Wright was a reporter and anchor for NBC-2 when he first came to Florida in the late '90s. He went on to serve on the Fort Myers City Council. He spent a decade as a pharmaceutical sales rep (a clichéd fallback career for many a TV reporter) before jumping back into the news business at FOX-4. The hair isn't his only asset. He can report, too — digging into records, scouring social media and pulling the old rolling-camera-confrontation interview when necessary.



BEST WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Cider Press Café

It's raw — really raw — at the Cider Press Café, where food is cooked to no more than 117 degrees, if it's cooked at all. There is no meat, no seafood, no cheese, tofu or bread. But what Executive Chef Johan Everstijn does with organic vegetables, fruits, sprouts and nuts is remarkable, gorgeous, good for you and — yes, we'll say it — delicious! This bastion of "plant-based, Florida-inspired" cuisine is fresh and surprising, with dishes such as Seminole corn chowder, walnut chipotle picadillo-stuffed enchiladas and a big sushi-style Florida roll with crunchy jicama replacing the rice. Check it out.

BEST HAVE-YOUR-JAZZ-AND-SUPPER-TOO SPOT

Alto at Bayfront Place

Good food or good music. Until recently, you didn't have much chance of getting both in the same spot. Then chef/entrepreneur Charles Mereday threw open the doors of Alto at Bayfront Place, where the jazz runs hot nightly and the kitchen demonstrates similarly great chops. Modeled after the renowned Zanzibar Blue in Philadelphia (one of Mr. Mereday's early gigs and one that has stayed with him), this dinner/night spot is already drawing well-known musicians and a clientele hungry for what's on the stage as well as what's on the menu.

BEST RED-TAPE CUTTER

Missi Hyde

She's one reason people feel less dread going to the DMV office at the main Collier County Government Complex. Those in the know clamor to get in line at Missi Hyde's window because of her ever-helpful attitude and good old-fashioned kindness. Regardless of how crazy or complicated your situation is, Ms. Hyde will do her BEST to resolve it with compassion, a smile and efficiency, even when — or especially when — the circumstances would seem to defy it.



BEST MIX AND MATCH

Bellini on Fifth

Bellini on Fifth's use of mismatched china and dramatic floral arrangements atop stark white linens is just one ingredient in the overall Bellini experience that keeps people coming back for more. Befitting of owner and original executive chef Maria's light-hearted, welcoming personality, these one-of-a-kind tablescapes are such a hit that they've been known to cause a spontaneous game of musical chairs when a diner takes a liking to a specific saucer.

BEST REASON TO STOP SMOKING

So you can make it up and back the Rich King Memorial Greenway

One of the BEST walking and biking paths in Naples, the Rich King Memorial Greenway stretches from Rattlesnake Hammock Road all the way to Radio Road for a total of six miles round trip. Dogs are welcome, and there are trash bins along the paved walkway, so toss those cigarettes in the garbage and get moving.

BEST REASON TO BUST YOUR DIET

Mereday's Sticky Toffee Pudding

When Mereday's Fine Dining Chef/owner Charles Mereday and Executive Chef Joe Pittman came to town, they brought with them the most ridiculous dessert Naples has possibly ever seen. Their sticky toffee pudding with brown butter ice cream is so addictive, it could warrant its own 12-step group.



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BEST WALK-THE-WALK FUNDRAISING EFFORT

Ecuadorian mountain climb

As board members for St. Matthew's House, Naples residents Mari DeWees and husband Andy Bravo wanted to help clients of the charity's residential recovery program do something active and healthy. To fund a tennis program, they teamed up with fellow Neapolitans Jill and Carter Wheeler and Kim Benedict and climbed the Ecuadorian mountain Cotopaxi. Dr. DeWees felt the grueling climb was symbolic of the struggle of those battling drug and alcohol addictions, which added to the trip's significance. The effort showed the residents that people cared and raised almost \$14,000. That will buy a lot of tennis balls.

BEST ILL WILL

The Goodwill clerk in East Naples

Andrew Anderson worked for an organization with a mission to help the less fortunate, but when the 19-year-old clerk took it upon himself to give 50 percent discounts to those he judged to be most in need (and felt very good about it), Goodwill reported him to law enforcement, had him taken to jail and charged with grand theft. The stink of publicity had the store rethink its action and charges were dropped. While Mr. Anderson did lose his job, he likely gained some goodwill for his next one.



BEST BLOODLINE

K-9s Woody, George and Dewey

Greatness that spans generations isn't limited to the human species. Two of the bravest members of the Collier County Sheriff's Office are K-9 officers George and Dewey. Faithfully following in paw-steps of K-9 officer Woody, inset, the German shepherds protect and serve alongside CCSO Det. Daniel Muhlhahn.

BEST REASON TO GO WATCH THE GAME WITH YOUR GUY

The mushroom flatbread at Bokamper's

While some wives and girlfriends groan when their guys beg them to go to a sports bar to watch a game on TV, women who love to eat jump at the chance to accompany them to Bokamper's. This is where mushroom lovers can get some of Naples' most fabulous fungi: on the mushroom flatbread that just debuted on the new menu. Made with lots of mushrooms and tangy cheeses, it's enough to share — but you won't want to.



BEST RISING FROM THE ASHES

The Greater Naples YMCA

After the 2013 Labor Day weekend fire, which was sparked by lightning and damaged more than 70 percent of the building, the Greater Naples YMCA went straight to work raising funds to rebuild the facility — and to bring it back even better than ever. Thanks to an outpouring of support in the form of time, talent and treasure from all areas of the community, a new 50,000-square-foot YMCA Healthy Living Center is on target for completion late this year, rendering above.

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"The staff is wonderful. They were so kind and gentle to my children. They made them feel comfortable. Thank you for running such a kid friendly office!" – Maureen L.

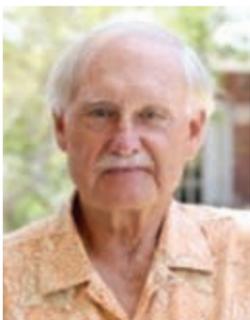
"From the moment I walked in to the moment I left I felt so relaxed throughout my entire dental visit to Gulfview Dental. I have had a number

of complicated dental procedures done at Gulfview in the past and still have no hesitation visiting the office!" – Barb H.

"I am a relatively new patient at Gulfview Dental, and already I have developed such a wonderful relationship with all the staff members. They are so welcoming and enjoyable to be with! I will absolutely be back again soon!" – Kyle K.

"I have been attending Gulfview Dental for a while now. I love the environment, it has a warm touch. The employees are very welcoming and they know what they are doing. I highly recommend Gulfview Dental to everyone!" – Mark K.

MEET DR. CRAIG ASHTON



W. Craig Ashton, DDS, graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1963. Dr. Ashton's residency was from 1963-1965 at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York. Dr. Ashton practiced in Rochester until 1982 at which time he moved to Bonita Springs, Florida. Dr. Ashton taught clinical dentistry at Eastman Dental Center, 1978-1982. Dr. Ashton has extensive training and many years of experience in performing root canals, surgical extractions and implant crowns.

MEET DR. GARY GORDON



Dr. Gary Gordon graduated from the University of Michigan Dental School in 1978. He developed 3 practices in the Flint, Michigan area for over 20 years and was very active in the local dental community. In 2003 he, wife Linda and their 4 children moved to Naples to enjoy the year around warmer climate that they loved. Dr. Gordon enjoys all phases of dentistry and his practice style/management skills have been a perfect fit for Gulfview Dental. Dr. Gordon recently completed the Fast Braces continuing education program. Fastbraces have been designed to move teeth differently and safely—shortening the time required achieving straight teeth.



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BEST BEACH BALL

Volleyball at Naples city parks

The white sand beaches at the city pier and at Lowdermilk and Fleischman parks have volleyball courts, and many of them are packed seven days a week with people who have discovered one of the BEST fitness routines ever invented: beach volleyball. The sport tones almost every major muscle in the body. And you don't have to worry about diving to get the ball — the sand will break your fall. Visit www.naplesgov.com to find the next game.



BEST NEW CLUB FOR CHARITIES

NTEN 501 Tech Club

NFN4Good (www.nfn4good.org), a program of Naples Free-Net, runs the local chapter of this national Nonprofit Technology Network (NTEN) in affiliation with Netsquared for employees and volunteers of local nonprofit organizations. During free monthly meetings, organizers and guest speakers present the latest in social media, hardware, online fundraising and other tips that are helpful to organizations of all sizes, especially those without an IT staff.

BEST GUILT-FREE SWEET TREAT

The Sunset on Fifth

How can you satisfy a craving for something sweet without piling on the calories (and pounds) and suffering the guilt? We suggest the Sunset on Fifth smoothie from Delicious Raw. The brainchild of the owners of the juice bar, the heavenly blend of strawberry, pineapple, orange, almond milk and banana is the sweetest among an amazing menu of healthful juices and smoothies.

BEST CLUB SWAG

The Chaîne de Rotisseurs

We remember a youthful fascination with the jewelry Mr. T wore on his weekly televised "A-Team" adventures. And our incredulity at the actual wall-clocks the rapper Flavor Flav adorned himself with. So, imagine our delight upon finding a respectable bunch of cosmopolitan Neapolitans who still hit the dress-up trunk for the pins, patches and pendants that make us think less "Chaîne de Rotisseurs" and more "Chaines du Round our Necks." Pity the fool, indeed ...

BEST CHEF FOR CHARITY

Brian Roland

When there's a charity event, Chef Brian Roland is most likely in attendance or nearby in some capacity. Whether he's preparing a meal and delicacies for guests' consumption, creating an exclusive culinary experience as an auction item or emceeding the event, he's there and he's in all the way. Chef Roland supported more than 70 charity events this past season alone.



BEST PLACE TO HOBNOB

The aptly named restaurant and bar

Gone are all the previous establishment's Irish gewgaws that somehow never quite fit in on this oh-so-chic street. In their place is the hip, contemporary HobNob Kitchen & Bar, the establishment at 720 Fifth Ave. S. that marks the return of veteran restaurateur Michael Hernandez to the tony avenue. The new American restaurant features roomy tables, a sleek bar and interesting spaces that encourage a rapidly growing following to do just what the name suggests: to hobnob — mix and mingle in a convivial setting.

BEST DR. JEKYLL / MR. HYDE

Millard Brooks, M.D.

We love it that anesthesiologist Millard Brooks moonlights as Billy Ray, Trailer Trash Magician, exchanging the crisp white lab coat he wears by day for the wife-beater T-shirt and a Confederate flag bandana he wears as Billy Ray for the comedy/magic gigs he performs at places such as Tin City and the Collier County Fair by night. But what if we had it wrong? What if he was really a redneck magician moonlighting as a medical doctor?

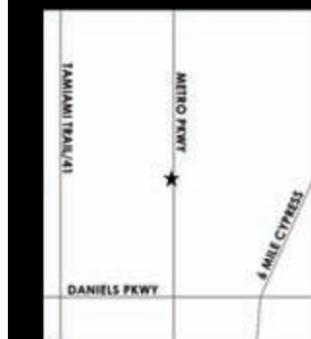
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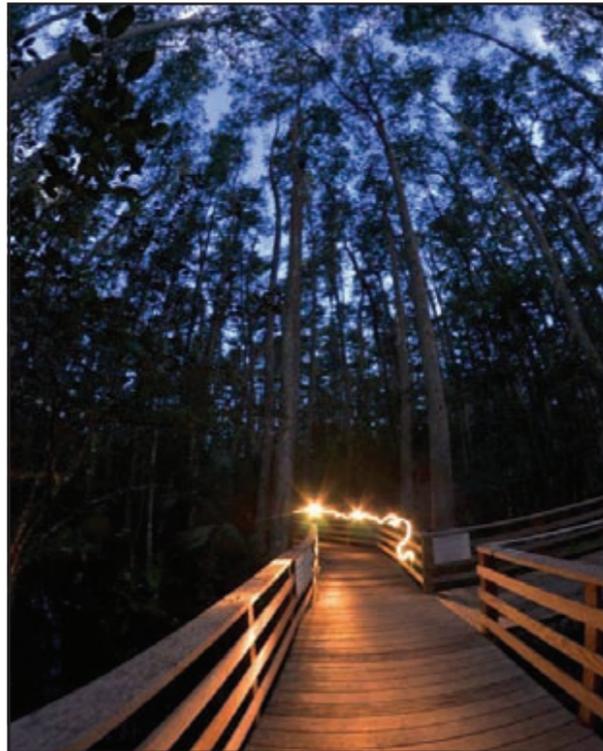
From McCabe's Irish Pub to Avenue5

In 1997, Phil McCabe set out to build an authentic Irish pub, and that he did. After 15 years, his eponymous pub at the Inn on Fifth was a Fifth Avenue landmark and local favorite for anyone who wanted to imbibe in Irish food, drink, music and all-around fun. Change was in the air, however, starting with a major renovation/expansion of the inn. Then, on Sept. 1, 2013, McCabe's Irish Pub closed to make way for Avenue5, above. The makeover couldn't have been more extreme. Thoroughly contemporary and oh, so sophisticated, Avenue5 attracts clientele to match.

BEST FUN IN THE DARK

Corkscrew After Hours

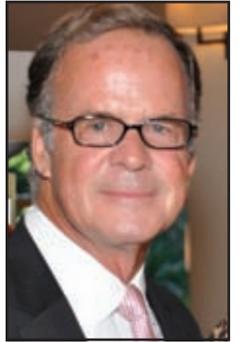
It's a most civilized boardwalk trek through primeval cypress forests shrouded in dusk. Once a month November-April, Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary stays open several hours later than usual, allowing guests a rare glimpse of the ancient swamp as it descends into night. There are guided walks and telescopes set up on the boardwalk, as well as live music and work by local artists on display in the pavilion.



BEST BIRTHDAY BOY

Doug Keating

If you're going to throw yourself a big birthday party, why not make it count? That's what Doug Keating, owner of Keating Associates, did in September. He invited hundreds of friends to a catered affair at Clive Daniel Home. Each guest made a donation to attend, and Mr. Keating turned it all over to Collier Child Care Resources. Talk about many happy returns.



BEST FRESHENING UP

The Ritz-Carlton Beach Resort

What do you do when you are consistently ranked one of the top hotels in Florida? Not rest on your laurels. In the blink of an eye last summer — 66 days, actually — the 450 guest rooms, three restaurants and corridors of the luxury hotel underwent a multimillion-dollar renovation that also included structural, mechanical and engineering upgrades. No wonder the beachfront hotel was named to Condé Nast Traveler's 2013 "Gold List" and Travel + Leisure "World's BEST List" 2013. Check in sometime and check it out. At least you won't have to spend any money getting there.

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BEST TIME TRAVEL
The Old Florida Festival

It happens every year. Natives, newcomers and visitors to Southwest Florida alike are invited to travel back in time at the Collier County Museums' Old Florida Festival. This year's festival marked the 25th anniversary of the two-day outdoor event. From native Seminole Indians to Spanish Conquistadors, re-enactors and crafters, there was something for all ages to explore and experience. Visit www.colliermuseums.com to time travel through Florida's history — until you can get to next year's festival, that is.

BEST PRIVATE SHOPPER ON A SHOESTRING

Salvation Army Thrift Store private shopper

If you love fashion but don't have the patience to sort through racks of clothes, shoes, bags and accessories, the Salvation Army has the solution. They've added a free "private shopper" service at their Family Store at 2255 Davis Blvd. Call 774-4347 and ask for the store manager, Marina, to set up an appointment. A fashion-savvy shopper volunteer will help you find outfits that fit your body and style — and your wallet.

BEST R.I.P.

Fakahatchee Island Cemetery

In a quiet spot on the lonely, lovely Fakahatchee Island, a cluster of headstones recalls the isolated existence of island pioneers to the area before Collier the county came into existence. Around 1900, the key was home to enough fishing and farming families that they even had their own school. Today only the dead remain, haunting sentinels to an era bygone.

BEST WHOLE LOTTERY LOVE

Erik Monzon, winner of the Florida Lottery's 50X The Cash game

We know the saying: "If you don't play, you can't win." But we also have our own saying: "If you want to win \$5, buy \$10 in tickets." And while Erik Monzon of Immokalee proved adage No. 1, he shattered our No. 2. His \$10 ticket netted a super-cool \$1 million (\$800,000 on the give-it-to-me-now plan). And we are officially working on a new saying.

BEST STEPPING-OUT OUTFIT

Gene and MaeBell Crosby

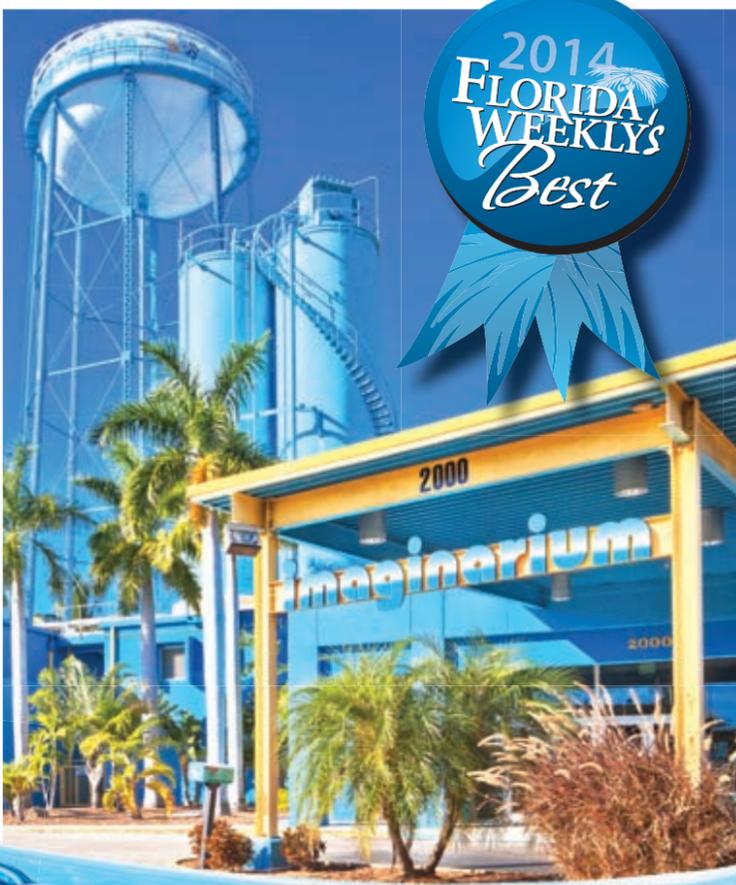
When they got dressed to go to the annual Sneaker Ball to benefit the Greater Naples YMCA, the Crosbys took the dress code seriously. Up top, they donned attire perfectly acceptable for any semi-formal fundraising affair. They left the wing-tips and heels in the closet, however, and outfitted their feet in running shoes delightfully "dressed-up" for the occasion.





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BEST DRESSED GALA PAIR

Rocio DiBella and Ricky Lamitie

Ricky Lamitie returns to the BEST list this year for the second time, having been declared Best Dressed Man last year. This year we spotted him with Rocio DiBella at the annual David Lawrence Center benefit bash and were inspired to create a new Best category. And here they are, our Best Dressed Gala Pair.



BEST DRESSED GALA POOCH

Sophia

Sophia is the sartorial Rhodesian ridgeback owned by the equally stylish Cassandra Hill. Together the two turn heads year after year at the Pet Lovers Gala to benefit Humane Society Naples.

BEST DRESSED DESIGNER

Wilfredo Emmanuel

Wilfredo Emmanuel is more than just an award-winning interior designer with Clive Daniel Home. When he walks into a room, everyone leans in to see what he's wearing. Word is that no one can tie an Hermes scarf better or faster. As a result, Mr. Emmanuel's clients are as likely to seek his advice on how to outfit themselves as on how to furnish their abodes.



BEST DRUG PUSHER

John Morgan

The medical marijuana movement has a new face: With his long lashes, a cherubic quality and Southern drawl, John Morgan, perhaps the best-known attorney in Florida (mostly for his "For the People" commercials), joined the push to legalize medical marijuana in the Sunshine State. Suddenly, Morgan & Morgan ads were pushing medical pot. Mr. Morgan's father used the drug when he was sick with cancer, as does his brother, who is quadriplegic. With his deep pockets and instant name recognition, Mr. Morgan took over an advocacy movement that had been foundering. Last year, his team collected more than 700,000 signatures and more recently won the state Supreme Court approval needed to put the measure on the ballot. Come November, voters will decide whether or not to make pot a legal medicine. Now that's grassroots advocacy.



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BEST BOOST FOR GIRLS

Peaks Foundation Wellfit Girls Challenge

After five months of group meetings, fitness activities, yoga and wellness practices, 11 at-risk girls ages 13-18 from Collier and Lee counties will join young women from Peru to hike to Machu Picchu and Huayna Picchu later this month. A documentary is being created to track this experiential leadership program dreamed up and organized by Jill Wheeler of the Naples-based Wellfit Institute to show that women and girls are heroes and can positively impact the world as they overcome challenges in their daily lives.

BEST NEW SPIN ON CHICKEN

Al Carbon's rotisserie chicken

Al Carbon is the new Peruvian cuisine locale from Rafael Rottiers, who also owns Inca's Kitchen in Golden Gate. The chicken is marinated for 24 hours in 14 Peruvian spices and then slow-roasted on a rotisserie in the massive charcoal oven. The result is a tender, mouth-watering chicken that makes for tasty sandwiches and a healthful alternative for lunch or dinner.

BEST DRUNK ACT

Debi Guthery

Let's face it, drunk people are obnoxious. But we loved Debi Guthery in The Naples Players' production of "The Drowsy Chaperone." As she stumbled and slurred her way through her knockout number, "As We Stumble Along," we learned very quickly that "drowsy" is just a polite synonym for tipsy. Make that very tipsy. Ms. Guthery's performance as an aging star of the stage who hogs the spotlight and can still belt out a rousing song was a highlight of the show.



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BEST RECOVERY EFFORT

The merger of Hazelden and Betty Ford

We're used to mergers between monolithic commercial corporations, each addicted to power and greed. But imagine our puzzlement at news of the betrothal of the country's biggest addiction treatment centers. We're excited that more people might get the help they need, but we're still left with an unanswered question: With the new linkage, do the 12 steps double to 24, or halve to six?

BEST DEAD RINGER

George Kane as Hef

When guests at the Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest spotted a handsome older gent milling about in a silk robe, smoking a pipe and charming the prettiest young women in the crowd, they did a double take and wondered what Hugh Hefner was doing at Miromar Lakes. It's not the first time George Kane of South Fort Myers has been mistaken for the Playboy publisher; in fact, it happened so often, he decided a few years ago to make a career of it. Now Mr. Kane regularly makes appearances at events as Mr. Hefner in his golden years. Making money by posing for pictures with beautiful women at parties. Not a bad gig if you can get it.



BEST GATHERING OF OLD HIPPIES

"Yoko Ono: Imagine Peace"

The '60s aren't dead ... it's just that all the former hippies are now in *their* 60s. And they turned out en masse for the opening of the "Yoko Ono: Imagine Peace" exhibit at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery in January. People who remembered Yoko Ono and John Lennon's Bed-in for Peace and bought Lennon's "Imagine" album on vinyl when it was first released turned out by the hundreds to see Yoko's exhibition of conceptual art. There were tie-dyed shirts and (gray) ponytails on some of the men. Some even stamped the words "Imagine Peace" on their foreheads.



BEST TRUCK STOP CHAPEL

Pilot Travel Center

If Jesus drove an 18-wheeler, he'd surely stop for a fill-up and bit of worship at the Pilot gas station and truck stop at Exit 139 off Interstate 75 north of Fort Myers. An upstairs room at the station makes the place a prayerful pit stop for long-haul truckers and any other road-weary travelers. Pastor Vincent Miller, above, of Truckstop Ministries Inc. holds service at 11 a.m. every Sunday, but the chapel is open to the faithful 24/7.

BEST WAY TO GET YOUR 007 ON

Jet Pack rides

Ride a jet pack, one of the coolest new water sports in the state, and you just might start ordering all your drinks "shaken, not stirred." Twin geysers of water burst out beneath you like giant faucets at full blast, and before long, you're cruising up to 30 feet above the water. As daredevilish as it sounds, the jet packs have been a hit with young and old alike. It's roughly \$150 for a 30-minute ride. Captain CJ's Jetpack Adventures offers rides in Naples and North Fort Myers.



BEST COMING SOON

The reading garden at Baker Park

When architect Matt Kragh proposed an adult reading garden in the plans for Baker Park (formerly referred to as the Naples Gordon River Park), literary lovers rejoiced. The designated space just for reading will be flanked by foliage and have tables where people can quietly sit and read until the last page is turned. We can hardly wait.





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BEST MIXED CROWD

The Indigo Girls at Artis—Naples

It was hard to tell if you were at Lilith Fair or a nursing home — or a nursing home for Lilith Fair attendees. When folk/rock duo The Indigo Girls came to town to perform with the Naples Philharmonic, about half the crowd who came to see them were lovely geriatric season ticket holders dressed to the nines, while the other half were diehard Indigo Girls fans, mostly ladies in Birkenstocks, blue jeans and very short haircuts, dancing in their seats and shouting out requests. Meanwhile, the polite classical music aficionados seemed lost on their own turf.



BEST REENACTOR ACTOR

Carlos Bicho

He earned a Florida Weekly “Best” nod last year for his appearances region-wide at public festivals and in school classrooms as the Spanish Conquistador Juan Ponce de Leon in conjunction with “Viva Florida!”, the 500-year anniversary celebration of our beloved Sunshine State. We’re bestowing a “Best” on Carlos Bicho again this year, this time in honor of his portrayal of a dashing naval captain, above with actress Anne Jensen, in a USO Show reenactment at The Naples Depot Museum on Veterans Day. Inquiring minds want to know: Who’s it gonna be next year, Carlos?

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BEST PLACE TO GET GROWING

Naples Botanical Garden

With a new visitor center and three adjacent gardens due to open in late October, Naples Botanical Garden is the hands-down winner for Best Place to Get Growing. In fact, all the growth is the reason for the Garden's closing to the public from June 2-Oct. 22 for construction. Few attractions provide as great a place to learn about and enjoy the flora and fauna that grows throughout Southwest Florida's unique environment. The Garden's wide array of lifelong learning classes and special events make it an ideal place to "grow" your mind, too.

643-7275, www.naplesgarden.org

BEST WAY TO RENEW YOUR VIEW

Naples Bay Blinds & Shutters

Homeowners who need new window treatments have a friend in Naples Bay Blinds & Shutters. Not only do they make it possible to love your new view, Naples Blinds & Shutters offers design advice and the highest-quality blind, shutter and shade window products. Add to that precise measurements, impeccable installation and fast delivery (as little as three days) and the result is a houseful of happy windows.

595-2243, www.naplesbayblinds.com

BEST PLACE TO INSPIRE YOUNG MINDS

Imaginarium Science Center

"Imagination is more important than knowledge," Albert Einstein said famously. As its name suggests, the Imaginarium Science Center in Fort Myers agrees. A wide variety of hands-on exhibits, such as the Sea-to-See touch tanks, get guests up close and personal with animals such as stingrays. The Hurricane Experience gets kids as close as they'd like to the wind of the real thing, and the Fisheye Lagoon keeps visitors of all ages entertained as they learn about the natural wonders of Southwest Florida.

321-7420 www.i-sci.org

BEST ANIMAL HOUSE

BBK Pet Camp

Both Fido and your curious Kitty will have a blast at this Bonita Springs pet boarding and day-care facility. The 5,000-square-foot indoor living and play areas, an agility course and a separate "cattery" for felines make this place more like a resort. A loving staff provides grooming, one-on-one time and three-times-a-day exercise in a fenced outdoor play area. Bonita Boarding Kennel and Pet Camp has created a "camp" atmosphere by installing specially made cabin-like units instead of traditional pet enclosures.

992-6878, www.BonitaBoardingKennel.com

BEST WINE EXPERIENCE

Naples Wine Collection

Got a wine question? Looking for that one special bottle? Chances are Brandie and Jason LaFond either know about it, have it or can get it. The couple share a passion for wine and love sharing that vast knowledge. Their brand of customer service makes this store more of a wine concierge service than you'll find elsewhere in Naples. It's also a great place for learning: Guests at Wednesday night wine flights get an education as they swirl and sip.

513-0095, www.NaplesWineCollection.com

BEST WAY TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK

The Laser Lounge Spa

If nature isn't cooperating with your skin, this comfy, family-owned spa has the latest and best technology to provide long-lasting solutions. Whether it's acne, sun damage, age spots, discolorations, fine lines and wrinkles or unwanted hair, Laser Lounge Spa's photo rejuvenations, skin resurfacing peels and numerous other options — along with the plush robes, warm tea or simply a smile greeting you at the door — will leave you feeling beautiful inside and out.

728-1234, www.thelaserloungespa.com

BEST PLACE TO RIDE INSIDE

Time Trial Cycle

Heat, rain and traffic are part of life in Southwest Florida, but they don't have to get in the way of cycling. Time Trial Cycle is the best place to cycle safely and get in shape without interference from the elements. Riders can book bikes online ahead of time for indoor cycling classes, where it's all about jamming out to great music under the guidance of passionate, certified spinning instructors. Welcome to euphoria.

249-6765, www.timetrialcycle.com

BEST SISTER ACT

Woodhouse Day Spa

If Woodhouse Day Spa seems twice as amazing as the typical spa, it could be because it's owned by two sisters who make sure every detail is geared toward helping customers achieve the ultimate state of relaxation. While enjoying a spa experience together one day, the siblings realized there was no true standalone day spa in Naples, and voila!, the idea to open their Woodhouse Day Spa with facial and body treatments for the most discerning spa-goers was born.

403-7727, www.naples.woodhousespas.com

BEST "GOOD PICK" FOR YOUR HEALTH

Jason's Deli

Jason's Deli might be best known for its salad bar, sandwiches and free soft-serve ice cream, but healthy eaters are lured in by the new Mighty Wild Salmon Salad. A University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center "Good Pick," salmon is a superfood proven to contain properties that strengthen muscles and reduce chances of developing some diseases. The best part? It's delicious. Try Jason's Mighty Wild Salmon Salad yourself and taste what all the healthy fuss is about.

www.jasonsdeli.com



BEST PLACE FOR STATE-OF-THE-ART HEALTH CARE

NASA Neuroscience & Spine Associates

As Florida's leading practitioners in neurology, neurosurgery, rehabilitation and diagnostics, the neurologists and neurosurgeons at NASA Neuroscience & Spine Associates deliver the highest quality of care for conditions ranging from back and neck disease to brain tumors, migraines and carpal tunnel syndrome. They offer on-site physical and occupational therapy, MRI, EEG and interventional pain management.
www.nasamri.com

BEST DOG-FRIENDLY SHOPPING & DINING DESTINATION

Mercato

You don't have to feel bad about leaving the dog behind when you head out to enjoy an afternoon of shopping or an evening of dining. Pack up your companion pooch (don't forget the leash) and head to Mercato, where merchants and restaurateurs roll out the red carpet for four-legged customers as well as the human kind. Well-behaved dogs are always welcome at Mercato. The North Naples destination has Fido-friendly stores and restaurant patios as well as a calendar of more than 40 special events throughout the year, including the live music series and movies under the stars, where canines are right at home with their human counterparts.
www.mercatoshops.com

BEST PLACE TO GET YOUR GOURMET ON

Wynn's Market

True Neapolitans know that Wynn's Market is Naples' premier gourmet shopping experience. From the freshest seafood from Captain Jerry's to the incredible selection of imported wines and cheeses as well as sumptuous prepared food, Wynn's serves it up for that special occasion. The family-owned market also offers catering to make your next soiree impressive and tasty.
261-7157, www.wynnsonline.com

BEST NATURAL SLEEP YOU'LL EVER GET

The Lavender

Lavender soothes the soul, but it's also an ancient medicinal plant heralded as one of the best sleep aids ever known to man. A few drops on a pillow is said to ease insomnia. But just walking into The Lavender/Products from Provence in the Village on Venetian Bay is a therapeutic experience. This is Naples' lavender headquarters, where all of the spa and beauty products are made only with true lavender from Provence. Ooh, la la!
331-7112, www.thelavenderonline.com



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www.iberiabank.com

BEST REASON TO SELL YOUR BOAT

Freedom Boat Club

Freedom Boat Club removes the headaches and hassles of owning a boat, giving members more time on the water. Founded right here in Southwest Florida, Sarasota to be exact, FBC is now the world's largest members-only boat club with reciprocal privileges at 70 locations along the Eastern Seaboard, from New Hampshire to the Florida Keys and west to Texas. Freedom offers fishing and cruising boats, from 18- to 28-foot deck boats and pontoons to inshore and offshore vessels, even sailboats. Perfect for those who want to fish one day, feel the need for speed the next. Boats are often available on a whim, should you decide to spend the day or just an hour or two adrift. The benefits of the club really sink in when you arrive back to shore and simply walk away while the waiting clean-up crew takes over.
(888) 781-7363, www.freedomboatclub.com



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BEST FRESH NEW LOOK

Salon Zenergy

Jump into spring with a fresh new look from the expert minds at Salon Zenergy, home of master stylists Erick and Anita Carter, known for working magical makeovers and doing fashion-show hair for designers such as Ed Hardy and True Religion and advertisements for megabrands including Conair and Rusk. First-time clients are encouraged to ask Erick and Anita about star-worthy specials available just for them. 777-2380, www.salonzenergy.com

BEST WAY TO MAKE THE WORDS 'I LOVE YOU' SPARKLE

Mark Loren Designs

Mark Loren Designs helps clients express life's most powerful emotion — love — by adding sparkle and everlasting beauty to those three precious words. From custom pieces to one-of-a-kind creations inspired by historic artifacts, rare stones and precious gems, Mark Loren Designs is no ordinary jewelry store. The expert craftsmen and gemologists of Mark Loren Designs have received international acclaim and a celebrity following for unique creations that stand out from the crowd and are sure to stand the test of time. The team also takes pleasure in expertly crafting the traditional engagement ring or restoring grandma's favorite pendant. Their passion for perfection shows in every work. Fort Myers: 482-4664
Naples: 596-5820
www.marklorendesigns.com



BEST FIRST IMPRESSION

Gulf View Dental

"Remember, your smile says 'hello' before you do," says Dr. Gary Gordon, the go-to dentist for people who want to present their best first impression every time they smile. Dr. Gordon and the Gulf View Dental staff are focused on the full-service dental experience, including anxiety-free procedures, teeth whitening, cosmetic dentistry, cleaning and overall dental health as well as Fastbraces. Dr. Stacey Vlachos recently joined the staff. Certified by the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry, Dr. V. has more than 25 years of experience in implant placement. He is also an educator, lecturer and author on staff at two major universities. Dr. V. and Dr. G. will give you the essential and incomparable dental care you need and deserve. 300-9693, www.gulfviewdentistry.com

BEST PLACE TO START WHEN YOU WANT TO BUY A HOUSE

American Eagle Mortgage

From its main office in Mercato, American Eagle Mortgage offers all of the loan products you could possibly need to purchase your piece of paradise anywhere in Florida. The mortgage banker can guarantee the rate and terms available as well as the source of your loan. Whether you're going for a construction loan or a conventional, FHA, VA, USDA, Florida Bond, Homepath, Homepath Renovation or Foreign National loan, it's the mission of American Eagle Mortgage to make your dream of homeownership come true. 434-0300, www.aemc.cc

BEST PLACE TO LIVE BRIGHTLY

The Arlington of Naples

Resort-style living in your golden years is indeed a bright prospect at The Arlington of Naples. Savor a gourmet meal among family and friends, stroll the lushly manicured grounds, nurture your inner Van Gogh at an arts studio, have a cold beer at the pub, take a dip in the heated pool, chill out on the sundeck or stop in at the salon for a new do. That's just a start. This welcoming Lutheran Life Community offers amenities such as shopping and banking, as well as independent and assisted-living options, nursing and memory-care services. 206-2646, www.arlingtonnaples.org

BEST DIVA DESIGNS

Designer Divas Resale Boutique

Shop, save, consign or sell and sip all in one place at Designer Divas Resale Boutique in the Shoppes at Vanderbilt. Sip a complimentary espresso while browsing through racks and displays filled with labels from every fashionable woman's dreams. It's true: Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Burberry, Chanel, Tory Burch and so many more. New and consigned items arrive daily, so stop by often. And don't forget to bring in your still-fabulous frocks to consign or exchange for cash on the spot. 431-6341, www.NaplesDesignerDivas.com

BEST EVENT-O-RAMA

Harborside Event Center

With 285-plus events per year, Harborside's conventions, conferences, trade shows, exhibitions, black-tie galas and weddings prove that it's the perfect place to host everything from a high school graduation party to the president of the United States (who last appeared here in July 2012). A skilled event team is adept at working with just about anyone to organize their next event at this fully wired, 42,000-square-foot facility. Poised in the heart of the River District, there's a boutique hotel right around the corner and a multitude of eateries and shops to serve Harborside guests. 321-8110, www.harborsideevents.com

BEST PERSONAL TRAVEL CONCIERGE

Hurley Travel Experts

No matter where you want to go or how you want to get there, Hurley Travel Experts can write the itinerary and book the tickets. The pros at this Virtuoso Travel Agency specialize in the "best of the best" and can even set you up with seats on a Virgin Galactic spaceship for the ultimate out-of-this-world adventure. If earthbound luxury is more your travel style, however, no worries: As the president of Hurley Travel Experts likes to say: "If we can send you to space, we can send you anywhere!" 594-7400, www.travelexperts.com

BEST DOCS FOR EVERY FAMILY

Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida

With 14 medical and seven dental offices, Family Health Centers is equipped to offer primary care to all family members from the new toddler to a great grandma. They offer special outreach to migrant worker and homeless populations in Southwest Florida, with a discounted fee program for people who qualify based on family size and income. And they take private insurance as well as participate in Medicare and Medicaid. Best of all, they help patients navigate insurance under the new health law. 332-0417, www.fhcsfw.org



BEST COLLEGE SPIRIT

Florida SouthWestern Buccaneers

Anybody younger than 25 or who moved here in the past 18 years probably didn't know this: Edison State College used to have sports teams called the Bucs. That was until 1997.

Well, the past is now prologue. The school (which recently changed its name to Florida SouthWestern College) has announced it will once again field men's and women's teams and will build a 3,000-to-3,500-seat arena at its South Fort Myers campus. There is even talk of finding room on campus for baseball and softball fields. Plans call for teams to start playing in a little more than a year, in the fall of 2015, starting with baseball and softball and possible men's and women's golf. Men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball will follow in the fall of 2016. The school's name may have changed, but the teams are still the Bucs. Go Bucs! www.edison.edu

BEST EXCUSE TO REMODEL

DirectBuy of Fort Myers

With direct access to manufacturers, DirectBuy members skip the markups of other home improvement stores and have an enormous selection of products including furnishings, electronics, appliances and construction materials. Hundreds of brand names are available online, or visit the showroom where design, delivery and installation professionals can get you started on whatever project you're pursuing, from replacing a window to installing a media center to remodeling the whole house. 425-6080, www.fortmyers.directbuy.com

BEST PLACE TO GET TOP CHEF CUISINE

Angelina's Ristorante

With her creative flair and physical and mental endurance, Sarah Grueneberg made the finale of the pressure-cooker hit TV show "Top Chef." Now this bright young chef, trained in one of the finest Italian restaurants in Chicago, brings her abundant talents and world-class cuisine to Angelina's Ristorante in Bonita Springs. Dishes such as her famous Cappelletti e Pancetta di Maiale (pan-seared scallops, slow-roasted pork belly, Yukon gold potato puree and Brussels sprout citrus salad) have found their way onto the menu. Angelina patrons also enjoy selections from a 30-foot-tall wine tower and the attention of an esteemed service staff. 390-3187, www.angelinasofbonitasprings.com

BEST SURGICAL SUPPORT

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Your knees, hips, shoulders and other parts are as unique as fingerprints. Surgeons trust Biomet to develop the cutting-edge tools and surgical techniques they need to make each individual treatment a success. For almost three decades, Biomet has researched low-stress surgical techniques, such as a thighbone- and shinbone-positioning guide that uses MRI and CT scans, and has created implants including the Oxford Knee, which has 90 different combinations for a custom fit. www.biomet.com



BEST BLING, BAUBLES, BIDDING & BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Gulfcoast Coin & Jewelry

Some sparkle, glitter and shine always makes life a little better, but beautiful bling tends to cost bountiful Benjamins. That is, unless you're shopping for your baubles at Gulfcoast Coin & Jewelry, where you'll find rare and precious coins and metal as well as diamonds and other jewelry. Try your hand at bidding during one of Gulfcoast's local auctions (see website), where collectors and buyers always find bargains and sellers benefit from the team's more than three decades of experience with the very best bling.

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